Non-state partnerships in the international politics: the case of civil society dimension of the European Neighbourhood policy

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Importance of CSO in the EU’s neighbourhood policy

- The EU wants to foster democratic reforms, governance, stability in those countries and make them more sustainable and you can not go without the civil society…<> We are source of information but not only of course. Interview, Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, member of the steering committee, 09 05 2013, interview by phone, EaPCSF2.
Object

- Integration of civil society organizations as the non-governmental actors into the international governance (neighbourhood) process.

Research question: the importance of non-state and non-governmental partnerships in international politics;

- the ways of how they are integrated, and what kind of problematic aspects the process create?
Research method

- Documents’ analysis;
- 14 Qualitative semi-structured interviews conducted between 2010-2013;

- **Respondents:** the personnel of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Commission and the European Parliament, the diplomat of the Embassy of Lithuania in Brussels, and the representatives of the Eastern Partnership civil society Forum.

- The latter were conducted by phone in May 2013.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>The ways of integration of CSOs</th>
<th>Seeking</th>
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<td><strong>Bilateralism</strong> (bilateral approaches)</td>
<td><strong>Multilateralism</strong> (multilateral approaches)</td>
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<td>1. NGOs, CSOs integration into the negotiations of the ENP Action Plan, Association Agenda (setting of priorities);</td>
<td>1. Creation of long term regional networks of civil society organizations (EaP Civil society Forum, Black Sea Synergy forum);</td>
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<td>2. NGOs, CSOs integration into the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ENP Action Plan, Association Agenda.</td>
<td>2. Multilateral programmes (Eastern Partnership four platforms, Black sea synergy).</td>
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1. To strengthen dialogue between civil society and national government of the ENP country;
2. To involve civil society into internal state reforming;
3. Independent NGOs, CSOs are the important source of information in the partner country;
1. To establish permanent contacts between civil society in the region and spread of information, good practices;
2. Networking and strong partnerships of CSOs may have a bigger impact either towards the EU for funding or for national bodies;
3. To establish the trust among civil society in the region, “bottom-up regionalism”.

Figure 1 ENP policy formation and implementation

Negotiations
The Council of Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA)
(or Association Council with souther neighbours)

Evaluation
European Commission
European Court of Auditors
Civil society, NGOs
experts

ENP Action Plan, Association Agenda

Implementation and monitoring
Subcommittees
Representatives of the EU and partner (ENP) country SCOs

Conclusions

- Bilateral mode of the governance and the negotiations for the Association Agenda: the role of civil society is very minimal;

- The multilateral mode of the ENP governance: regional, multilateral networking;

- Problematic aspect: the issue of so called ‘gang’ who simulate the NGO.