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EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data

About the Programme

Programme: **EU4Environment - Water Resources and Environmental Data**

Countries: **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine**

Duration: **2021-2024**

Budget: **EUR 12,75 million** (EU contribution: EUR 12 million)

Implementing partners: **Environment Agency Austria (UBA), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), International Office for Water (OiEau) (France), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

Objectives

The programme aims at improving people's wellbeing in the EU's Eastern partner countries and enabling their green transformation in line with the **European Green Deal** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The programme's activities will be clustered around **two specific objectives**:

- Support a more sustainable use of freshwater resources through improved water policies and practices and help reduce the adverse impact of human activities on water quality and ecosystems;
- Extend and improve the use of sound environmental statistics by the partner countries, and ensure greater availability of policy-relevant data for decision-makers and citizens.

Context

Environmental and climate resilience and the promotion of fair and inclusive societies are among the key objectives on the **post-2020 Eastern Partnership (EaP)** agenda. It includes ambitious goals related to better air and water quality.

A far-reaching **Economic and Investment Plan** will underpin this agenda, aiming to mobilise EUR 17 billion in investments. The programme will help speed up such investments into projects that reduce pollution.

The programme is part of the **Team Europe Initiative** on Water and Zero Pollution, which aims at moving towards a toxic-free environment for all citizens in an area with a strong interest from partner countries.



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Water resources management

- The first cycle of river basin management planning is extended.
- Water strategies, policies and practices include climate-proofing measures.
- The implementation of water for health agenda makes progress.
- Novel approaches to water monitoring are further promoted.
- The economic soundness of water strategies and policies is improved.
- Water utilities, the private sector and the general public are more closely involved in water management .
- National and international water governance and cooperation are further strengthened.
- Priority measures are supported through finance mobilisation.

Environmental statistics and open data

- Water accounting is extended.
- Land and agriculture monitoring and data are improved.
- Air and waste management data and statistics are improved for policy-relevant use.
- Open data and citizens' participation in data collection and analysis are further operationalised.
- International sharing of data and networking is maintained.

Continuity

The **identified measures** build on, and ensure continuity of, the Shared Environmental Information System Phase II and the EU Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership programmes. These two programmes were instrumental for modernising environmental monitoring and data analysis systems, promote evidence-based policy making, and increase the partner countries' alignment with EU and international law, in particular the Water Framework Directive.

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