

EU4CLIMATE PROJECT

MID-TERM REVIEW

Time-frame of the evaluation: October - December 2021

Date of the report: December 16 2021

Countries of the evaluation intervention: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Evaluator: Maria Onestini

Name of the organization commissioning the evaluation: UNDP

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Disclaimer: This report is product of an independent external review. The analysis and recommendations contained in this document only represent the analysis and views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the analysis, views and opinions of the United Nations Development Programme, country-level stakeholders, donor, nor any other project stakeholders.

PROJECT INFORMATION TABLE

Project Information		
Project title	EU4Climate	
Project ID Number	00115652	
Corporate outcomes and outputs <i>UNDP Regional Programme for Europe and the CIS 2018-2021:</i> <i>EU corporate alignment:</i>	<p>Outcome 1: Accelerating structural transformations through more effective governance systems. More specifically, the project responds to the Regional Program's Output 1.1: Low-emissions and climate resilience objectives are integrated into development policies and plans through regional initiatives promoting economic diversification and green growth.</p> <p>Eastern Partnership initiative and the "20 Deliverables for 2020" as endorsed by the 2017 Eastern Partnership Summit Declaration as well as under the EU Global Strategy and the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy and the EU Communication on Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020: Reinforcing Resilience – an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all.</p>	
Countries	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine	
Region	Eastern Europe	
Date project document signed	August 23 2018	
Project dates	Start	Planned end
	December 2018	December 2022
Project budget at design	EUR 8 800 000 / USD 10 302 160¹	
EU Financing	EUR 8 000 000 / USD 9 365 600	
UNDP Co-financing	EUR 800 000 / USD 936 560	
Project expenditure at the time of evaluation (as of November 1 2021)	3 646 499 USD	
Funding source	European Union	
Co-Funding source	UNDP	
Implementing party	UNDP: Istanbul Regional Hub and the six UNDP Country Offices of the countries involved	

¹ Using exchange rates of January 2019.

EVALUATION INFORMATION TABLE

Evaluation information		
Evaluation type	Project	
	Midterm review	
Period under evaluation	Start	End
	January 1 2019	November 2021
Evaluator	Maria Onestini	
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Evaluation dates	Start	Completion
	October 2021	December 2021

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	Government of Austria
AVR	Accreditation and Verification Regulation
CoM	Covenant of Mayors
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DoA	Description of Action
E5P	Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership
EAA	Environment Agency Austria
EaP	Eastern Partnership
EC	European Commission
ECS	Energy Community Secretariat
ETS	Emissions Trading System
EU	European Union
EU4Climate	European Union for Climate Programme
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gases
ICTA	International Chief Technical Advisor
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
LEDS	Low greenhouse-gas Emission Development Strategies
MENR	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan
MEPNR	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine
MMR/MR	Monitoring Mechanism Regulation
MNREP	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus
MoARDE	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment- Moldova
MoE	Ministry of Environment of Armenia
MoEPA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
MoH	Ministry of Health of Ukraine
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification
MTR	Mid Term Review
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAS	National Adaptation Strategy
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NIF / NIP	Neighbourhood Investment Facility / Neighbourhood Investment Platform
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
ODS	Ozone-depleting substances
ProDoc	Project Document

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound
TACCC	Transparency, Accuracy, Completeness, Compatibility, Consistency
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP IRH	United Nations Development Programme – Istanbul Regional Hub
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EU4Climate is a project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The EU4Climate Project intends to help governments in the six EU Eastern Partner countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - to take action against climate change. It supports countries in implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and improving climate policies and legislation. Its ambition is to limit climate change impact on citizens lives and make them more resilient to it. The objective of the project is: to support the development and implementation of climate-related policies by the Eastern Partnership countries that contribute to their low emission and climate resilient development and their commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It identifies key actions and results in line with the Paris Agreement, the "20 Deliverables for 2020" , and the key global policy goals set by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project will also translate into action priorities outlined in the Eastern Partnership Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change of October 2016.

The intervention has a set of expected results to be achieved by project end. These are:

- Finalized/up-dated nationally determined contributions and national mid-century strategies and communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- Improved inter-institutional awareness and coordination at political and technical level of the Paris Agreement and the corresponding national commitments,
- Established or strengthened measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems, with countries getting on track with Paris Agreement transparency requirements,
- Establishment of concrete sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement in each of the Eastern Partners, especially in the field of energy
- Advanced alignment with EU acquis as provided by bilateral agreements with EU and in the context of the Energy Community Treaty,
- Increased mobilization of climate finance, and
- Enhanced adaptation planning.

The main effects expected to be engendered as a result of the implementation process (as indicated in planning documents) are:

- New strategic document development and legislation/amendments will be carried out respecting national procedures, especially those related to (fiscal/regulatory) impact assessments, public consultations and inter-ministerial coordination.
- Prior to providing legislative drafting support, assistance will facilitate early stage stakeholder involvement and will provide beneficiaries with analytical prerequisites (concept support, option analysis).
- Project will help beneficiaries to develop policies and new laws by themselves. In cases when particular textual drafting is partly done by experts, this work will be paired with beneficiary capacity building (introduction of international examples, detailed explanation of proposed texts etc.);

- Beneficiary institutions will develop manuals and guidelines with project support. Experts will help to develop them in such a way, that they could be regularly reviewed and updated by the beneficiaries without further external support.
- All guidelines or procedures developed with support of this project will not contradict legal provisions of the country in question.

The project operates both at the regional and at the six Eastern Partnership individual countries levels. Its overall goals, in addition to the specific expected results indicated above, are to promote ownership and learning, generate knowledge, generate dialogues with a view to maximise capacity building effect, underscoring the importance of coordination and synergies with a view to leverage partnerships.

The EU4Climate Project is in its third year of implementation and, therefore, scheduled to carry out an independent Mid-Term Evaluation according to its monitoring and evaluation plan. The main objective of this process is to assess progress towards the achievement of the project's objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document, and early signs of project successes or failures. The latter with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The objective is not only to assess what has been done, but also how the achievements are arrived at (contributing factors) or not (hindering factors). The assessment likewise reviews the project's strategy and its risks regarding sustainability. The audience for the evaluation include all the institutions involved in implementation, such as UNDP, the European Union as donor, as well as the national – level institutions dealing with climate issues within the six countries involved in this intervention. Based on assessment findings, the ultimate purpose and intended use for this process is to provide a framework for strengthening achievements, and / or make recommendations to correct what needs to be corrected in the next period of implementation.

The independent external assessment process that gives rise to this report has had a participatory and consultative approach. The review used a variety of data sources, primary, secondary, qualitative, quantitative, etc., extracted from document analysis and desk review and online interviews. The approach entailed the collection and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data in order to validate and triangulate information.

The EU4Climate Project intends to help governments in the six EU Eastern Partner countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - to take action against climate change. This is to be done by supporting each individual country in the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and improving climate policies and legislation. Furthermore, within the above context, the project intends to aid the countries to develop their climate policies to enhance and advance alignment with EU acquis as provided by bilateral agreements with EU and in the context of the Energy Community Treaty. For this, the project overall intends to enhance capacity (institutional mainly) to develop, enhance and implement a number of policies, instruments, tools, plans and strategies to deal with climate issues at the national level.

The project has achieved a number of its intended outputs and is on track to achieving the rest, with an extension. This is the case even with delays, under delivery, and a number of factors and issues that will be explored below. These outputs are certainly contributing, directly and indirectly, to fostering achievements at the outcome level. As stakeholders have overtly expressed, without this technical support the countries would not be able to develop and improve the climate related processes that they are embarked upon. The project has also achieved several processes that are key to successes.

There are a number of contributing factors to achievements thus far, which clearly emerge as inputs for intended achievements at the output and, ultimately, at the outcome levels. The targeted technical support EU4Climate provides and leverages is much valued at the different country – levels and this greatly contributes to achievements. This is accompanied by explicit and implicit capacity building, at the institutional and at the individual level that is taking place within implementation. Other, not as overt or as clearly included in planning and implementation documents, but crucial regarding not only implementation but also drive-ness, buy in and relevance, is the recognition of each individual country needs and country autonomy and sovereignty in developing the products as well as in implementing the potential processes that are arising or will arise out of this project. Perhaps the most impelling driver that is a contributing factor for the adoption and work on climate change policies is the help in fulfilling each individual nations' international obligations, particularly EU Association and Partnership Agreements.

There are also a series of issues which are hindering factors for project's performance. One of the main hampering factor is no doubt the COVID-19 pandemic, both due to circulation restrictions imposed and the shift in countries' priorities to more pressing matters as a result of the health and socio-economic impact that this issue is having. Political conflicts between or within the Eastern Partnership countries have also obstructed or impeded several implementation procedures. Although it might seem contradictory, the very crucial reason for the implementation of a project such as this, which is weak capacity in countries to deal with climate change holistic policies, is also a hindering factor given the weaknesses (institutional as well as individual) in fostering, designing, and applying policy in climate change.

In order to ensure achievement of the objectives in the remaining project lifetime as well as to reinforce what has already been attained, there is a series of activities and processes that can be implemented. Some are operational in nature while others are functional. In the first place, due to delays and under spending, EU4Climate needs to seek an extension from the donor in order to properly delivery according to what has been planned in financial and in outputs/outcomes terms. Also, if at all possible, delivery should be sped up via the improvement of procedures that are operationally slowing down implementation. Furthermore, the extension and concluding implementation can benefit the impelling of some processes which are either in progress or were not contemplated at design. For instance, involving other key actors in the processes ensuing from EU4Climate (such as the private sector, finance institutions, sub national governments); and include demonstration or pilots activities to generate buy in as an ultimate goal. Concentrate the work in the next stage on the design, adoption and implementation of concrete instruments and policies that implement the technical products already delivered or being delivered. Online and virtual modalities could be also improved so that they meet stakeholders' expectations. Lastly, and an important element that underlies all processes being implemented, the project should not lose sight that all of its activities and processes need to promote sustained capacity building.

INTRODUCTION: DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVENTION

EU4Climate is a project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The EU4Climate Project intends to help governments in the six EU Eastern Partner countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - to take action against climate change. It supports countries in implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and improving climate policies and legislation. Its ambition is to limit climate change impact on citizens lives and make them more resilient to it. The objective of the project is: *to support the development and implementation of climate-related policies by the Eastern Partnership countries that contribute to their low emission and climate resilient development and their commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It identifies key actions and results in line with the Paris Agreement, the "20 Deliverables for 2020"², and the key global policy goals set by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.* The project will also translate into action priorities outlined in the Eastern Partnership Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change of October 2016.

The intervention has a set of expected results to be achieved by project end. These are:

- Finalized/up-dated nationally determined contributions and national mid-century strategies and communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- Improved inter-institutional awareness and coordination at political and technical level of the Paris Agreement and the corresponding national commitments,
- Established or strengthened measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems, with countries getting on track with Paris Agreement transparency requirements,
- Establishment of concrete sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement in each of the Eastern Partners, especially in the field of energy
- Advanced alignment with EU acquis as provided by bilateral agreements with EU and in the context of the Energy Community Treaty,
- Increased mobilization of climate finance, and
- Enhanced adaptation planning.

The main effects expected to be engendered as a result of the implementation process (as indicated in planning documents) are:

- New strategic document development and legislation/amendments will be carried out respecting national procedures, especially those related to (fiscal/regulatory) impact assessments, public consultations and inter-ministerial coordination.
- Prior to providing legislative drafting support, assistance will facilitate early stage stakeholder involvement and will provide beneficiaries with analytical prerequisites (concept support, option analysis).

² 20 Deliverables by 2020 is an accord where the EaP and EU partners agreed to deliver tangible results by focusing on achieving the 20 goals. They include cross-cutting issues - like engagement with civil society and women's empowerment and gender balance - as well as building a stronger economy, enhancing good governance, improving connectivity, fighting climate change, and investing in people and society.

- Project will help beneficiaries to develop policies and new laws by themselves. In cases when particular textual drafting is partly done by experts, this work will be paired with beneficiary capacity building (introduction of international examples, detailed explanation of proposed texts etc.);
- Beneficiary institutions will develop manuals and guidelines with project support. Experts will help to develop them in such a way, that they could be regularly reviewed and updated by the beneficiaries without further external support.
- All guidelines or procedures developed with support of this project will not contradict legal provisions of the country in question.

The project operates both at the regional and at the six Eastern Partnership individual countries levels. Its overall goals, in addition to the specific expected results indicated above, are to promote ownership and learning, generate knowledge, generate dialogues with a view to maximise capacity building effect, underscoring the importance of coordination and synergies with a view to leverage partnerships.

As indicated in planning documents, the six EU Eastern Partnership countries face water and energy shortages and a broad spectrum of climate-related and geophysical disasters. The increased frequency and severity of meteorological hazards has increased the vulnerability of rural and urban populations across the sub-region. This has also led to a projected remarkable increase in overall climate change adaptation costs.

The countries in the region are characterized by high levels of energy intensity and inefficiency, relying on fossil fuels for over 80 percent of their energy needs. Climate change has and will exacerbate current pressure on natural resources and ecosystems. The project is based on an analysis of the above mentioned countries' climate – related vulnerabilities and opportunities. Water and energy shortages and a broad spectrum of climate-related and geophysical disasters have been identified as effects of climate change in this region, increasing the vulnerability of the population, increasing adaptation costs and aggravating pressure on natural resources. Furthermore, energy issues are also linked to climate change. The six countries mostly use fossil fuels for their energy needs, in an intense and inefficient manner. Given all of the above, the project identifies the regional challenge to shift to a low-carbon development model whilst increasing adaptation to climate related impacts (negative effects). This transformation is expected to provide economic and employment opportunities in the countries and region involved in the project.

With the above analysis as a background, the overall goal of EU4Climate *is to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and the development towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient economy in line with the Paris Agreement in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.*

The project implementation methodology follows the Paris Agreement framework logic as well as relevant EU climate acquis for those countries who are party to it, as well as subsequent related developments in this area. The respective climate change EU acquis as well as the climate provisions under the Energy Community treaty are also integral parts of project logic and implementation methodologies. For this, it is intended that EU best practices be shared with the different countries involved and that relevant technical guidance on various elements of climate policy development be offered to these countries.

As stated above, EU4Climate operates in a multi-level manner, at the national level in the six target countries and at the regional level. Regarding regional level work, the project intends to provide support for regional cooperation, learning, knowledge exchanges and policy dialogue among the beneficiary countries, as well as between the countries and EU partners. These achievements are

supposed to be channelled through exchanges and dialogues in all of the abovementioned seven thematic priority areas.

It is expected that the project will contribute overall to enhanced environmental sustainability through improved sectoral policies and mainstreaming of climate change mitigation and adaptation into development sectors. The project is also expected to result in improved governance systems by building capacities for mainstreaming inclusive and participatory medium- and long-term planning as well as gender mainstreaming into climate and environmental policies. The project has a rights-based approach albeit tacit or not explicit in some aspect, but aligning with UNDP and with EU goals in this area. Besides gender mainstreaming issues, planning documents indicate that the project would aid in right to information processes (specifically within the Aarhus Convention setting). Other issues that do relate to human rights although the link is not made explicit in the process is regarding its potential contributions to SDGs. It is intended that the project would contribute to SDGs related to poverty, food and water security, urban and rural resilience, gender equality, affordable and clean energy, responsible production and consumption and partnership which are part of a rights framework.

It is also intended that the project would leverage additional development benefits through policy work, strategies, improving national level planning, sectoral plans and guidelines that would inform, influence and induce reforms and change policy positions. It is expected that these in turn would result in improved knowledge and capacities towards low-emission economies. The project as a whole intends to work with beneficiaries in all countries to increase the ability of public and private institutions to mobilize climate finance.

The intervention is implemented in the UNDP Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) in five of the six EU Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) and in the UNDP National Implementation Modality (NIM) in Belarus. Its budget is EUR 8,800,000; of which EUR 8,000,000 is the contribution by the EU and EUR 800,000 is co-financed by UNDP. The intervention has been in implementation since December 2018 (project signing date). The project is expected to run until 13 November 2022.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, APPROACH, METHODS, AND DATA ANALYSIS

The EU4Climate Project is in its third year of implementation and, therefore, scheduled to carry out an independent Mid-Term Evaluation³ according to its monitoring and evaluation plan. The main objective of this process is to assess progress towards the achievement of the project's objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document, and early signs of project successes or failures. The latter with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The objective is not only to assess what has been done, but also how the achievements are arrived at (contributing factors) or not (hindering factors). The assessment likewise reviews the project's strategy and its risks regarding sustainability. Based on assessment findings, the ultimate purpose for this process is to provide a framework for strengthening achievements, and / or make recommendations to correct what needs to be corrected in the next period of implementation.

Evaluation Scope: The temporal scope of the review includes the entirety of EU4Climate activities at the outcome and output levels from December 2018 (formal start of the Project) to the point where this assessment takes place. The geographic scope of this review entails all of the countries where the project takes place as well as the regional component.

Evaluation Approach: The approach for the review was participatory and consultative ensuring close engagement with key stakeholders and partners. Key stakeholders and partners were defined at the onset of the midterm review process as UNDP (regional hub as well as the six individual country offices involved), the national governmental counterparts of the six countries that are part of this intervention, the donor –i.e. the European Union–, and associated stakeholders in particular institutions that provide backstopping for implementation as well as the other EU4 projects associated to EU4Climate and other partners.⁴

Evaluation Methods: The review used a variety of data sources, primary, secondary, qualitative, quantitative, etc., extracted from document analysis and desk review and online interviews. The approach entailed the collection and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data in order to validate and triangulate information. Also, through this combination of methods, feedback between the various tools and validation between different levels and types of data collection was sought to triangulate the information, and thus ensuring the validity of the data that give rise to the evaluation process and to this report. Regarding specific methodologies to gather assessment information, the following tools and methods were used: *Document Analysis and Key Informant Interviews*. A first tool developed for this review process was an evaluation matrix used to map data for an assessment and aid in triangulating the available evidence. This matrix identified the key evaluation questions and how they were answered via the methods selected to map the data and as a reference in planning and conducting the assessment. It also served as a tool for summarizing and visually presenting the evaluation design and methodology at onset. The matrix identified the key evaluation questions and sub questions, ordering them by criteria, and presented indications as well on verification and methods to be used to assess each of the questions/sub questions. The midterm review also included a number of different debriefings and update dialogues with UNDP's IHR which were held for validation of analysis as well as to inform key stakeholders of the midterm review process.

