

EuropeAid

Our Neighbours:

Panorama of Regional Programmes and Projects
in the Eastern European Countries



2010



Avropaya qonşuluq
və əməkdaşlıq
vasitəsi

European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)



Working Together

2010



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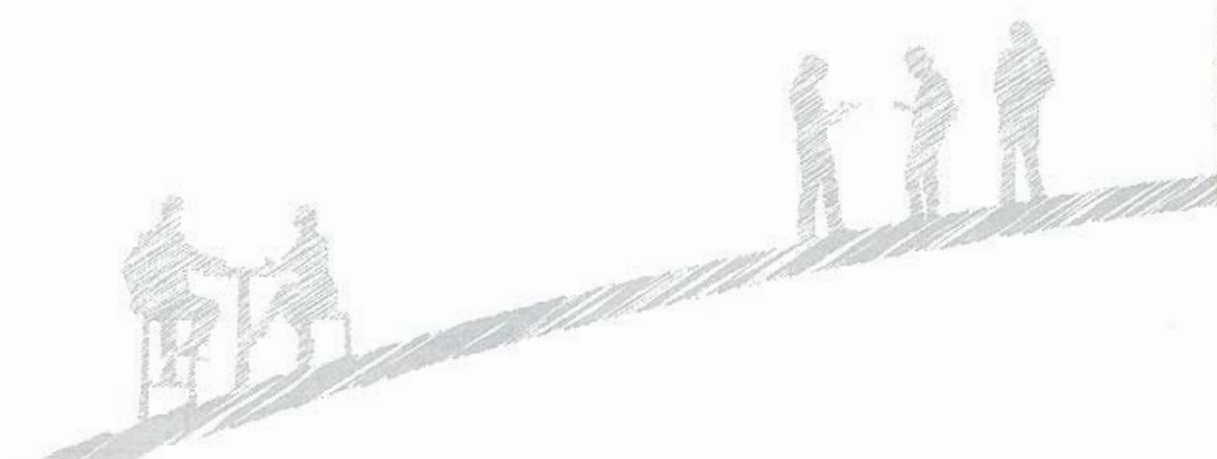
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Regional programmes in the ENPI East

History of relations

Since the EU's enlargement in 2004 and 2007, an ever deeper relationship is being built between the Union and the countries on its Eastern borders within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). It engages Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The ENP also covers Belarus, which can become a full partner provided it takes concrete steps towards democratisation, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The aim of the ENP is to bring these neighbours closer to the EU and support their efforts for economic, social and political reform. Moreover, six of them, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, participate in one of the EU's newest external relations initiatives - the Eastern Partnership (EaP). Each of them, except Belarus, has a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) that serves as a political and legal framework for cooperation. With Russia, the EU has a separate Strategic Partnership. All these countries are beneficiary of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), the financial tool that turns decisions taken on a political level into actions on the ground.

Dialogue between the EU and its Eastern neighbours is secured through joint institutions set up under the PCAs, the highest one being the Cooperation Council. With Russia, it is the Permanent Partnership Council.

The ENP has been developed with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and instead strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of partners and the EU. The ENP is the first single EU policy embracing its Eastern neighbours, alongside the Southern branch of this same policy for the Mediterranean.

Within the ENP each partner country, except Belarus, has an Action Plan that lays out the strategic reform objectives. With Ukraine, the EU is negotiating an Association Agreement that will replace the current PCA. Under the EaP similar upgrading

of agreements are suggested to all partners, when they have the capacity to take up the offer. All six countries have a Country Strategy Paper outlining current bilateral priorities, and a jointly adopted National Indicative Programme (NIP).

Russia has chosen not to be part of the ENP. Its relationship with the EU is defined as a Strategic Partnership, which is consistent with the ENP but evolves along different lines, namely "the four common spaces" (Common Economic Space; Common Space on Freedom, Security and Justice; Common Space on External Security; Common Space on Research, Education and Culture).

Regional cooperation

Challenges faced by the countries of the region, such as developing trans-national corridors, the management of cross-border rivers and basins, and the fight against terrorism and transnational organised crime, have an inherent cross-border character and can be better tackled through a co-operative effort at regional level.

The choice of regional projects reflects the priority areas of cooperation as defined in EU policy decisions. The main co-operation fields with the Eastern partners are: Transport; Energy; Sustainable management of natural resources; Border and migration management, the fight against transnational organized crime and customs; People-to-people activities; Landmines, explosive remnants of war, small arms and light weapons.

The projects are funded under the ENPI, which is the main financial and cooperation instrument through which assistance is given to countries covered by the ENP and Russia.

Regional co-operation has a strategic impact as it deals with issues that different Eastern Partners have in common. The Regional Programmes function as a forum for dialogue, bringing people from the Partner Countries to the same table, despite sometimes obvious differences, and helping them engage in discussion, exchange views and experiences.

Shared concerns about the condition of water resources, for example, have brought together three South Caucasus Partner Countries in an EU-funded project, Trans-Boundary River Management for the Kura river basin. It aims at improving the water quality of the Kura river, which unites Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in a unique ecosystem that spans a vast territory between the Black and Caspian Seas.

Another EU-funded project, Regional Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea, saw Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine joining forces to combat the environmental degradation of the Black Sea and its main contributing rivers. Among other outcomes, the project has come up with a substantial background study that will help create a marine protected area (MAP) in Karkinitzky Bay north-west of the Crimea.

Other programmes targetting Eastern partner states are: the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the education programmes TEMPUS IV for Higher Education and Erasmus Mundus II, as well as the EU's research programme FP7.

The EU seeks to support regional cooperation with its Eastern neighbours and between them, and helps deal with common challenges through a number of major policy initiatives. The latest, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) launched in spring 2009 foresees stronger political engagement of the Partner Countries with the EU. The EaP seeks to bolster political and socio-economic reforms in the Partner Countries, facilitating their approximation and convergence towards the EU.

The Northern Dimension policy is yet another important regional initiative that brings together the EU, Norway, Iceland and Russia. It addresses environmental challenges and promotes economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts in the European North.

In order to address the challenges of the Black Sea region, where several unresolved conflicts and the state of the environment are of acute concern, the EU proposed a policy aimed at enhancing cooperation among the littoral states, namely the Black Sea Synergy (BSS). This initiative, launched in 2008, involves all the ENP Eastern partners, except Belarus, as well as Russia and Turkey.

Major donor

The EU is the region's major donor, with the European Commission providing the lion's share of its regional support through its EuropeAid Co-operation Office. For the period 2007-2013 the EU Partnership with the Eastern neighbours is being financed through the ENPI, for which a total amount of €12 billion is foreseen, of which approximately 10 percent is allocated for regional projects.

The ENPI allows every country to articulate its own ambitions in dialogue with the EU. Some want to work towards free trade. Others have different ambitions, for example to work together on infrastructure, environmental or energy related issues, create closer cultural relations or chose to stimulate the exchange of students, journalists or other professionals.

The European Union is committed to taking this cooperation further through its Regional Programmes and by providing the platform for continuous dialogue.

This publication offers an overview of projects funded, illustrating the depth of this Partnership and how regional cooperation engages the Neighbourhood countries in a constructive dialogue and contributes towards building an area of peace, security and prosperity.

Border Management

The EU is actively helping the Eastern Neighbours address issues related to legal and illegal migration of goods and persons, as some sections of the borders in this region are still not properly controlled. One project supported to this end since 2005 through the Regional Programme is EUBAM. The EU Border Assistance Mission to Ukraine and Moldova has been contributing to a better qualification and an improvement of working methods of border guards and customs officers in both countries and a significant decrease in the illegal movement of goods, including to and from the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova.

Another project, SCIBM, assists in developing integrated border management systems in the South Caucasus countries. Through pilot border crossing points it supports activities on the borders, in areas such as mobile checks (train or ferry) and implementation of risk information exchange systems.

The projects funded are:

- EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM)
- Support to Integrated Border Management Systems in the South Caucasus (SCIBM)



EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM)

Enhances the capacities of customs and border guard services, supports the development of risk analysis capabilities and improves co-operation with other law enforcement agencies, through monitoring, training and advice

Budget € 24 million plus in-kind contribution from Member States (86 seconded experts)

Timeframe 2007-2009

Participating Countries: Moldova, Ukraine

Objectives

The **EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM)** supports the two countries to harmonize and modernize their border management standards and procedures in accordance with European standards. It also aims to enhance the professional capacities of the Moldovan and Ukrainian customs and border guard services at operational level. In addition, it offers help to develop risk analysis capabilities and to improve cross border co-operation between the border guard and customs services and with other law enforcement agencies.

What does it do?

EUBAM works with Moldova and Ukraine on their border management standards and procedures, through observing what goes on at the border and providing on-the-job training and advice to border officials and study tours. It also reinforces their capacity to carry out effective border and customs controls and border surveillance and provides assistance in the prevention of the smuggling of persons and goods. Over 200 staff members of the Mission work along 1222 km of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. This includes more than one hundred customs and border guard experts from 22 EU

Member States and staff from Moldova and Ukraine. Through its work, the Mission is contributing to the peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict in the Republic of Moldova.

Website: coming soon

Actions in brief

- Engages over 200 EUBAM staff members, including customs and border guard experts, from 22 EU member states, Moldova and Ukraine.
- Provides training for the staff of the Moldovan and Ukrainian customs and border services.
- Organizes study tours to EU and third countries.
- Provides expertise and advice on specific customs issues relevant to the Transnistrian region of Moldova.

