

EU4Environment

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Improving and acting on environmental policies is crucial for economic growth, resilience, and people's well-being. It is also important for preserving biodiversity and addressing climate challenges.

Funded by the European Union, the new EU4Environment Action aims to preserve and better use the natural capital, increase people's environmental well-being and stimulate economic growth in six Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

By bringing together environmental and economic actors, EU4Environment helps to deliver policy and legislative changes, making planning and investment greener, stimulating the uptake of innovative technologies, adopting new business models, and creating green jobs. It also promotes better environmental governance, improved management of protected areas and forests, and sustainable trade. The scope of the Action was defined in cooperation with all partner countries.

The Action builds on important achievements of past cooperation programmes, such as Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN), the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG), and the Emerald Network, which were completed in 2017-18.

EU4Environment takes into account the enhanced cooperation endorsed as part of **"20 Deliverables for 2020"** at the Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2017.

The Action is intended to be implemented by five international organisations: OECD, UN Environment, UNECE, UNIDO, and the World Bank.

The European Commission provides the overall direction.

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#strongertogether



Action funded by
the European Union

**European Union for Environment
in Eastern Partner countries**

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Action implemented by:



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Objective: The EU4Environment action of the European Union aims to help the six partner countries preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

Partner Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Duration: 2019-2022

Budget: EUR 20 million (EU contribution: EUR 19.5 million)

Implementing Partners: OECD, UN Environment, UNECE, UNIDO, the World Bank

Overall direction: DG NEAR and DG Environment of the European Commission

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Actions are clustered around five priority results:

1. Greener Decision-Making

- Support to inter-ministerial policy dialogue platforms on green growth and to the **integration of green economy targets** and other sustainability issues into planning
- Assistance with **investment needs** assessments
- Support to reform of legislative frameworks of, and building implementation capacities for, **strategic environmental assessment** (SEA) and **transboundary environmental impact assessment** (EIA) that fully comply with international requirements
- Awareness-raising** on green economy, environmental action and sustainable lifestyles

Implemented by: **UNECE, UN Environment, and UNIDO**
(co-ordinator)

2. Circular Economy and New Growth Opportunities

- Assistance to **Small and Medium Sized Enterprises** (SMEs) to integrate sustainability factors in strategic and daily decision-making
- Promotion of EU concepts and tools related to the **Single Market for Green Products**
- Support for the elaboration and implementation of **green public procurement policies**
- Tailored assistance to address **waste management** challenges
- Technical assistance for **reforms in priority green economy sectors** (e.g. energy efficiency, agriculture/food, construction, sustainable tourism or regional development)

- Assistance to ecological **value-chain and product innovation** among SMEs

Implemented by: **UN Environment and UNIDO** (co-ordinator)

3. An Environmental Level Playing Field

- Support to national authorities in establishing **'smart' regulations** and policy instruments for promoting environmental performance of large enterprises and SMEs
- Strengthening the effectiveness of **compliance promotion and enforcement institutions** and instruments to enhance compliance with environmental requirements
- Assisting national authorities in **designing and costing green public investment strategies and programmes**
- Supporting **administrative capacity** in environmental management
- Training of a critical mass of key targeted civil servants** and other stakeholders

Implemented by: **OECD**

4. Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods

- Launching a **shared network of protected areas** involving EU and neighbouring countries
- Support for community actions for **forest conservation and sustainable use** to increase non-timber goods production, energy efficiency related to biomass
- Actions to **prevent illegal trade and promote legal trade**
- Support for the identification and development of innovative **financing schemes for sustainable management of ecosystem services**

Implemented by: **the World Bank**

5. Knowledge Sharing and Coordination

- Strategic **communication activities** to raise visibility of actions
- Regional coordination** of different elements of the initiative
- Monitoring of progress** with integration of economic and environmental goals, and development of reports **based on Green Growth Indicators**

Implemented by: **OECD in cooperation with all Partners**