³ While the Project Document indicates that the project should undergo a midterm *evaluation*, the terms of reference indicate that the current process is a midterm *review*. Since the terminology does not affect the scope, findings, or analysis, both terms are used interchangeably as relevant.

⁴ In annexes a list of stakeholders the review engaged with is found.

This review followed all relevant UNDP directives, as expressed in the *UNDP Evaluation Guidelines* of the Independent Evaluation Office (its revised version of June 2021). Ethical considerations were fully considered, abiding by UNEG’s ‘Ethical Guidelines for Evaluators’. Particularly, ethical considerations were followed bearing in mind measures and guidance to protect the rights and confidentiality of informants.

Evaluation Criteria: The following evaluation criteria were used to assess performance: *relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability*. For the purpose of the MTR these are defined as follows:

- *Relevance* - the extent to which the intervention objectives and design respond to beneficiaries’, global, country, and partner/institution needs, policies, and priorities, and continue to do so if circumstances change;
- *Effectiveness* - the extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives and its results, including any differential results across groups;
- *Efficiency* - the extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way; and
- *Sustainability* - the extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue, or are likely to continue after project closure.⁵

The process followed what was indicated in the Terms of Reference regarding analysis and procedure. Terms of Reference are found in Annex 1: Terms of Reference.

Evaluation Questions: In accordance with the review’s Terms of Reference, the review was guided by four broad evaluation questions, as follows:

FIGURE 1: MAIN EVALUATION QUESTIONS

- 1) What did EU4Climate intend to achieve during the period under review?
- 2) To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended objectives at the output level, and what contribution has it made at the outcome level?
- 3) What factors contributed to or hindered the project’s performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?
- 4) What needs to be done in the remaining project lifetime to ensure achievement of the objectives, which were not achieved or were partially achieved during the review period?

These four main evaluation questions were supplemented (as stated in ToRs) by a group of 30 other questions and sub questions encompassing all of the evaluation criteria. The report is organised by the different criteria (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Visibility, Gender Equality, Sustainability, etc.)

⁵ OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation. Better Criteria for Better Evaluation. Revised Evaluation Criteria Definitions and Principles for Use. February 2020.

and connects to questions indicated for each criterion as indicated in the ToRs (the initial questions are listed within the ToRs as seen in Annex 1: Terms of Reference).

Data Analysis: The use of both qualitative and quantitative data supported the validation and triangulation of information. Through a combination of methods feedback between the various tools and validation between different levels and types of data collection was sought to triangulate the information, and thus ensuring the validity of the data that give rise to the evaluation process and to this report. Quantitative analysis was carried mainly by comparing achievements vis-à-vis expected benchmarks to tally project progress in implementation. Qualitative analysis was mainly applied to the information harnessed by using thematic assessment of interviews' responses.

Rankings. Through the Terms of Reference for this review an analysis by reviewing the framework indicators against progress made towards the project outputs targets was requested. This analysis was colour coded in a “traffic light system” based on the level of progress achieved at the output, goal, objective levels.

Limitations. Reviews normally face limitations, such as those regarding time, resources, data availability. Yet this midterm review was faced with further limitations by having it take place in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The main functional impact was the lack of in-country missions. For carrying out the review, therefore, UNEG's Guidance on Evaluation Planning and Operation During COVID-19 as well as UNDP guidance regarding COVID-19 and evaluations were followed for the design and implementation of the assessment process. The data and information were gathered through a desktop review (which is normally done at a distance in these processes even before the pandemic), yet the personal interviews were done using remote mechanisms (through video conferences) as necessary. Notwithstanding the emergency, the review followed a collaborative and participatory approach while using remote engagement with the all of the key stakeholders. Therefore, it is understood that this midterm review was not overly affected by the situation and that the methodologies used were pertinent and appropriate.

FINDINGS

DESIGN

Project design and planning follows a strategy for this sort of intervention with the inclusion of an objective, expected outcomes and outputs and key areas of activity as well as key deliverables. The design process was a concerted integrated extended effort with consultative and participatory discussions between and among different stakeholders (such as the European Union and UNDP –the latter at different levels such as the Istanbul Regional Office and the country offices of the six countries involved--).

What the EU4Climate intended to achieve during the period under review is determined by the design. The design reflects that the project builds upon and benefits from the extensive expertise in the field of climate change of the main institutions involved. For the EU, the project benefited from other previous projects and built upon a series of results and of lessons from several EU projects. Some of these are the Clima East Programme, the EU4Energy programme, EU4Environment, Covenant of Mayors East (CoMO East). Several of these programmes are still ongoing and/or are entering a second stage and have engaged with the EU4Climate project. UNDP has a long established background and draws from its associated expertise (at the regional and the target countries' levels) in dealing with climate change (both mitigation and adaptation). At the time of design it was pointed out that the target countries have been receiving extensive capacity building support and technical assistance through UNDP in setting up UNFCCC monitoring and reporting frameworks through the on-going Global Support Programme on National Communications and Biannual Update Report⁶. Support to adaptation planning has been provided with t UNDP assistance in the framework of the Global Support Programme on National Adaptation Plans.

The design establishes that the project *goal* is to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and the development towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient economy in line with the Paris Agreement in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It is also stated at design that, to achieve this goal, seven results need to be realized. These are as follows:

- Result 1: Finalized or up-dated nationally determined contributions and national mid-century strategies and communicated to the UNFCCC
- Result 2: Improved inter-institutional awareness and coordination at political and technical level of the Paris Agreement and the corresponding national commitments
- Result 3: Established or strengthened MRV systems, with countries getting on track with Paris Agreement transparency requirements
- Result 4: Advanced alignment with EU climate acquis as provided by bilateral agreements with EU and in the context of Energy Community Treaty on climate matters that are not covered by the EU4Energy programme
- Result 5: Establishment of concrete sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement in each of the Eastern Partners

⁶ Several of these projects were carried out with other agencies such as UNEP and UNIDO and several of them were developed with different donors such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, and with bilateral cooperation from different countries.

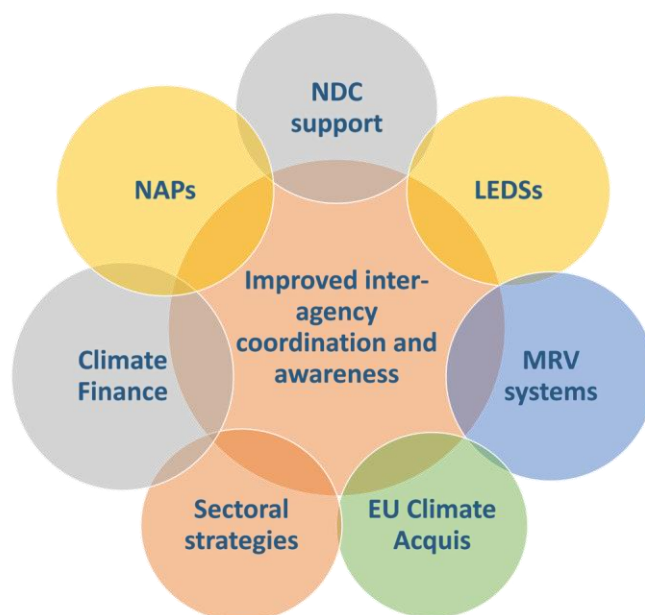
- Result 6: Increased mobilization of climate finance (potential NIF/NIP proposals and domestic resources)
- Result 7: Adoption of national and sectoral adaptation plans

The project *objective* is defined as: *low-emissions and climate resilience objectives are integrated into development policies/plans in six eastern partnership countries through improved and consolidated climate policies and legislative alignment.* It is indicated that to achieve this objective, EU4Climate will do so through the following nine components:

- Implementation and update if necessary of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement
- Development of national mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (long-term LEDS)
- Introduction, when necessary, of robust domestic emissions monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) frameworks and strengthening of the existing ones
- Alignment with EU acquis included in bilateral agreements and Energy Community Treaty (when applicable)
- Mainstreaming climate in other sectors, interinstitutional awareness (on policy and technical level) and sectoral guidelines for the implementation of Paris agreement
- Climate investment
- Adaptation planning, with special focus on adoption and when necessary development of adaptation plans (national and sectoral)
- M&E, communication, visibility and reporting
- Project Management.

For each the first seven of these components there are a set of activities (totalling 25). There are also seven sub activities proposed to be implemented.

Although the intervention logic derived from design is coherent and there is a conceptual linkage whereas the outputs delivery are expected to help in achieving forecasted outcomes, the format of the framework is complex. The architecture as set at design is rather intricate and at times there is little differentiation between results/components/outputs (not only within the context of this review but also to several stakeholders that have had to implement the project). Several national level stakeholders have also indicated, however, that design should have been more flexible in the sense that some activities built-in the project were not needed or pressing in some particular country(ies). The following diagram indicates in graphic form what the expected results are. It also illustrates the interlinkages.

FIGURE 2: EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE EU4CLIMATE PROJECT⁷

Certain reservations have also been expressed regarding other aspects of design. Since this is a purely policy project, there have been no pilots nor demonstration modules. Stakeholders have pointed out, and experience in UNDP implementation reveals, that pilots and demonstration facilitate long term policy uptake, buy-in, and even engenders national-level ownership.

The design of the project is anchored strategically to induce change. This is illustrated by the Theory of Change (ToC) diagram whereby the analytical flow downward from the expected developmental impact level is conceptually linked to the different levels of expected results (outcome, outputs and project levels) and signals this tool as relevant. The ToC also presents planned interventions that will lead to these results. A graph with the ToC is found Annex 3: Theory of Change.

The project underwent a risk analysis, and several of the identified risks as well as assumptions are part of the ToC. This initial assessment acknowledging potential risks also included several strategies to mitigate these risks, should they occur⁸. The major identified risks were:

- Lack of full support from beneficiary governments during implementation despite alignment with needs identified by governments during the programming phase
- Changing policy priorities
- Lack of absorption capacity in beneficiary countries

⁷ Source: EU4CLIMATE. NDC preparation and implementation in EaP countries. Comparative analysis of the first and the updated NDCs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. October 2021.

⁸ The risk analysis log was updated in the Annual Report 2020 by indicating that restrictions imposed on travel and meetings due to the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic situation in the region would pose risks to implementing some processes and products.

- Lack of willingness/capability of other ministries or government agencies to participate in the "holistic approach" needed to fight climate change. Institutional tensions among various stakeholders, including governmental authorities.
- Administrative reforms and staff turn-over within the key government agencies weakens the efficiency of project's capacity building activities, causes implementation delays and to erosion of institutional memory
- Delays because of heavy bureaucratic procedures within the beneficiary governments
- Political and social unrest
- Major disasters / extreme weather events in the region, including those caused by the changing climate, result in temporary disruption of the government operations and/or constraints in national budgetary resources for climate policy reform.

Indicators are generally SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound⁹), although some do not have all of these characteristics. For instance, they are specific and measurable (since they are expressed in a concise metric of expectations to be achieved). They are deemed to be achievable within the project's scope, and evidence of this is that as will be seen in the section on efficiency further along this report, they have been achieved or are mostly on track at this point. They are relevant since they are expressed as expected outputs that make contributions national developmental priorities and time bound since they are set within expected dates of accomplishment. Some of the output indicators are not properly articulated, however, on how they will capture whatever it is that they are supposed to measure. For instance, in cases that there are trainings and activities that aim at capacity enhancement there is no clear overall indication on intermediate states or how there is a transition between training workshops and true to form capacity upgrade. They are expressed for example in number of workshops or number of persons attending those events. There are also capacity self-evaluation exercises as imbedded in the log frame (and as has been reported in the project's Annual Report of 2020). However, there is no specific metric that indicates how to specifically measure uptake (especially at the institutional level) for all the countries as a result of the enhanced level of capacity exercises such as those related to training.

The project's Logical Framework was revised upon request of the European Commission. It was updated as requested, yet the changes were not major. For example, a new indicator was added (following the Steering Committee's endorsement). This was indicator 2.19 "Number of EU supported countries and cities with climate change and/or disaster risk reduction strategies: (a) developed, (b) under implementation'. Therefore, future reporting –as of the 2021 annual report—will be using this updated version of the logical framework and its new indicator.

Although the project could adapt flexibly to these financial provisions deficiencies to a great degree, resources were not properly earmarked upon planning for some matters such as staffing

⁹ S -Specific: Indicators must use clear language, describing a specific future condition.

M - Measurable: Indicators, must have measurable aspects making it possible to assess whether they were achieved or not

A - Achievable: Indicators must be within the capacity of the partners to achieve

R-Relevant: Indicators must contribute to selected priorities of the national development framework

T -Time-bound: Indicators are never open-ended; there should be an expected date of accomplishment.

arrangements, overhead costs at the country office's levels, etc. Financial provisions set at design have not proved to be efficient for implementation.

RELEVANCE

Relevance, in the context of evaluations, is the extent to which an intervention's objectives and design respond to beneficiaries, global, country, and partner/institution needs, policies, and priorities, and continue to do so if circumstances change. The EU4Climate project is relevant given that the overall objectives respond to needs and priorities established by the different countries involved as well as corporate EU and UNDP priorities. Overall project strategy is still relevant and pertinent at this implementation stage.

All countries confirmed the strong relevance of this project to their national climate policy and EU alignment agendas. Therefore, the project responds to the full extent to national priorities and the needs of target beneficiaries countries. These are pertinent vis-à-vis each country's commitments to international accords (UNFCCC / Paris Agreement) and in the framework of regional agreements such as Eastern Partnership, EU bilateral agreements, and Energy Community Treaty. Both issues are relevant with regard to the countries' drive to adjust their regulatory framework with EU policies for political association and economic integration.

The regional component of the project is also relevant given that it is intended to take into account learning and knowledge transfer. In this context, this proposed regional action is highly relevant to all six countries as it will allow knowledge transfer, learning and interaction between and among the six beneficiaries countries. This is also to promote horizontal exchanges on strengthening each country's climate policies as well as their EU alignment agendas. Overall this indicates that the project is formally appropriately responsive to national as well as regional needs.

At the corporate level, the project is aligned with UNDP's Regional Programme for Europe and the CIS, with the individual countries' UNDP developmental frameworks, and the EC's Objective/Atlas Output as exemplified below:

For UNDP:

- UNDP Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country [or Global/Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework: Outcome 1: Accelerating structural transformations through more effective governance systems.
- Outcome indicators as stated in the Regional programme document for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, 2014-2017, including baseline and targets:
- Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Output 1.1: Low-emissions and climate resilience objectives are integrated into development policies and plans through regional initiatives promoting economic diversification and green growth.

For the donor:

- EC Objective/Atlas Output: Low-emissions and climate resilience objectives are integrated into development policies/plans in six EaP countries through improved and consolidated climate policies and legislative alignment.

Relevance is very much related to ownership and country driven-ness. Although some prior analysis to this one have found that driven-ness was not present in some countries in the first stages of

implementation, this has changed as the project moves towards directly and indirectly fostering the creation or improvement of tools that are akin to countries' needs regarding climate change issues.

Country priorities and their ensuing policies are not static and these evidently change over time. For instance, the Belarusian authorities have suspended their participation in the Eastern Partnership as of June 2021. And, evidently, the impact of COVID-19 has impacted on countries' priorities and policy priority shifts. Relevance is not a stationary situation, and therefore needs to be closely monitored by all parties.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

It is stated in planning documents that EU4Climate intends to make a positive contribution to mainstreaming gender into the development and climate policies. In particular, it is intended that gender considerations will be taken into account and mainstreamed through the development of LEDS, national adaptation plans, into sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and as well as general mainstreaming of climate change into sectoral strategies and plans. It is also stated that monitoring and evaluation indicators disaggregated by sex and age and gender analysis will be proposed for the national policy instruments/plans. EU4Climate has been classified as GEN 1 within UNDP's gender scales, meaning that the project has limited or some contribution to gender equality.

At the design stage, some activities were proposed to incorporate a gender dimension.¹⁰ However, the project indicators are not established to measure gender equality achievements, therefore is not possible to tally how or if the approach was fully incorporated. The project has a Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan¹¹ developed so that gender considerations are incorporated as a cross – cutting issue. It is intended through this plan that each component integrates a tailored activity on gender mainstreaming. The gender mainstreaming outcomes expected out of this plan are:

- Gender considerations integrated into NDC planning and implementation processes; and
- Enhanced understanding and acceptance of gender-specific vulnerability to climate change and the need for a gender-sensitive climate action.

Given the above, gender equality and the empowerment of women, been somewhat addressed in the design. Yet the specific tools such as an action plan were developed in the aftermath of project inception, and therefore this somewhat limited the possibility of full implementation since this action plan was imbedded nearly a year after execution began. The project did not have, until the Action Plan was developed, the proper metrics to fully capture, monitor, and report gender mainstreaming although some data (such as sex disaggregated data at events) was being recorded.

The project reports a series of activities dealing with gender at the national level and at the regional level, such as workshops, analytical reports, updating climate policies to be more gender sensitive or addressing gender equality, in generating analysis in particular sectors that the project deals with (energy, waste management), or in the incorporation of gender equality variables in national adaptation plans.

¹⁰ For example, Activity 1.2.3 includes some gender considerations: This activity will include assessment of institutional gender equality frameworks and coordination mechanisms to integrate gender into climate change policy and planning processes as well as other national policy and planning instruments to support NDCs.

¹¹ The development of the plan was concluded in September 2020, and therefore the original planning documents did not have a specific strategy to include gender mainstreaming as such.

In a recent comparative case study¹² on nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that was supported by the project, where there is a comparative analysis of the first and the updated NDCs of the countries involved in EU4Climate, finds an improvement in the incorporation of gender consideration in the NDCs. While gender aspects were not addressed by the countries in their original nationally determined contributions exercises, in the updated NDC for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine gender issues were indeed addressed. Furthermore, this same study indicates that NDC consultations in some countries were carried out in a gender-responsive manner. This signals that gender – responsiveness is permeating technical studies and in climate change policy planning to some degree in several of the countries involved in EU4Climate.