Support to Integrated Border Management Systems in the South Caucasus (SCIBM)

Supports the introduction of European Integrated Border Management principles in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, and encourages cooperation, thus facilitating travel and increasing security

Budget €6 million

Timeframe 2009–2012

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Objectives

The project aims to facilitate the movement of persons and goods in the South Caucasus states of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, while at the same time maintaining secure borders, through enhancing inter-agency, bilateral and regional border management cooperation both within and among the countries of the South Caucasus region as well as between the countries, EU Member States and other international actors.

It is implemented by UNDP in cooperation with the Lithuanian, Polish, Latvian, Estonian, Czech, border agencies, ICMPD, and the French government.

What does it do?

The project encourages closer cooperation between both the agencies within a country, such as the Border Guards and the Customs Authorities, as well as the agencies in neighbouring countries, based on the premise of the European Integrated Border Management. This leads to more harmonized procedures and better information flows which facilitate easier crossing of borders while maintaining security. An office is set up in each country, while there is a central coordinator in Tbilisi. In order to facilitate work despite political tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the project adopted a three level structure: common training activities for all three countries,

bilateral activities between Georgia and Armenia, and Georgia and Azerbaijan, and dedicated national modules for each country.

It also launched pilot border crossing points that implement activities on the borders, in areas such as mobile checks (train or ferry) and implementation of risk information exchange systems.

Website: coming soon

Actions in brief

- Carries out common executive level training on Integrated Border Management.
- Organises national activities to help develop or strengthen Integrated Border Management strategies, adapted to the needs of each country.
- Promotes enhanced bilateral cooperation between Georgia and Armenia and Georgia and Azerbaijan in areas of export/import declarations, risk analysis, primary and secondary control standards, identification of fraudulent documents.
- Launches pilot border crossing points that implement activities.

Economy

Energy

Transport

Environment

Economy

The gradual integration of the Neighbourhood countries into the EU economy is one of the aims of the Eastern Partnership. The EU encourages partners to develop a free trade network between themselves and supports programmes addressing economic and social development, and in particular the sharp economic and social disparities in their countries.

One of the flagship initiatives of the Eastern Partnership concerns promoting a Small and Medium size Enterprises (SME) facility. This is also the main focus of the EU's Regional Programme that funds a project aiming to support the economic development of the region and improvement of its business environment through increased networking between the Eastern partners themselves and between them and the EU, as well as supporting SMEs.

The projects funded are:

- East-Invest - Support to the SME sector



East- Invest - Support to the SME sector

Supports the economic development and facilitates regional trade through contributing to the improvement of the business environment, with an emphasis on SMEs and networking

Budget €7 million

Timeframe 2009–2012

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Objectives

The project aims to support the economic development of the region and the improvement of its business environment through building up networks between the Eastern partners themselves and between them and the EU, in priority sectors, and by developing mechanisms to encourage the flows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

East-Invest also supports Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs) in their internationalisation process, improves their networking and facilitates their trade development.

What does it do?

The project seeks to strengthen public-private dialogue, by integrating into the networking mechanism SMEs, business facilitators and selected public-sector SME facilitators. It also supports the exchange of best practices and connections between the EU and Eastern Neighbourhood companies with the ultimate goal of reaching business cooperation agreements, mutual trade, transfer of technology, customs procedures, product standards and investments. The project offers technical assistance to SMEs and public sector bodies and implements five specific instruments to achieve its

goals, these are: SME Technical Assistance Facility, Trade Fair Technical Assistance Facility, SME Business-to-Business Facility, Business Facilitator (operator) Technical Assistance Facility and Institutional Exchange Facility.

At the core of East-Invest are two business networks, one in the EU (EURONET) and one in the Eastern Neighbourhood Region (EAST-NET).

Website: coming soon

Actions in brief

- Consolidates and establishes SME support networks in EAST-NET and EURONET.
- Organises matchmaking meetings between EU and Eastern SMEs to initiate partnerships.
- Provides technical assistance to SMEs within EAST-NET to enhance their networking and trading competences and opportunities.
- Offers technical assistance to business facilitators within EAST-NET to build their abilities and opportunities in supporting SMEs network.
- Public sector bodies are assisted in their effort to create a more conducive business environment for SMEs.

Economy

Energy

Transport

Environment

Energy

Cooperation between the EU and its Eastern Neighbours in the energy sector aims to support efforts to improve the use of the region's significant energy resources on the one hand and to address the EU's growing energy requirements on the other.

One of the most important programmes funded in the framework of the EU's regional cooperation is INOGATE, which is dedicated to supporting the **Baku Initiative**. This overarching international energy cooperation programme brings together the European Union, the littoral states of the Black & Caspian Seas and their neighbouring countries, which have agreed to work together towards achieving the following four major objectives:

- Converging energy markets;
- Enhancing energy security;
- Supporting sustainable energy development;
- Attracting investment;

INOGATE is a platform for cooperation of technical experts and policy makers. It also encompasses a number of projects including a technical secretariat, and others dealing with the harmonisation of gas, oil and electricity standards, safety of gas infrastructure and support to energy market integration and sustainable energy. Some of the projects also relate to and include participation of Central Asian countries.

The projects funded are:

- Strengthening of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat in support of the Baku Initiative
- Capacity Building for Energy Regulators in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Energy efficiency investments in Ukraine & Moldova
- Energy saving initiative in the building sector in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Harmonisation of electricity standards
- Harmonisation of gas and oil standards
- Pre-investment project for the Trans-Caspian-Black Sea Gas Corridor
- Safety and security of main gas transit infrastructure
- Support to energy market integration and sustainable energy, SEMISE

INOGATE projects that exclusively relate to Central Asian countries can be found on the programme's website <http://www.inogate.org/>



Strengthening of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat in support of the Baku Initiative

The INOGATE Technical Secretariat runs the regional co-ordination mechanism for the INOGATE Programme and thus enhances energy cooperation between the EU, the littoral states of the Black and Caspian Seas and their neighbouring countries

Budget €2.9 million

Timeframe 2009-2012

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Objectives

It aims to pursue and expand the services provided by the INOGATE Technical Secretariat (ITS), with a view to improving the overall performance of the INOGATE programme towards achieving the goals defined under the Baku Initiative – converging energy markets, enhancing energy security, supporting sustainable energy development, and attracting investment – as well as any future objectives that might be set out in this framework.

What does it do?

The current project builds on the previous support to the INOGATE Technical Secretariat, located in Kiev with a branch office in Tbilisi. It works towards a bolstering of ITS communication activities and maintains a detailed work programme, compiling all INOGATE project actions for 2009-2010, to be reviewed every six months.

The Technical Secretariat also facilitates cooperation between INOGATE projects.

It has extended the representation in INOGATE Working Groups to include energy regulators alongside ministry and other relevant state representatives. It continues to develop the INOGATE web portal (www.inogate.org).

Website: http://www.inogate.org/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate-projects/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate-projects/strengthening-inogate-technical-secretariat-its-05201

Actions in brief

- Coordinates and supports the network of INOGATE Country Coordinators and Working Group members, including organisation of their meetings.
- Prepares and organises events such as workshops, thematic discussions and high level conferences.
- Monitors developments in the energy markets of the EU and the Partner Countries.
- Undertakes the dissemination of information, promotion and networking, including the management of the INOGATE web portal, the production of an electronic newsletter, publications and promotional material and the organisation of information events.
- Provides support to the European Commission for the overall coordination and development of the INOGATE Programme.

Capacity building for Energy Regulators in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (INOGATE)

Supports sound and harmonised energy regulatory practices in the INOGATE Partner Countries

Budget €330.000

Timeframe 2009-2010

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Objectives

It aims to promote and advocate good and sound energy regulatory practices in the Partner Countries of the INOGATE Programme and to harmonise those practices among them. The project enables the transfer of EU best practices and the strengthening of cooperation among the countries involved.

The project also seeks to educate Partner Countries' decision makers, at the ministerial level, about the purposes and benefits of independent energy regulatory organisations.

What does it do?

The project helps governments to improve the overall consistency of their energy policies and to better integrate regulatory tools into sectoral strategies and policies. It furthers the establishment of a common regulatory environment and contributes to common understanding of regulatory and market issues as well as practices, based on EU principles. It helps to improve organisational performance of energy regulators, including better tariff practices consistent with international methods.

It supports the Partners in carrying out regulatory reforms and improving their regulatory responsibilities. It also helps change public attitudes by educating secondary target groups, namely consumer advocacy groups, research and academic institutions, as well as the press.

Website: http://www.inogate.org/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate_projects/capacity-building-energy-regulators-eastern-16112

Actions in brief

- Creates a network for information exchange and assistance among the energy regulators.
- Transfers information and best practices among energy regulators and ministry representatives.
- Supports Partner Countries in carrying out regulatory reform, including the establishment of independent regulatory bodies.
- Educates a wider target audience, including consumers, research and academic institutions and the media.

Energy Efficiency Investments in Ukraine and Moldova (INOGATE)

Supports the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)'s Sustainable Energy Initiative, which establishes sustainable energy financing facilities through local financial intermediaries

Budget €9.5 million

Timeframe 2006-2011

Participating Countries: Moldova, Ukraine

Objectives

The project aims at opening the way to sound energy efficiency investment projects in Ukraine and Moldova through the establishment of credit lines within appropriate local banks. It encourages spillover effects in the banking, industry and household sectors.

