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## EU4Environment

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

# EU4Environment strengthens cooperation on environmental assessment among Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine

Geneva, 26-27 October 2020

The use of environmental assessments benefits people and nature. A robust system for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) ensures the soundness and transparency of economic and territorial planning decisions. It can also help in greening economies and promoting sustainable development.

The six Eastern Partnership countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - committed to apply environmental assessments. These commitments arise from the countries' Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with the European Union, the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on SEA.

The European Union, in cooperation with UNECE, helps the countries apply environmental assessments more effectively and systematically. This assistance is a part of the EU-funded regional programme, "European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment), launched in 2019. The programme aims at greening economies in the six Eastern Partnership countries based on EU funding of nearly 20 million euros.

A virtual subregional workshop on the practical application of SEA and transboundary EIA organized by UNECE on 26-27 October 2020 facilitated experience sharing among the six countries. It gathered more than 40 representatives of environmental authorities to discuss the progress and lessons learnt by the countries on the development of SEA and EIA systems. The event helped address topical issues in the field of SEA and EIA, building on good practice examples from the countries in the European Union and the UNECE region.

EU4Environment Action, funded by the European Union, aims to support Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to preserve and better use their natural capital, increase people's environmental well-being, and grasp new development opportunities. With a budget of some EUR 20 million for all six countries, EU4Environment is carried out from 2019 to 2022 with implementation support by five international partners: OECD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNECE and the World Bank.

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More information on EU4Environment work is available on <https://www.eu4environment.org/>.

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