Implementation of gender mainstreaming has not been organic, yet some achievements have been made. Since gender mainstreaming is also within each country's willingness to incorporate gender equality to the products, outputs and outcomes the project fosters, it is also left to the individual country's willingness to incorporate these issues within climate change frameworks. Each individual country's perception as to whether gender issues do pertain to the environment arena is also a factor for mainstreaming, or not, gender considerations.

EFFECTIVENESS

Effectiveness is the extent to which an intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives and its results. It is the extent to which the development intervention's objectives, outcomes, and outputs were achieved or are expected to be achieved considering their relative importance. It is also an aggregate gage of the merit or worth of an activity, i.e., the extent to which an intervention has attained, or is expected to attain, its major relevant objectives in a sustainable fashion and with positive institutional development impact.

EU4Climate's effectiveness at this implementation stage has been positive. In the following graphics, are charts with information on what reporting indicates as achieved as of November 2021.¹³ The project does not have specific metrics to measure midterm level of achievement; it just has end-of-project targets. Therefore the analysis is made based on this, i.e. what has been accomplished thus far and what the expectations are at project end, not an indicator by indicator analysis of attainments vis-à-vis midterm indicators since that would not be relevant, nor possible. The analysis is in a colour coding format and is closely linked to efficiency (as indicated in the figure immediately below). This is all done with the understanding that, at this point in a project's lifecycle, an intervention is a work in progress and that early signals of success or failure are analysed.

Following the colour coding figure, there are the actual accomplishment charts per objective/goal and for each individual expected output. That is, the original logical framework expectations are compared vis-à-vis what is reported as achieved. The colour coding has been assigned looking at expected achievements and their fulfilment or, when they are in progress, if these are expected to be met at project end. Finally, after all of these charts, there is a narrative on effectiveness in relation to contributing and hindering factors based on informational evidence, documents, internal communications and information gathered through interviews.

¹² Source: EU4CLIMATE. NDC preparation and implementation in EaP countries. Comparative analysis of the first and the updated NDCs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. October 2021.

¹³ For brevity's sake these charts have been abridged. In annexes the full log frame is found with overall information on expected results, baseline, and target indicators.

The charts are populated with achievements as expressed in annual reporting. However, the annual report for 2021 was being produced at the same time as this assessment. Therefore, achievements from the 2020 Annual Report were used and these (as well as key deliveries) have been brought up to date by project personnel at the regional and national levels.

FIGURE 3: COLOUR CODING FOR TARGET ACHIEVEMENTS¹⁴

Green= Achieved	Yellow= On target to be achieved	Red= Not on target to be achieved
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FIGURE 4: ACHIEVEMENTS BY GOAL AND OBJECTIVE

Goal/Objectives	Results up to Nov 2021	Code
Project Goal: Enhanced resilient and low carbon development in the six EU Eastern Partnership countries	Note: Emissions levels for 2020 will be available in the national reporting in 2024-2027	
Project Objective: Low-emissions and climate resilience objectives are integrated into development policies/plans in six EaP countries through improved and consolidated climate policies and legislative alignment	The Second NDC of Moldova was submitted to UNFCCC in March 2020. NDCs of Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine were submitted to UNFCCC in 2021. Draft NDC of Azerbaijan was developed by EU4Climate and submitted to the government; it is expected that the NDC is submitted by the end of 2021.[Note: NDCs of Georgia and Ukraine were not developed by EU4Climate]	
An enhanced capacity of countries to develop and implement climate policy and to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement An enhanced transparency of emissions and climate action Mainstreaming climate in sectoral policies, such as energy, transport and agriculture Advanced implementation of climate-related provisions of bilateral agreements with EU and in the framework of the Energy Community Treaty	(i)Four countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Moldova) supported with development of the second NDC. (ii) The Second NDC of Moldova was submitted to UNFCCC in March 2020. NDCs of Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine were submitted to UNFCCC in 2021. Draft NDC of Azerbaijan was developed by EU4Climate and submitted to the government; it is expected that the NDC is submitted by the end of 2021. The Regional MRV workshop in 2020 and study tours to Environment Agency Austria and European Environmental Agency were conducted in February 2020, contributing to building the capacities of EaP countries with establishing national MRV systems. The work on developing recommendations to strengthen national MRV systems of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova was initiated by EAA in 2020 and will continue in 2021. Gap analysis and roadmaps for national MRV system improvement were developed and presented to the focal ministries of three countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova. Gap analysis and roadmap for Georgia draft is prepared and expected to be finalized in 2021	
	Institutional capacity assessment was conducted in 2020. The baseline level of institutional capacity for the implementation of the Paris Agreement identified, mean value for the six EaP countries: 52.11%. The level of institutional capacity for the implementation of the Paris Agreement after the first year of project implementation, mean value for the six EaP countries: 58.44%.	
	Roadmaps for gap implementation of EU Climate <i>acquis</i> in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine were developed by the Energy Community Secretariat and presented to the national governments. UNDP Georgia and UNDP Moldova developed draft legal acts on F-gases. UNDP Ukraine has initiated development of sub-legal acts on F-gases and ODS. The EAA has developed draft recommendations for legal alignment in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. The work on legal alignment will be continued in 2021. EU <i>acquis</i> roadmaps for Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine are completed. Additional analysis (not initially included in the workplan) will be performed in 2021-2022 for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, including assistance with Association Agreement revision and elements of Green Deal.	
	No investment projects related to NDC implementation were developed in 2020. The respective activities will be initiated in 2021 in Armenia, Georgia. The first pilot in climate budget tagging was completed in 2020 in Armenia. NDC finance plan work started in Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine. In Moldova this will start in 2022.	

¹⁴ Source: Terms of Reference, for EU4Climate, International Consultant for the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of full-sized EU-UNDP project.

Project Goal: Although emissions levels are not available at this juncture, there are signals that the project is contributing to implementation of NDCs and reporting commitments. *Project Objective:* As the chart above indicates, expected objectives have either been achieved (mainly NDCs) as well as on track to be achieved. Some of the outstanding achievements have advanced more than others. For instance, processes and products related to finance and budget tagging are still slightly behind schedule, yet there is a good perspective that they will be accomplished by project end given the increasing pace of delivery experienced in the last year.

FIGURE 5: ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OUTPUT 1

Goal/Objectives	Results up to Nov 2021	Code
<p>Output 1. Implementation and update of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement</p> <p>1.1. Two regional training and knowledge exchange workshops on the NDC implementation and reporting to UNFCCC</p> <p>1.2. Support to NDCs implementation in at least four EaP countries</p> <p>1.3. Public awareness on NDCs for private sector, academia, NGO community and for other relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>UNDP Moldova has updated the country's LEDS until 2030 in line with the NDC-2. The updated LEDS-2030 will serve as the implementation plan for the NDC; NDC development in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine was completed in 2021. Development of NDC implementation plans were finalized 2021, after NDC in the respective countries are completed. NDC implementation plan work started in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; to be completed in 2022. For example, in Moldova LEDS 2030 serves as an implementation plan. Updating LEDS 2030 process was finalized as per June 2021.</p>	
	<p>The First Regional NDC workshop was conducted in Georgia in 2019; 28 decision makers/stakeholders from EaP countries were trained. The Second Regional NDC workshop was conducted in 2021 as a webinar; 110 participants attended, including 33 government officials from the EaP region.</p>	
	<p>Institutional capacity assessment was conducted in 2020. The baseline level of institutional capacity for the sectoral implementation of the NDCs, mean value for the six EaP countries was 54.13% and after the first year of project implementation, mean value for the six EaP countries was 62.42%. Institutional capacity study for 2021 will be done in 2022</p>	
	<p>Institutional capacity assessment was conducted in 2020. The baseline level of awareness and buy in of the targeted national private sector and other stakeholders in the NDC implementation was identified, mean value for the six EaP countries was 47.75% and after the first year of project implementation, mean value for the six EaP countries was 52.85%.</p>	
	<p>171 stakeholders from EaP countries participated during the awareness events on NDC</p> <p>Belarus: 15 representatives from MNREP, UNDP CO, and UNDP IRH took part during the first technical workshop on NDC update (the female participation rate was 60% (9 women per 15 total participants))</p> <p>Georgia: 40 participants took part during the online lectures on NDC, CAP, NECP, transport, waste, agriculture, forestry, energy generation and transmission and buildings. 50 participants from civil society, the Government and international organizations, participated in an online climate conference "Georgia's Climate Strategy 2030, Climate Action Plan 2021-2023 and Related Challenges"</p> <p>Moldova: 66 participants attended the national consultation workshop on updated NDC, the female participation rate was 65.15% (43 women from 66)</p> <p>UNDP Belarus has organized a workshop to present the draft NDC to wide range of stakeholders on 18 February 2021. A total of 64 participants attended</p> <p>EU4Climate Georgia co-organized three trainings for the representatives of civil society in 2021</p>	

For expected Output 1, as a composite, a great number of expected outputs which were achieved and/or are expected to be attained. Some are even expected to be overachieved, since more countries – beyond the targeted number—are requesting support to generate specific NDC-2 implementation processes (such as LEDS-2030). The capacity assessments and awareness/buy-in analyses will provide baseline data to make an ex-post analysis of outcome and effects, if such a comparison takes place at the end of the project and whether change can be attributed to the intervention.

FIGURE 6: ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OUTPUT 2

Goal/Objectives	Results up to Nov 2021	Code
Output 2. Development of mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (long-term LEDS) 2.1. Regional training workshops for six beneficiary countries on the LEDS development process. 2.2. National technical roundtables 2.3. Development of mid-century, long-term LEDSs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia	No new LEDS developed or updated in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia in 2020. Armenia has initiated development of the “National Program on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy”, considered to be the energy sector LEDS. The program is to be finalized in 2021. Azerbaijan has developed a roadmap for LEDS development in 2020 and the work on LEDS development is initiated in early 2021. Development of LEDS-2050 was initiated in Georgia in 2020, to be completed in 2021. Draft LEDS-2050 are under development in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, to be completed in 2021. Development of LEDS-2050 in Belarus was initiated as of November 2021; scheduled to be completed in 2022.	
	The First Regional Workshop on Long-term LEDS and Climate Policies Mainstreaming was conducted in 2019 in Chisinau, Moldova; 60 participants attended including 27 government officials from the EaP region. 2nd Regional Workshop on Long-term, Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions Development Strategies and the Mainstreaming of Climate Policies took place on 19-20 October 2020 as a webinar. 87 participants, including EaP government officials, representatives of international organizations, experts and civil society attended. Third regional workshop on LT-LEDS is planned for 2022	

For expected Output 2, the achievement level is also evaluated as to be on track. In particular those supporting activities that lead to implementation on NDCs, such as energy sector LEDS development. This ties quite well with EU acquis and Energy Community agreements since, as will be seen below in the section on contributing factors to efficacy, these are powerful drivers for countries. At the output level the training is taking place at fairly the planned rate, but due to COVID-19 restrictions the latest events are taking place in a virtual modality (as seen also in other outputs). This has been efficiently implemented, yet the overall effectiveness of the online training and virtual exchanges has been put in doubt by many stakeholders.

FIGURE 7: ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OUTPUT 3

Goal/Objectives	Results up to Nov 2021	Code
Output 3. Introduction of robust domestic emissions monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) frameworks. Activities: 3.1. A regional workshop/training on MRV (GHG inventory) systems according to the UNFCCC requirements 3.2. A study tour (preferably) to the EEA in Copenhagen to learn about the MRV system in the EU 3.3. Review/gap analysis of the existing MRV systems (GHG inventory) 3.4. Proposals for national MRV (GHG inventory) systems in line with the UNFCCC transparency requirements 3.5. Trainings of MRV experts 3.6. Training materials for the private sector stakeholders on their contributions to national GHG inventories	The regional MRV workshop and study tour was conducted during 17-19 February 2020 (Vienna, Austria) and 21 February 2020 (Copenhagen, Denmark). The event was attended by 24 representatives of EaP countries, including 18 government officials. EAA has initiated work on developing recommendations for enhancing the national MRV systems in 2020; the work is to be completed in 2022. Gap analysis and roadmap for MRV system improvement completed in 2021 for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova. Gap analysis and MRV roadmap for Georgia is to be finalized in 2021	
	The guidance and training materials will be developed after completion of roadmaps for national MRV improvement by the EAA in 2021.	
	A total of 65 practitioners trained in 2020. 24 practitioners, including 18 government officials, have attended the Regional MRV workshop and study tour in February 2020. In Moldova 41 participants (governmental officers, private and academia sectors, CSO) attended a national consultative workshop on establishment and functioning of the national GHG emission monitoring and reporting system EU4Climate conducted three national workshops in 2021 in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova to present Gap analysis and roadmap for MRV system improvement studies for the three countries. Moldova has updated its MRV system (legal act) based on the ETF.	

At the output level, for Output 3, there are several types of products and processes. First training workshops and study tours while also concrete policy proposals and knowledge management products/studies/analysis are being developed. They are both on track as such. There is, however, as in

several other outputs, little indication on how the project transits from outputs to outcomes. That is, it is clear in these cases that there are trainings and activities that aim at capacity enhancement, however there is no clear overall indication on intermediate states or how there is a transition between training workshops and true to form capacity upgrade.

FIGURE 8: ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OUTPUT 4

Goal/Objectives	Results up to Nov 2021	Code
<p>Output 4. Alignment with EU <i>acquis</i> included in bilateral agreements and Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action</p> <p>4.1. Workshops in each of the countries on respective EU <i>acquis</i></p> <p>4.2. Analysis of the national legislation and fiscal policies, and elaboration of proposals and plans for legislative alignment</p> <p>4.3. Providing relevant input on progress to relevant Sub-Committee meetings, Platform and Panel discussions, Energy Community meetings and providing updates to DG NEAR and relevant EU Delegations</p>	<p>EU Acquis Strategic Roadmaps were developed and presented in 2020 for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The review of relevant climate <i>acquis</i> applicable to Republic of Armenia pursuant to the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with the European Union and gap analysis of the legal approximation was undertaken during the fourth quarter 2020. The EAA has developed draft recommendation for the legislative alignment in Azerbaijan and Belarus in 2020, finalized in 2021. The legislative alignment recommendations for Azerbaijan were finalized and presented during a workshop in 2021. Recommendations for Belarus were developed in 2021 and are to be completed by the end of 2021.</p>	
	<p>UNDP Georgia organized a National Stakeholder Workshop on discussion of the main findings of the EU Acquis Strategic Roadmap in May 2020. UNDP Moldova organized a National Workshop on EU Acquis Strategic Roadmap in a videoconference format in May 2020. In September 2020 UNDP Ukraine, in cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat, conducted the virtual workshop “EU Acquis Alignment Strategic Roadmap for EU4Climate in Ukraine”. UNDP Armenia presented and discussed the draft package of legal acts on F-gasses at a working meeting with all the stakeholder departments of the Ministry of Environment held on March 10, 2021. Workshop on the “Gap analysis and a Roadmap for further legal approximation with the EU climate action <i>acquis</i> pursuant to CEPA” was held in Armenia on 30 June 2021. A workshop was organized in July 2021 in Azerbaijan with the participation of key national stakeholders to discuss EU <i>acquis</i> alignment recommendations and the implementation of MRV system in the country. EU4Climate Moldova has conducted consultations with national experts, MARDE’s and private sector’s representatives on 17 May and 8 June 2021 regarding F-gas regulation. The project organized consultations on the Climate legal architecture concept of Ukraine with the key experts on 24 September 2021 with 21 participants.</p>	
	<p>In Moldova public consultations held online regarding the draft F-gas legislation and draft Governmental decision on amending the MRV system on 17 December 2020, with the participation of 41 representatives from governmental, private, academia and civil society sectors. In 2021 EU4Climate Belarus organized a webinar on Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to introduce the European Union’s Green Deal. The event was attended by 90 participants. A webinar held on 15 April 2021 for exchange of international experience (Belgium, Czech Republic, Slovakia, etc.) to discuss draft national F-gas and ODS regulations with Ukrainian business and experts (about 55 participants online).</p>	

All outputs have been met in approximately the level expected at midterm for Output 9.

FIGURE 9: ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OUTPUT 5

Goal/Objectives	Results up to Nov 2021	Code
<p>Output 5. Mainstreaming climate in policy sectors</p> <p>5.1. Inception/training workshop on CC mainstreaming into sectoral policies</p> <p>5.2. Each country is supported to develop mainstreaming recommendations for 2 priority sectors: detailed sectoral policy review, analysis of climate risks and GHG emission reduction potential, cost benefit analysis, mainstreaming recommendations, regulatory/institutional /coordination framework, monitoring framework, and financial resources/planning</p> <p>5.3. Three sub-regional sector-based training and knowledge exchange workshops and a series of national consultations</p> <p>5.4. Sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement</p>	<p>Armenia developed an Analytical Note on “Policy Instruments in Energy and Agriculture towards the Low Emission Development Strategy” in 2020. Further recommendations for the respective sectors will be developed in 2021. UNDP Azerbaijan developed the report on climate change mainstreaming into priority sectoral policies, which is to be followed by the thematic reports on climate change mainstreaming for the energy, transport, industry, water, waste, and agriculture sectors – scheduled for 2021. UNDP Moldova has finalized the report and recommendations on mainstreaming the climate change consideration into the waste sector’s policies in June 2020. Additionally, development of the “Guideline on climate change mainstreaming into waste sector policies” has started during 2020, to be completed in 2021. Ukraine has completed recommendations for climate policies mainstreaming in the transport sector in 2021. Mainstreaming studies were initiated in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova – to be completed in 2022.</p>	<p>Yellow</p>
	<p>Institutional capacity assessment was conducted in 2020. The baseline level of institutional capacities for CC mainstreaming identified, mean value for the six EaP countries was 57.05% and after the first year of project implementation, mean value for the six EaP countries was 63.46%.</p>	

Four of the 10 expected outputs (policy papers, etc.) have been delivered within Output 5 expectations. These deal with sectoral guidelines and sector-based planning. Other activities, workshops and trainings, have been carried out. Overall this indicates that there are expectations that the output is on target to be met by project final stages.