What does it do?

It provides a financial contribution to the EBRD's lending facilities that support energy efficiency and renewable energy

investments in Ukraine and Moldova, in the framework of the EBRD's Sustainable Energy Initiative. This contribution funds technical assistance that identifies and brings eligible projects to the local intermediary banks. It also provides project-collateral incentive payments to local intermediary banks.

The projects funded under these facilities aim to reduce energy dependency and improve the security of energy

supply in the countries concerned by promoting energy efficiency, in particular among small and medium enterprises, and the use of renewable energy in the industry and household sectors.

Website: http://www.inogate.org/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate_projects/identification-and-promotion-energy-efficient-40318

Actions in brief

- Makes available financial resources for technical assistance and incentive payments in support of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, in the framework of EBRD's financing facilities.
- Provides technical, financial, legal and environmental expertise to potential beneficiaries.
- Encourages spillover effects in the banking, industry and household sectors.

Energy Saving Initiative in the Building Sector in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (INOGATE)

Supports the INOGATE Partner Countries in ensuring improved control over energy consumption in the building sector through energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy

Budget €5 million

Timeframe 2010-2014

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Objectives

It aims to help the INOGATE Partner Countries reduce their dependency on fossil fuels, improve security of energy supply and contribute more actively to climate change mitigation.

What does it do?

The project provides support to the development and the enforcement of energy

efficiency-related legislation in the building sector, including drafting of building standards and codes, as well as the promotion of regional harmonisation of policies and regulatory practices. It identifies the limitations in awareness of energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities and the obstacles to the transfer of best practice and technology. At the same

time, it contributes to an enabling investment climate for energy conservation projects, by increasing bankers' knowledge in appraising projects as well as identifying and assisting to the preparation of energy efficiency investments in the building sector. It also tackles the need to strengthen capacity in energy auditing, building technologies and design.

Website: coming soon

Actions in brief

- Helps to draft legislation and codes promoting energy efficiency in the building sector.
- Raises awareness of renewable energy opportunities in the sector and assists transfer of best practice.
- Identifies and assists in the preparation of energy efficiency investments.
- Builds up capacity in building technologies and design.

Harmonisation of Electricity Standards (INOGATE)

Contributes to improving prospects for energy market integration within the region and with the EU

Budget €1.5 million

Timeframe 2009-2011

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Objectives

The project aims to assist the Partner Countries in adopting international standards, rules and practices focusing on equipment standards in the electricity sector. It seeks to help increase infrastructure efficiency, enhance quality and reliability of equipment, ensure safety in transmission and distribution and facilitate trade and investments in modern technologies.

What does it do?

It develops proposals for harmonisation of one or two major equipment standards throughout the region or where appropriate through sub-regions classified on the basis of geographic location or technical state of play. The selected standard or standards are used as a case study followed closely throughout the process in order to maximise "learning-by-doing". The

project contributes to reinforcing cooperation on standardisation as an element of market integration and convergence, within the framework of the INOGATE Programme.

Website: coming soon

Actions in brief

- Carries out surveys, diagnostic studies, gap analyses and needs assessment studies.
- Prepares strategy papers and action plans, as well as a handbook with step-by-step guidance on the harmonisation process.
- Supports Partner Countries with policy advice and other types of technical assistance for the adoption of strategies and implementation of action plans.
- Organises working group meetings, seminars, workshops, round tables and study visits.
- Collects information, produces and disseminates material.
- Facilitates contacts between stakeholders from the Partner Countries and potential cooperation partners from EU Member States (such as standardisation bodies), as well as regional or international organisations.

Harmonisation of Gas and oil Standards (INOATE)

Offers technical assistance to the Partner Countries to support their uptake of international standards in the oil and gas sector

Budget €2.9 million

Timeframe 2007-2009

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Objectives

The project aims to assist the adoption of international standards, rules and practices in the design, construction, manufacturing, testing, certification, accreditation, operation and maintenance applied to all components of gas and oil production, transmission and storage.

What does it do?

It contributes to facilitating energy market convergence in the oil and gas sector in the Partner Countries through establishing a common understanding of the rationale and need to adopt international standards. The project provides technical assistance in the harmonisation of codes, standards and

practices in the gas and oil industry. Specific activities include: developing a strategy for harmonisation, proposing the required legal measures to be initiated by national authorities, and creating awareness of EU standards in the gas and oil sectors.

Website: http://www.inogate.org/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate-projects/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate-projects/harmonisation-gas-and-oil-technical-standards-and-80104

Actions in brief

- Reviews and defines standards for regional harmonisation and the development of relevant strategies and action plans.
- Draws up an inventory of local standards and identifies applicable EU standards.
- Establishes contacts in Partner Countries.
- Organises inter-regional meetings, national meetings, and an inter-regional training seminar and study tour.

Pre-investment Project for the Trans-Caspian - Black Sea Gas Corridor (INOGate)

Supports the development of a new gas supply route from the Caspian Sea littoral states to Central and Western European countries through the Black Sea region

Budget €5 million

Timeframe 2009-2012

Participating Countries: Countries of the Caspian & Black Sea regions

Objectives

The project aims to support the selection of routing and technical options, based on the assessment of risks, environmental and social impact, and respective merits of the technical solutions, taking into account the position of the Partner Countries. It also seeks to help clarify the legal structure and the organisational framework for gas trade.

What does it do?

The project is the European Commission's contribution to a multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank. It provides, technical and financial studies, consultation with local stakeholders' representatives and with stakeholders of other interconnection projects, business development projections, preparation of legal establishment and management

scenarios, and dialogue with potential financiers, including major lending institutions.

Website: coming soon

Actions in brief

- Undertakes technical and financial studies.
- Produces business development projections.
- Engages with potential financiers, including major lending institutions.

Safety and Security of Main Gas Transit Infrastructure in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (INOGATE)

Provides support to the Partner Countries in order to improve the safety and security of their gas network lines

Budget €1.750.000 million

Timeframe 2007-2009

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to support the improvement of the security of gas supply to and in the beneficiary countries. It aims to achieve this through the implementation of automated security, safety and maintenance systems for gas transit and internal network lines, and to increase industry and government involvement in safety of infrastructure.

In addition, the project aims to supply equipment to put in place an integrated pilot system

addressing operational and technical management of gas pipelines.

What does it do?

The project analyses the key causes of supply disruption on main transit lines, including the annual number of incidents and accidents per segment. It provides a base estimate of total gas vented by country, and proposes general and specific maintenance and monitoring schemes, highlighting priority areas. It also assists the establishment of a pilot

system providing operational and technical management for gas pipelines. This pilot system interfaces with a pilot surveillance installation on at least one pipeline segment. The method adopted is meant to be replicable on a country and regional basis and addresses contingency measures as well as routine maintenance and scheduling of operations. The project also trains key staff in running these state-of-the-art infrastructure, management and surveillance systems.

Website: http://www.inogate.org/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate-projects/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate-projects/safety-and-security-main-gas-transit-07219

Actions in brief

- Assesses the feasibility of available pipeline and safety and security systems (*service contract*).
- Conducts trainings in the state-of-the-art safety and security systems and on sharing gas losses experiences (*service contract*).
- Provides technical specification for the Pilot Excellence System in close collaboration with the host country (*service contract*).
- Reviews the technical specification for the Pilot Excellence System for pipeline monitoring (*service contract*).
- Delivers Pilot Excellence System (*supply contract*).
- Selects the host country of the Pilot Excellence System (*supply contract*).
- Studies the integration of the Pilot Excellence System into the specified pipeline (*both contracts*).
- Facilitates financing of energy-related infrastructure projects, with a particular emphasis on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, as well as infrastructure of common regional interest.

Support to Energy Market Integration and Sustainable Energy, SEMISE (INOATE)

Supports the convergence of energy markets, regional energy investments and the development of sustainable energy policies in the Partner Countries of the INOGATE Programme

Budget €5.7 million

Timeframe 2009-2012

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Objectives

The project aims to contribute to achieving the goals defined under the Baku Initiative – converging energy markets, enhancing energy security, supporting sustainable energy development, and attracting investment – as well as any future objectives that might be set out in this framework during the lifetime of the project, with particular focus on energy market convergence, investment facilitation and the promotion of sustainable energy.

What does it do?

The project has three specific areas of activity. First, it works with the Partner Countries progressively to remove the obstacles that need to be overcome to ensure energy market convergence. Secondly, it supports energy investments by establishing links with energy companies, lending institutions and representatives of the business sector, while ensuring that such investments are in line with sustainable development goals. Thirdly, the project promotes and supports the creation and implementation of sustainable

energy policies, with a focus on energy efficiency measures and renewable energies as well as on reducing the negative environmental impact of energy-related activities.

It collaborates with the INOGATE Technical Secretariat project as a joint motor for supporting the achievement of the Astana objectives. It also closely works with the project "Capacity Building for Energy Regulators in Eastern Europe and Central Asia" in the development and organisation of dedicated training activities.

Website: http://www.inogate.org/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate_projects/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate-projects/support-energy-market-integration-and-sustainable-55543

Actions in brief

- Supports Partner Countries in setting up a more integrated energy market in the region (harmonisation of policies, legislations and regulatory practices).
- Promotes the development of sustainable energy policies and assists Partner Countries in their implementation.

