

**Statement**  
**Special initiative Eastern Partnership**  
**1-4 December 2015 (Tbilisi, Georgia)**

We, participants of the special event “Role of Municipalities in Development Education and Awareness raising”, discussed three specific thematic areas that are critically important for local authorities in the area of Eastern Partnership. Working groups came to the conclusion that

- ✓ Nowadays, the issues of the sustainable development focused on the topic of the environment, energy efficiency, climate change and resilience are the matter of high interest. Resilience seems to be even a key word in this COP 21 conference in Paris and it is centered on a culture of inclusiveness, cooperation, accountability and prevention.
- ✓ Energy security and its effectiveness is one of the pillar of the multilateral cooperation under the Eastern Partnership. As millions of people suffer every year from the negative impacts of floods, storms, drought, heat waves and cyclones, the climate change and the possible adaptation disaster management ranges under the crucial task that shall be worked on.
- ✓ Cooperation in Environment and Climate Change shall facilitate the exchanges, information sharing, exchange and use of data for designing and implementing environmental policy and dialogue on climate change could help the closer cooperation with EU Member States with the neighborhood countries. The awareness raising through the environmental education is very important.
- ✓ State support programs are only efficient if it promotes sustainable agriculture
- ✓ Without improvement of general social conditions and livelihood standard in rural areas only targeting agriculture output increase does not guarantee reduction of labour migration from rural settlements
- ✓ Whereas state support to agriculture is always focused on modernization and productivity all actors must pay proper attention to environment and so called BIO Production in Agriculture as key element to sustainability.
- ✓ Deep and Comprehensive Free trade agreements with signatory countries from EaP must remove all administrative barriers and allow small and mid size farmers to access EU markets
- ✓ It is necessary to organize awareness raising programs for farmers of EaP regions to build qualified expectation and correct understanding of regulations and procedures on the European markets
- ✓ The EU shall support cooperation and twinning among farmers from the EU and EaP area and this cooperation must be focused on exchange of experience and knowable.

Based on above listed conclusion the participants of the special event express their readiness to cooperate for realization of these conclusions in various programs implemented in EaP countries as well as LADDER partners from EaP countries will continue to work with their respective governments to make national policy more adequate to the interests of their citizens.