FIGURE 10: ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OUTPUT 6

Goal/Objectives	Results up to Nov 2021	Code	
<p>Output 6. Climate Investment Activities:</p> <p>6.1 Two regional climate finance forums: regional events on investment planning and increased mobilization of climate finance</p> <p>6.2 Training and capacity building through national workshops to relevant staff in the ministries to enable them to develop a prioritized pipeline of bankable projects</p> <p>6.3 Regional and national workshops on climate finance frameworks</p> <p>6.4. Two pilot studies and two sub-regional workshops on climate budget tagging and introducing CC parameters into national budget planning and reporting</p>	<p>No investment projects related to NDC implementation were developed in 2020. The respective activities will be initiated in 2021 in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova. NDC finance planning was initiated in 2021 in Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine. The work is to be completed in 2022. In Moldova these processes will be initiated in 2022.</p>	<p>Yellow</p>	
	<p>The first regional workshop on climate finance frameworks and climate budgeting was conducted online in May 2020. Over 90 participants attended, including ministerial representatives from EaP countries, the European Commission and international experts. The second regional workshop on climate finance frameworks and climate budgeting was conducted in 2021 online with 130 participants.</p>		<p>Green</p>
	<p>The first pilot on climate budget tagging is completed in 2020 in Armenia. Results of the CBT study in Armenia were presented to the government in 2021. Two budget tagging studies initiated in 2021 for Azerbaijan and Georgia, to be completed in 2022</p>		

Regional workshops and pilots have either begun or have started. Due to online modality, workshops have a greater number of attendees than what was expected at design.

FIGURE 11: ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OUTPUT 7

Goal/Objectives	Results up to Nov 2021	Code
Output 7. Adaptation planning. Activities: 7.1. Support to the national adaptation planning in at least in 2 countries 7.2. Follow up and facilitation of adoption of national and sectoral adaptation plans 7.3 Cross country knowledge exchange on NAP development, implementation and reporting to UNFCCC 7.4. Workshops with national, local and sectoral authorities on NAP process	UNDP Ukraine initiated the process of the National Adaptation Strategy development on 12 November 2020. Over 100 participants from the Climate Change Adaptation Working Group attended the kick-off meeting online. The National Adaptation Strategy of Ukraine was approved by the government in 2021. The work on NAP development for Belarus was initiated in 2021, to be completed in 2022.	
	The 1st Regional Adaptation Planning workshop conducted in Moldova in 2019; 69 participants were trained, including 40 EaP Governmental officials. The 2 nd Regional Adaptation Planning workshop was conducted online in November 2020, attended by over 100 government officials and climate change experts. The 3rd Regional Adaptation Planning workshop was conducted online in 2021, attended by 133 government officials and climate change experts.	
	Feasibility of developing a transboundary NAP will be defined after the National Adaptation Strategy of Ukraine is completed in 2021. Consultations on transboundary NAP between Moldova and Ukraine initiated in 2021. The work is to be continued in 2022	
	UNDP Ukraine established a Climate Change Adaptation Working Group, which includes more than 120 members from sectoral ministries, agencies, academia, business associations, civil society organizations and other experts in adaptation.	

Of the two expected National Adaptation Plans in Output 7, one has been developed (for Ukraine). Three out of the six expected workshops on adaptation planning have been carried out, while transboundary NAP process have begun, with the expectations that they will be completed before project end.

Overall, either all of the expected outputs have been met or are expected to be met as a result of the project (if an extension is granted). Notwithstanding some of the delays in delivery that are being experienced, the above assessment is not negative since at midterm effectiveness is not fully apparent at the stage of midterm reviews. These assessments need to identify *early* signs of success or failure regarding activities and products in process, not absolute effectiveness, which is what is being done in this evaluation. Therefore, there are early signs of successes or failures that can be identified in this exercise and for which general lessons learned and specific recommendations to steer the project to be more effective can be drawn. Since this is a midpoint review, also, most achievements are at the output level. Some of the delays also have to be associated to the catenate nature of the outputs. That is, a product (e.g. NDCs) needs to be fulfilled and completed before moving on to other product (e.g. LEDs).

There are a number of factors that have contributed to the accomplishments thus far. It is found that, intrinsic to this finding, there are very clear factors that have contributed to achievements thus far and that should be anchored for further solidifying of the Project while working on correcting the hindering factors identified. Some are internal to the project and some are external factors. The contributing factors identified are as follows:

- *Technical support.* The technical support EU4Climate provides and/or leverages is much valued at the different country – levels and this greatly contributes to achievements. With the understanding that this is a capacity building exercise for the country involved, this is a very positive contributing factor.
- *Capacity building.* One of greatest achievements (and the ones that truly impel strengthening capabilities at the national level and potentially sustainability) are those secured by creating internal capabilities. Within the project it has been found, for instance, that when leveraged international expertise by the project is accompanied by national experts (when these are

available) this anchors national capacity and creates products that are more applicable and germane to national systems by the inclusion of national knowledge bases and for localising them. All in all, and bringing-in capacity building to the products and processes has entailed formal, informal, and information capacity built (at the individual as well as at the institutional level) and promoted innovation. At the national level, in most countries, there has been a degree of investment in national capacity building, not only individual capacity upgrading but also institutional capacity strengthening. This is potentially a contributing factor not only for effectiveness features but also for sustainability.

- *Recognising individual country needs and country autonomy and sovereignty.* Even when the project had to shift some processes, it did so accommodating country requests according to their needs and changing policies. This has also included countries' ad hoc requests. Although at times it was a slow process since attending to these requests in some cases needs the approval of the Steering Committee and the donor, these have been properly accommodated thus far. Also, the project has acknowledged that decisions regarding many issues in climate change are the sovereign responsibilities of beneficiary country and its function is to support these. This inclusively is indicative that the project has been appropriately responsive to the needs of the countries and their changing priorities.
- *Help in fulfilling each individual nations' international obligations and EU Association and Partnership Agreements.* An element of this project is the aim to aid the six partnership countries in meeting international obligations, as well as fulfilling each nation's EU association and partnership agreements. The UNCFCC's Paris Agreement on Climate Change is the key international agreement with which the project helps countries fulfil mitigation – related commitments. It has already aided in the development or updating of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and their presentation to UNFCCC, and is working on MRVs. The project intends to work further along this line in helping develop whatever new or amended legislation needs to be enacted in order to give rise to the effective implementation of international commitments as well as provide a finance base for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The project has also worked in developing or amending climate adaptation plans for Belarus and Ukraine, that further inserts those countries into the international arena in adapting to the most significant impacts of climate change¹⁵. Moreover, and a very powerful driver, is the project's explicit aim to help the six nations in meeting country – level alignment vis-à-vis the individual nations' EU Association/Partnership Agreements. These obligations are to align with EU policies and legislation for EU Acquis. Advancing in the processes of EU accessing is a relevant factor for countries' commitment, ownership and underlying relevance. Besides EU acquis – related factors, it should also be noted that three of the countries (Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine) are also parties to the Energy Community Treaty. This implies further alignment needs regarding environmental and climate acquis and development of national action plans on energy and climate, for which the project is also providing support.

There is also a series of factors that are constraining factors for achievements / effectiveness thus far. They are highlighted below:

¹⁵ Specifically with reference to the Paris Agreement Article 7, Paragraph 9 (b).

- *Slow start – up and slow inception process.* Slow start up has been associated, in most cases, with weak preparedness to fully activate the project upon approval. The financial architecture as set up at design was fragile in order to have delivery begin shortly after approval. This has been in some degree due to overarching project planning issues but also with national issues. For instance, some countries delayed approval until nearly a year and a half after overall project start.
- *COVID-19 Pandemic.* COVID-19 has had an indelible impact on effectiveness and has been and will continue to be a hindering factor in obtaining achievements as well as in sustainability in the short and medium term. This issue can be divided into two parts: one regarding operational impact and a second one of regarding national priorities. Concerning the operational side of the project, EU4Climate –due to travel and gathering limitations – had to either conduct processes in a virtual mode or even cancel planned activities. This is related to travel restrictions for international experts and gathering restrictions which have led to cancellation of study trips and a shift to online and virtual processes. The shift to online modality has had mixed appraisals. In the first place it is understood that this is the only possibility at the time and in the immediate future to engage in training, seminars and even engaging between and among the different stakeholders and parties to the project. Nevertheless, the usefulness of this modality is put into doubt by many actors with regard to what these processes are trying to achieve and what they are truly attaining. The second matter that has affected validating the full potential of the project has been a shift in national policy priorities. Understandably, countries have shifted their policy priorities placing an emphasis on health matters and in socio – economic issues responding to the pandemic’s effects, and less political commitment for climate change actions. Therefore, climate change has in many ways been postponed as an issue in the different countries national policy frameworks. This has had indirect and direct impacts upon implementation. For instance, since many countries have experienced difficulties in preparing policy documents related to EU4Climate due to changes in priorities with regard to the pandemic.
- *Political and human rights crisis in Belarus.* Since August 2020 Belarus has experienced political and human rights crisis. Although the project has continued to operate in the country, the strained relations between the EU and the Belarusian authorities negatively impacted upon the implementation of the project at the national level. Belarusian authorities have unilaterally suspended Belarus’s participation in the Eastern Partnership. The EU continues to cooperate on a limited number of issues, including climate. However, the authorities’ withdrawal from the Eastern Partnership initiative – as the umbrella under which this project is formulated, articulated, and framed – could indeed have an impact on its implementation and upon the sustainability of its outputs and outcomes.
- *Armenia – Azerbaijan Conflict.* The escalation of the Armenia – Azerbaijan territorial conflict which escalated from onward 2020 has also had hindering impacts upon project implementation. This has in turn affected the interactions between all of the countries when they take place within the project, as well as eroded the bilateral relation between these two countries within EU4Climate’s framework.
- *Recurring institutional reforms and frequent shifts in personnel in national governments.* All of the governments in the six countries involved experience (perhaps to a lesser or greater

- extent) administrative reforms and frequent shifts in line ministries dealing with climate change. This hinders institutional capacity and absorption capacity in the relevant government areas. Frequently this is accompanied by reducing the number of staff that deal with climate change in the already understaffed line ministries. In turn, this implies that at the country level, national coordinators, country offices, EUDs, and other associated partners need to “re-start” building relations with new staff and recover institutional memory vis-à-vis EU4Climate.
- *Scarce engagement with several institutional sectors within the six countries.* Although understandably the focal point of the project needs to be the area of government that directly deals with climate change (such as environment ministries) the country level activities frequently do not fully and deeply engage with other institutions or ministries within government that are crucial for climate change. As seen, for instance in the country profiles, there are key sectors (such as energy) that are dominant with regard to their GHG emission shares, they are not observed to be key players in the several of the activities, products or process the projects engages with at the national level. The same is the same with subnational governments and other non – state actors (such as the private sector including industry and the financial sector). Again, although this is true across the board, it is reflected to a greater or lesser degree in the different countries. From the donor and from the implementing partner’s point of view, since this is a policy project oriented towards national policies, it might appear that engaging with other partners such as the private sector or sub national governments is not necessary, but the countries themselves indicate that without this participation grounding of policies will not only be difficult but at times unattainable.
 - Time-consuming procedures, in particular as they relate to procurement and operational links between regional and national UNDP offices. Both at the governmental levels and within UNDP, there have a series of administrative and organisational issues that have hindered swift procurement and hiring. Although it is understood that many of these procedures are in place for quality assurance and to instil transparency, they are nonetheless convoluted. Furthermore, there are coordination issues that have been captured by this assessment, principally coordination between IRH and country offices in matters such as procurement, contracting, definition of procedures and bidding processes aligned with commitments, as well as streamlining decision – making processes regarding consultants and companies that would receive grant/award. At times partners have also found that procurement does not follow letters of agreement, and the need to re-establish or renegotiate these terms for procurement slows down these processes. Furthermore, coordination between and the country offices is not as fluid as desirable for a project that has national components, coordination components between the six countries, as well as a regional component. Although within the project there is a very good level of coordination, which include weekly coordination calls among UNDP IRH and National Coordinators and regular calls with the partner organizations (EAA, Energy Community) are also conducted with the participation of the National Coordinators, the above issue is more at the operational level, not at the internal project coordination level.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships of different sorts are a strong element in this project. Not only is the intervention based on articulating eastern European countries' partnerships with the EU, it also has a solid intention of fostering horizontal relations and exchanges amongst the countries involved (this being the main aim of the regional component of EU4Climate). Moreover, it links with other similar endeavours, in particular those also funded by the EU within the Eastern Partnership umbrella.

EU's EaP initiative, as its name indicates, is a partnership idea as its name clearly indicates. Therefore, there is no doubt that a project that derives from this should and does seek partnerships.

The link with similar interventions with other EU-led and funded initiatives in the Eastern Partnership region (for example with EU4Environment, EU4Energy, Covenant of Mayors East (CoM East)) has been realised to some degree. EU4Climate invites some of these initiatives to their events (unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic movement restrictions most of these have been online, and therefore –as it has been pointed out—interaction is not as forceful as before the pandemic). Although several of these initiatives are at different stages of implementation (some are entering a second stage, some are beginning to be implemented) they are still mutually supportive. Several of them have found the EU4Climate it's a key resource for entry or knowledge base for their work in the six target countries. They have also expressed that working with EU4Climate has been agreeable and straightforward.

There is also room for continuing exchanges among the different initiatives in order for them to be synergistic. Although of course each one has its own niche of work, they have some conceptual overlaps (for instance working in energy, or working in environment in a holistic manner) and due to this often they have the same partners at the country level. In a similar vein, the project has partnered with other EU or other Western European based institutions (such as European Environmental Agency or the Environment Agency of Austria and the Energy Community Secretariat) either because they host a particular EU4 project and there are direct synergies and coherence, or because they link with EU4Climate for delivery of assistance or technical backstopping to the countries involved in this project.

EU4Climate's regional component is also very much a partnership element. The aims of the regional activities broadly deal with regional cooperation, learning, knowledge exchanges and policy dialogue between the six beneficiary countries, as well as between these countries and the EU. The architecture of the project regional element vis-a-vis national-level components is again complex (which leads to some partners not truly understanding how these work among themselves). Yet, the project promotes regional/sub-regional/bilateral exchanges and dialogues as part of each of the proposed seven thematic priority areas.¹⁶ Therefore, since the regional component is not as visible as a distinct element, imbedding partnerships is perhaps not easily understood. The sectoral partnership approach has also been affected by political unrest with several of the six countries, as well as due to COVID-19. The planned and the tacit expectations of exchanges and partnerships (through in person modality and study trips) has greatly been affected by the restrictions of the pandemic and by the lack of adaptation to online / virtual modality now present for all if not most partnership – related processes. Therefore, although this element is strong in the configuration of the project, it can certainly be strengthened in the future.

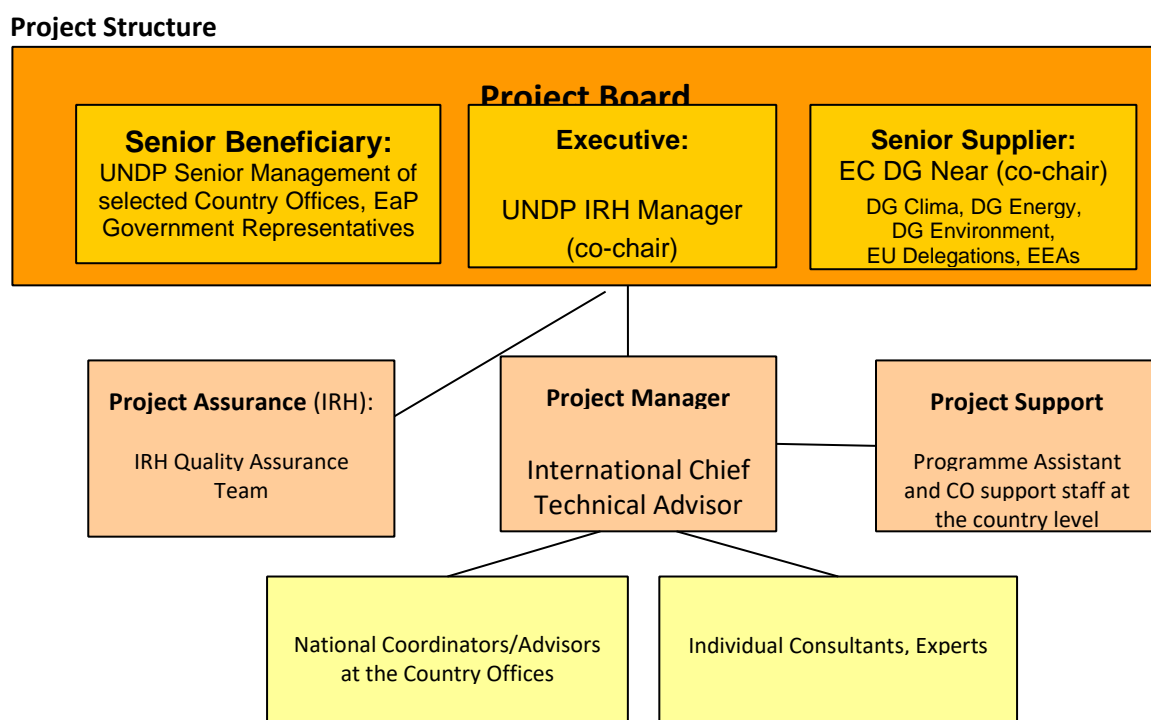
¹⁶ These being: NDCs, LEDS, MRVs, alignment with EU acquis and Energy Community Treaty, mainstreaming climate action in a sectoral manner, climate investment, and adaptation planning

EFFICIENCY

Efficiency is the extent to which an intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way. For this, economic is defined as the conversion of inputs (funds, expertise, natural resources, time, etc.) into outputs, outcomes and impacts, in the most cost-effective way possible, as compared to feasible alternatives in the context. This criterion also includes operational efficiency.¹⁷

The project has a management structure outlined in the Project Document. The following diagram illustrates how this multi – layered and multi – country management arrangements are to be set up. This set – up is properly suitable vis-a-vis the multi-stakeholder, regional, and six country – level management needs that EU4Climate has.

FIGURE 12: PROJECT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



The project management structure as outlined in the Project Document has been acceptably efficient in obtaining results (as seen in detail in the effectiveness section). The combined expertise of the project team is adequate to deliver against the project objectives and targets. The Project Management Unit (PMU) is hosted by the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub. It is supported by different advisors and with assistance (technical and operational).

