



AEF | 4th Association Exchange Forum

Georgia ★ Moldova ★ Ukraine

In partnership with



21-22 October 2021 Kyiv, Ukraine

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ABOUT THE FORUM

The Association Exchange Forum is an international gathering of practitioners and experts on Association Agreement implementation in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It aims to provide a platform and encourage cross-country and multi-stakeholder networking to:

- Overview achievements, share experience, good practices and lessons learned in the Association Agreements implementation in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in particular in the institutional set-up, implementation monitoring and civil society/stakeholder involvement;
- Elaborate ideas on how to improve the AA implementation performance and make the most out of this process, inter alia, through peer-to-peer learning and cooperation between the associated countries, finding joint solutions to common problems and defining shared expectations regarding the EU's involvement and support;
- Discuss common interests of the three countries in advancing their European integration by exploring the opportunities, options and prerequisites of de facto integration, using the potential of the Association Agreements' provisions on political association and economic integration, considering a broader context of the EU reform and future of Europe debate.

The Forum will focus on the progressive agenda for political association and economic integration of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine with the EU on the basis of the Association Agreements (AAs). Participants will dwell upon reviewing the actual progress, achievements and shortcomings, and relevant expectations of the associated countries' governments regarding the sector-specific integration in the EU internal market, Green Deal, cooperation on Trio Format and models of partial EU integration. Also, the instruments of the EU's involvement and support within the Eastern Partnership and Association Agreements frameworks will be analysed. The discussions within AEF will take place in a broader context of policy thinking in various European capitals on the future of the EU, post-Brexit, EU enlargement in the Balkans and a further development of the European single market, and – last but by far not the least – the new political context in all the three partner countries and in the EU itself.

Organisers: The Forum is organized by the International Renaissance Foundation and Kyiv based New Europe Center within the EU-funded EU4USociety project, in partnership with the Institute for European Policies and Reform (Chişinău), the EU integration program of the Open Society Georgia Foundation and co-funded by Soros Foundation Moldova.

Participants: The Forum participants include high governmental officials from Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Association Agreements between the EU and the three countries, leading experts and civil society activists with an expertise on Association Agreements implementation — both from the region and the EU, Brussels and member states, and other European non-members, members of European and national parliaments, EEAS and European Commission officials, EU Delegations in Kyiv, Tbilisi and Chisinau, relevant EU technical assistance projects, donor organisations, think tanks and academic institutions.

Agenda

October 21 – Day 1

10:15 – 10:30 **Introductory remarks**

- Oleksandr Sushko, Executive director of the International Renaissance Foundation, Ukraine
- Alyona Getmanchuk, Director of the New Europe Center, Ukraine

10:30 – 10:50 **Welcoming speech**

Dmytro Kuleba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

10:50 – 12:20 **Plenary session:**

Speakers:

- Matti Maasikas, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine
- Natalia Forsiuk, Director General of the Government Office for Coordination of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Ukraine
- Teimuraz Janjalia, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
- Andrei Popov, Head of Directorate on multilateral cooperation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova

Moderator: Sergiy Sydorenko, Editor-in-chief of the European Pravda, Ukraine

12:20 – 12:40 Coffee break

12:40 – 13:10 **Conversation** with Olga Stefanishyna, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine

- Moderator: Dmytro Shulga, European Programme Director of the International Renaissance Foundation, Ukraine

13:10 – 14:20 Buffet lunch

14:20 – 16:00 **Session 1: Parliamentary cooperation in implementing the EU integration agenda**

Speakers:

- Vadym Halaichuk, Co-Chair of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee of the Parliament of Ukraine
- Maka Botchorishvili, Chair of the EU integration Committee, Co-Chair of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly of the Parliament of Georgia
- Adrian Balutel, Member of the EU integration Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova

Moderator: Hanna Hopko, Chairwoman of ANTS, former Chair of the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the Parliament of Ukraine

16:00 – 16:20 Coffee break

16:20 – 17:50 Session 2: Association Agreement in 2021: Where are we now?

Speakers:

- Iulian Groza, Executive director of the Institute for European Policies and Reforms, the Republic of Moldova
- Vano Chkhikvadze, EU Integration Program Manager at Open Society Foundation Georgia
- Oleksandra Bulana, Research Fellow of the Ukrainian Center for European Policy
- Daniel Szeligowski, Head of Eastern Europe Programme at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)
- Nicholas Cendrowicz, Deputy Head of the Georgia and Moldova Unit at the European Commission

Moderator: Olena Pavlenko, President of DiXi Group, Co-chair of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform

October 22 – Day 2

10:00 – 11:30 Session 3: DCFTAs: still fit for purpose?

Speakers:

- Veronika Movchan, Academic Director at Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, Ukraine
- Tinatin Akhvlediani, Researcher at the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Georgia
- Denis Cenusa, "Energy Security" Program Director at Expert-Grup, the Republic of Moldova
- Michael Emerson, Associate Senior Research Fellow at the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels

Moderator: Kateryna Wolczuk, Associate Fellow at Chatham House's Russia and Eurasia Program, United Kingdom

11:30 – 11:50 Coffee break

11:50 – 13:20 Session 4: Partial EU integration: how Trio countries could use the existing models? The cases of Turkey, Norway, the Balkans and Switzerland

Speakers:

- Evgheniya Gaber, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ukraine
- Kateryna Shynkaruk, Senior Lecturer at National University Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Chair of International Relations, Ukraine
- Daria Gaidai, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Ukraine

Moderator: Szymon Ananicz, Stefan Batory Foundation, the Republic of Poland

13:20 – 14:20 Buffet Lunch

14:20 – 15:50 **Session 5: The external spoilers of EU integration: how Russia and China undermine EU integration**

Speakers:

- Sergiy Solodkyi, First Deputy Director of the New Europe Center, Ukraine
- Paata Gaprindashvili, Director of Georgia's Reforms Associates (GRASS), Georgia
- Iulian Chifu, President of the Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Center, Romania
- Stefan Meister, Head of Program "International Order and Democracy" at DGAP, Germany

Moderator: Leo Litra, Senior Research Fellow of New Europe Center, Ukraine

15:50 – 16:10 Coffee break

16:10 – 17:40 **Closing Session:**
Trio Strategy: what the three countries could achieve together?

Speakers:

- Ihor Zhovkva, Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, Diplomatic Advisor to the President
- Cristina Gherasimov, Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of the Republic of Moldova
- Pierre-Alexandre Crevaux, Specialist, Communications Division, Administration of the President of Georgia

Moderator: Iulian Groza, Executive director of the Institute for European Policies and Reforms, the Republic of Moldova