Economy

Energy

Transport

Environment

Transport

Bolstering transport links is a key priority in the EU's regional co-operation with its Eastern Neighbours, as it is considered a means of achieving economic development in the region. Cooperation focuses on the Neighbours' gradual approximation with EU legal frameworks and standards, as well as improving rail interoperability, air traffic management and road and aviation safety.

The EU also seeks to support their efforts to tackle challenges such as linking with the Trans-European Network axes and the development of the Pan-European transport corridors.

Progressive integration of the transport markets, promotion of sustainable transport modes and effective implementation of international agreements, as well as bringing maritime and aviation security up to international standards and the introduction of EU intermodal concepts such as the 'Motorways of the Seas' in the countries with a coastline, are also key challenges in the Partner Countries.

One of the most important programmes funded in the framework of the EU's Regional cooperation is TRACECA (Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia), which is dedicated to supporting the Baku Initiative. This funds a range of projects dealing with a number of issues, from data collection and analysis of traffic flows, to transport safety and the setting up of logistical centres. Some of the projects also relate to and include participation of Central Asian countries.

The projects funded are:

- Civil aviation safety and security
- International Logistical Centres
- Land transport safety and security
- Maritime safety – Black Sea and Caspian Sea
- Motorways of the seas – Black Sea and Caspian Sea
- Strengthening of transport training capacity
- Transport dialogue and networks interoperability

TRACECA projects that exclusively relate to Central Asian countries can be found on the programme's website <http://www.traceca-org.org/>



Civil Aviation Safety and Security (TRACECA)

Improves aviation safety environments in line with European standards in the field of civil aviation

Budget €5 million

Timeframe 2008-2011

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Objectives

As part of the TRACECA (Transport Corridor Europe Caucasus Asia) programme, which fosters regional transport integration between partner countries, the project's objective is to improve transport safety and security environments in the region, in line with European civil aviation

standards. In particular, the aim is to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to beneficiary transport administrations.

What does it do?

The project implements a programme of training courses for aviation personnel to strengthen their technical

skills and English language knowledge in relevant areas. A capacity-building programme will be implemented and specific expertise provided to improve regulatory frameworks. This programme also enhances technical and institutional monitoring systems in compliance with international regulations and standards.

Website: <http://www.traceca-org.org/>

Actions in brief

- Increases awareness and improves transport safety regulations and standards.
- Develops regulatory frameworks in line with European standards.
- Supports independent safety control and certification authorities.
- Provides on-the-job training in relevant areas.
- Develops regional roadmaps and twinning projects in the field of civil aviation.
- Supports cooperation agreements with European institutions and agencies.

International Logistical Centres (TRACECA)

Supports international trade and facilitates the movements of goods along the TRACECA corridor through improving logistics capabilities, interoperability and multimodal transport

Budget €3.5 million

Timeframe 2009-2011

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey closely associated

Objectives

The project tackles in particular the lack of modern logistic transport centres/nodes and common legal ground for its integration and development, since technological connection between these centres directly affects the development of trade and international transport (import, export and transit) in the Caucasus and Black Sea region countries.

What does it do?

Supports the countries develop modern transport, a logistic infrastructure and a common legal background, having a positive effect on the development of trade and international transport in the region. It identifies opportunities for the development of logistic activities, drafts feasibility studies with a focus on public-private partnerships and efficient customs services, as

well as specifications for potential international logistic centres to be built along the TRACECA corridor. Creates an environment in which a network of logistic centres can be established so that new value-adding activities in the distribution sector of each country can materialise. The project should respond to the demand of shippers and support the development of traffic flows along the corridor.

Website: <http://www.traceca-org.org/default.php?l=en>

Actions in brief

- Supports the participating countries in creating modern logistic transport centres/nodes and a common legal ground.
- Provides feasibility or pre-feasibility studies for selected logistic centres to be developed on the TRACECA corridor.
- Maintains a website and communicates activities through newsletters etc and regularly updates the TRACECA Permanent Secretariat.
- Creates the framework for the establishment of a common integrated freight platform for the Caucasus region.

Land Transport Safety and Security (TRACECA)

Improves transport safety and security in the Eastern neighbour countries and Central Asian TRACECA Partner countries in line with European standards in the field of land transport

Budget €3 million

Timeframe 2009-2011

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.
Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey closely associated

Objectives

Aims to improve land transport safety and security regulations in the EU neighbouring and Central Asian countries in line with European standards, through strengthening the administrative capacities of the national authorities charged with regulating the transport safety and security environments and improving the knowledge and skills of the individual staff. The project also raises awareness of transport safety and security standards and regulations amongst the wider public.

What does it do?

The project supports the establishment of Regional Action Plans in the field of road and railway safety and security, in coordination with the European Commission and its specialised EU agencies, while rules and procedures for transport over land –especially in the field of security, safety and the environment, will be brought in line with requirements of international and EU conventions. The Regulatory Authorities in charge of safety/license and accident investigation, as well as main security

operators and independent certification authorities, are strengthened. Legal standards for land transport safety practice and minimal standards for working time, driving and rest periods (including enforcement and the use of tachograph), minimal annual vehicle taxes and common rules for tolls and user charges improved.

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/tender/data/d30/AOF84730.htm>

Actions in brief

- Defines Regional Action Plans in road and railway safety and security.
- Strengthens awareness on European standards and supports the partner countries in bringing their rules and procedures in line with the international and EU requirements.
- Builds the capacity of regulatory authorities, as well as main security operators and independent certification authorities.
- Improves legal standards for land transport safety practice.

Maritime Safety – Black Sea and Caspian Sea (TRACECA)

Supports the development of common security management, maritime safety and ship pollution prevention for the Black Sea and Caspian Sea

Budget €3.5 million

Timeframe 2009–2011

Participating Countries: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan

Objectives

The project aims to assure safe and secure maritime links for passengers, crews, ships and cargoes; fosters higher standards of environmental safety at sea and in the relevant ports; contributes to creating a fully integrated multimodal transport corridor, and strives to provide transport customers with highly developed supply chains.

More specifically, it seeks to raise technical standards and help train personnel so that the Partner Countries could advance in meeting the

requirements of the IMO (International Maritime Organization) Conventions on safety of navigation, security of transport, including passengers and crews, and the requirements on environmental protection.

What does it do?

The project offers technical assistance, advice and training to institutions and authorities in the Partner Countries that are tasked with ensuring maritime safety and environmental protection. It specifically targets seaport authorities, maritime inspections in charge of safety

of navigation, maritime and environmental police, authorities issuing seafarers books and certifying the qualification of sailors, as well as maritime education and training establishments.

It helps assess the state of the implementation by the Partner Countries of IMO Conventions and relevant regulations. It also assists in identifying the needs of each country in terms of institutional capacities and professional skills, and helps attract the necessary investment.

Website: <http://www.traceca-org.org/default.php?l=en>

Actions in brief

- Identifies personnel qualification needs.
- Develops action plans for institutional capacity building and professional training.
- Summarises the results of the assessment and disseminates them through workshops.
- Establishes education and training facilities accessible to all Partner Countries.

Motorways of the Seas - Black Sea and Caspian Sea (TRACECA)

Promotes the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) concept and the creation of better maritime transport connections in the wider Black Sea and Caspian Sea region

Budget €2.5 million

Timeframe 2009-2011

Participating Countries: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan

Objectives

It aims at improving transport connections between the EU and its Eastern neighbours, as well as better intermodal freight operations, through the integration of short sea shipping into the transport logistics, improving port operations and making hinterland connections more efficient.

The Motorways of the Seas (MoS) project seeks to develop the potential of maritime intermodal transport in favour of a sustainable, safe and secure development of regional market trades and cohesion. It should be achieved through the establishment of innovative intermodality services within the

wider geographical region encompassing the littoral states of the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, their neighbours and Europe, as well as between the Partner countries themselves.

What does it do?

The project promotes the MoS concept to all involved in the transport sector and explores the existing potential. It also fosters the development of transport intermodality in the region, and supports pilot initiatives. Several pilot projects will be identified, to illustrate concrete benefits, improve intermodal/maritime transport axes and schemes, and increase the use of maritime routes where feasible.

They will serve as reference models for future MoS, starting with the replication of their best features as part of integrated transport solutions. The MoS project promotes effective connections of ports to road and rail networks, the creation of logistical platforms facilitating these connections, efficient port services and the minimisation of transit times, through which a boost to economic and social development is anticipated.

Website: <http://www.traceca-org.org/default.php?l=en>

Actions in brief

- Promotes the MoS concept and fosters the development of transport intermodality in the wider Black Sea and Caspian Sea region.
- Implements projects that aim at improving intermodal or maritime transport axes and schemes, and increasing the use of maritime routes where feasible.
- Drafts a Road Map for the future development of the MoS in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea region.

Strengthening of Transport Training Capacity (TRACECA)

Contributes to the development of sustainable transport infrastructure and modern transport services in the TRACECA countries through the training of staff

Budget €2 million

Timeframe 2008-2010

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Objectives

The project contributes to the training of well-qualified and competent staff for the development of sustainable transport infrastructure and modern transport services in the TRACECA countries. It also improves the training capacity of transport higher education entities in the TRACECA CIS countries. It is an essential part of the TRACECA (Transport Corridor Europe Caucasus Asia) programme, which fosters regional transport integration between partner countries.

