



Progress on environmental Deliverables for 2020 and future action within the Eastern Partnership

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Policy framework: Eastern Partnership

- *Launched in 2009 to bring Eastern neighbours closer to the EU and to each other*
- *6 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine*
- *Bilateral and multilateral strands*
- *Main goals:*
 - **closer relations → political association**
 - **more trade, business, jobs → economic integration**
 - **people → mobility, contacts between people, civil society**
 - **reforms → sector cooperation**

20 Deliverables for 2020

Objective

Identify concrete results for citizens on the basis of existing commitments



Structure

20 deliverables structured along Eastern Partnership 4 priority areas, apart from 3 cross-cutting deliverables



Consultation with stakeholders

Document consulted with a wide range of stakeholders, including Eastern Partner Countries and EU Member States.



Monitoring

Annual rounds of monitoring (2018 and 2019). Progress in most areas, while some challenges still remain.

Eastern Partnership Connectivity Platform

- Attended by energy, transport, environment and other ministries
- A mechanism for mainstreaming and cross-sector cooperation
- 2018: discussion of challenges related to sustainable investment
- 2019: meeting dedicated to climate neutrality

Eastern Partnership Panel on Environment and Climate

- Regular meetings to share information on progress and emerging challenges
- Preparation of ministerial meetings
 - **2015 (informal 6+EC); 2016 and 2018 (formal 6+28+EC)**
- Discussion of priorities
 - **Last meeting on 27 May: air pollution, greening of structural reforms, natural capital preservation, addressing transboundary issues, phase out of harmful subsidies, institutions**
- Work programmes – thematic events

STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

Deliverable 13: Transport connectivity

Extension of TEN-T
core networks

Governance of
transport and logistics
systems

Common Aviation Area
Agreements

National road safety
action plans

Deliverable 14: Energy supply

Efficiency and
transparency of
energy markets

Update and review of
key priority projects

Moldova-Romania gas
interconnection

Southern Gas Corridor
operational

Deliverable 15: Energy efficiency, renewables and climate change mitigation

Unlock investments
into energy efficiency

Sustainable Energy
and Climate Action
Plans - CoM

SME support

Climate policies,
financing, and
emissions MRV

Deliverable 16: Environment and climate change adaptation

Water resources
management

Circular economy

Better environmental
governance

Nature protection and
climate adaptation

Deliverable 16: Scope of and targets

Water management

- At least 30% of River Basin Management Plans developed and a Water Framework Directive compliant management commenced
- Target environmental quality identified for the Black Sea and marine litter clean-up carried out with public involvement

Circular economy

- 1000 SMEs aware of resource efficiency benefits and 200 SMEs trained
- 10% cost savings realised by 60 pilot enterprises due to cleaner production

