



Environmental governance

An Eastern Partnership Flagship initiative

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
External Relations



DG RELEX D1
ENP – General Coordination
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Rationale

- Despite steps taken in the EaP region to strengthen environment protection over the past years, many concerns persist or even intensify, such as climate change or biodiversity loss.
- As pollution does not respect borders there is a strong rationale to tackle concerns multilaterally. A mix of international, regional and domestic action is needed.
- The underlying conditions required to protect the environment – the principles of good environment governance – need to be established and strengthened, to implement policies and legislation, and to promote sustainable growth.
- Principles of good environmental governance are defined in Multilateral Environment Agreements and in EU legislation.

Objectives

- Overall objective: promote environment protection, including addressing climate change, through strengthened environmental governance.
- Specific objectives:
 - promote the availability of reliable environmental information.
 - promote stakeholder awareness and involvement.
 - promote environmental assessments and avoid unintentional negative impacts in other policy sectors.

Two main elements

- Development of a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS).
- Strengthening of capacities to ensure stakeholder involvement, environmental assessments and reporting, on the basis of EU experience and legislation, and in line with relevant Environment Agreements, such as the Aarhus and Espoo Conventions.

Implementation of the Flagship Initiative will build on the state-of-affairs as well as previous experience in the partner countries.

Coordination with the Black Sea Synergy will be ensured

Focal area 1:

Environmental information

- Building on existing developments, set up national and regional Shared Environmental Information Systems, linked and in line with the EU's SEIS
- Enhance monitoring, collection, storage, assessment and reporting capacities in the relevant authorities, including the national statistical institutes.
- Promote implementation of reporting requirements of Environment Agreements, and coordination with relevant regional initiatives
- To be implemented in 2 phases:
 - Phase 1: Based on existing data flows
 - Phase 2: Further data flows to be developed, to align with national, regional and international commitments

Focal area 2:

Access to environmental information, involvement of stakeholders in decision-making, environmental assessments

- Capacity building on access to environmental data and involvement of stakeholders, in line with EU and national legislation, the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
- To promote the preparation and use of high-quality environmental assessments, in line with EU and national legislation, the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and its Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Protocol.



Geographical coverage

- EaP partners will be the direct beneficiaries, both individually and collectively.
- Better availability of cross-border information will benefit the partners and EU MS.
- EaP partners, EU MS and the global community will benefit from better environmental management, such as related to climate change and biodiversity.
- Other interested countries of the region may be allowed to participate in a form to be determined.

Timing and budget

Focal area 1: Environmental information

1st phase (existing data flows)

- **Start:** 2nd half of 2009
- **Duration:** ~48 months.
- **Budget:** Approx. 1,8 million € from the Community budget (ENPI Regional Programme East).

2nd phase (further data flows to be developed)

- **Start :** to be determined, possibly as from 2011
- **Duration:** to be determined, possibly ~20 months
- **Budget:** to be determined, but the aim is to have significantly more than during the 1st phase (from the Community budget and donors)



Timing and budget

**Focal area 2: Access to environmental information,
involvement of stakeholders in decision-making,
environmental assessments**

- **Start:** possibly 2011
- **Duration:** to be determined, possibly ~ 48 months
- **Phasing:** to be determined
- **Budget:** to be determined (from the Community budget and other donors)

Link with the work of the EaP platforms

- The Platform 2 and its Environment & Climate Panel (to be established) will be regularly informed about the implementation of this Flagship Initiative.
- Other relevant EaP Platforms and the EaP Civil Society Forum will be kept informed.