What does it do?

It seeks to familiarise teaching staff and students in higher educational transport institutes with the latest transport planning techniques and tools, as well as investment appraisal techniques including environmental analysis of transport sector investments. Transport training is to be improved through enhanced pedagogical skills, teaching techniques and curricula development methods, while departments are further developed to deliver state-of-the-art training contents.

The project also elaborates an in-depth appraisal for the establishment of regional links for advanced transport training.

Website: http://www.traceca-org.org/docs/main.php?il=lotapri_ml3_2_ta53&cl=en

Actions in brief

- Reviews course contents and curricula for adequate presentation of transport planning techniques and tools.
- Trains teaching staff of counterpart institutions on topics such as traffic forecasting and simulation through regional symposia.
- Assists in introducing additional topics, course contents and curricula in the relevant counterpart institutions.

Transport Dialogue and Networks Interoperability (TRACECA)

Facilitates regional cooperation in the field of transport through capacity building and training measures, as well as the development of transport forecasts and investment appraisals

Budget €6.6 million

Timeframe 2009-2012

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Objectives

The project aims to facilitate regional cooperation in the field of transport, through capacity building and training measures, the development of transport forecasts and investment appraisals in the region covered by the EU-funded TRACECA programme. It also promotes effective regional transport dialogue among the Partner Countries, as well as between them and the EU.

What does it do?

Its first component, Traffic Forecasting and Database, provides and develops measurement tools for effective trade and transport forecasts in the TRACECA countries. The second component, Interregional Transport Dialogue, fosters regional transport dialogue between the EU and the Black Sea/Caspian Sea basin littoral states and their neighbours. It also promotes coordination of

regional transport initiatives and links with International Financial Institutions. The project facilitates the coordination among EC transport projects and their cohesion with EC transport policy instruments, including the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and the conclusions of the High-Level Group for the extension of the Trans-European Networks.

Website: <http://www.traceca-org.org/default.php?l=en>

Actions in brief

- Develops a coordinated strategy between countries to strengthen regional transport cooperation.
- Proposes at least two bankable TRACECA originated infrastructure projects with committed IFI investments fund and/or in conjunction with other financial institutions for co-financing arrangements.
- Prepares a "financing and Investment Manual" for operational use and awareness training by the TRACECA Permanent Secretariat and Partner Countries.
- Achieves effective communication and dissemination of activities and results for the TRACECA programme.
- Helps introduce a forecasting model easily useable by TRACECA countries.

Economy

Energy

Transport

Environment

Environment

Reducing environmental risks and pollution and promoting more sustainable use of natural resources, are fundamental goals in the EU's relation with the Eastern partner states.

Regional cooperation covers a large number of areas including air and water quality, waste management, nature conservation, energy efficiency and land use. The EU supported in the early 2000 the setting up of 'Regional Environmental Centres' in the Neighbourhood countries and in Russia in order to enhance a regional process of public participation and to strengthen civil society's role in environmental protection. At the same time, technical assistance is provided to Eastern Neighbours in order to help them fulfill their global commitments and to help them participate in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms.

Projects related to the use and preservation of water resources are also implemented and a large programme on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) is on-going.

The projects funded are:

- Civil Protection (PPRD East)
- Co-investment funding in the field of water and sanitation
- Environmental collaboration for the Black Sea
- Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG)
- Support to Kyoto Protocol Implementation (SKPI)
- Sustainable integrated land use of Eurasian steppes
- Transboundary river management for the Kura River - Phase II
- Water governance in Western EECCA



Civil Protection (PPRD East)

Reinforces the capacity of participating countries for disaster prevention, preparedness and response, and facilitates cooperation with the EU and among the countries themselves

Budget €6 million

Timeframe 2010-2013

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Objectives

The Eastern Partnership flagship initiative for the **Prevention, Preparedness & Response to natural and man-made Disasters (PPRD East)** aims at contributing towards achieving peace, stability, security and prosperity in the Eastern ENPI region and at protecting the environment, the population, the cultural heritage, the resources and the infrastructures by strengthening the countries' resilience, preparedness and response to man-made and natural disasters.

What does it do?

It develops and reinforces the capacity of participating countries for disaster prevention, preparedness and response at

local, national and regional level, and develops effective cooperation between the EU and the Partner countries and among the Partner countries themselves, as a means of political and social stability.

The project undertakes the review of existing resources and available mechanisms working on disaster prevention, preparedness and response in the different countries and the preparation of a regional Risk Atlas. It organises training workshops, study visits and exchanges of experts involved in disaster management, as well as technical assistance missions in response to specific demands by the countries' authorities. Further activities

include full-scale simulation exercises and awareness-raising for stakeholders and the general population. All activities are implemented in a multi-disciplinary approach and focus on a number of different topics, for example building codes and legislation, urban and land planning, early warning systems, etc., relating to different risks. A network of national correspondents will be established.

Website: coming soon

Actions in brief

- Increases knowledge of risk exposure, preparedness and response capacities in the region.
- Strengthens prevention mechanisms at local, national and regional level.
- Improves the capacity for a coordinated, effective and efficient disaster response.
- Builds awareness among the population regarding risk exposure, prevention and response.
- Enhances knowledge among Authorities on the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, in view of a progressive increase in coordination.

Co-investment Funding in the Field of Water and Sanitation

Support to investments in the field of water supply and sanitation in Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine

Budget €10 million (€3m in Ukraine - €7m in Armenia and Georgia) **Timeframe** 2006-2010

Participating Countries: Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine

Objectives

The project supports Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), a key goal of the EU Water Initiative launched in 2002, through reinforcing the capacities and commitment of the Partner Countries for actions aimed at improved water governance, capacity-building and awareness.

It also seeks to improve the Partners' efficiency of water management through multi-stakeholder dialogue and co-ordination and strengthens coordination by promoting river basin approaches and identifying additional financial resources and mechanisms to ensure sustainable financing.

What does it do?

It supports financing of investments that aim at increasing access to sustainable water supply and sanitation services,

and especially at improving the quantity and quality of water and waste water service delivery in three Partner Countries. The projects are:

Mykolaiv municipal water project in Ukraine, co-funded with the European Investment Bank (EIB), supports the rehabilitation of major sections of the 1022 km long water distribution network. It also helps rehabilitate main water pumping stations, sewer lines and the existing 3-stage main water treatment plant and a wastewater treatment plant. It provides technical assistance for implementation and supervision.

Lake Sevan Basin Environmental project in Armenia, co-funded with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), supports a wastewater treatment

improvement programme to reduce the amount of untreated water flowing into the Lake Sevan basin. It helps fund three wastewater treatment plants and rehabilitate the wastewater networks in five towns located near Lake Sevan.

Poti Municipal Water project in Georgia, co-funded with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), assists in improving water services in the City of Poti, the country's primary port. It helps construct a 47 km long water pipeline; refurbish and extend the existing urban distribution network; supply and install water meters; improve financial, managerial, operational performance and customer relations of the City Authorities, and enhance the capacity of the City as owner of the water utility to monitor the quality of the water supply services.

Actions in brief

- Increases access to sustainable water supply and sanitation services, and improves the quantity and quality of water and waste water service.
- Helps construct and rehabilitate major elements of water supply and distribution infrastructure.

Environmental Collaboration for Black Sea

Improves regional cooperation and the national capacity of participating countries to protect the Black Sea Basin, and implements activities decided by the Black Sea Commission

Budget €2.2 million

Timeframe 2007-2009

Participating Countries: Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Objectives

The project contributes to the sustainable development of the Black Sea Basin by preventing and reducing the input of pollutants through river or direct discharges into the sea, as well as through sustainable management and protection of natural resources, including water resources and biodiversity. It aims to help control land-based sources of pollution and prevent the dumping of waste and supports joint action in the case of accidents.

What does it do?

It enhances the capacity of the participating countries to

implement and enforce existing, or develop additional, environmental legislation, secondary laws and regulations in order to implement the Bucharest Convention. This involves assessment of the convergence to EU water related legislation, in particular the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking into consideration the possible impact on the Black Sea, and the forthcoming EU Marine Strategy.

The project implements specific activities included in the yearly work programmes of the Black Sea Commission, in cooperation with its Advisory Group,

for pollution monitoring and assessment, Integrated Coastal Zone Management and biodiversity protection. It improves biological water quality monitoring of pollution, Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the protection of marine biodiversity through the establishment of Marine Reserves.

Pilot projects are implemented in Georgia and Ukraine on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and marine reserves, respectively. It also facilitates regional cooperation for the protection of the Black Sea and increases public participation and awareness raising.

Website: <http://www.ecbsea.org/en/>

Actions in brief

- Prepares and presents amendments to the Bucharest Convention at the Black Sea Ministerial Conference.
- Submits proposals to improve national capacities in implementing existing environmental (in particular water and marine) legislation, secondary laws and regulations.
- Formulates recommendations for the standardisation of biological monitoring and a vision for the establishment of marine reserves, to the Black Sea Commission.
- Implements pilot projects in Georgia and Ukraine.
- Organises inter-comparison exercises on biological monitoring and carries out training programmes on biological monitoring and marine reserve management.
- Finalises a regional Integrated Coastal Zone Management strategy and develops national strategies.
- Holds a stakeholders workshop on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Georgia, (2007) and a Public Outreach Conference in Ukraine (2007).

Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG)

Supports governments of participating countries, civil society and the private sector in the development of sound and sustainable forest management practices, including the prevention of illegal forestry activities

Budget €6 million

Timeframe 2008-2011

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Objectives

It aims to tackle the growing problem of illegal forest activities in the Partner Countries by promoting legal and sustainable forest management and utilisation practices and seeks to strengthen the rule of law and to enhance local livelihoods.

The European Commission grant has been provided to the World Bank through a multi-donor trust fund. The project's implementing partners are the World Bank, the IUCN (World Conservation Union) and the WWF (World Wildlife Fund), ensuring that the public and private sectors as

well as civil society are consistently included in the project's activities.

What does it do?

The FLEG project supports the participating countries to put in place improved forest governance arrangements through the effective implementation of the main priorities set out in the St Petersburg Ministerial Declaration on the Europe and Northern Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance process (ENA FLEG). These priorities relate to the strengthening and reform of the institutions responsible for forest management, reviewing and updating the policy, legal

and institutional frameworks as well as increasing the countries' capacity to enforce existing laws and policies.

Activities cover the development of national action plans, capacity building and training, awareness raising, assistance in enhancing regional and sub-regional collaboration and support to the implementation of the priority actions on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance. The project will additionally carry out analytical work on illegal forest activities, and government responses to such crime, as well as monitoring of related developments.

Website: coming soon

Actions in brief

- Forms country teams charged with project implementation and National Focal Points appointed by the governments.
- Develops national action plans and work plans and holds information sessions and workshops.
- Facilitates capacity building, training, and awareness raising.
- Supports the enhancement of regional and sub-regional collaboration.
- Carries out analysis on illegal forest activities and government responses, and monitors related developments.
- Promote the inclusion of the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, in activities.

Support to Kyoto Protocol Implementation (SKPI)

Supports the fight against climate change through the extension of the flexible mechanisms of the UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol as well as the development of appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies

Budget €5 million

Timeframe 2008-2011

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Objectives

Assists participating countries in combating climate change both by extending the use of mechanisms, such as the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation that are attached to the Kyoto Protocol, and by supporting the formulation of appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies at each country level.

What does it do?

The project focuses on three areas. First, it reinforces awareness and institutional capacity in relation to climate change in general and to the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms in particular. Second, it strengthens the responsiveness of the economic stakeholders (particularly industry and energy utilities) to climate change related issues

and it supports the use of the funding mechanisms available under the Kyoto Protocol, focusing particularly on energy efficiency. Third, it endeavours to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies are formulated and implemented whenever requested by the beneficiary countries.

Website: http://www.inogate.org/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate-projects/inogate_programme/inogate_projects/ongoing-inogate-projects/support-kyoto-protocol-implementation-skipi

Actions in brief

- Supports the implementation of climate change strategies.
- Builds awareness and institutional capacity, especially on the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms.
- Helps foster investments under the financing mechanisms related to the Kyoto Protocol
- Increases interest by industry and energy utilities in climate change issues.

Sustainable Integrated Land Use of Eurasian steppes

Promotes and facilitates the restoration, conservation and sustainable management of the Eurasian steppes ecosystem

Budget €2.4 million

Timeframe 2007-2009

Participating Countries: Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Objectives

The project was developed in 2004 and revised in 2006 to assist Moldova, Ukraine and Russia in steppe ecosystem restoration, conservation and sustainable management, based on the principle that sustainable development of steppe regions is only possible when it goes hand in hand with biodiversity conservation. It focuses on the increase of sustainable land, the restoration and use of abandoned and degraded steppe lands, and improved management of privatised areas, as well as mainstreaming biodiversity concerns and

encouraging trans-boundary cooperation between states in the management of steppe resources.

What does it do?

It seeks to mobilise financing alternatives for sustainable management, conservation and restoration of steppes, including carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas funds and other alternative sources. The project's activities also include promoting environmentally sound land use amongst farmers and agricultural structures, land restoration, implementation of appropriate market

mechanisms to support the restoration of the steppe as well as agricultural development. It also works on lobbying and promoting the issue of sustainable steppe land use management at legislative level. More than 40 experts with a variety of specialisations are involved in the project's activities and regular meetings take place to carry out expert appraisal, analysis and monitoring of field activities. The project was awarded an honourable award in the environment category from the association 'British Expertise' (2008).

EuropeAid feature story: http://www.enpi-info.eu/files/features/ukraine_steppes_en.pdf

Website: <http://www.steppe.org.ua/eng/index.php>

Actions in brief

- Assists Moldova, Ukraine and Russia in steppe ecosystem restoration, conservation and sustainable management.
- Implements pilot projects in the territories of steppe eco-systems in the three countries, focusing on their particular geographical concerns.
- Involves over 40 experts in project activities and regular meetings.
- Organises workshops and meetings on issues such as the preparation and implementation of plans for steppe territories management and methods for quantitative analysis of deposited carbon.
- Holds two seminars, one on organic farming and the other on the restoration of steppe pastures.

Transboundary River Management for the Kura river - Phase II

Reinforces regional cooperation in monitoring and managing water resources in the Kura river basin, through training, capacity strengthening, streamlining data collection, information and know-how exchanges

Budget €5.2 million

Timeframe 2008–2011

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Objectives

It aims to improve the water quality in the Kura River basin through trans-boundary cooperation and implementation of the integrated water resources management approach. The project supports the development of a common monitoring and information management system to improve transboundary cooperation and enhances the capacities of environmental authorities and monitoring establishments engaged in long-term integrated water resources management in the Kura River basin.

What does it do?

Under component 1 (assessment and surveys), a report on the baseline situation in the Kura River basin was prepared, using existing data and based on a European Environment Agency model. It

shows that Armenia and Azerbaijan are under severe water stress, underlining the need for a transboundary river management approach. Under component 2 (monitoring), four joint river monitoring exercises per year are carried out, which include joint sampling and analysis on sites and parallel analyses in each laboratory. This builds confidence and improves the capabilities of the laboratories.

Component 3 (management information and methodology) foresees the development of a common GIS database platform for information management and data exchange. Furthermore, river basin management plans according to the methodology of the EU Water Framework Directive are prepared for five smaller pilot sub-basins. Within component 4 (institutional

capacity and training), a study tour to Spain and Denmark was organized for 15 professionals to learn about the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. Moreover, the directive itself as well as key guiding documents were translated into the three main Caucasus languages. Under component 5 (public engagement and civil society), a video film, a booklet and guidelines for public participation are prepared to describe the Kura river basin environmental problems, introduce the integrated river basin management approach and increase civil society involvement.

The project is supported by a parallel supply of laboratory equipment for biological and chemical water analysis including the provision of boats and off-road cars for sampling in remote regions.

Website: <http://www.kuraarasbasin.net/>

Actions in brief

- Holds training and workshops in monitoring and river basin management.
- Organises study tour to Europe on the implementation of Water Framework Directive.
- Carries out quarterly monitoring missions with laboratories from all three Caucasus countries.
- Prepares a baseline report and river basin management plans for selected sub-basins
- Translates major EU directives and guidelines.
- Prepares communication and public participation tools.

Water Governance in Western EECCA Countries

Assists Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) Countries align with EU standards to ensure fair distribution of water, and supports the development of regulatory mechanisms and institutional procedures for River Basin Management Plans

Budget 3 million

Timeframe 2008-2010

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Objectives

It aims at helping to reduce pollution, foster fair sharing and effective use of scarce water resources and to improve the quality of shared water resources, such as transboundary rivers. The project seeks to improve, implement and enforce water legislation as well as contribute to convergence on EU standards. The Western Partner Countries, namely Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in the South Caucasus share river basins and waters with the EU, which makes transboundary water management a crucial issue.

What does it do?

Provides support for the continued development of regulatory mechanisms and institutional procedures leading to improved River Basin Management Plans and enhanced implementation capacity. It encourages cooperation between the Partner Countries, especially by seeking to ensure compatibility of information and its exchange. It also helps specify what information is needed and determine how it should be used, especially through permitting and control mechanisms.

The project has two dimensions. While one focuses on country-specific activities

that promote good practice nationally, the other provides for regional measures that help ensure compatible and mutually comprehensible approaches to water management in all Partner Countries. It also contributes to the National Policy Dialogues set up under the EU Water Initiative to support individual countries. The accompanying equipment package helps to reinforce the permitting and control mechanisms and provides the necessary information on water quality for setting the appropriate quality standards. It provides technical assistance and will carry out pilot projects in all participating countries.

Website: <http://wgv.org.ua/about.php>

Actions in brief

- Provides technical assistance in the development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans.
- Ensures a fair distribution of water from the available resources between beneficiary countries and consumers.
- Organises workshops and study visits to each country to collect data.
- Identifies locations for the pilot projects - four in Ukraine and two in each of the other Partner Countries.

Social and Human Dimension

Increasing people-to-people contacts between partner countries and the EU and between partner countries themselves is an essential objective of the European Neighbourhood Policy. It is considered that while political level contacts and relationships may be difficult to build between some countries, due to prevailing political conditions, it is often possible to build relationships between state institutions represented at expert level, civil society organisations and individuals. This in turn promotes a long-term, bottom-up improvement in regional cooperation.

Regional cooperation between the EU and its Eastern Neighbours in the human and social fields focuses on fostering a culture of human rights, as well as the prevention of drug abuse and contributing to the fight against drug trafficking.

