

#strongertogether

EaP | Eastern
Partnership



20 Deliverables for 2020:
Bringing tangible results
for citizens

Launched in 2009 as a **joint policy initiative**, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) aims to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union (EU), its Member States and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

STRONGER ECONOMY

Building the economic resilience of EaP partner countries is at the heart of the EU's contribution towards having a stable neighbourhood. In this context, the EU and EaP partner countries are working together to develop stronger, diversified and vibrant economies across the region. This means helping small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) grow; attracting investments and creating jobs in new sectors; and increasing trade opportunities by supporting access to new markets.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Despite representing between 83% and 99% of all companies, SMEs account for only less than half of all employment across the EaP region? In the EU, SMEs account for over 2/3 of employment, and 85% of new employment created in the past five years.
- ✓ Since the launch of the Eastern Partnership in 2009, the EU has provided €1.5 billion to support SMEs in the Eastern partner countries, which has contributed to the creation of **10,000 new jobs**, over 100,000 loans to enterprises, and 20,000 people trained.

STRONGER GOVERNANCE

Scaling-up efforts in the area of strengthening institutions and good governance is a top priority of the EU in the EaP region where challenges remain. Substantial progress has been made in some partner countries towards independent specialised anti-corruption bodies, and in taking forward judicial and public administration reforms, with a focus on bringing better, more efficient and transparent services to citizens.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Civil Society plays a key role in enhancing accountability and transparency in partner countries.
- ✓ Since 2014, the EU has provided **€95 million** of support to civil society, reaching out to over **600 civil society organisations** and having kick-started the Civil Society Fellowship programme with **29 fellows** already.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ✓ **Loans for SMEs in local currency: €100 million** with the objective to have at least ¼ of EU financial support to SMEs provided in local currency, as well as in-depth policy support to develop local financial infrastructure which will increase the financing options for further private sector development.
- ✓ **A Digital Package: €50 million** which will:
 1. Take concrete steps towards **harmonised roaming pricing** and reduced roaming tariffs among the partner countries.
 2. Provide an **easier and cheaper access to the internet**, with a special focus on rural areas, through the roll out of national broadband strategies and the launch of the first broadband infrastructure programmes.
 3. Support the **creation of jobs** in new digital industries.
- ✓ **Increasing trade:** deepening of trade relations of the EU with the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) and non-DCFTA countries, complemented by a focus on trade among partner countries.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- €170 million** made available to support better governance through an adequate response to local social innovation trends, which will include making smarter use of sub-granting and institutional support to civil society organisations. Additionally, the initiatives will pursue:
- ✓ Stepping up support to **active citizenship** and mobilisation of local resources: introducing local languages for delivery of support and diversifying outreach will help to mobilise a larger spectrum of actors and deliver better services to citizens.
 - ✓ Enhancing **public accountability**, building civic expertise and intra-regional cooperation.
 - ✓ Building **young leaders** through **80 Civil Society Fellowships** and **300 youth leaders** under EU4Youth.

Within this framework, all partners have committed to demonstrate and deliver tangible benefits to the daily lives of citizens across the region by focusing on achieving **20 deliverables for 2020** in four key priority areas.

STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

Improving transport links and infrastructure, boosting energy resilience through strengthening energy interconnections, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions is a main priority for the EU's work with partner countries. This leads to greater sustainable economic development and tangible benefits to the lives of citizens by reducing energy dependence and consumption.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ On average, economies in partner countries are three times more energy-intensive than in the EU Member States.
- ✓ Over **300 municipalities** covering 20 million people in the Eastern partner countries signed up to the EU's Covenant of Mayors. This will reduce their CO2 emissions by almost 20 million tonnes by 2020, which is equivalent to planting almost 500 million trees.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ✓ Extend the core Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T): **€150 million** contribution, leveraging more than €1 billion of strategic investments to support the development of roads, railways, ports and airports across the region.
- ✓ An **energy efficiency package: €225 million** energy efficiency investments to reach more people, municipalities and SMEs to help cut energy bills, improve living standards and help fight climate change.

STRONGER SOCIETY

Mobility and people to people contacts bring societies closer together and offer tangible benefits to citizens. Together the EU and Partner countries have been investing in young people's skills, entrepreneurship and employability, including by developing education policies and systems which contribute to building stronger societies, increasing youth employment and innovation.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Economic development and better prospects for employment, skills development and civic engagement for youth are seen as key vectors for prosperous, stable societies.
- ✓ Since 2014, **10,400 students** from the Eastern Partnership countries have studied in foreign universities across the EU or across the Eastern partner countries.

WHAT'S NEXT?

A Youth and Education Package: €340 million:

- ✓ More opportunities for exchanges and mobility enabling over **80,000 young people**, youth workers, students and academic staff to benefit from Erasmus+.
- ✓ Launching **European School** for the Eastern Partnership in Tbilisi and stepping up co-operation between schools with 1,000 institutions connected through the **eTwinning** Plus platform.
- ✓ Supporting young **EaP leaders**, including through the **Young European Ambassadors** initiative, foster capacity of youth organisations and nurture youth **employability and entrepreneurship** through the **EU4Youth** initiative.

20 DELIVERABLES FOR 2020

CROSS CUTTING DELIVERABLES

- 1 More engagement with civil society organisations
- 2 Increase gender equality and non-discrimination
- 3 Strengthen strategic communications and supporting plurality and independence of media

STRONGER ECONOMY

Economic development and market opportunities:

- 4 Improve the investment and business environment and unlock Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' (SMEs) growth potential
- 5 Address gaps in access to finance and financial infrastructure
- 6 Create new job opportunities at the local and regional level
- 7 Harmonise digital markets
- 8 Support intra-regional trade among partner countries and the EU

STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change:

- 13 Extend the TEN-T core networks, transport
- 14 Increase energy supply security
- 15 Enhance energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy; reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions
- 16 Support the environment and adaptation to climate change

STRONGER GOVERNANCE

Strengthening institutions and good governance:

- 9 Strengthen the rule of law and anti-corruption mechanisms
- 10 Support the implementation of key judicial reforms
- 11 Support the implementation of public administration reform
- 12 Stronger security cooperation

STRONGER SOCIETY

Mobility and people-to-people contacts:

- 17 Progress on Visa Liberalisation Dialogues and Mobility Partnerships
- 18 Strengthen investment in young people's skills, entrepreneurship and employability
- 19 Establish an Eastern Partnership European school
- 20 Integrate Eastern Partnership and EU research and innovation systems and programmes