Management has faced some challenges which –in turn–delayed start up and deferred early implementation of planned products. For instance, in Belarus, the intervention was registered in July 2020, a year and a half after the launch of the overall project. In Ukraine there was delayed set – up in

¹⁷ OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation. *Better Criteria for Better Evaluation. Revised Evaluation Criteria Definitions and Principles for Use*. February 2020.

part due to the UNDP's Country Office re – organization in Kyiv as well as the national focal point restructuring due to changes in government. In the case of Ukraine delay in set up has also been associated to the fact that financial allocations, in particular to cover the costs for national coordinator salary has not been altogether properly set up nor altogether realistic. This has also been the case in Georgia where salary allocations were not sufficient to retain the type of personnel sought for the project coordination and thematic expert position. Although these matters have been adaptively managed and resolved as much as possible, it must be acknowledged that these issues have caused delays. Procurement and contracting delays have also impacted negatively upon the swiftness needed to implement the project. Lastly, regarding the relation between budgeting and effectiveness, it has been indicated that the management structures in some countries lack adequate earmarking for some matters such as overhead, communications, and the like.

The project has a board/steering committee with clearly delineated duties and roles to ensure overall governance. Governance of the project is ensured through the Project Board / Steering Committee. The key distinct roles of the members of the Steering Committee are identified in the outline below:

- Executive: individual representing the project ownership to chair the group (UNDP IRH Manager).
- Senior Supplier: individual or group representing the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project, providing guidance regarding technical feasibility of the project. EC DG Near is the Senior Supplier and will co-chair the group.
- Senior Beneficiary: individual or group of individuals representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project ensuring realization of project results from the project's beneficiaries perspective. Representatives of the focal ministries and Senior Management of UNDP Country Offices perform as Senior Beneficiary.

The Steering Committee is comprised by representatives of the following institutions, and at times :

- EC DG NEAR (co-chair), DG Clima, DG Energy, DG Environment, EU Delegations
- EEAS
- UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub (co-chair), UNDP Country Offices in EaP countries
- EaP countries (beneficiaries of the project, representatives of the relevant ministries).

The Steering Committee duties are varied, endeavouring to provide leadership and guidance, as well as to review implementation and issues related to implementation that may arise. The Committee has met periodically; since the COVID-19 pandemic it has met virtually.

In different meetings, the Steering Committee has proven to be functional and in many ways has been proactive in rectifying some issues that were causing bottle necks or issues in implementation. For instance, many stakeholders have pointed out that the project does not have much flexibility, since it has to follow strict institutional rules and firmly adhere to design. Several stakeholders have pointed out the Committee has proactively stepped in to steer implementation to be more effective and more relevant in several cases. For instance, in accommodating the individual countries needs and requests for assistance since these, evidently, change over time. Through the Steering Committee decisions these have accommodated as possible. Also, budget re – assignment has been carried out through the guidance of the Steering Committee when, as seen above, this needed to be done in order to either cover

expenditures which were not properly spelled out at design or to reflect other changes. The annual work plan is formally approved by the donor (i.e. the European Commission (DG NEAR) taking into account the Steering Committee’s discussions and decisions.

The project’s financial comprehensive information as well as expenditures is presented in the figures below. EU4Climate carries – out full annual reporting on financing and itemized expenditures.

FIGURE 13: GENERAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF EU4CLIMATE

Project budget at design	EUR 8 800 000 / USD 10 302 160¹⁸
EU Financing	EUR 8 000 000 / USD 9 365 600
UNDP Co-financing	EUR 800 000 / USD 936 560
Project expenditure at the time of evaluation (as of November 1 2021)	3 646 499 USD

FIGURE 14: PROJECT FINANCIAL INFORMATION ON A YEARLY EXPENDITURE BASIS IN USD

	EU	UNDP	
2019 Year	798,604	-	798,604
2020 Year	1,396,226	19,610	1,415,836
2021 Year As Of 01.11.2021	1,432,057	Not available at the time of MTR	1,432,057
Total	3,626,889	19,610	3,646,499

The project spending up to the time of the evaluation is 3,646,499 USD which represents only a 35 percent of total budget. Since this project is planned as a four – year intervention, and approximately 75 percent of time planned for implementation has taken place, it can be seen that it has a large delivery gap vis-à-vis financial conveyance. Evidently, since the project is programmed to run about 12 more months after this review, from a financial management point of view it will need to speed up delivery and seek an extension to fully complete implementation.

The project reports at the operational level. Annually (in 2019 and 2020 thus far) the project has implemented annual reports that detail implementation progress and visibility activities, in addition to financial reporting. Annually country profiles are developed as part of the reporting and monitoring exercise. These profiles are further included in the reporting package and uploaded to the EU4Climate dedicated webpage. These are very good profiles that provide information on the issues at the country level as well as updated information on key results achieved in each individual nation and what are the

¹⁸ Using exchange rates of January 2019.

expected future activities within project framework.¹⁹ The project also generates four quarterly updates reports per year. This midterm review was planned to take place in 2020, but due to delay start – up and adjusting to COVID-19 related issues, it has been delayed for a year. All of these documents and processes are part of the monitoring and evaluation strategy which is being implemented fairly much as planned.

The European Union has also applied its own monitoring and evaluation processes. The main output of these is the EU mandated Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM). This exercise took place in 2020 when the project was completing start up (while in some countries it had barely began operations) and had not engendered many products as of yet. Although the analysis was certainly valid at the time, there have been a large number of achievements and processes fostered since then as seen in the section on effectiveness. Therefore, many of its observations about implementation are outdated.

COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

EU4Climate has a communication and visibility plan developed within the Project Document. It clearly lays out what the purpose of this plan is. That is, its intent is to assure effective and efficient communication about the results and objectives of the EU4Climate project to all target groups, including beneficiaries, partners and key national stakeholders and the general public in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine as well as key regional and international development practitioners. This plan further guides how this process will take place throughout implementation.

The communication and visibility plan has been developed in line with the Joint Action Plan on Visibility and Joint Visibility Guidelines for EC-UN actions in the field, given that the EU is the donor. EU visibility guidelines have been respected in all the documents, profiles, communication procedures, webpage, etc., developed by and for EU4Climate, publicising that these have received funding from the EU.

The communication and visibility process is strategic, since (again abiding by the Joint Action Plan, the project's own communication strategy, and other guidance) it not only promotes dissemination of information regarding objectives and results of the project, but it also prompts communication on the importance of climate action and the impact on society, attempting to increase awareness raising. Communication and dissemination efforts further also internal communication, and communication between and among the different partners, the donor, the countries, and within UNDP.

In line with the plans for communication and visibility, the project engages – consequently -- in a number of internal and external communication activities. This is mainly done by a very user friendly dedicated website (www.eu4climate.eu). In it a great deal of information is uploaded. This includes general information about EU4Climate; newsletters, country profiles and country – specific project information for all the six nations involved, reports, as well as media – related communications (such as press releases, videos, photos, etc.). This not only provides and disseminates information but it also generates transparency and fosters regional and bilateral exchanges between and among the countries involved and associated partners. The project tallies traffic to the website. Since the website was launched it has received 38613 visits by 15613 visitors. This indicates a large tracking record since this information is only for one year of website presence since the www.eu4climate.eu webpage went online on September 2020. Given the usefulness of this dedicated webpage and the information and knowledge management products it contains, stakeholders have indicated that it will be desirable to begin planning for this instrument to continue after closure.

¹⁹ <https://eu4climate.eu/armenia/> <https://eu4climate.eu/azerbaijan/> <https://eu4climate.eu/belarus/>
<https://eu4climate.eu/georgia/> <https://eu4climate.eu/moldova/> <https://eu4climate.eu/ukraine/>

Dissemination and communications, furthermore, takes place through UNDP, EU, and other partners, mainly through internet. The partner institutions communication tools (such as those of other EU4 projects, EU Neighbours web, EUD and UNDP websites, social media, etc) further disseminate information. EU4Climate has been featured as a key project within dissemination processes dealing with UNDP experience on NDC implementation and readiness, as indicated in the UNDP Climate Promise and at the UN Climate Action Summit.

Dissemination, communication, and visibility also takes place at the national level in the six countries involved. This is key since these processes tend to cater more to a national audience and local target groups and fulfils national – level information needs. Some examples of national – level visibility/dissemination/communication activities as conveyed in the latest reporting exercise (third quarter update report for 2021 that covered activities from July 1 to 30 September) are the following:

- EU4Climate Armenia: Award Ceremony of Youth Video Contest.
- EU4Climate Azerbaijan: relaunching DIY (Do It Yourself) contest for upcycling product and EU Mobility Week participation.
- EU4Climate Belarus: Events within Energy Day and EU Green Deal, awareness raising on Paris Agreement, circular economy, waste management.
- EU4Climate Georgia: Public outreach campaign, training guide for conducting capacity building events for journalists; Climate Communication Strategy and Awareness Raising Action Plan.
- EU4Climate Ukraine: Outreach and media events with journalist regarding country’s NDC; National Cycling Strategy was presented within the EU Sustainable Mobility Week.

The project has also provided inputs to international events, which have given it a degree of visibility in those fora. For instance, COP26 in November 2021, World Environment Day actions in June 2020, COP25 in December 2019. Furthermore, some of the achievements have also been highlighted in corporate highly visible processes, such as in UNDP’s Climate Promise Progress Report of April 2021. Some of the project achievements are covered also by mass media within several of the countries which are part of this initiative.

In general therefore, internal and external communication with stakeholders is regular and effective. Proper means of communication are established to express project progress and intended effects/impacts at various levels (international and regional institutions, national governments, civil society) while implementing appropriate communication tools and ensuring donors’ visibility.

SUSTAINABILITY

A project’s sustainability is understood to be the extent to which the net benefits of an intervention continue, or are likely to continue once an intervention has ended. EU4Climate has a formal sustainability approach given that it intends to foster benefits through imbedding its outputs in existing national policies as well as by explicitly building and generating in – country capacity to deal with climate mitigation and adaptation.

Specifically, the project has been designed to be country-driven and country-owned, with technical and institutional capacities developed or enhanced. As indicated in planning documents, national ownership is considered instrumental for sustaining enhanced capacities within beneficiary governments and other national partners. The foci of EU4Climate do directly and indirectly link to

sustainability, such as fostering national normative and planning instruments as well as increased mobilization of climate finance to scale up and sustain mitigation actions that support zero-carbon development, as well as adaptation planning. This is linked to institutional strengthening at national levels coupled with mainstreaming of climate policies and planning into national development policies and frameworks and improved access to climate finance.

The outcomes and outputs have the most likelihood of sustainability and are being adopted by partners are those tools and methodologies that improve the six individual countries capacities (institutional, individual, technical) to implement national commitments regarding the Paris Agreement as well as those generate the commitments and alignments stemming from their agreements with the EU (acquis, energy community, etc.). All of these, evidently, are very much contingent upon the extent of capacity, willingness, and overall policy framework that the six countries' national partners have in place to sustain the outcome-level results.

The impact of COVID-19 upon project's sustainability at the country level is, at this point, a conjecture exercise. This would have to be valued according to what can be accomplished and how this problem unfolds in the near future. This review was posed with the question as to what is the possible impact of COVID-19 on project's sustainability. Certainly, at this point it is not a straightforward task to determine this and it is beyond what can be requested as a reasonable task for a project's midterm review given the shifting nature of the pandemic thus far. What is certain is that the project will need to provide an extra impetus to make up for time and opportunities lost due to the pandemic and its delays, to adapt online methodologies to be more effective, and to adapt to the subsequent situations, and insert itself in the "build-back better" dialogues that are ensuing within the international arena and how these relate to climate change.

Climate change policy (both mitigation and adaptation policies) are not a passing idea within the EaP framework. In the coming years it is expressed by regional communications that, building on the Partnership's key achievements, and recognising that strengthening resilience is an overriding policy framework, the partner countries will work together on long-term Eastern Partnership policy objectives beyond 2020. One of these objectives is to work together towards environmental and climate resilience. Looking at the future for integration, the partner countries express that this would entail "increased trade and further regional and bilateral integration of the economies of partner countries and the EU, together with cooperation for progressive decarbonisation towards climate neutrality" and, furthermore, "to transform the region into fair and prosperous societies, with modern, resource-efficient, clean, circular and competitive economies, while increasing their environmental and climate resilience". Therefore, the aspirational process for sustainability are clearly expressed by the partners.

CONCLUSIONS

The approximate midpoint in implementation of this project is a suitable time to take stock on what the EU4Climate has accomplished thus far and what also what its issues have been in terms of design and implementation. The conclusions section is organized by the four evaluation questions presented to this review as follows.

- What did EU4Climate intend to achieve during the period under review?

The EU4Climate Project intends to help governments in the six EU Eastern Partner countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - to take action against climate change. This is to be done by supporting each individual country in the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and improving climate policies and legislation. Furthermore, within the above context, the project intends to aid the countries to develop their climate policies to enhance and advance alignment with EU acquis as provided by bilateral agreements with EU and in the context of the Energy Community Treaty. For this, the project overall intends to enhance capacity (institutional mainly) to develop, enhance and implement a number of policies, instruments, tools, plans and strategies to deal with climate issues at the national level.

- To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended objectives at the output level, and what contribution has it made at the outcome level?

The project has achieved a number of its intended outputs and is on track to achieving the rest, with an extension. This is the case even with delays, under delivery, and a number of factors and issues that will be explored below. These outputs are certainly contributing, directly and indirectly, to fostering achievements at the outcome level. As stakeholders have overtly expressed, without this technical support the countries would not be able to develop and improve the climate related processes that they are embarked upon. The project has also achieved several processes that are key to successes. For instance, documents that were produced with the technical support of the project are now engendering effects by nourishing the policy development processes in the countries involved.

- What factors contributed to or hindered the project's performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?

There are a number of contributing factors to achievements thus far, which clearly emerge as inputs for intended achievements at the output and, ultimately, at the outcome levels. The targeted technical support EU4Climate provides and leverages is much valued at the different country – levels and this greatly contributes to achievements. This is accompanied by explicit and implicit capacity building, at the institutional and at the individual level that is taking place within implementation. Other, not as overt or as clearly included in planning and implementation documents, but crucial regarding not only implementation but also drive-ness, buy in and relevance, is the recognition of each individual country needs and country autonomy and sovereignty in developing the products as well as in implementing the potential processes that are arising or will arise out of this project. Perhaps the most impelling driver that is a contributing factor for the adoption and work on climate change policies is the help in fulfilling each individual nations' international obligations, particularly EU Association and Partnership Agreements.

There are also a series of issues which are hindering factors for project's performance. One of the main hampering factor is no doubt the COVID-19 pandemic, both due to circulation restrictions imposed

and the shift in countries' priorities to more pressing matters as a result of the health and socio-economic impact that this issue is having. Political conflicts between or within the Eastern Partnership countries have also obstructed or impeded several implementation procedures. Although it might seem contradictory, the very crucial reason for the implementation of a project such as this, which is weak capacity in countries to deal with climate change holistic policies, is also a hindering factor given the weaknesses (institutional as well as individual) in fostering, designing, and applying policy in climate change. Lastly operational matters have also sustained in delivery and implementation slow down, beginning with slow start-up and inception process and continuing to bureaucratic procedures that delay delivery

- What needs to be done in the remaining project lifetime to ensure achievement of the objectives, which were not achieved or were partially achieved during the review period?

In order to ensure achievement of the objectives in the remaining project lifetime as well as to reinforce what has already been attained, there is a series of activities and processes that can be implemented. Some are operational in nature while others are functional. In the first place, due to delays and under spending, EU4Climate needs to seek an extension from the donor in order to properly delivery according to what has been planned in financial and in outputs/outcomes terms. Also, if at all possible, delivery should be sped up via the improvement of procedures that are operationally slowing down implementation. Furthermore, the extension and concluding implementation can benefit the impelling of some processes which are either in progress or were not contemplated at design. For instance, involving other key actors in the processes ensuing from EU4Climate (such as the private sector, finance institutions, sub national governments); and include demonstration or pilots activities to generate buy in as an ultimate goal. Concentrate the work in the next stage on the design, adoption and implementation of concrete instruments and policies that implement the technical products already delivered or being delivered. Online and virtual modalities could be also improved so that they meet stakeholders' expectations. Lastly, and an important element that underlies all processes being implemented, the project should not lose sight that all of its activities and processes need to promote sustained capacity building.

The EU4Climate has attained a number of achievements in a context that was not altogether favourable in many ways. The project has the opportunity in its concluding stages to correct course where necessary and to reinforce what has occurred positively in the last three years.

LESSONS LEARNED

- A project should be fully designed when it starts implementation. This implies having in place, for instance, the appropriate metrics to measure progress and achievements (i.e., baseline and target output and outcome indicators) and the appropriate planning documents at all levels (including country – level when the project is regional as well as national in scope).
- Planning of project’s activities and processes cannot be underestimated. Proper planning allows for a project to start when it is intended too without misusing the initial part of a project for planning, and for it to start operations as soon as approved. This helps in avoiding delays since a project will begin running as soon as its implementation starts and will not use its start-up period in inception/design processes
- Financial architecture needs to be robust, and in multi country plus regional projects such as this, there should be strong financial allocations made at planning for a project to be fully operational at all levels. This should include proper earmarking for staff and country operations and also include appropriate planned allocations for communications, overhead, managerial costs and all other similar expenses. Although these allocations might be present in project budget planning, there should be flexibility (keeping up with transparency) to adjust these planned allocations when they are proven to be unfitting once implementation begins.
- Although it is understood that projects such as this are highly scripted from design onward, an element of flexibility needs to be imbedded to be able to respond quickly to ad-hoc or not contemplated country needs, changes that occur due to externalities, adapt general planning to in-country characteristics, as well as to swiftly respond to changing needs.
- Projects need to have demonstration and piloting components (even policy oriented projects) to enhance evidence of positiveness of changes and of policies, as well as to engender ownership and country drive-ness and buy in through these.
- Future projects need to have at design all the components that a particular intervention needs to have to be successful, equitable and sustainable. Therefore, issues such as gender-equality, demonstration pilots, engagement with other actors besides traditional ones that engage in climate change through multi – stakeholder platforms, and the like, are generally only imbedded in implementation if these are properly inserted at design.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations contained in this document are linked to the findings in this report. They are directed to the users of this report to provide support for the actions to take or decisions to make regarding the concluding period of the EU4Climate project.

