

## EaPies

Welcome! Each month we are going to post a word or phrase to teach you from the EaP region. This month's word is 'peace'.

**Armenia (Հայաստան - Hayastan):** խաղաղություն  
- khaghaghut'yun

**Azerbaijan (Azərbaycan):** sülh

**Belarus (Беларусь - Bielarus):** свет - sviet

**Georgia (საქართველო - Sakartvelo):** მშვიდობა  
- mshvidoba

**Ukraine (Україна - Ukrayina):** світ - svit

**Moldova:** pace



## The Project's News

### EPM Burgos

From the 18th to 21 February, one of the biggest events of AEGEE, the European Planning Meeting was held in the Burgos, Spain. During the meeting the main topic of the discussions was based on "EU and Russia relations after the Ukraine crisis" which was proposed and managed by EaP Project of AEGEE. On the first day of the EPM, certain concepts regarding the topic were introduced to the participants. Next, there were discussion panels held in the big auditorium so as to get knowledge about the topics. Moreover, workshops on related topics were arranged by experts. Eventually, the EPM ended with conclusions on the topic "EU Russia relations after Ukraine crisis".

## Armenia

### OSCE/ODIHR workshop in Armenia highlights the importance of transparent policy-making and legislative planning

Evidence-based policy-making and legislative planning were the focus of a workshop in Tsaghkadzor, Armenia, organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and the OSCE Office in Yerevan on 23 and 24 February 2015.

The workshop gathered some 40 representatives from the Ministries of Justice, Finance and Economics as well as from other governmental institutions, the National Assembly, the Human Rights Defender's Office and civil society. Participants discussed ways to improve the transparency and accessibility of the policy and legislative planning process and exchanged views on how best to involve policymakers and lawmakers, the public and relevant experts in the legislative planning framework. The workshop also focused on ways to enhance co-operation between institutions in the process of policy-making and legislative planning.

*Victoria Horiachko*

## Azerbaijan

### Azerbaijani Culture Days to be held in Sweden

Azerbaijani ambassador to Sweden Adish Mammadov met with Per Olsson, State Secretary to the Minister for Culture and Democracy of Sweden.

The sides discussed development of cultural and humanitarian ties between Azerbaijan and Sweden. Azerbaijani ambassador expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between the two countries, stressed the need for better recognition of Azerbaijani history and culture by Swedish community. Development of cultural relations is important for bilateral relations. Click [here](#) for more information.

*Orkhan Babayev*

## EaP Locals' News

### Latvian Presidency of the EU and cooperation with Armenia

12, February, 2015 the representative of AEGEE-Yerevan Mrs. Haykuhi Tangyan participated in the international conference 'Latvian Presidency of the European Union priorities and areas of cooperation with Armenia'. The conference was organized by the Analytical Center on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC) NGO and the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia' and took place at Best Western Congress Hotel. The conference brought together more than 100 participants:

## Belarus

### The leaders of Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany have reached a ceasefire deal after 17 hours of talks in Minsk, Belarus, on the Ukrainian conflict

The ceasefire will come into force on Sunday as part of a deal that also involves the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the front line.

Russian president Vladimir Putin was the first to announce the deal, saying: "We have agreed on a ceasefire from midnight 15 February."

Putin added: "There is also the political settlement. The first thing is constitutional reform that should take into consideration the legitimate rights of people who live in Donbass. There are also border issues. Finally there are a whole range of economic and humanitarian issues."

*Ferran H. Casamitjana*

## Georgia

### What will the education reform bring to Georgia?

Due to Mukhran Guliashvili, head of the NGO School Research Center, the education system in Georgia didn't change since the 19th century and is therefore built on the needs of an industrial economy rather than innovation and general knowledge. According to surveys and research the pupils' education levels as well as the teachers' qualifications are low.

As part of the reform the school subject „civil education“ was introduced, however it didn't assist the pupils in becoming active citizens and most of them can't find any practical use for it.