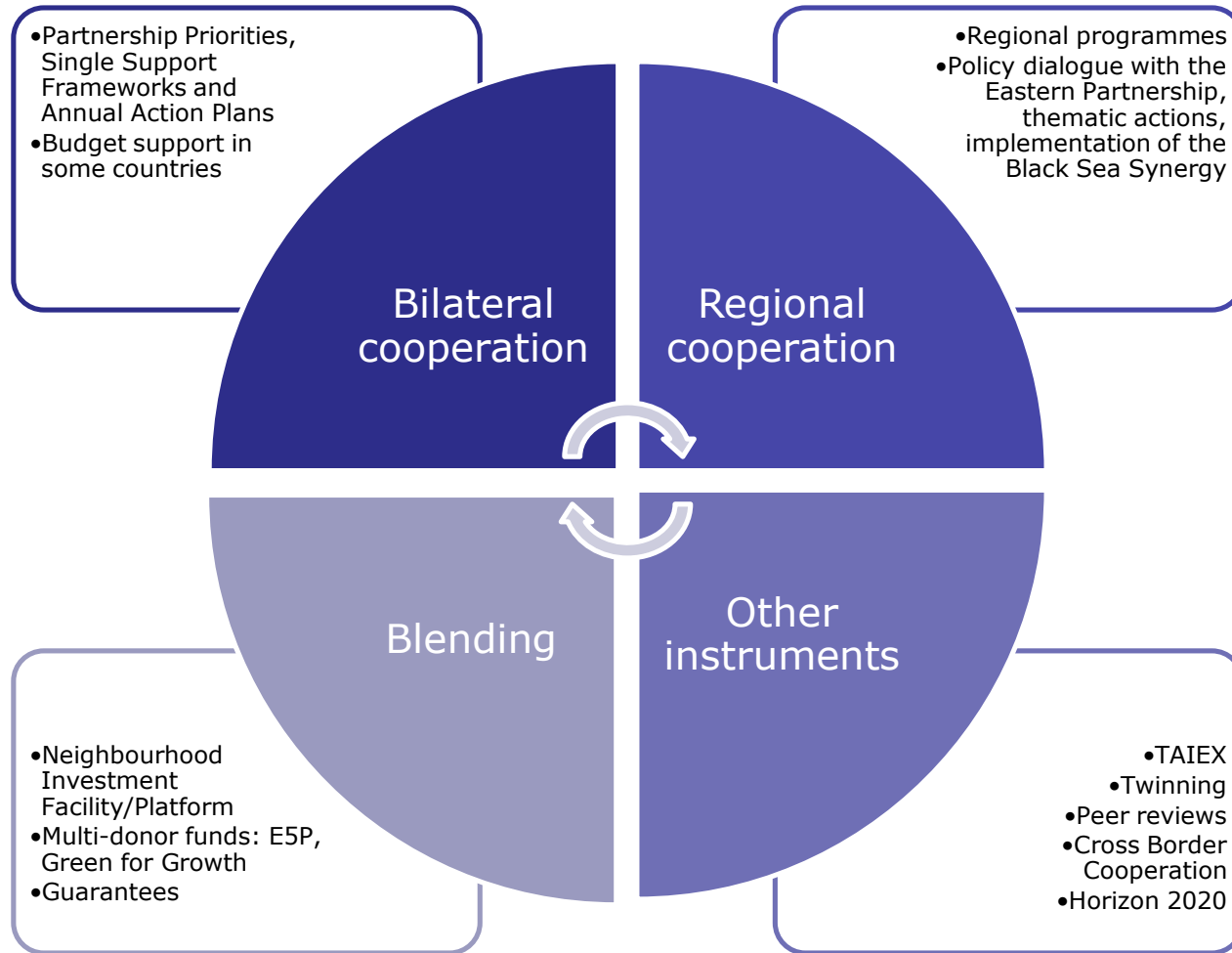
Nature protection

- Increased share of officially designated protected areas under the Emerald Network
- Improved livelihoods for people in forestry-dependent communities

Environmental governance

- Improved on-line access to data and state of the environment analyses
- Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) legislation compliant with relevant Conventions and EU benchmarks

Instruments in support of the Eastern Neighbourhood Policy's implementation



Regional Support to Environment and Climate Action

Greening economies and improving governance

EU4Environment (2018-2022, €19.5M)

Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) East Project (2016-2020, €6.6M)

European Environment Agency and 5 IOs as implementing partners

EU4Climate

(EUR 8 million; 2019-2022)

6 EaP countries

Implementing partner: UNDP

Water management

EU Water Initiative Plus (2016-2020, €23.5M)
Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea Plus (2018-2020, €1.5M)

Austria, France, OECD, UNECE, and UNDP as implementing partners

TAIEX & Twinning

Examples

2 TAIEX Expert Mission on Ozone-Depleting Substances and Fluorinated Gases, expert mission (AZ; 2017)

Twinning projects in Georgia (forestry) and Azerbaijan (monitoring)

Regional Support to Energy Efficiency

Covenant of Mayors

400 signatories

33 demonstration projects

€10m technical support to local authorities

Municipal Project Support Facility (MPSF)

TA for municipal project development and implementation

€12.3m for 18 projects

E5P Fund

Municipal EE and environment investments

€89m for 31 projects

Green for Growth Fund

EU-backed EE investments to SMEs and households

€23m for EU C shares & technical assistance to LFIs

EU4Environment: A new programme

- ❖ **Help the partner countries preserve natural capital and increase people's well-being, as well as stimulate economic development**

1. Greener decision-making

- Further align knowledge, decision-making, and stakeholder interaction mechanisms with environmental imperatives and make political leaders and civil servants aware and supportive of green growth

2. Circular economy and new growth opportunities

- Scale-up public and private action on circular economy and sustainable production and lifestyles

3. An environmental level playing field

- Improve incentives and governance mechanisms

4. Ecosystem services and livelihoods

- Boost resilience through the preservation of ecosystem services and extension of green infrastructure

5. Knowledge sharing and coordination

- Facilitate regional knowledge sharing and coordination

Result-orientation: Achievements in 2018-2019

- **Adoption of improved legislation on environmental assessment of strategies, plans, and investment projects in five countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine)**
- **Official adoption of Emerald Network sites in Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. And official nomination of such sites in Armenia and Azerbaijan.**
- **Adoption three river basins plans in line with EU benchmarks in three countries (Armenia, Belarus and Moldova); other five plans are in the pipeline.**
- **Launch of a EU-like water monitoring system in Ukraine.**
- **Training of some 400 enterprises about green economy solutions and identification of measures that can result in annual savings of EUR 9.4 million**

Prospects for future

- Higher political priority for the new Commission
- More intense bilateral cooperation (e.g. in Armenia and Georgia)
- Integration into other sectors
- Implementation of on-going programmes
- Continuous use of blending

- Structures consultations