- Begin to generate the necessary documents to request an extension based on the acknowledgment of reasons for delays and how this no-cost extension will help project fulfil its objectives, transition to implementation of tools, and expand to involve further key actors in project implementation. Present this request to the donor with sufficient time to allow for any decision making processes that need to be carried out.
- Promote the engagement at the country level with other stakeholders at all levels and at all stages, such as other line ministries besides environment (for instance, with energy ministries,

- ministries that deal with finance/economy and budgeting, as well as those institutions within governments that deal with industry or agriculture, as relevant within each country's climate change field) relying on inter-agency coordination on climate change if it exists within the countries involved. Involve sub national administrative divisions within the project. In line with this, the engagement with the private sector, in particular large companies, as well as financial and investment institutions needs to be promoted.
- Since this project is in its very nature a capacity building exercise, utmost care needs to be taken to reinforce this element as much as possible or to correct if need be. International technical advice or expertise needs to promote endogenous learning and in-country capabilities by linking properly and actively with national counterparts. Capacity building needs to be supported by the understanding the differences between individual and institutional capacities. For the latter, i.e. institutional capacity building, the activities and processes need to be allocated attending to institutions internal structure, policies, financing and procedures that determine effectiveness and sustainability at the institutional level.
 - Improve coordination between IRH and country offices in issues such as procurement, planning, contracting, better defining procedures and bidding processes aligned with commitments, as well as streamlining decision – making processes regarding consultants and companies that would receive grant/award.
 - Speed up by various means (including those above) delivery in order to increase implementation momentum. Accelerate contracting also by bundling procurement as possible and generate more ambitious work plans in the coming year in order to hasten processes and fill the underspending gap.
 - Streamline reporting processes (in particular financial reporting) in order to accommodate the diverse actors involved in providing support and services for this project.
 - Steer future work in the concluding stages of this project towards designing, adopting and implementation of tools and mechanisms being considered, such as plans and norms, while helping countries recognize and set up the instruments that need to unfold in order to move forth in implementation, zeroing into key sectors that would benefit the countries at multiple levels (setting up instruments to generate the level playing field context needed to improve prospects of EU acquis and energy accord mechanisms, align with the international agenda regarding climate change, as well as –where relevant– implement adaptation mechanisms to improve resilience to climate change negative impacts).
 - Generate or increase mechanisms of mutual collaboration between and among other similar projects and initiatives (such as the other European Partnership projects being funded by the EU or other climate change projects at the national level in the six countries involved in EU4Climate). This mutual cooperation should be enhanced seeking to learn from each other and enrich the already present synergies. With the understanding that the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions will continue for the time being, reform the modalities of engagement (virtual, webinars, etc.) to be engage the different stakeholders more meaningfully than just by attending these events. Online and at-a-distance training and capacity-building modalities, even consultancies, need to be designed in such a way that these are dynamic and consider the different pedagogical / strategic formats, different scripts for online or self – learning

modalities as well as other relevant characteristics for virtual capacity activities. Seek advice and relevant expertise in order to make these activities more proactive, include feedback, and to promote better engagement. Move towards hybrid modalities if possible in order to also promote participation and effectiveness of these sorts of modalities. When online modalities are intended to promote exchanges (regional, bilateral, etc.) more formal networking or different modes of engagement should be sought and promoted among the country-level participants.

- Insert the processes and products originating from this project into national level post COVID-19 socio – economic recovery plans so that they include climate change. Including also the broad lines of action in climate change that are originating from this project into individual countries' post-COVID recovery measures by linking short-term recovery to medium and long-term development strategies.
- If work planning allows, incorporate pilot and demonstration activities within the current scope of EU4Climate as relevant in different countries.
- Seek ways in which the information and knowledge management products that EU4Climate has generated are not lost after project closure. Pursue having this information in open user friendly depositories in order for this information and knowledge be available in the future.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Project name:	EU4Climate
Post title:	International Consultant for the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of full-sized EU-UNDP project
Type of contract:	Individual Contract (IC)
Assignment type:	International Consultant
Country / Duty Station:	Home Based
Languages required:	English
Starting date of assignment:	estimated 15 September 2021
Duration of Assignment:	3 months (app. 40 working days)
Payment arrangements:	Lump-sum contract (payments linked to satisfactory performance and delivery of results)
Administrative arrangements:	The contractor will have to arrange his/her workplace, logistics and equipment. In case of unforeseen travel, UNDP IRH will arrange the Consultant's travel according to UNDP's procedures.
Evaluation method:	Desk review with interview

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

This is the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the 'EU4Climate' project implemented by UNDP and funded by EU; Project number 00115652; implemented through the UNDP Direct Implementation Modality in the six EU Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine²⁰. The project's budget is EUR 8,800,000; including EUR 8,000,000 contribution by the EU and EUR 800,000 cofinance by UNDP. The MTR is to be undertaken over a three months period in 2021. The project started on 14 December 2018 and is in its third year of implementation. This ToR sets out the expectations for this MTR.

The EU4Climate Project helps governments in the six EU Eastern Partner countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - to take action against climate change. It supports countries in implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and improving climate policies and legislation. Its ambition is to limit climate change impact on citizens lives and make them more resilient to it. EU4Climate is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The objective of the project is to support the development and implementation of climate-related policies by the Eastern Partnership countries that contribute to their low emission and climate resilient development and their commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It identifies key actions and results in line with the Paris Agreement, the "20 Deliverables for 2020", and the key global policy goals set by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project will also translate into action

²⁰ A detailed description of the project and its key stakeholders is provided in the project's Description of the Action, and will be provided to the Consultant upon signing the service agreement with UNDP

priorities outlined in the Eastern Partnership Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change of October 2016.

The following results are expected to be achieved by the project: (i) Finalized/up-dated nationally determined contributions and national mid-century strategies and communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), (ii) Improved inter-institutional awareness and coordination at political and technical level of the Paris Agreement and the corresponding national commitments, (iii) Established or strengthened measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems, with countries getting on track with Paris Agreement transparency requirements, (iv) Establishment of concrete sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement in each of the Eastern Partners, especially in the field of energy (v) Advanced alignment with EU acquis as provided by bilateral agreements with EU and in the context of the Energy Community Treaty, (vi) Increased mobilization of climate finance, and (vii) Enhanced adaptation planning. The project was designed to operate on both regional and country level; the fact that it was designed to promote ownership and promote learning, knowledge, dialogue with a view to maximise capacity building effect; importance of coordination and synergies with a view to leverage partnerships. See also the project's logical framework in Annex 1. A result-oriented monitoring (ROM) has been conducted for EU4Climate in 2020; the results of ROM are to be taken into account during the MTR.

2. EVALUATION PURPOSE, SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the MTR is to assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document and assess signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results, taking into account problems and opportunities. Virtual visits are expected to be undertaken by the consultant to all six countries participating in the project (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine). The virtual visits shall include videoconference discussion with the project's key stakeholders: representatives of the focal ministries in each of the countries, EU Delegation representatives, project staff.

The scope of the MTR includes the entirety of EU4Climate activities covering from 2019 to date. By reviewing the Logical Framework indicators against progress made towards the project outputs targets, using a Results Matrix with color code progress in a "traffic light system" based on the level of progress achieved, the MTR consultant assigns a rating on progress for the project objective and each outcome and makes recommendations from the areas marked as "not on target to be achieved" (red)²¹. The MTR will also examine the contribution of EU4Climate toward cross-cutting issues, e.g., gender equality and capacity development of the host countries' governments. The MTR should be forward-looking by drawing lessons from the last years' project implementation and propose recommendations for the coming years.

3. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND KEY GUIDING QUESTIONS

The MTR will answer these broad questions as follows:

1) What did EU4Climate intend to achieve during the period under review?

²¹ Evaluation matrix sample is provided under Annex 3

- 2) To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended objectives at the output level, and what contribution has it made at the outcome level?
- 3) What factors contributed to or hindered the project's performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?
- 4) What needs to be done in the remaining project lifetime to ensure achievement of the objectives, which were not achieved or were partially achieved during the review period.

In addition to the above questions, the MTR is expected to produce answers surrounding the evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. Below are guiding questions and areas for review:

Relevance

- To what extent has the project responded to the priorities and the needs of target beneficiaries as defined in the project document?
- Has the project been able to effectively adapt its areas of work to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in projects' implementation countries?
- Review the Theory of Change of the project if relevant.
- Review how the project addresses country priorities and if it is aligned with the national development, and UNDP Regional Programme for Europe and the CIS.
- Review the functionality of project governance structure, i.e. the steering committee.
- Undertake a critical analysis of the project's Logical framework indicators and targets, baseline data, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timebound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary.

Effectiveness

- By reviewing the results and resources framework, is the project on track to achieve intended results at the outcome and output levels? What are the key achievements and what factors contributed to the achievements or non-achievement of those results?
- In which areas does the project have the greatest achievements? Why and what have been the supporting factors? How can the project build on or expand these achievements?
- In which areas does the project have the least achievements? What have been the constraining factors and why? How can they or could they be overcome?
- To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to the needs of the national constituents and changing partner priorities?
- How the project has contributed to the partner governments' relevant policies / actions?
- Identify challenges encountered and remaining barriers to achieving the project objective.
- By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.

- Has the project been effective in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, both in terms of effective implementation of the planned actions, and in assisting the partner governments with readiness to post-COVID recovery?

Efficiency

- To what extent is the project management structure as outlined in the Project Document efficient in generating the expected results?
- Examine how the COVID 19 pandemic has contributed/could further contribute to additional delays and the risk of not achieving the project objectives and targets and propose measures to adapt to the situation.
- Assess whether the combined expertise of the project team is adequate to deliver against the project objectives and targets.
- Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they have been resolved.
- Review the changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions. Examine possible funding shortfalls and their likely impact.
- To what extent has there been an economical use of financial and human resources? Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve outcomes?
- Does the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for timely flow of funds?

Sustainability

- What outcomes and outputs have the most likelihood of sustainability and being adopted by partners and why?
- To what extent do national partners have the institutional capacities, including sustainability strategies, in place to sustain the outcome-level results?
- To what extent have national partners committed to providing continuing support (financial, staff, aspirational, etc.)?
- To what extent do partnerships exist with other national institutions, NGOs, United Nations agencies, the private sector and development partners to sustain the attained results?
- What is the possible impact of Covid-19 on project's sustainability?

Visibility

- Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? What feedback mechanisms are in place?
- Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence? Did the project implement appropriate communication tools?) and ensuring donors' visibility.

Gender equality:

- To what extent has gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the project?
- To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects?

4. METHODOLOGY

The MTR methodology will adhere to the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms & Standards. The MTR will be carried out by an independent consultant who will adopt an integrated approach involving a combination of data collection and analysis tools to generate concrete evidence to substantiate all findings. Evidence obtained and used to assess the results of project's support should be triangulated from a variety of sources, including verifiable data on indicator achievement, existing reports, evaluations and technical papers, stakeholder interviews, surveys and site visits where/when possible. It is expected that the evaluation methodology will comprise of the following elements:

- Review documents (Desk Review): the MTR consultant will conduct a desk review of all relevant sources of information i.e., the Project Document, progress reports, inception report, M&E Framework, roles and responsibilities, management arrangements, project budget revisions, internal M&E data, results of the Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM), legal documents and any other materials that the EU4Climate team considers useful for the evidence-based review.
- Interview with key stakeholders including videoconference meetings, online surveys interview et al, ensuring close engagement with the project's Steering Committee members (EC Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement; EC Directorate General for Climate Action; Ministry of Environment of Armenia; Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia; Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Moldova; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine); implementing partners (the Energy Community Secretariat, Environment Agency Austria), senior officials and national project coordinators, key experts and consultants in the subject area, project stakeholders, academia, CSOs, etc.
- Consultations with beneficiaries through interviews and/ or focus group discussions;
- Survey and/ or questionnaires where appropriate;
- Triangulation of information collected from different sources/methods to enhance the validity of the findings.

The evaluation is expected to use a variety of data sources, primary, secondary, qualitative, quantitative, etc. to be extracted through surveys, storytelling, focus group discussions, face to face interviews, participatory methods, desk reviews, etc. conducted with a variety of partners. A transparent and participatory multi stakeholder approach should be followed for data collection from government partners, civil society, private sector etc. Evidence will be provided for every claim generated by the evaluation and data will be triangulated to ensure validity. An evaluation matrix or other methods can be used to map the data and triangulate the available evidence.

Special note: Given the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic and the resultant restrictions may require many of the in-person missions/consultations and data gathering / activities to be carried out remotely using videoconferencing means.

In addition to reviewing the documents relating to EU4Climate project, the consultant should visit UNDP Independence Evaluation Office's website <http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/index.shtml> to be updated with UNDP's relevant information and documents required.

5. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Time frame for the evaluation process

The total duration of the MTR will be approximately 40 days over a period of three months with an estimated start date of 15 September 2021. Of this total of 40 days, a minimum of 10 working days, not including weekends, should be spent by the international consultant in teleconference meetings with the project stakeholders.

Exact deadlines for each activity of MTR will be determined at the time of contract issuance. The tentative MTR timeframe is as follows (estimated total number of days - 40):

- Timeframe: 15 August 2021; Activity: Application closes;
- Timeframe: 25 August 2021; Activity: Select and contract MTR Consultant;
- Timeframe: 1 September 2021; Activity: Distribution of all documents and reports to the MTR Consultant;
- Timeframe: September 2021 (4 working days); Activity: MTR Inception report and workplan prepared; debriefing to UNDP and key stakeholders regarding the inception report.
- Timeframe: 10 working days in September-October 2021; Activity: Videoconference interviews with the project stakeholders; shall be a minimum of 10 working days, not including weekends;
- Timeframe: 10 October 2021; Activity: Mission wrap-up meeting. Debriefing to UNDP summarizing with initial findings at the end of the MTR mission;
- Timeframe: Before 15 November 2021 (22 working days); Activity: Preparation and submission of the draft report by the international consultant;
- Timeframe: November 2021; Activity: Incorporating audit trail from feedback on draft report; Comments and changes by the evaluator in response to the draft report should be retained by the evaluator to show how they have addressed comments.
- Timeframe: Before the end of November 2021; Activity: Preparation & Issue of Management Response; UNDP IRH is responsible for the management response.
- Timeframe: Before the end of November 2021 (4 working days); Activity: Finalization of MTR report. Expected date of full MTR completion;

Activities:

- Activity: Preparation to the MTR: documents review and preparing MTR Inception Report; Tentative Timeframe: During the first week after signing a contract;
- Activity: 10 working days - stakeholder meetings in videoconference mode. Tentative Timeframe: Within three weeks of the commencement of the work (September 2021);
- Activity: Mission wrap-up meeting & preparation of initial findings; Tentative Timeframe: End of MTR videoconference mission (before the end of October 2021);
- Activity: Submission of the draft report; Tentative Timeframe: Within four weeks after end of MTR virtual mission, expected to be by the end of October 2021;
- Activity: Final Report; Tentative Timeframe: Within two weeks after receiving feedback from the counterparts on the draft report, expected to be by the end of November 2021.

The list of proposed stakeholders to interview should be provided in the Inception Report.

6. REPORTING AND DELIVERY OF OUTPUTS

Implementation arrangements

The principal responsibility for managing this MTR resides with the EU4Climate Project Manager. The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the MTR consultant to provide all relevant documents and set up stakeholder interviews.

The MTR is to be performed by an independent international consultant with experience and exposure to projects and evaluations in other regions globally will lead the MTR. The international consultant will be supported by project team. The international consultant cannot have participated in the project preparation, formulation, and/or implementation (including the writing of the Project Document) and should not have a conflict of interest with project's related activities.

Evaluation products (deliverables)

- Deliverable 1: MTR Inception Report. Description: the inception report will detail the evaluator's understanding of what is being evaluated and why, showing how each evaluation question will be answered by way of scope of the work and intended work plan of the analysis, proposed methodology and evaluation questions, proposed schedule of tasks, proposed data sources and data collection procedures, activities and deliverables. MTR consultant clarifies objectives and methods of Midterm Review; Timing: by 30 September 2021
- Deliverable 2: Draft Final Report. Description: Full report with annexes (see Annex 5. UNDP evaluation report template and quality standards; Timing: 30 October 2021;
- Deliverable 3: Final Report; Description: Revised report with audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final MTR report; Timing: 30 November 2021

Payments:

The international consultant will be paid in 3 instalments as follows:

- 10% of payment upon submission and acceptance by the Project Manager of the Deliverable 1. MTR Inception Report;
- 30% upon submission and acceptance by the Project Manager of the Deliverable 2. Draft MTR report
- 60% upon submission and acceptance by the Project Manager of the Deliverable 3. Final MTR report

Timing and travel: The Consultant will be engaged under the Individual Contract. The engagement will be app. 40 working days.

This is a home-based assignment without travel envisaged. In the case of unforeseeable travel, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between the respective business unit and International Consultant, prior to travel and will be reimbursed. In general, UNDP should not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the IC wish to travel on a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources. Approval of the IRH CDT Team Leader is required prior to planning of the trips and relevant logistics.

Reporting language:

Deliverables will be delivered in English.

7. EVALUATION ETHICS

This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The consultant must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The consultant must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses with the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

8. REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

Corporate Competencies:

- Demonstrates integrity by modeling the UN's values and ethical standards;
- Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of UNDP;
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability;
- Treats all people fairly without favoritism;
- Fulfills all obligations to gender sensitivity and zero tolerance for sexual harassment.

Functional Competencies:

- Competence in adaptive management;
- Knowledge of and work experience in the energy efficiency related water and agriculture projects, including those funded by the EU;
- Excellent training, facilitation and communication skills;
- Results driven, ability to work under pressure and to meet required deadlines;
- Good understanding and experience in the field of climate change policies.

Minimum requirements to qualifications and experience:

Education:

- Master's degree in Energy, Environment, Business Administration, Economics, Engineering or related field;

Experience:

- At least 10-year work experience and proven track record with policy advice and/or project development/implementation in climate change or energy efficiency in the developing/transition economies;
- Experience working with at least two project evaluations, including experience with SMART based indicators (Project evaluation/review experiences within United Nations system will be considered an asset);
- Experience working with international technical assistance projects in the EU Neighborhood countries region or EU accession candidate countries

Language requirements:

- English required; knowledge of Russian will be an asset.

