

**UNDP  
Istanbul Regional Hub**

**Minutes of the Virtual Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting**

**Duration: 10 – 21 December 2018**

**Subject: EU4Climate Project**

**1. Attendance**

Name	Title
Mr. Gerd Trogemann	Istanbul Regional Hub Manager, LPAC Chair
Mr. Dmitry Mariasin	Resident Representative a.i., UNDP in Armenia, LPAC Member
Mr. Alessandro Fracassetti	Resident Representative a.i., UNDP in Azerbaijan, LPAC Member
Mr. Janthomas Hiemstra	Resident Representative a.i., UNDP in Ukraine, LPAC Member
Mr. Zachary Taylor	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Belarus, LPAC Member
Ms. Tuya Altangerel	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Georgia, LPAC Member
Mr. Stefan Liller	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Moldova, LPAC Member
Ms. Bharati Sadasivam	Team Leader, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Team, UNDP IRH, LPAC Member
Mr. Nicolas Douillet	Team Leader, Communications Team, UNDP IRH, LPAC Member
Ms. Matilda Dimovska	Team Leader, Country Office Support Team, UNDP IRH, LPAC Member
Ms. Ekaterina Paniklova	Senior Programme Coordinator, Quality Assurance, UNDP IRH
Ms. Yuliya Zhgun	OIC for Operations, UNDP IRH
Mr. Armen Grigoryan	Team Leader, Climate and Disaster Team, UNDP IRH, presenter
Mr. Natalia Olofinskaya	Programme Specialist, UNDP IRH, Ex-Officio
Ms. Marina Ten	RBM Specialist, UNDP IRH
Ms. Gulgun Sahin	Programme Associate, PSU

**2. Background information on the project:**

Total project budget: US\$ 10,302,160, including

EU Contribution: US\$ 9,365,600

UNDP Contribution (IRH and COs): US\$ 936,560 (parallel and in-kind)

Planned project starting date & duration: 1 January 2019 to 30 November 2022 (47 months)

Project implementation modality: DIM

Geographic Coverage: Regional, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Major counterparts of the project:

- UNDP Country Offices
- Competent authority within national government to coordinate climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. This often coincides with the Focal Point for the UNFCCC. In most cases this is the Ministry responsible for environmental issues

### 3. Review of the Project “EU4Climate”

#### Key Highlights:

The objective of the project is to support the development and implementation of climate-related policies by the EU Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine) which 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 following results will be achieved: (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 activities will be clustered in nine components:

#### **Component 1: Implementation and update of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement**

##### **Activities:**

- 1.1. Two regional training and knowledge exchange workshops on the NDC implementation and reporting to UNFCCC (under the Enhanced Transparency Framework).
- 1.2. Support to NDCs implementation in at least four Eastern Neighbourhood countries.
- 1.3. Public awareness on NDCs: awareness-raising activities related to NDC implementation phase for private sector, academia, and NGO community and for other relevant stakeholders.

#### **Component 2: Development of mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas (GHG) emission development strategies (long-term LEDS).**

##### **Activities:**

- 2.1. Regional training workshops for six beneficiary countries on the LEDS development process.
- 2.2. National technical roundtables including private sector, local authorities and civil society to discuss and set up national coordination mechanisms for the development of LEDSs, stakeholder participation, alignment with other national strategies, launching the LEDS development process.
- 2.3. Development of gender-sensitive mid-century, long-term LEDSs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia driven by NDC targets.

#### **Component 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 and aligned with the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation and best practices in EU countries.
- 3.2. A study tour (preferably to the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen) to learn about MRV (GHG inventory) system in the EU.
- 3.3. Review/gap analysis of the existing MRV (GHG inventory) systems in the beneficiary countries.
- 3.4. Proposals for national MRV (GHG inventory) systems in line with the UNFCCC transparency requirements, build on EU experience and are fit for national circumstances of the countries.
- 3.5. Trainings of MRV (GHG inventory) experts from technical departments of line ministries (i.e. energy, transport, environment, agriculture, forestry) and other relevant government agencies.
- 3.6. Training materials for the private sector stakeholders related to their contributions to national GHG inventories developed and presented in English and in local languages.

