

## AGREEMENT

### BETWEEN

The Economic Policy Institute (EPI), represented by Mr. Yassen Georgiev, Executive Director, with postal address 126 Vitosha Boulevard, fl. 6, app. 11, 1463 Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria, hereinafter referred to as the **CONTRACTING AUTHORITY**,

AND

Mr. Nicolae Arnaut with address 16/3, Kiev Street, apt.8 Chisinau, Republic of Moldova hereinafter referred to as the **CONTRACTOR**,

AGREE on the following:

### 1. Subject

- 1.1. The CONTRACTOR shall operate as an independent research fellow within the special SS2019 follow-up activity **2019 Call for Policy Papers “Voices from the Black Sea”**, organized by the CONTRACTING AUTHORITY with the financial support of the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation;
- 1.2. Within this framework, the CONTRACTOR shall undertake research and prepare an original, unpublished policy paper to be included in the Summer Seminar 2019's book with proceedings under a designated section “Voices from the Black Sea”;
- 1.3. The CONTRACTOR shall submit the completed paper, prepared in line with the approved proposal (Annex 2) and the technical specifications (in Annex 1), by **September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019** to e-mail **summer\_seminars@epi-bg.org** (to the attention of Ms. Mariana Trifonova, Senior Analyst, EPI).
- 1.4. The present agreement does not establish any hierarchical link between the contracting parties;
- 1.5. Once the completed policy paper has been submitted and approved for publication, the CONTRACTOR will be paid a honorarium in the amount of 210 EUR (*two hundred and ten euro*).
- 1.6. In relation to the honorarium disbursement, the CONTRACTOR shall be solely responsible for fulfilling all social or fiscal obligations applicable to himself/herself in his/her country of residence.

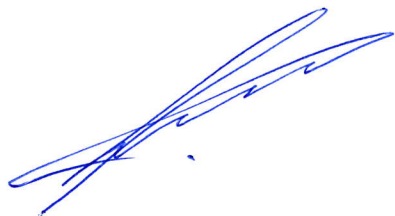
#### 4. Intellectual Property and reproduction

- 4.1. The CONTRACTOR retains the intellectual property rights of the produced policy paper and could freely re-print and re-submit the paper to other publishers, provided he/she duly acknowledges the financial support received under this agreement in all subsequent reproductions.
- 4.2. All subsequent reproductions of the policy paper on behalf of the CONTRACTOR are permitted with the explicit presence of a due acknowledgement for the financial support in the form of the following disclaimer:

*This paper was originally prepared and published under a special SS2019 follow-up activity: Call for Policy Papers "Voices from the Black Sea" of the Economic Policy Institute – Sofia (EPI). It received kind financial support from the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST). All opinions expressed in the paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views an official positions of EPI or BST.*

The undersigned agreement has been drawn up in Sofia, Bulgaria on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

For the CONTRACTOR:



Nicolae Arnaut

For the CONTRACTING AUTHORITY:



Yasen Georgiev  
Executive Director, EPI



We particularly encourage contributions **showcasing good practices and innovative solutions that could be replicated or adopted elsewhere**, thus leading to better cross-border cooperation and positive spillover effects.

Reviewing the proposals, **priority will be given to authors who tackle:**

- one or more specific aspects of **implementing the good governance principles** (*rule of law, control of corruption, accountability, transparency, efficiency, regulatory quality*) in the policy field they are most familiar with; or
- **digital transformation in the public sector** (e-government & e-governance).

**SS2019 nationalities eligible for financial support from BST: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine.**

### **Timeframe: Paper Writing & Submission Process**

SS2019 participants from the eligible Black Sea countries are welcome to submit **policy paper proposals consisting of topic suggestion and abstract by August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019** to e-mail [summer\\_seminars@epi-bg.org](mailto:summer_seminars@epi-bg.org) (at the attention of Ms. Mariana Trifonova). **Selection results will be announced individually via e-mail up to 48 hours after the submission deadline.**

*If no suitable paper proposals are received by the initial deadline for submitting topics and abstracts (August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019), EPI reserves the right to open the Call to other SS alumni network members from all Black Sea region countries included in the Summer Seminar initiative: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine.*

**The authors of the three short-listed proposals will receive further instructions and will be expected to submit their completed policy papers by September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

Shortly after EPI's review of the completed policy papers, authors will either be notified that their papers are accepted for publication or asked to make revisions based on the provided feedback. Revision deadlines will be discussed individually but authors should keep in mind that, **in order to get their papers published and receive the envisioned honorarium, EPI should receive and approve the final versions no later than September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

Stage	Implementation Period	Description
Announcement of SS2019 Call for Policy Papers "Voices from the Black Sea"	Call opens on July 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 <b>Deadline for submitting topic proposal &amp; abstract is August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b>	Call for Papers disseminated to SS2019 participants from Black Sea area countries via e-mail and in the SS alumni network Facebook group
First round selection results	<b>By August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b>	Results announcement sent Individually via e-mail to all authors who have submitted proposals. Three short-listed proposals to be developed into pull papers.
Submission of completed policy papers	<b>Deadline: September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b>	Non-compliance with the submission deadline, the format or the quality standard of the policy papers may lead to honorarium deductions.
Final decision on papers accepted for publication	<b><u>Hard</u> deadline: September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b>	After reviewing the completed papers, EPI will notify authors whether their papers are directly accepted for publication or revisions are needed. All revision and approval procedures need to be completed no later than September 20 <sup>th</sup> .

### **CORRUPTION AND „STATE CAPTURE” IN MOLDOVA: SYMPTOMS AND EFFECTS**

#### **Abstract**

This paper proposes to identify the domestic factors that led to the creation of barriers to the European transformation of the Republic of Moldova. The primary idea is to analyze how local factors and contexts specific to Moldova interact with and shape the implementation of EU policies. In this context, the author regards this case study as one of the leading problems faced by the Republic of Moldova, namely the "captured state" with integrated elements (corruption, bank fraud, electoral system and the lack of institutional democracy. The analysis and the conclusions can serve as a policy document for the European Commission or the European Parliament, also at national level, will be a valuable research document to work with the state bodies for the European transformation of the Republic of Moldova.

#### **Research Questions**

1. How can the concept of “European transformation of Moldova” be understood and what are its various manifestations?
2. What conclusions can be drawn for the evolution of political conditionality in the framework of the ENP towards the Eastern neighbours of the EU?

#### **Research Design**

The output will be a research document with a comprehensive analysis of „state capture „in Moldova and other internal barriers (corruption, bank fraud, electoral system, assertive mass-media) in the context of AA and DCFTA implementation process.