6. EVALUATION OF APPLICANTS

Individual consultant will be evaluated based on a cumulative analysis **taking into consideration the combination of the applicants' qualifications and financial proposal.**

The award of the contract should be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- a) responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- b) Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical (CV/P11 desk reviews and interviews) and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

Only candidates who receive min 70% of points in desk review (Criteria A-E) will be considered for interviews. Only candidates who receive min 70% of points in technical evaluation (Criteria A-G) will be considered for the financial evaluation.

Technical Criteria - 70% of total evaluation – max. 70 points:

- Criteria A – (desk review) Advanced university degree in the fields related to Energy, Environment, Business Administration, Economics, Engineering – up to 5 points;
- Criteria B – (desk review) Experience working with the project evaluations within the past seven years including experience with SMART based indicators – up to 15 points;
- Criteria C – (desk review) Experience working with international technical assistance projects in the EU Neighborhood countries region – up to 10 points;
- Criteria D – (desk review) Methodology on the approach to conduct the work – up to 10 points;
- Criteria E – (desk review) At least two samples of the similar assignments delivered by the applicant – up to 10 points;
- Criteria F – (interviews) Experience working with the project evaluations – up to 20 points.

Financial Criteria - 30% of total evaluation – max. 30 points

Application procedure:

The application submission is a two-step process. Failing to comply with the submission process may result in disqualifying the applications.

Step 1: Interested candidates must include the following documents when submitting the applications (Please group all your documents into one (1) single PDF attachment as the system only allows upload of one document):

- Cover letter explaining why you are the most suitable candidate for the assignment
- Filled P11 form or CV including past experience in similar projects and contact details of referees (blank form can be downloaded from http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/dam/rbec/docs/P11_modified_for_SCs_and_ICs.doc);
- Brief methodology on how you will approach and conduct the work
- At least two samples of the similar assignments delivered by the applicant. The samples shall be developed no earlier than August 2011.
- **Financial Proposal*** - specifying a total lump sum amount for the tasks specified in this announcement. The financial proposal shall include a breakdown of this lump sum amount (number of anticipated working days, travel, per diems and any other possible costs).

Payments will be made only upon confirmation of UNDP on delivering on the contract obligations in a satisfactory manner.

Individual Consultants are responsible for ensuring they have vaccinations/inoculations when travelling to certain countries, as designated by the UN Medical Director. Consultants are also required to comply with the UN security directives set forth under dss.un.org

General Terms and conditions as well as other related documents can be found under: <http://on.undp.org/t7fJs>.

Qualified women and members of minorities are encouraged to apply.

Due to large number of applications we receive, we are able to inform only the successful candidates about the outcome or status of the selection process.

ANNEX 2: EVALUATION MATRIX

Relevant evaluation criteria / Key questions	Specific sub questions	Data sources	Data-collection methods/tools	Indicators/ success standard	Methods for data analysis
<p>Relevance:</p> <p>How is the project relevant vis-à-vis the main environment and development priorities at the national levels and with UNDP mandate for the region??</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To what extent has the project responded to the priorities and the needs of target beneficiaries as defined in the project document? ▪ Has the project been able to effectively adapt its areas of work to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in projects' implementation countries? ▪ Review the Theory of Change of the project if relevant. ▪ Review how the project addresses country priorities and if it is aligned with the national development, and UNDP Regional Programme for Europe and the CIS. ▪ Review the functionality of project governance structure, i.e. the steering committee. ▪ Undertake a critical analysis of the project's Logical framework indicators and targets, baseline data, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timebound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary. 	<p>Project document</p> <p>Other project planning documents</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p>	<p>Desk review of documents</p>	<p>Coherence of priorities and needs of countries with project design</p> <p>Alignment of national development priorities and with UNDP corporate mandates for Europe and the CIS region</p> <p>SMART analysis of indicators</p>	<p>Document analysis</p>

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Relevant evaluation criteria / Key questions	Specific sub questions	Data sources	Data-collection methods/tools	Indicators/ success standard	Methods for data analysis
<p>Effectiveness:</p> <p>To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By reviewing the results and resources framework, is the project on track to achieve intended results at the outcome and output levels? What are the key achievements and what factors contributed to the achievements or non-achievement of those results? ▪ In which areas does the project have the greatest achievements? Why and what have been the supporting factors? How can the project build on or expand these achievements? ▪ In which areas does the project have the least achievements? What have been the constraining factors and why? How can they or could they be overcome? ▪ To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to the needs of the national constituents and changing partner priorities? ▪ How the project has contributed to the partner governments' relevant policies / actions? ▪ Identify challenges encountered and remaining barriers to achieving the project objective. ▪ By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits. ▪ Has the project been effective in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, both in terms of effective implementation of the planned actions, and in assisting the partner governments with readiness to post-COVID recovery? 	<p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Interviews</p>	<p>Desk review of documents</p> <p>Individual semi-structured interview and/or focus group discussion</p>	<p>Key achievements</p> <p>Hindering factors for achievements</p> <p>Factors aiding achievements.</p> <p>Adaptation to pandemic- related modality of implementation and its limitations</p> <p>Assessment by key project stakeholders</p>	<p>Document analysis</p> <p>Quantitative analysis by using logical framework and related indicators as benchmarks to tally project progress in implementation.</p> <p>Qualitative analysis applied to the information harnessed by interviews using thematic analysis of responses</p> <p>Validation and triangulation</p>

Relevant evaluation criteria / Key questions	Specific sub questions	Data sources	Data-collection methods/tools	Indicators/ success standard	Methods for data analysis
<p>Efficiency :</p> <p>Was the project implemented efficiently, in-line with international and national norms and standards?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To what extent is the project management structure as outlined in the Project Document efficient in generating the expected results? ▪ Examine how the COVID 19 pandemics has contributed/could further contribute to additional delays and the risk of not achieving the project objectives and targets and propose measures to adapt to the situation. ▪ Assess whether the combined expertise of the project team is adequate to deliver against the project objectives and targets. ▪ Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they have been resolved. ▪ Review the changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions. Examine possible funding shortfalls and their likely impact. ▪ To what extent has there been an economical use of financial and human resources? Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve outcomes? ▪ Does the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for timely flow of funds? 	<p>Project Document</p> <p>Monitoring Reports</p> <p>Financial Reporting</p> <p>Auditing reports</p> <p>Stakeholder interviews</p>	<p>Desk review of documents</p> <p>Individual semi-structured interview and/or focus group discussion</p>	<p>Document content regarding governance structure reporting, minutes, etc.</p> <p>Content in donor reporting documents</p> <p>Adaptive management</p> <p>Content in financial and budget allocation documents</p> <p>Key stakeholder assessments</p> <p>Documented changes effected in the project document/ work plans/ management arrangements in response to challenges</p> <p>Project planning instruments allocate resources efficiently</p>	<p>Document analysis</p> <p>Quantitative analysis by using logical framework and related indicators as benchmarks to tally project progress in implementation.</p> <p>Qualitative analysis applied to the information harnessed by interviews using thematic analysis of responses</p> <p>Validation and triangulation</p>

Relevant evaluation criteria / Key questions	Specific sub questions	Data sources	Data-collection methods/tools	Indicators/ success standard	Methods for data analysis
<p>Sustainability:</p> <p>To what extent are there financial, institutional, social-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?</p>	<p>What outcomes and outputs have the most likelihood of sustainability and being adopted by partners and why?</p> <p>To what extent do national partners have institutional capacities, including sustainability strategies, in place sustain outcome results?</p> <p>To what extent have national partners committed to providing continuing support (financial, staff, aspirational, etc.)?</p> <p>To what extent do partnerships exist with other national institutions, NGOs, United Nations agencies, the private sector and development partners to sustain the attained results?</p> <p>What is the possible impact of Covid-19 on project's sustainability?</p>	Stakeholder interviews and focus group discussions	Individual semi-structured interview and/or focus group discussion	<p>Reporting by individual countries to international processes regarding CC</p> <p>Adoption of policies</p> <p>Financial planning</p>	Qualitative analysis applied to the information harnessed by interviews using thematic analysis of responses
<p>Visibility</p>	<p>Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? What feedback mechanisms are in place?</p> <p>Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence? Did the project implement appropriate communication tools?) and ensuring donors' visibility</p>	<p>Planning Documents</p> <p>Outreach and communication tools implemented</p>	<p>Desk review of documents</p> <p>Individual semi-structured interview and/or focus group discussion</p>	Communication outreach process/KM production	<p>Document analysis</p> <p>Qualitative analysis applied to the information harnessed by interviews using thematic analysis of responses</p>
<p>Gender Equality: How did the project contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment in particular and human rights in general?</p>	<p>To what extent has gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the project?</p> <p>To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects? Taking into account that this a project classified as GEN 1 with limited impact on gender issues.</p>	<p>Planning Documents</p> <p>Monitoring documents</p>	Desk review of documents	<p>Logical framework indicators/ Gender disaggregated data/indicators Gender analysis</p> <p>Including of gender equality issues in project documents (documents of design and implementation)</p> <p>Assessment by key project stakeholders</p>	<p>Document analysis</p> <p>Qualitative analysis applied to the information harnessed by interviews using thematic analysis of responses</p>

ANNEX 3: THEORY OF CHANGE²²

²² Source: Project Document

Development impact	SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts							
Outcome	SP Outcome 2. Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development RP Outcome 1. Accelerating structural transformations through more effective governance systems Output 1.1. Low-emissions and climate resilience objectives are integrated into development policies/plans through regional initiatives promoting economic diversification and green growth							
Results	NDC Implementation	Improved inter-institutional awareness and coordination	Established or strengthened MRV systems	Advanced alignment with EU acquis	Established sectoral guidelines	Increased mobilization of climate finance	Enhanced adaptation planning	
Activity Components	Implementation and update if necessary of NDCs to the Paris Agreement	Development of national mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (long-term LEDS)	Introduction of robust domestic emissions MRV frameworks and strengthening of the existing ones	Alignment with EU acquis included in bilateral agreements and Energy Community Treaty (when applicable)	Mainstreaming climate in other sectors, interinstitutional awareness (on policy and technical level) and sectoral guidelines for the implementation of Paris agreement	Climate investment	Adaptation planning, with special focus on adoption and when necessary development of adaptation plans (national and sectoral)	
Assumptions	Beneficiaries remain interested in, and available for, programme activities Decision-making by recipient authorities is overall timely and coherent Policy priorities do not suffer sudden and radical changes No project implementation delays							
Risks	Lack of full support during implementation despite alignment with needs identified by governments during the programming phase Changing policy priorities Lack of absorption capacity in beneficiary countries Lack of willingness/capability of ministries/government agencies to participate in the "holistic approach" needed to fight climate change Insufficient buy-in from the sectoral ministries Significant staff turnover in the national entities							

ANNEX 4: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact						
Project Goal: Enhanced resilient and low carbon development in the six EU Eastern Partnership countries	Levels of GHG emissions reported to UNFCCC ²³	Armenia (2016): 9,801.24 kt CO2e Azerbaijan (2013): 53,889 kt CO2e Belarus (2018): 91,992.61 kt CO2e Georgia (2017): 12,842 kt CO2e Moldova (2016): 13,658 kt CO2e Ukraine (2017): 310,300 kt CO2e	Six EaP countries are on track with the implementation of their NDCs and with their reporting commitments under the Paris Agreement	Note: Emissions levels for 2020 will be available in the national reporting in 2024-2027	National Communications to the UNFCCC; National reports on the implementation of the Paris Agreement	Policy priorities in six beneficiary countries do not change. Political, social and economic stability is maintained in the region. Interest in cooperating with the EU is maintained. No major disasters / extreme weather events or other force majeure resulting in temporary disruption of the government operations and/or budgetary constraints.
Project Objective: Low-emissions and climate resilience objectives are integrated into development policies/plans in six EaP countries through improved and consolidated climate policies and legislative alignment	Enhanced capacities of six EaP countries to plan, implement, monitor and report on the climate change adaptation action.	Moldova has a NAP developed in 2017. No NAPs in the other five EaP countries.	Six EaP countries are on track with the implementation of their NDCs and with their reporting commitments under the Paris Agreement.	The Second NDC of Moldova was submitted to UNFCCC in March 2020. NDCs of Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine are expected to be submitted to UNFCCC in 2021.	National Communications to the UNFCCC; National reports on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, National sustainable development strategies/plans/reports	
Overall objective(s): Outcomes						
An enhanced capacity of countries to develop and implement climate policy and to meet their	(i) Number of EU supported countries and cities with climate change and/or disaster risk reduction	2017: (i) none; (ii) All beneficiary countries have submitted their iNDCs for the COP21, have	(i) Six EaP countries are supported with development of climate change strategies	(i) One country (Moldova) supported with development of the second NDC.	National Communications to the UNFCCC	Policy priorities in six beneficiary countries do not change.

²³ Emissions data provided according to the latest available national reporting to UNFCCC

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
<p>commitments under the Paris Agreement</p> <p>An enhanced transparency of emissions and climate action</p> <p>Mainstreaming climate in sectoral policies, such as energy, transport and agriculture</p> <p>Advanced implementation of climate-related provisions of bilateral agreements with EU and in the framework of the Energy Community Treaty</p>	<p>strategies: (a) developed, (b) under implementation.</p> <p>(ii) Status of nationally determined contributions, national mid-century strategies and NAPs communicated to the UNFCCC in 6 EaP countries</p>	<p>ratified the Paris Agreement and have their NDCs. Moldova has an updated LEDS and NAP. Institutional arrangements for climate policy development and implementation are varied across countries. Most countries require capacity building and institution strengthening support for effective implementation of their Paris commitments</p>	<p>(including NDCs, LEDS, NAPs).</p> <p>(ii) Finalized nationally determined contributions, national mid-century strategies and NAPs communicated to the UNFCCC (6 countries)</p>	<p>(ii) The Second NDC of Moldova was submitted to UNFCCC in March 2020. As of 31.12.2020, second NDCs of Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine are being developed, with the submission to UNFCCC planned in 2021.</p>	<p>National reports on the implementation of the Paris Agreement</p>	<p>Political, social and economic stability is maintained in the region.</p> <p>Interest in cooperating with the EU is maintained.</p> <p>Decision-making by recipient authorities is overall timely and coherent.</p> <p>Alignment with needs identified by the government translate into full support by the authorities in the implementation phase.</p> <p>Selected governance and implementation arrangements are effective and not contested by beneficiary countries.</p>
	<p>(ii) Level of institutional capacities in the six EaP countries for the implementation of the Paris Agreement</p>	<p>(ii.a) As Annex-I countries, Ukraine and Belarus have basic MRV systems in place. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova have no such system in place, but have started establishing them</p>	<p>(ii.a.) At least 4 EaP countries have established national systems for implementing the Paris Agreement. Transparency Regime in line with UNFCCC requirements</p>	<p>The Regional MRV workshop in 2020 and study tours to Environment Agency Austria and European Environmental Agency were conducted in February 2020, contributing to building the capacities of EaP countries with establishing national MRV systems. The work on developing recommendations to strengthen national MRV systems of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova was initiated by EAA in</p>	<p>National Communications to the UNFCCC</p> <p>National reports on the implementation of the Paris Agreement</p>	

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
				2020 and will continue in 2021		
		(ii.b) Institutional capacity scorecard for Paris Agreement Implementation will be developed in Year 1 of the project. Baseline level to be established in Year 1 of the project	(ii.b) 50% increase in institutional capacity for the implementation of the Paris Agreement measured through an institutional capacity scorecard to be developed in Year 1	Institutional capacity assessment was conducted in 2020. The baseline level of institutional capacity for the implementation of the Paris Agreement identified, mean value for the six EaP countries: 52.11%. The level of institutional capacity for the implementation of the Paris Agreement after the first year of project implementation, mean value for the six EaP countries: 58.44%	Completed institutional capacity scorecards for all six EaP countries	
	(iii) Level of alignment with EU <i>acquis</i> as provided by bilateral agreements with EU and in the framework of Energy Community Treaty	(iii) No beneficiary country has a fully aligned legislation with the EU <i>acquis</i> outlined in the bilateral agreements	(iii) Countries are on track with the regulatory reform to align with EU <i>acquis</i> as provided by bilateral agreements with EU and Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action	Roadmaps for gap implementation of EU Climate <i>acquis</i> in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine were developed by the Energy Community Secretariat and presented to the national governments. UNDP Georgia and UNDP Moldova developed draft legal acts on F-gases. UNDP Ukraine has initiated development of sub-legal acts on F-gases and ODS. The EAA has	National reports on regulatory alignment with EU <i>acquis</i> and Energy Community Secretariat	

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
				developed draft recommendations for legal alignment in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. The work on legal alignment will be continued in 2021		
	(iv) Level of mobilization of new climate finance resources by countries (including under NIF/NIP) since the start of the project	(iv) Armenia is the only country in the region that mobilized new GCF resources for a climate change mitigation project	(iv) New climate finance resources mobilized by countries (including under NIF/NIP)	No investment projects related to NDC implementation were developed in 2020. The respective activities will be initiated in 2021 in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova. The first pilot in climate budget tagging was completed in 2020 in Armenia	National Communications to the UNFCCC National reports on the implementation of the Paris Agreement	
Outputs:						
Output 1. Implementation and update of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement 1.1. Two regional training and knowledge exchange workshops on the NDC implementation and reporting to UNFCCC 1.2. Support to NDCs implementation in at least four EaP countries 1.3. Public awareness on NDCs for private sector, academia, NGO community and for other relevant stakeholders	Availability of NDC implementation plans/roadmaps	No NDC implementation plans developed	At least 2 NDC implementation plans developed in EaP countries	UNDP Moldova has initiated the updating process of the country's LEDS until 2030 in line with the NDC-2. The updated LEDS-2030 will serve as the implementation plan for the NDC; to be completed in 2021. NDC development in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine is in process, scheduled to be completed in 2021. Development of NDC implementation plans will be initiated in 2021, after NDC in the	National reporting to UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement	Governments are committed to increase the ambition of their NDC targets Staff turnover at the government agencies involved in the climate policy development and implementation remains limited. Sufficient buy-in from the sectoral ministries (e.g. energy sector) The developed NDCs and implementation plans are adopted and submitted on time.

