

## PRESS RELEASE

### Armenian-Georgian partnerships report on their achievements in implementing joint grant projects

***Tbilisi, July 21, 2016 - Today, in Tbilisi the Georgian-Armenian cross-boarder teams successfully presented their joint grant projects to the national and local authorities, international donors and mass media.***

Mr. Tengiz Shergelashvili, the Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia opened the event highlighting the importance of cross border impact and thanked the EaPTC for organizing the presentations as suggested during the Joint Decision Making Committee Meeting in Dilijan of 03 June 2016.

"Not giving too much away already, I can say that early indicators are positive, and show already that EaPTC's approach of bringing together local government, civil society and communities to solve common regional problems is a working, and winning formula", - underlined Stephen Stork, Deputy Head of Operations, EU Delegation to Georgia.

"We started from scratch, now we have 9 functioning projects. We have success stories and we have challenges that we need to overcome jointly", - mentioned Alexei Sekarev, EaPTC Team Leader

The outreach event provided an opportunity for the project-implementing teams to share preliminary results of joint activities and highlight projects' impact on the various aspects of local development of neighboring regions in Armenia and Georgia.

During the presentations a number of salient issues were raised, which depicted the hardships the projects faced during the implementation period. This event was a unique chance to discuss those issues directly with regional or local decision-makers.

The EU-funded Armenia-Georgia Territorial Cooperation Programme (EaPTC) has been in operation since September 2015. It comprises altogether 9 joint cross-border projects between Armenian and Georgian partners focusing on local economic development, environment protection and people-to-people contacts in culture, education and sports.

The outreach event is widely highlighted in Georgian and Armenian mass media.

**Background:** the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme's (EaPTC Support Programme) goal is to create a favourable environment for territorial cooperation programmes along the borders of Moldova – Ukraine, Armenia – Georgia, Azerbaijan – Georgia and Belarus – Ukraine with due regard to specifics of each border area. It is as well aimed at strengthening 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 is 12.5 million EUR.

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a 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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