The Eastern partners also participate in the international education programmes, such as TEMPUS IV that supports the modernisation of higher education, promotes cooperation and enhances understanding, and Erasmus Mundus facilitating cooperation between higher education institutions.

A programme aimed at raising awareness on relations and cooperation between the EU and its Eastern Neighbours is also in place. This Regional Information and Communication Programme funds projects that range from the training of journalists to print media and audiovisual production as well as the setting up of the ENPI Info Centre.

The projects funded are:

- CIUDAD – Sustainable Urban Development
- Eastern Partnership Culture Programme – Part I
- Erasmus Mundus II – Action 2 Partnerships
- Regional Information & Communication Programme
- Tempus IV - Higher Education



CIUDAD – Sustainable Urban Development

Aims to help local governments in the ENPI region address urban development problems in a sustainable manner, promoting cooperation between local actors and their EU counterparts

Budget €14 million

Timeframe 2009-2013

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia

Objectives

The programme “Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue” (CIUDAD) aims to promote mutual understanding, dialogue and cooperation between local actors in the EU and in the Partner Countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood (ENPI region) through the provision of capacity building for the modernisation and strengthening of local and regional government. It also seeks to create new partnerships and strengthen existing ones, among local and regional authorities in the ENPI region (South-South, East-East and South-East partnerships), leading to long-term benefits

extending beyond the life of the programme.

CIUDAD builds on the work of previous initiatives such as the TCAS and IBPP programmes funded under the TACIS instrument (East); MED’ACT and MED-PACT programmes funded under the MEDA instrument (South), and others.

What does it do?

Approximately 20 projects that receive co-financing (grants) focus on three thematic priorities. These are: Environmental sustainability and energy efficiency; Sustainable economic development and reduction

of social disparities; Good governance and sustainable urban development planning. Partnerships are made up of consortia of organisations including local authorities, universities, NGOs and others working on sustainable urban development issues, both from the EU and ENPI partner countries.

A supporting mechanism to the programme provides technical support to the beneficiaries, monitors progress and ensures the dissemination of results of the projects and visibility of CIUDAD, primarily through the use of existing city and regional networks.

Website: coming soon

Actions in brief

- Promotes the concept of sustainable urban development in the EU and the ENPI region.
- Creates sustainable partnerships between local authorities in the EU and in the ENPI region, as well as between the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood partners (interregional cooperation).
- Strengthens the capacity of local authorities and the coordination between local and regional levels of government.
- Identifies and formulates sustainable urban development projects by local authorities in the EU and in the ENPI region, in a suitable format to be presented to International Financial Institutions for investment.

Eastern Partnership Culture Programme - Part I

Strengthens regional cultural links and dialogue within the ENP East region, and between the EU and ENP Eastern countries' cultural networks and actors

Budget €3 million

Timeframe 2009-2013

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus¹

Objectives

It aims at assisting the Partner Countries in their cultural policy reform at government level, as well as capacity building and improving professionalism of cultural operators in the Eastern ENP region. It contributes to exchange of information and experience among cultural operators at a regional level and with the EU. The programme seeks to support regional initiatives which demonstrate positive cultural contributions to economic development, social inclusion, conflict resolution and intercultural dialogue.

What does it do?

The programme helps strengthen policy-making, project and resource generating capacities of both the public sector and cultural operators. It fosters dialogue and contributes to the development of co-operation mechanisms within the sector across the region.

It also promotes intra-regional and inter-regional (EU-ENP) cultural initiatives and partnerships while helping to strengthen management skills and networking capacities of the cultural organisations and

operators. The programme furthers linkages between cultural activities and wider regional agendas ranging from employment creation to social inclusion, environmental conservation, conflict prevention/resolution and intercultural dialogue.

Website: coming soon

Actions in brief

- Provides technical assistance to the Ministries of Culture in their policy reforms and helps overhaul legal and regulatory framework to foster cultural sector modernisation.
- Organizes training to address the identified skills shortages in the cultural sector.
- Facilitates the increase of public access to cultural resources.
- Supports conservation and valorisation of regional cultural resources and heritage.
- Encourages multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral exchanges between government, civil society and the private sector.
- Helps cultivate cultural operators in the region through support in developing strategic management, business planning, communications, advocacy, fundraising and other relevant capacities.

¹ for Belarus, participation is conditional on its internal political developments and full reintegration into the ENP process

Erasmus Mundus II – Action 2 Partnerships

Promotes cooperation between higher education institutions through encouraging partnerships, mobility and exchanges of students, researchers and academic staff

Budget €29 million

Timeframe 2009-2010

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia

Objectives

The Erasmus Mundus II - Action 2 Partnerships seeks to promote better understanding and mutual enrichment between the EU and third countries and in the medium term strengthens political, cultural, educational and economic links.

It follows on from Erasmus Mundus – External cooperation window.

What does it do?

It is a cooperation and mobility scheme funding partnerships between EU and

Third-Countries in the field of higher education, through grants, that is complementary to other EU-funded higher education initiatives. Its target groups, comprise students and academic staff from the EU and the Third-Countries' nationals, with particular attention to those in vulnerable situation (eg. refugees, asylum seekers).

The programme enhances the international cooperation capacity of universities in third countries, while promoting cooperation between

institutions. It offers talented students, especially from vulnerable groups, an opportunity to benefit linguistically, culturally and educationally by pursuing academic studies in another country and promotes EU values. Furthermore, it improves the transparency and recognition of studies and qualifications.

It was launched by Europe Aid in 2006 and it is implemented through the Executive Agency Education, Audiovisual and Culture.

Website: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/extcoop/call/index.htm>

Actions in brief

- Facilitates the mobility of students and academic staff through an exchange programme.
- Encourages partnerships and cooperation between European universities and those from the Neighbourhood countries.
- Enhances the role of the higher education sector by exchanging knowledge, skills and expertise.
- Offers unique opportunities to citizens in Partner Countries to gain new cultural and educational experiences.
- Paves the way to the international recognition of studies and qualifications.
- Strengthens the international cooperation capacity of universities in Partner Countries.

Regional Information & Communication Programme

Aims at boosting public awareness and understanding of the EU and its relations in the ENPI area, through support to journalists and media outlets for material production, as well as training

Budget €19 million (€7 million ENPI East, €12 million ENPI South) **Timeframe** 2008-2011

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia

Objectives

The Programme seeks to increase public knowledge and awareness of the EU and its relationship with the neighbourhood countries and create a local sense of involvement and shared ownership. It clarifies policies but also highlights the development aid implemented by the EU in the region. It facilitates cooperation between journalists and media organizations, helps build sustainable communication networks and assists the continued development of free opinion and freedom of expression in a bid to contribute to the creation of an environment conducive to dialogue and mutual understanding.

It follows on from the previous Regional Information and Communication Programme.

What does it do?

It focuses on supporting and working with journalists and media organisations building knowledge on the EU, providing information sources and facilitating the production of reportages. It offers young journalists, in particular, the opportunity to understand the EU and report its activities that affect their country, and media organisations to build regional channels of communication and networks. It also improves the dissemination and impact of information and deals with gauging

public opinion in the neighbourhood countries.

The programme funds four projects. They are: 'Media activities: maximising EU presence in the region's media' which awarded a number of contracts to media outlets; 'Communications Multiplier activities: Training & network building' that provides training for journalists from leading media in the region; Information and communication support and media monitoring project (ENPI Info Centre) focused on information production and media monitoring; and the 'Strategic communications research & analysis: Opinion research and polling' project.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/index_en.htm

Actions in brief

- Establishes the ENPI Info Centre (www.enpi-info.eu) focused on the production and dissemination of information and media monitoring.
- Produces TV, radio, press and news website reportages on EU projects funded on the ground (www.eurojar.org and Euromed-news – South – <http://www.window-to-europe.eu/> and "Information and communications – Regional East Caucasus – TV, radio, press and Internet activities" with Internews - East - website to be launched).
- Trains over 200 journalists in four groups: Middle East, Maghreb & Lebanon, Caucasus, and Russian Speaking, and aims at networking with over 500 (European Neighbourhood Journalism Network - <http://www.journalismnetwork.eu/index.php>).
- Carries out opinion polls to gauge perceptions and opinion among key target audiences in the ENPI to help evaluate and define EU policies.

TEMPUS IV - higher education

Supports the modernisation of higher education, creates opportunities for cooperation among actors in the field and enhances understanding

Budget aprox € 35-39 million per year

Timeframe 2008-2013

Participating Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia

Objectives

The Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Studies (TEMPUS) supports the effort of the Partner Countries to modernize their higher education systems and creates opportunities for cooperation among higher education actors of the EU and the participating countries through joint projects. It also enhances understanding between cultures as it promotes a people-to-people approach and promotes convergence with EU developments in higher education leading to more jobs and growth.

It follows on from TEMPUS III implemented from 2000 – 2007.

What does it do?

It finances three types of actions: joint projects, structural measures

and accompanying measures. The joint projects are based on multi-lateral partnerships between higher education institutions in the EU and the Partner Countries, that develop, modernise and disseminate new curricula, teaching methods or materials, boost a quality assurance culture and modernise the management and governance of higher education institutions. The structural measures contribute to the development and reform of higher education institutions and systems in Partner Countries, enhancing their quality and relevance and increasing their convergence with EU developments. The accompanying measures comprise dissemination and information activities, such as thematic conferences, studies, consultation of stakeholders, etc.

