

PRESS-RELEASE

European Union unlocks new opportunities for territorial cooperation between Armenia and Georgia

Tbilisi, October 4, 2013 – For the first time the Regional Conference “Advancing Territorial Cooperation in Eastern Partnership Countries: Armenia – Georgia Territorial Cooperation Programme” will be held on October 11, 2013 at the Cultural Centre of Stepanavan, Armenia.

The European Union in the framework of its Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Programme (EaPTC) promotes and strengthens cross-border relations between regional and local state authorities, communities and civil society organisations to develop joint solutions to common social and economic development challenges in the participating border regions.

The Conference has a two-folded objective: to inform the wide public on the opportunities and advantages for public and civil society organizations of the regions from both sides of the border in Armenia and Georgia that will participate in the Programme, as well as to provide the platform for open discussion of priorities and prospects of territorial cooperation at the local level, taking into consideration the specificities and needs of the participating border regions.

Mr. Vache Terteryan, First Deputy Minister for Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Tengiz Shergelashvili, First Deputy Minister for Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, representatives of the regional and local authorities, civil society organisations and European experts will participate in the event.

The Regional Conference is organized by the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme (EaPTC Support Programme), funded by the European Union.

Mass-media is invited to take part in the press-conference that will be held on October 11, 2013 from 11:50 till 12:20 in the premises of the Cultural Centre of Stepanavan. Accreditation is open until **October 10, 2013 by 15:00** via e-mail: emma.sargsyan@eaptc.eu

Background: The main objective of the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme (EaPTC Support Programme) is to create a favourable environment for territorial cooperation programmes along the borders Armenia – Georgia, Azerbaijan – Georgia, Belarus – Ukraine and Moldova – Ukraine with due regard to specifics of each border area, as well as to strengthen the capacity of local and regional state and non-state actors to jointly develop and implement cross-border projects. The overall EU contribution to EaPTC – 12.5 million EUR.

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is an European Union initiative directed at six countries of Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The initiative aims at closer relations between the EU and the Eastern partners, deepening their political co-operation and economic integration.

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