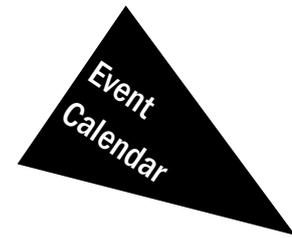




Public Private Dialogue Newsletter



Public Private Dialogue Network: Quo vadis?

Lobbying and advocacy is not an easy task in the Eastern Partnership countries and Public Private Dialogue is underdeveloped. Countries, where dialogue between the public and the private side works well the business environment, is usually much better. The public side needs the input and expertise of businesses to draft the right policies, to ensure business that they are welcome in that economy and to better understand the needs of the business community.

Understanding the needs of big business it quite easy and advocacy for big business works well. Where it does not work so well is with the thousands or millions of SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises). They are too small to lobby on their own, they depend on associations and the professional work of these associations. Often associations based on voluntary membership are rather weak all over the world. Strong associations are usually sectoral associations, strongly focused on the benefit of their members and they offer services the members and others cannot easily find on the market.

Everything from the difficulties with advocacy, the weak dialogue, the rather weak associations and similar challenges exist in all 6 EaP countries and beyond. It is not efficient to invent remedies in each country and for each association. A cooperation to develop strategies, policies, services and trainings programs are necessary and that is what the Public Private Dialogue Network wants to be and that is where the international consortium of business association will lead the stakeholders involved the Public Private Dialogue Activity of East Invest 2.

Join us now by sending an email to: speaker@ppd-network.org

OECD Eurasia Week 2017 ~ Openness for Shared Prosperity

Rixos Almaty Hotel

Almaty, Kazakhstan

23-25.10.2017

<https://eurasiaweek2017.poken.com>

Contact: eurasiaweek@oecd.org

[Registration](#)

The 4th Eastern Partnership Business Forum

Hilton Tallinn Park Hotel Tallinn, Estonia

26-27.10.2017

Contact: conference@eceap.eu

Participation: By Invitation only

SME Assembly

Tallinn Creative Hub (Kultuurikatel)

Pohja pst, 27a, 10415 Tallinn, Estonia

22-24.11.2017

<https://www.eu2017.ee/political-meetings/sme-assembly>

Contact: info@eu2017.ee

[Registration: accreditation@eu2017.ee](mailto:accreditation@eu2017.ee)

PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE Newsletter

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Proposals of the PPD Network to the organizers of the 4th Eastern Partnership Business Forum

- ⇒ The Challenges and Recommendations for an improved business environment for SMEs in the EaP countries shall be presented by those who drafted it
- ⇒ The Regional Position Paper „Enhance change and growth“ - an SME Policy Paper with challenges and recommendations should be available on the event webpage as the result of the associations hard work with their logos
- ⇒ The Regional Position Paper „Enhance change and growth“ - an SME Policy Paper with challenges and recommendations should get more attention on the Forum through a workshop

People of the Week

John Braeckveldt

came to Georgia in 2004 and from then is the country and regional coordinator of the Caucasus at Gosselin Group.

John has been partner of DBR-group Ltd (Belgian construction materials in Georgia) since 2008 and co- owner of B&J-Ltd (Trading in Georgia) from 2010.

He has Bachelor Degree in Graphic arts, graphical & commercial management. John has extensive experience of the logistics sector in Europe and the South Caucuses and is a recognized expert in customs procedures.



David Lawrence Lee



Came to Georgia in February of 2004 and was the CEO of Magticom, the largest telecommunications company in Georgia, until the end of 2016 and President of American Chamber of Commerce from 2008 to 2012.

Since 2017 his is one of the founding members of EBA Georgia and it's first CEO.

He is also the CEO of Lee LLC and Chairman of the Europe Foundation and CRRC. David has an MBA from Warwick Business School, qualified as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG and speaks Georgian and Russian. A former Royal Navy Officer, he has led companies in developing markets since 1990.

Mariam Kuchuloria

Over the past few years Mariam Kuchuloria was involved in Public-Private Dialogue activities and serving businesses for adoption of business friendly regulations and policies. Mariam was country Facilitator for the Public Private Dialogue activities within the EU Project "East Invest 2." To assist in improvement of business environment, enhance competitiveness of SMEs and defend fair competition, Mariam founded non-profit organization Center for Competition in 2015 and was actively involved in competition advocacy.

Mariam is the lawyer with more than 10 years of professional experience. She served as the lawyer for a law firm, bank, insurance company, construction, transportation and energy/hydropower companies.

Mariam received Master's Academic Degree with a Major in Jurisprudence from Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Law in 2005 and Master's Academic Degree in International Law from Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) in 2008. She also studied International and Transnational Law at School of American Law, Chicago -Kent College of Law. She is the member of Georgian Bar Association and member of Georgian Young Lawyers Association.



The Launch of the European Business Association in Georgia

The European Business Association was formed in Georgia to lobby for European Businesses in Georgia and to broker the development of trade between Georgia and Europe.