To reform and improve the education system a very strict and well-oiled teacher selection system, better salaries and a good infrastructure is needed. The Georgian government only spends 2.4 percent of its income on education. Meanwhile countries with successful education systems spend at least 4 percent.

Guliashvili states that „successful police and bureaucratic reforms give me hope that education reform will also bear fruit. In general, comprehensive reforms will help schools raise critically thinking citizens rather than obedient drones“.

The EU has included education in the action plan from 2013 to 2015 aiming to support reforms in primary and secondary schools based on the principles of human rights and democracy and taking into account European standards and practice. Check [this](#) for more information!

### Reporters Without Borders: Media freedom has improved in Georgia

Reporters without Borders ranked Georgia in 69th place among 180 countries, while it was 84th in 2014 and 100th in 2013.

The Index evaluated each country in seven categories: pluralism, media independence, environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency and

high-level officials from Armenia and Latvia, number of deputies of the National Assembly, NGO representatives, journalists, academicians, students and representatives of international organizations accredited in Armenia.

### Novruz - International Youth Festival

AEGEE-Bakı is going to organize its annual event called "Novruz-International Youth Festival" within 20-26 March. The deadline for the applications were expired on 26, March, afterwards, over 1,300 applications were received. Novruz - International Youth Festival is the annual celebration of Novruz with the youth from all around the world. And now this is Your chance to enjoy this holiday with us. This project will give you a unique chance to experience different parts of NOVRUZ holiday, such as jumping over bonfires and running through the streets, banging on pots and pans with spoons and knocking on doors with your hats and bags to ask for little presents (sweets and candies) and tasting national cookeries, such as shekerbura, pakhlava, goghal that you have never had before! Click [here](#) application!

### AEGEE-Kyiv Playground

AEGEE-Kyiv created new event called "PLAYGROUND". It is new format of their meetings which will be organised on a regular basis to play different board and role games with talks.

### Carting Championship with AEGEE-Tbilisi

Last weekend Aegee-Tbilisi organised a carting championship. Around 15 members took part at the event. Click

infrastructure. According to this Georgia gained a score of 27.7. Lower scores mean better press freedom and higher scores mean less press freedom.

*Theresa Leppert*

[here](#) for facebook page!

## Ukraine

### **Donetsk rebels announce full heavy weapons withdrawal in Ukraine**

Ukrainian rebels have withdrawn all heavy weapons in Donetsk relocated 80 percent of hardware in Lugansk, appropriate for the Minsk-2 peace agreements. The ceasefire came into effect on 15 February but the rebels seized the key town of Debaltseve just days later. About 5,800 people have died since then, the UN has estimated, although it believes the real figure could be considerably higher.

At first glance, Kiev's announcement that its forces would start to withdraw heavy weapons from the front line is positive news - and possibly a sign that the two sides are finally carrying out the Minsk agreement. But making sure the deal sticks will remain a day-to-day struggle. Click [here](#) for whole news!

*Etibar Aliyev*

## Moldova

### **Moldova's parliament picks pro-EU premier**

Almost three months after elections in Moldova (November 30th), the parliament finally chose a new prime minister. Chiril Gaburici, a pro-European businessman, was elected with 60 out of 101 votes.

This could be interpreted as a relief after having a political crisis caused by the rejection of former prime minister Iurie Leanca. The minority government formed by two pro-European parties failed to win support from the Communists and his former ally, the Liberal Party, which went out of coalition negotiations after some disagreements.

On the other hand, some observers are pessimistic about Moldova's future because Chiril Gaburici, as a businessman, has no political experience. Moreover, they fear that further mixing of business and politics will increase corruption in Moldova's political system.

Even though the new prime minister said that "the question of Moldova's European integration remains in focus", the minority government will still depend on the support of the Communist Party. With the currency falling and the remaining conflict in Transnistria, one can only hope that the weak government will be able to reach its goals.

*Esther Hillmer*

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