



EU4ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

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Environment Directorate
Bucharest Water & Land Conference
17-18 October 2023



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EU4Environment
Water Resources & Environmental Data

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

European Union for Environment in Eastern Partnership countries – Water Resources and Environmental Data

- based on the ENI East Regional Action Programme 2020 (15 Dec 2020)
- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Budget: 12.75 M € - includes 0.6 M € from ADC and 0.15 M € from Agence Artois-Pic./FR

Timeline: implementation until **June 2024**

Partners: Environment Agency Austria and ADA with OiEau, OECD and UNECE

Goals:

- Improved environmental, climate and socio-economic resilience, and human health
- Build on EUWI+ and on SEIS II in 2 Components:
 - Strengthen governance and capacity for **IWRM (WFD implementation and National Policy Dialogues)**: more sustainable water use
 - Extend scope to **other key aspects**: economic soundness, Covid-19, financing
 - Extend the **environmental database** for knowledge-based decision-making and the access to **open data**
 - **Team Europe Initiative**



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PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



River basin management plans
Water allocation
Stakeholders' involvement

Water monitoring

Economic soundness
Finance mobilisation

Water and health
National policy dialogues
Transboundary cooperation



Component 1 Water Resources

Open data
Water accounting
Land and agriculture
Air and waste
International sharing of data



Component 2 Environmental Data



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OECD ACTIVITIES

Objective:

Supporting the economic soundness of water strategies and policies

Activities:

- Identification and analysis of subsidies that impact water use efficiency and development of recommendations to address them
- Review of economic instruments and recommendations on improving performance
- Review and recommendations on water pricing and the link to water use efficiency
- Consideration of pilot project opportunities



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OECD ACTIVITIES

Objective:

Priority measures are supported through finance mobilisation

Activities:

- Mapping of projects, programmes of measures and strategic priorities against available finance and promote dialogue on barriers to finance
- Identification and application of innovative and low-cost solutions with socio-economic and environmental benefits
- Identification of priorities with transboundary benefits and consideration of financing opportunities
- Practical opportunities for nature based solutions and review of financing opportunities



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FOCUS AREAS AND PROGRESS

- Review of technical and economic performance of Water User Associations in Armenia
- Reforming water abstraction and environmental (pollution) fees in Armenia
- Prerequisites for reforming water pricing systems in agriculture in Azerbaijan
- Implementation guidance for reforming surface water abstraction in Georgia
- Methodology for reforming the water tax in Moldova
- Methodological recommendations for the revitalisation of watercourses and freshwater ecosystems in Ukraine
- Enabling environment assessment for financing water priorities in EaP countries
- Dialogue and financing for Nature based Solutions
- National Policy Dialogues on water

Implementing partners



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THANK YOU

For more information on the EU4Environment - Water Resources and Environmental Data in Eastern Partner Countries programme, please go to our website below, where you can sign up for the Newsletter and learn about upcoming events.

<https://eu4waterdata.eu/en/>

Implementing partners



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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

EU4Environment Action with the Eastern Partnership countries: Activities on Environmental Compliance Assurance

IMPEL Water and Land Conference

17-18 October 2023

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Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Objective: help the Eastern Partnership 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, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Duration: 2019-2024

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

Implementing Partners: OECD, UNEP, UNECE, UNIDO, the World Bank (started in 2021)

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

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Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

EU4Environment Action activities on environmental compliance assurance

6 country reports

- Assessments of environmental compliance assurance systems
[Armenia](#) (2022), [Moldova](#) (2022), [Azerbaijan](#) (forthcoming), [Georgia](#) (forthcoming)
- Assessments of legal environmental liability provisions
[Moldova](#) (2023), [Armenia](#) (forthcoming)

Regional analysis

- Brochure on regional developments in environmental compliance assurance in the Eastern Partnership (forthcoming)
- Chapter in the OECD publication “[Green Economy Transition in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: Progress and Ways Forward](#)”

3 regional capacity building events

- [Information systems](#) (2021)
- [Joint environmental inspections](#) (2022)
- [Environmental liability](#) (2022)

2 national trainings

- [Georgia](#) (identification and assessment of remediation measures) (2022)
- [Ukraine](#) (inspections according to the EU IED and the role of laboratories) (2023)

4 regional meetings

- [Risk-based approaches](#) (2020)
- [Enforcement](#) (2021)
- [Inspections](#) (2022)
- Final meeting (2024) (topic tbd)

Facilitation of participation in European network events (IMPEL, EUFJE)



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Progress in environmental compliance assurance systems in the Eastern Partnership

- Setting up and strengthening of capacities of **new environmental inspection bodies**
- Adoption of **risk methodologies** for planning inspections
- Adoption of **guidance documents** for carrying out inspections
- Development of legislation on **integrated permitting and inspection**
- Expanded channels to receive **alerts** about environmental non-compliance
- Increased use of **awareness-raising** about environmental regulations
- Revision of **penalties for non-compliance**
- Development of legislation on **environmental liability provisions** in some countries



Challenges in environmental compliance assurance systems in the Eastern Partnership

- **Low awareness** about environmental regulations among the regulated community
- **Insufficient co-ordination** between permitting and control institutions
- **Lack of resources** (qualified staff and inspectors, equipment, information management systems, laboratory accreditation and equipment)
- **Inspection planning** suffers from few planned inspections, unrefined risk planning methodologies and no shared database of permits
- **Prevalence of administrative fines** and **low fine levels**
- Lack of a requirement to **remediate environmental damage** caused and of **financial security provisions** for environmental damage



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Training course on “Identification and assessment of remediation measures for significant environmental damage and preparation of a remediation plan”

4-8 July 2022, Tbilisi, Georgia

Officials of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) of Georgia received training on:

- The main components of the EU ELD
- Identification, characterisation and assessment of pollution of soil and groundwater
- Remediation technologies



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