The Board comprises only European Businesses and market leaders in many sectors of the Georgian market are represented. The board believe that doing business in Georgia will be the same as doing business in Europe.

The association will operate throughout the territory of Georgia and will assist any Georgian Business that is or wishes to trade with Europe. We strongly believe in Georgia's European Way and as a startup will use the latest communication technologies to support and engage with our members wherever they are located.

The Launch meeting of European Business Association was held on July 25, 2017 in the Nato & EU Information Center in Tbilisi, Georgia.

H.E. Janos HERMAN, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia opened the meeting and noted that the initiative has support and interest from not just the EU but from the European member states as well.



John Braeckveldt, Chair of the Board of EBA, presented the vision and mission of the European Business Association, the members of the Executive team to the guests who represented a diverse range of European and Georgian business leaders.

David Lee, the Chief Executive Officer of the EBA discussed the associations' objectives and conditions of membership. As the former CEO of Magticom and President of Amcham, he stressed the need for more assistance for Georgian businesses in

the regions who wish to export to Europe and the opportunities for much higher levels of European investment in Georgia.

As a pure play European business association with no political affiliations or history, the organization is engineered to startup and scale quickly to take advantage of the unique opportunities offered by the Association Agreement and DCFTA against a back-



ground of visa free travel in the EU for Georgian citizens. Internet based, the associations services will be offered across the whole country for all sizes of businesses.

By disrupting the long established business association sector in Georgia, the use of new technologies and an exclusively European focus, the EBA intends to accelerate the adoption of European Standards in this market and to improve the awareness of Georgia in Europe leading to increased investment and trade.

EU, French, Dutch, Romanian and British Ambassadors were joined by the Swedish and other EU Member State Ambassadors and diplomats at the launch. Core membership is reserved exclusively for European owned businesses. Any business in Georgia who trades or plans to trade with Europe may apply for membership. The articles of association prohibit the organization from any form of political support or involvement with Georgian political parties.

More Information at:

info@eba.ge

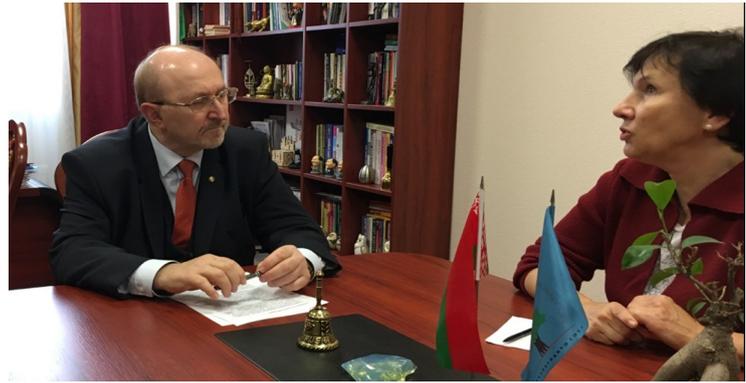
Facebook @ebaGeorgia

<http://www.eba.ge/en>



Discussion of the participation program in the Business Forum in Tallinn

Minsk, October 03 2017: Vladimir Karyagin (speaker of Public Private Dialogue Network/Consortium), Natallia Harbuz discussed with other members of the board of RCE (Republican Confederation of entrepreneurs) the participation of a large delegation from Belarus at the Eastern Partnership Business Forum in Tallinn in October 2017.



Center for Entrepreneurship Support “Center-XXI Century” will organize a bus transfer from Minsk to Tallinn to provide members of different associations an opportunity to participate in the Forum and B2B meetings. There was a discussion of the participation program in the Business Forum in Tallinn.

Contact person: Katerina Safonova, katerina.safonova@ppd-network.org

Meeting in Kiev of the association representatives from Belarus, Ukraine and Austria

Kiev, September 23, 2017: Representatives from business associations from Belarus, Ukraine and Austria met to discuss further cooperation in promoting and using the Regional Position Paper “Enhancing change and growth” with challenges and recommendations for policy makers the international

consortium based on the Public Private Dialogue Network was seen as the best solution to get lobbying, advocacy and public private dialogue improved in the Eastern Partnership countries. All stakeholders agreed that strong efforts need to be made to position the consortium at the Eastern Partnership Business Forum. In the meeting Naum Katz (Repu-



ublican Confederation of Entrepreneurship), Natalia Garbuz (Program Facilitator for Public Private Dialogue), Elisabeth Miroshnichenko (Handicrafts Chamber) and others participated.

Contact person: Katerina Safonova, katerina.safonova@ppd-network.org

Second meeting of the international consortium in Minsk

Minsk, July 28, 2017: The members of the initiative group for the creation of an international consortium held their second meeting to better organize the work to be done.

A draft memorandum to be signed by the members of the consortium was developed and later sent to interested associations. The consortium selected a general secretary and a director to organize the work. A timeline for further activities was set to allow a strong representation at the Eastern Partnership Business Forum in Tallinn.