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
				respective countries are completed.		<p>Ministries/government agencies are willing to participate in a holistic “all-of-the-government” approach to climate action.</p> <p>No institutional tensions among various government stakeholders.</p>
	Level of knowledge and institutional capacities for sectoral implementation of NDCs (measured through capacity scorecard)	Baseline to be established during the first year of the project	75% increase over baseline (75%) as of 2022	Institutional capacity assessment was conducted in 2020. The baseline level of institutional capacity for the sectoral implementation of the NDCs, mean value for the six EaP countries was 54.13% and after the first year of project implementation, mean value for the six EaP countries was 62.42%.	Workshop reports Institutional capacity assessment scorecards/reports	
	Level of awareness and buy in of the targeted national private sector and other stakeholders in the NDC implementation	Baseline to be established during the first year of the project	50% increase over baseline (75%) as of 2022	Institutional capacity assessment was conducted in 2020. The baseline level of awareness and buy in of the targeted national private sector and other stakeholders in the NDC implementation was identified, mean value for the six EaP countries was 47.75% and after the first year of project implementation, mean value for the six EaP countries was 52.85%.	Institutional capacity assessment scorecards/reports	
	Number of training and awareness events directly supported by the project / number of decision makers and	No trainings conducted	6 events in each country and 50 decision-makers/stakeholders benefiting from trainings in each	171 stakeholders from EaP countries participated during the awareness events on NDC	Workshop reports Targeted private sector questionnaire	

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
	practitioners benefiting from capacity building		<p>country (6 / 50 in each country) conducted as of 2022</p> <p>50% increase of private sector and other stakeholders awareness over baseline as of 2022</p>	<p>Belarus: 15 representatives from MNREP, UNDP CO, and UNDP IRH took part during the first technical workshop on NDC update (the female participation rate was 60% (9 women per 15 total participants))</p> <p>Georgia: 40 participants took part during the online lectures on NDC, CAP, NECP, transport, waste, agriculture, forestry, energy generation and transmission and buildings. 50 participants from civil society, the Government and international organizations, participated in an online climate conference "Georgia's Climate Strategy 2030, Climate Action Plan 2021-2023 and Related Challenges"</p> <p>Moldova: 66 participants attended the national consultation workshop on updated NDC, the female participation rate was 65.15% (43 women from 66)</p>		

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
<p>Output 2. Development of mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (long-term LEDS)</p> <p>2.1. Regional training workshops for six beneficiary countries on the LEDS development process.</p> <p>2.2. National technical roundtables</p> <p>2.3. Development of mid-century, long-term LEDSs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia</p>	<p>Status of LEDSs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia</p>	<p>No LEDS developed in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus. LEDS update process in Georgia not initiated</p>	<p>4 LEDS developed and submitted for government approval (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia)</p>	<p>No new LEDS developed or updated in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia in 2020. Armenia has initiated development of the “National Program on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy”, considered to be the energy sector LEDS. The program is to be finalized in 2021. Azerbaijan has developed a roadmap for LEDS development in 2020 and the work on LEDS development is to be initiated in early 2021. Development of LEDS-2050 was initiated in Georgia in 2020, to be completed in 2021.</p>	<p>UNFCCC Registry</p>	<p>No significant staff turnover in the national entities hampering retention of the knowledge and experience on LEDS</p> <p>Sufficient level of institutional cooperation among participating government entities.</p> <p>No delays due to heavy bureaucratic procedures within the beneficiary governments.</p>
	<p>Number of national government officials and planning practitioners trained in the development of LEDS</p>	<p>No LEDS events conducted</p>	<p>Two regional events conducted, 60 government officials and planning practitioners trained</p>	<p>2nd Regional Workshop on Long-term, Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions Development Strategies and the Mainstreaming of Climate Policies took place on 19-20 October 2020 as a webinar. 87 participants, including EaP government officials, representatives of international organizations, experts</p>	<p>Training workshop reports</p> <p>LEDS Guidebook</p>	

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
				and civil society attended.		
<p>Output 3. Introduction of robust domestic emissions monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) frameworks</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>3.1. A regional workshop/training on MRV (GHG inventory) systems according to the UNFCCC requirements</p> <p>3.2. A study tour (preferably) to the EEA in Copenhagen to learn about the MRV system in the EU</p> <p>3.3. Review/gap analysis of the existing MRV systems (GHG inventory)</p> <p>3.4. Proposals for national MRV (GHG inventory) systems in line with the UNFCCC transparency requirements</p> <p>3.5. Trainings of MRV experts</p> <p>3.6. Training materials for the private sector stakeholders on their contributions to national GHG inventories</p>	State of the domestic emissions MRV frameworks in EaP countries	No analysis of the national MRV systems performed in the EaP countries	Robust domestic emissions MRV frameworks (GHG inventories) developed in 5 beneficiary countries.	The regional MRV workshop and study tour was conducted during 17-19 February 2020 (Vienna, Austria) and 21 February 2020 (Copenhagen, Denmark). The event was attended by 24 representatives of EaP countries, including 18 government officials. EAA has initiated work on developing recommendations for enhancing the national MRV systems in 2020; the work is to be completed in 2021.	National reporting to the UNFCCC Workshop reports E-publication of the guidelines for private sector	No significant staff turnover in the national entities hampering retention of the knowledge and experience on MRV Private sector in the beneficiary countries actively participates in the project and is committed to meet the national reporting requirements Proposals for the enhancement of national MRV (GHG inventory) systems are endorsed by the governments
	Guidance/training materials for private sector on incorporation of GHG emission reporting requirements into corporate reporting.	No guidance/training materials available in the EaP countries	Guidance/training materials for private sector on MRV developed and presented in 6 EaP countries	The guidance and training materials will be developed after completion of roadmaps for national MRV improvement by the EAA in 2021.		
	Number of government officers/practitioners trained / Number of training events on MRV	No MRV training events	At least 100 sectoral government officers/practitioners trained 5 trainings conducted on MRV for sectoral government agencies	A total of 65 practitioners trained in 2020. 24 practitioners, including 18 government officials, have attended the Regional MRV		

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
			e.g. energy, transport, agriculture, forestry	workshop and study tour in February 2020. In Moldova 41 participants (governmental officers, private and academia sectors, CSO) attended a national consultative workshop on establishment and functioning of the national GHG emission monitoring and reporting system		
<p>Output 4. Alignment with EU <i>acquis</i> included in bilateral agreements and Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action</p> <p>4.1. Workshops in each of the countries on respective EU <i>acquis</i></p> <p>4.2. Analysis of the national legislation and fiscal policies, and elaboration of proposals and plans for legislative alignment</p> <p>4.3. Providing relevant input on progress to relevant Sub-Committee meetings, Platform and Panel discussions, Energy Community meetings and providing updates to DG NEAR and relevant EU Delegations</p>	<p>Level of alignment with EU <i>acquis</i> and Energy Community Treaty. Number of laws, legislative/regulatory acts drafted, adopted and implemented in line with the country commitments in the Association Agreements with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, Energy Community Decisions and/or Recommendations, Strategic Partnership agreement with Armenia, as well as Partnership priorities between EU and Azerbaijan, EU and Belarus (Specific laws will be identified after</p>	<p>No roadmaps developed for the alignment with EU <i>acquis</i></p>	<p>References to the specific laws will be added in the roadmaps for alignment with EU <i>acquis</i></p>	<p>EU Acquis Strategic Roadmaps were developed and presented in 2020 for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The review of relevant climate acquis applicable to Republic of Armenia pursuant to the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with the European Union and gap analysis of the legal approximation was undertaken during the fourth quarter 2020. The EAA has developed draft recommendation for the legislative alignment in Azerbaijan and Belarus in 2020, to be finalized in 2021</p>	<p>National policies and legislation</p>	<p>No major external factors influence the pace of regulatory alignment reforms.</p> <p>Decision-making on the adoption of regulatory enhancements is not delayed.</p> <p>Interest in cooperating with the EU is maintained.</p> <p>Political, social and economic stability is maintained in the region.</p>

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
	the gap analysis performed during the inception phase)					
	Number of stakeholder meetings organized on the process of policies and legislation development	0		<p>UNDP Georgia organized a National Stakeholder Workshop on discussion of the main findings of the EU Acquis Strategic Roadmap in May 2020</p> <p>UNDP Moldova organized a National Workshop on EU Acquis Strategic Roadmap in a videoconference format in May 2020.</p> <p>In September 2020 UNDP Ukraine, in cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat, conducted the virtual workshop "EU Acquis Alignment Strategic Roadmap for EU4Climate in Ukraine"</p>	Meeting reports	
	Number of workshops conducted by the project/number of people trained	0/0	6 workshops conducted / 90 people trained	In Moldova public consultations held online regarding the draft F-gas legislation and draft Governmental decision on amending the MRV system on 17 December 2020, with the	Workshop reports	

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
				participation of 41 representatives from governmental, private, academia and civil society sectors.		
<p>Output 5. Mainstreaming climate in policy sectors</p> <p>5.1. Inception/training workshop on CC mainstreaming into sectoral policies</p> <p>5.2. Each country is supported to develop mainstreaming recommendations for 2 priority sectors: detailed sectoral policy review, analysis of climate risks and GHG emission reduction potential, cost benefit analysis, mainstreaming recommendations, regulatory/institutional /coordination framework, monitoring framework, and financial resources/planning</p> <p>5.3. Three sub-regional sector-based training and knowledge exchange workshops and a series of national consultations</p> <p>5.4. Sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement</p>	<p>Number of sectoral climate change mainstreaming policy papers/ recommendations developed</p>	<p>No policy papers or recommendations available</p> <p>No sectoral guidance available</p>	<p>At least 10 sectoral climate change mainstreaming policy papers/ recommendations developed</p> <p>Sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement</p>	<p>Armenia developed an Analytical Note on “Policy Instruments in Energy and Agriculture towards the Low Emission Development Strategy” in 2020. Further recommendations for the respective sectors will be developed in 2021.</p> <p>UNDP Azerbaijan developed the report on climate change mainstreaming into priority sectoral policies, which is to be followed by the thematic reports on climate change mainstreaming for the energy, transport, industry, water, waste, and agriculture sectors – scheduled for 2021.</p> <p>UNDP Moldova has finalized the report and recommendations on mainstreaming the climate change consideration into the waste sector’s policies</p>	<p>Sectoral documents and strategies</p>	<p>Sufficient buy-in from the sectoral ministries (e.g. energy sector)</p> <p>The developed mainstreaming policies/recommendations are adopted</p> <p>Ministries/government agencies are willing to participate in a holistic “all-of-the-government” approach to climate action</p> <p>No institutional tensions among various government stakeholders</p> <p>Favourable investment and lending climate in beneficiary countries</p>

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
				<p>in June 2020. Additionally, development of the "Guideline on climate change mainstreaming into waste sector policies" has started during 2020, to be completed in 2021.</p>		
	<p>Level of institutional capacities for CC mainstreaming (institutional capacity scorecard/baseline, mid-term and completion surveys)</p>	<p>Baseline to be established during the first year of the project</p>	<p>50% improvement against baseline</p>	<p>Institutional capacity assessment was conducted in 2020. The baseline level of institutional capacities for CC mainstreaming identified, mean value for the six EaP countries was 57.05% and after the first year of project implementation, mean value for the six EaP countries was 63.46%.</p>	<p>Workshop reports Institutional capacity assessment scorecards/ reports</p>	

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Output 6. Climate Investment Activities: 6.1 Two regional climate finance forums: regional events on investment planning and increased mobilization of climate finance 6.2 Training and capacity building through national workshops to relevant staff in the ministries to enable them to develop a prioritized pipeline of bankable projects 6.3 Regional and national workshops on climate finance frameworks 6.4. Two pilot studies and two sub-regional workshops on climate budget tagging and introducing CC parameters into national budget planning and reporting	Status of investment pipelines of bankable projects contributing the implementation of NDCs	No NDC-related investment pipelines in the beneficiary countries	Each country has developed national/sectoral pipelines of investment projects linked to the NDC implementation plans NDC implementation plans, LEDS, NAPs supported with financial frameworks	No investment projects related to NDC implementation were developed in 2020. The respective activities will be initiated in 2021 in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova.	Sectoral policy documents and strategies	CC agenda is strongly pursued at the political level in the beneficiary countries Sufficient buy-in from the national ministries of finance, planning and economy Ministries/government agencies are willing to participate in a holistic “all-of-the-government” approach to climate action. Favourable investment and lending climate in beneficiary countries
	Number of national officials from the finance and planning ministries trained on climate finance leveraging and management, climate change finance frameworks and budgeting	No climate finance framework workshops conducted	At least 18 government officials from the finance and planning ministries trained	The first regional workshop on climate finance frameworks and climate budgeting was conducted online in May 2020. Over 90 participants attended, including ministerial representatives from EaP countries, the European Commission and international experts.	Workshop reports	
	Implementation of pilots on climate budget tagging	No budget tagging pilots implemented	2 national pilots implemented	The first pilot on climate budget tagging is completed in 2020 in Armenia. The presentation of the results is scheduled for February 2021	Project reports	

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Output 7. Adaptation planning Activities: 7.1. Support to the national adaptation planning in at least in 2 countries 7.2. Follow up and facilitation of adoption of national and sectoral adaptation plans 7.3 Cross country knowledge exchange on NAP development, implementation and reporting to UNFCCC 7.4. Workshops with national, local and sectoral authorities on NAP process	Number of NAPs adopted	0	At least 2 NAPs are adopted ²⁴	UNDP Ukraine initiated the process of the National Adaptation Strategy development on 12 November 2020. Over 100 participants from the Climate Change Adaptation Working Group attended the kick-off meeting online. The National Adaptation Strategy is expected to be completed in 2021.	NAP documents Capacity assessment scorecards on NAP implementation and reporting	Sufficient buy-in from the sectoral ministries – an increased recognition of adaptation priorities Ministries/government agencies are willing to participate in a holistic “all-of-the-government” approach to NAPs. Countries are willing to participate in knowledge transfer and information exchange on NAP processes
	Number of regional knowledge transfer events on NAPs / number of people trained		6 workshops / at least 18 people trained during each event	The 2 nd Regional Adaptation Planning workshop was conducted online in November 2020, attended by over 100 government officials and climate change experts.	Workshop report	No significant staff turnover in the national entities
	Transboundary NAPs (TBC)	No transboundary NAPs developed	1 transboundary NAP (TBC)	Feasibility of developing a transboundary NAP will be defined after the National Adaptation Strategy of Ukraine is completed in 2021.		
	Status of NAP roadmaps, institutional and coordination		NAP roadmaps, institutional and coordination frameworks and NAP	UNDP Ukraine established a Climate Change Adaptation Working Group, which		

²⁴ Depending on the national context, the countries could choose to adopt different formats for adaptation planning instruments (e.g. National Adaptation Strategy, Action Plan, Adaptation Framework, etc.).

Objectives / Outputs / Activities	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Results in 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
	frameworks and NAP processes		processes established at least in 2 countries	includes more than 120 members from sectoral ministries, agencies, academia, business associations, civil society organizations and other experts in adaptation		

ANNEX 5: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS THE REVIEW ENGAGED WITH

COUNTRY/INSTITUTION	NAME	AGENCY
Armenia	Anna Mazmanyanyan	Deputy Minister of Environment
Azerbaijan	Yashar Karimov	Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
Belarus	Oksana Melnikovich	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
Georgia	Maia Tskhvaradze	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
Moldova	Victoria Jacot	Main Consultant, Air and Climate Change Policies Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment
Moldova	Maia Gutu	Acting Head of Air and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environment
Ukraine	Iryna Stavchuk	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
Armenia	Artak Baghdasaryan	UNDP
Armenia	Diana Harutunyan	UNDP
Azerbaijan	Nazim Mammadov	UNDP
Belarus	Iryna Sakaloukaya	UNDP
Georgia	Nino Antadze	UNDP
Moldova	Veronica Lopotenco	UNDP
Moldova	Ana-Maria Manole	UNDP
Ukraine	Viktoriiia Yashkina	UNDP
Regional	Yevgen Groza	UNDP
Regional	Armen Grigoryan	UNDP
Regional	Ivana Mijatovic Cernos	UNDP
European Commission	Joakim Frendin	DG-NEAR
Global	Krzysztof Michalak	OECD
Regional	Eszter Suele	CEER
Regional	Christophe Frering	Covenant of Mayors East Office
Regional	Irina Lazzarini	Energy Community Secretariat
Regional	Johannes Mayer	Environment Agency Austria

ANNEX 6: LIST OF CONSULTED DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

- 6th Meeting of the Steering Committee. EU4Climate. Summary Record.
- EC. Consolidate ROM Report. October 2020.
- EU4CLIMATE Annual report 2019 (1.01.2019 – 31.12.2019)
- EU4CLIMATE Annual report 2020 (1.01.2020 – 31.12.2020)
- EU4CLIMATE Project Update, First Quarter Of 2021 (1.01.2021 – 31.03.2021)
- EU4CLIMATE Project Update, Second Quarter Of 2021 (1.04.2021 – 30.06.2021)
- EU4CLIMATE Project Update, Third Quarter Of 2021 (1.07.2021 – 30.09.2021)
- EU4CLIMATE. NDC preparation and implementation in EaP countries. Comparative analysis of the first and the updated NDCs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. October 2021.
- EU4Climate. Description of the Action (14.12.2019)
- EU4Climate. Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan. September 202.
- EU4Climate. Project Document (25.01.2019)
- European Commission “Joint Communication To The European Parliament, The European Council, The Council, The European Economic And Social Committee And The Committee Of The Regions. Eastern Partnership Policy Beyond 2020. Reinforcing Resilience - an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all.” March 2020.
- <https://www.facebook.com/GreenGrowthCaucasus/photos/a.315585305304002/1625145667681286/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/GreenGrowthCaucasus/photos/pcb.1650974665098386/1650971191765400>
- Independent Evaluation Office. *UNDP Evaluation Guidelines*. June 2021.
- OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation. Better Criteria for Better Evaluation. Revised Evaluation Criteria Definitions and Principles for Use. February 2020.
- UNDP. *A Guide to Carbon Pricing and Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform. A Summary For Policymakers*. 2021.
- UNDP. Climate Promise Progress Report. April 2021
- www.climatepromise.undp.org

**ANNEX 7: UNITED NATIONS EVALUATION GROUP CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EVALUATION IN THE UN SYSTEM
EVALUATION CONSULTANTS AGREEMENT FORM**

Evaluators:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form²⁵

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

Name of Consultant: Maria ONESTINI

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at *Buenos Aires, Argentina* on *September 26 2021*

Signature: 

²⁵ www.unevaluation.org/unegcodeofconduct