The programme announces calls for proposals under the first two actions, to which partnerships made up of consortia of organisations including higher education institutions, businesses, ministries, NGOs and others from the EU and Partner Countries, can apply. The accompanying measures are contracted through calls for tender or framework contracts. It also promotes international and regional cooperation, which generates better communication and new networks of personal and professional contacts between the academic worlds of EU and Partner Countries. The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) is in charge of the implementation of Tempus.

Website: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/index_en.php

Actions in brief

- Supports the transition and modernisation processes in higher education in the Partner Countries.
- Facilitates joint projects working towards new curricula, teaching methods and materials.
- Promotes structural measures contributing to the reform of higher education systems and institutions.
- Advances convergence with EU developments leading to more jobs and growth.
- Cooperates with the Erasmus Mundus programme that funds higher education students and teaching staff mobility activities.

Multi-country Cooperation Instruments

The EC supports the reform and transition processes underway in the EU's Neighbouring Partner countries through a number of operational and highly complementary cooperation instruments: Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC), the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF), SIGMA, TAIEX, and Twinning.

Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) reinforces cooperation between regions of EU Member States and Partner Countries on EU's external borders. The Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) supports the Partner Countries in carrying out necessary infrastructure investments in view of their sustainable economic development.

These effective tools facilitate the enforcement of the agreements between the EU and the Partner Countries. They ensure practical transfer of European know-how, supporting the Partners upgrade and modernising of their institutions. They promote approximation to EU law and policies, enhance cooperation, economic integration and democratic governance, and cover a number of fields including trade, energy, environment, education, health and research.



Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC)

CBC, a key priority of the ENPI, seeks to reinforce cooperation between EU Member States and Partner Countries along the external EU borders

Budget €1.1 billion

Timeframe 2007-2013

Objectives

CBC aims to promote economic and social development in border areas. It strives to address common challenges, ensure efficient and secure borders and promote people-to-people cooperation.

What does it do?

CBC provides for a fully balanced partnership: Partner

Countries and EU Member States work together within a common management structure, applying a single set of implementing rules and sharing one single budget. Common needs are identified by local partners on both sides of the border for activities that are most relevant to their local situation. In total, 15 CBC programmes (9 land border,

3 sea crossing and 3 sea basin programmes) have been identified on both sides of the EU's external borders in the East and in the South.

Programmes

1. Land-Border Programmes

- **The Kolarctic-Russia Programme** (Budget: €28,241 million)
Joint Managing Authority: Regional Council of Lapland, Finland
- **The Karelia-Russia Programme** (Budget: €23,203 million)
Joint Managing Authority: Council of Oulu Region, Finland
- **The South-East Finland-Russia Programme** (Budget: €36,185 million)
Joint Managing Authority: Regional Council of South Karelia, Finland
- **The Estonia-Latvia-Russia Programme** (Budget: €47,775 million)
Joint Managing Authority: Ministry of Regional Development and Local Governments of Latvia
- **The Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus Programme** (Budget: €41,737 million)
Joint Managing Authority: The Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, Regional Policy Department
- **The Lithuania-Poland-Russia Programme** (Budget: €132,130 million)
Joint Managing Authority: The Ministry of Regional Development of the Republic of Poland
- **The Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Programme** (Budget: €186,201 million)
Joint Managing Authority: The Ministry of Regional Development of the Republic of Poland

- **The Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Programme** (Budget: €68,638 million)
Joint Managing Authority: The National Development Agency in Hungary
- **The Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova Programme** (Budget: €126,718 million)
Joint Managing Authority: The Ministry of Regional Development and Housing, Romania

2. Sea-Crossing Programmes

- **The Spain-Morocco Programme** (Budget: €135,231 million)
Joint Managing Authority: Ministry of Economy and Finance, Spain
- **The CBC Atlantic Programme** (Budget: €27,762 million)
Joint Managing Authority: Ministry of Economy and Finance, Spain
- **The Italy-Tunisia Programme** (Budget: €25,191 million)
Joint Managing Authority: The Region of Sicily, Italy

3. Sea-Basin Programmes

- **Black Sea Programme** (Budget: €17,306 million)
Joint Managing Authority: The Ministry of Regional Development and Housing, Romania
- **The Mediterranean Sea Programme** (Budget: €173,607 million)
Joint Managing Authority: Region of Sardinia, Italy
- **The Baltic Sea Region Programme** (Budget: €22,608 million - ENPI contribution to the integrated Baltic Sea programme)
Joint Managing Authority: Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

ENPI CBC Technical Assistance

The European Commission provides technical support to the CBC programmes mainly by financing two projects: Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) and INTERACT ENPI.

Regional Capacity Building Initiative

Provides technical assistance to support the Partner Countries in the preparation and implementation of the ENPI CBC programmes. Ensures co-ordination among the Joint Managing Authorities and facilitates their close work with the European Commission.

Website: www.rcbi.info

Actions in brief

- Provides information on ENPI CBC opportunities.
- Helps identify, develop projects and prepare applications.
- Facilitates the search for partners on both sides of the border.
- Conducts training in project management.

INTERACT ENPI

Aims to improve the management and the implementation of the ENPI CBC programmes. Works closely with the Joint Managing Authorities and ensures co-ordination among themselves and the European Commission.

Provides a platform where all ENPI CBC stakeholders meet to share their expertise and good practices. The INTERACT ENPI project is managed by the self-governing region of Bratislava in Slovakia. Two INTERACT ENPI points have been set up and are respectively

Website: <http://www.interact-eu.net/enpi>

Actions in brief

- Renders specific advisory services to the programme Joint Managing Authorities.
- Organises seminars for the ENPI CBC community on technical or strategic matters.
- Provides for a virtual platform where all programmes can regularly discuss problems and find solutions.
- Carries out studies, develops tools and manuals.

hosted by the Ministry of Employment and Economy, in Turku, Finland and by the region of Tuscany in Florence, Italy. Turku and Florence are responsible for providing assistance to the CBC programmes. The exact geographical coverage of the INTERACT ENPI point North and INTERACT ENPI point South can be consulted on the Interact website.

Projects

The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) of each programme regularly launches calls for proposals, specifying the deadline for submissions and the eligibility criteria for each call, namely the eligibility of applicants, the project size, co-operation sectors, etc.

The JMA signs one contract per project covering both Member States and Partner Countries. It subsequently monitors the projects with support from the Joint Technical Secretariats (located in the Member State hosting the JMA) and their branch offices (located in both the Member States and the Partner Countries). One set of rules applies to the projects on both sides of the EU external border.

Who can apply?

- Local and regional authorities;
- NGOs, development organisations, business associations, cultural or scientific institutions;
- Other key organisations.

The eligibility of applicants is specified in each call for proposals.

Partners

The partnership between an EU Member State and a partner country is obligatory. Each project should represent at least one Member State and one Partner Country.

More information

Calls for proposals and application packs, including guidelines for applicants and application forms, as well as forecasts and updates are made available online by the JMAs and can be consulted on their websites.

NIF, SIGMA, TAIEX, Twinning

Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF)

Bringing together grant funding from the European Commission and the EU Member States and loans from European Public Finance Institutions, the NIF (Neighbourhood Investment Facility) is an innovative instrument of the ENP, aiming at mobilising additional funding for infrastructure projects in the Neighbourhood area. The NIF focuses on the key sectors of energy, environment and transport while also providing support to SMEs development and social sector infrastructures.

The Commission intends to allocate €700 million to the NIF for the period 2007-2013. The Facility benefits also from financial contributions by EU Member States whose resources are pooled and better streamlined to the benefit of partner countries. By encouraging joint European operations, the NIF thus paves the way for concrete donors' coordination, division of labour and harmonisation of procedures. In its first 15 months of operations the NIF has provided support to projects representing a total investment of about €7.3 billion.

NIF operations constitute a practical lever focusing on countries with ENP Action Plans agreed with the EU. On a case-by-case basis, other Neighbourhood Countries may also benefit from NIF grant support for projects of cross border or regional nature to which the EU and its Neighbouring partners attach particular interest.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/irc/investment_en.htm

SIGMA

SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management) is a joint European Commission and OECD initiative. Principally financed by the EU, it focuses on strengthening public management in areas such as administrative reform, public procurement, public sector ethics, anti-corruption, and external and internal financial control. On a demand-driven basis, it has been assisting countries in installing governance and administrative systems appropriate to a market economy, functioning under the rule of law in a democratic context.

Website: <http://www.sigmaxweb.org>

TAIEX

TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) was introduced to the ENPI region in 2006 to offer short-term assistance and advice to Partner countries as they implement their ENP Action Plans. It was initially set up in 1996 to provide short-term, targeted technical assistance to the candidate countries. It supports Neighbouring countries in the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation. It is mainly demand driven, channels requests for assistance, and contributes to the delivery of appropriate tailor-made expertise to address problems at short notice. Assistance is given through expert missions, workshops or seminars and study visits.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/overview/taix_en.htm

TWINNING

Twinning is an EC initiative originally designed to help candidate countries acquire the necessary skills and experience to adopt, implement and enforce EU legislation. Since 2004, Twinning has also been available to countries in the ENPI region. On a demand driven base, the projects bring together public sector expertise from EU Member States and beneficiary countries, with the aim of enhancing co-operation activities. Twinning projects are joint projects, shared by the two partner administrations. The beneficiary country retains ownership.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/overview/twinning_en.htm