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**CIVIL SOCIETY
FOR EUROPEAN
INTEGRATION**

The project is funded by the European Union
and co-funded by Friedrich Ebert Foundation

Expert-Grup
Independent Think-Tank



**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**

Launching event of the project “Civil Society for the European Integration”

Venue: Digital Park, Chisinau

Date and time: May 15, 11.30 am



EU-Moldova Stronger Together

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Independent Think-Tank



IPRE
Institute for European
Policies and Reforms
ipre.md



About the Launching Event – General Remarks

The Event will mark the official opening of the project “Civil Society for the European Integration”. The project is funded by the European Union and Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) and implemented by the Independent Analytical Center “Expert-Grup” as lead applicant, in consortium with the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC), and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The general objective of the project is to build and consolidate the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to support the implementation of the Association Agenda and conditionalities attached to Moldova’s accession process to the EU.

The launching event aims at presenting the objectives of the Project while underlying the important role the civil society engagement could bring in advancing the Europeanisation agenda. The event will also serve as an opportunity to bring into discussion the state of play and progress regarding the implementation of commitments for opening the accession negotiations with the European Union.

The event will consist of three parts. It will start with the opening remarks by the representatives of the relevant ministries and project donors, who will present their vision on the cooperation between public authorities and civil society in the decision-making process, especially in the context of the EU accession process.

A detailed project presentation will be made during the second part of the event, focusing on the theory of change, planned activities, and expected outcomes. It will describe how the project is going to empower local CSOs and build their capacity in order to act as agents of change, advocate and promote the alignment of the budgetary and policy priorities of the country with the Europeanization agenda. Also, there will be presented the 15 grant-beneficiary CSOs, which is an important project component.

The last panel will be dedicated to a discussion on the EU integration process of the Republic of Moldova through the lenses of civil society. Specifically, representatives of the civil society will provide an independent assessment of the country’s progress in fulfilling the 9 recommendations of the European Commission, discussing the main achievements, constraints, and future priorities. Also, this panel will welcome the representatives of the EuroPuls – the Centre for European Expertise– who will share their vision related to the European integration pathway of Moldova.

The event will gather high level public authorities, policymakers, the donor community, civil society organizations, opinion leaders, academia, and mass media. To reach a wider audience, the public event will be also broadcast online.

AGENDA

Language	Romanian. Translation to English will be provided
Venue	Digital Park, 15 Mihai Viteazul Street, Chisinau
11:00 – 11:30	Registration of participants & Welcoming coffee
11:30 – 12:15	Opening speeches H.E Dorin Recean, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova H.E Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova H.E Nicu Popescu, Deputy Prime-minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European integration (tbc) Veronica Sirețeanu-Vragaleva, Minister of Finance (tbc) Ana Mihailov, Country Director, Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moderator: Adrian Lupusor, Executive Director, Independent Think-Tank Expert-Grup
12:15 – 12:30	Presentation of the “Civil Society for the European Integration” Project, funded by the European Union and co-funded by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Ecaterina Rusu, Project Manager, Expert-Grup
12:30 – 13:30	The way towards opening the accession negotiations with the European Union and the role of civil society Adrian Lupusor, Executive Director, Expert-Grup Iulian Groza, Executive Director, Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE) Ilie Chirtoaca, Executive Director, Legal Resource Centre from Moldova Stela Leuca, State Secretary, MFAEI Adrian Balutel, State Secretary, State Chancellery Josip Juric, Project Manager, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova Tana Foarfă, Director, EuroPuls, Romania Moderator: Liliana Palihovici, President of the Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC)
13.30 – 13.45	Closing remarks