**Component 4: Alignment with EU acquis included in bilateral agreements and Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action**

**Activities:**

- 4.1. Workshops in each of the countries (6) on respective EU acquis
- 4.2. Analysis of the national legislation and fiscal policies, and elaboration of proposals and plans for legislative alignment that is foreseen in the Association Agreements with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in the CEPA agreement (Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement) with Armenia, Partnership Priorities with Belarus and Azerbaijan, as well as any relevant Recommendations or Decisions of the Energy Community.
- 4.3. Project will provide relevant input on progress to relevant Sub-Committee meetings, Platform and Panel discussions, Energy Community meetings and provide update to DG NEAR and relevant EU Delegations.

**Component 5: Mainstreaming climate in other sectors and sectoral guidelines for the implementation of Paris Agreement**

**Activities:**

- 5.1. Inception/training workshop on CC mainstreaming into sectoral policies, possibly focussing on energy
- 5.2. Each country develops gender-sensitive mainstreaming recommendations for at least two priority sectors. Energy sector will be a strong priority for this component. In addition to energy, selection of priority sectors for CC mainstreaming will be agreed with the countries and the European Commission, DG NEAR at the first Steering Committee meeting.
- 5.3. Three sub-regional sector-based training and knowledge exchange workshops, and a series of national consultations and workshops (High level events if deemed necessary) with sectoral stakeholders and decision-makers on mainstreaming climate change in sectoral policies, strategies and plans.
- 5.4. Sectoral guidelines for the implementation of Paris agreement

**Component 6: Climate investment**

- 6.1. Two regional climate finance forums: regional events on investment planning and increased mobilization of climate finance.
- 6.2. Training, consultations and capacity building provided through national workshops and advisory services to relevant staff in the ministries to enable them developing a prioritized pipeline of bankable projects and mainstream CC into national funding instruments.
- 6.3. Regional and national workshops on climate finance frameworks engaging the ministries of finance, economy and planning.

6.4. Two national pilot studies on gender-responsive climate finance frameworks, climate budget tagging and integrating CC indicators into national budget planning and reporting systems with the Ministries of finance.

**Component 7: Adaptation planning, with special focus on adoption and when necessary development of adaptation plans**

**Activities:**

7.1. Support to the national adaptation planning (NAP) in at least two countries.

7.2. Follow up and facilitation of adoption of national and sectoral adaptation plans<sup>1</sup>.

7.3. Cross country knowledge exchange on NAP development, implementation and reporting to UNFCCC (adaptation communication under the Paris Agreement).

7.4. Organizing workshops involving local and central authorities in discussion on adaptation planning process.

**Component 8: Monitoring and evaluation (M&E), communication, visibility and reporting**

M&E, communications, visibility (As per Annex 5 - Communication and Visibility Plan) and reporting, including mid-term review and terminal evaluation, lessons learned and implementation of communication and visibility plan.

**Component 9: Project management**

This is a supporting function. Project governance, management and oversight arrangements and responsibilities are outlined in Section IV below.

The draft project document has been designed by the IRH Climate Change and DRR Team in close cooperation with participating Country Offices. The project was also reviewed by the IRH Gender Team.

The project will be implemented by the IRH under the UNDP Direct Implementation Modality within the Regional Programme for Europe and the CIS 2018-2021. IRH Climate and Disaster Team will be responsible for the oversight, project management, and coordination and reporting. National activities will be implemented through the UNDP Country Offices in beneficiary countries. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be hosted by the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub and will be led by an International Chief Technical Advisor (ICTA) reporting to the Team Leader, Climate and Disaster Team at IRH. ICTA will be supported by a part-time IRH Programme Assistant. National Coordination Teams will be established at each beneficiary country hosted by the UNDP Country Offices and will be staffed by National Coordinators/Advisors (part time) and project Finance/Administrative Assistance. The project Steering Committee will be co-chaired by DG NEAR and UNDP IRH Manager.

The Project has undergone the mandatory QA Assessment for design and appraisal stage. Overall, the Project received Highly Satisfactory rating as it builds on the regional and national priorities. It is fully aligned with the Regional Programme and the Strategic Plan. Required capacities assessed and governance arrangements are properly defined. Strong analysis has been conducted on the role of the involved partners to build an efficient and effective implementation strategy. The project has been exempted from the Social and Environmental Screening as the project activities only include training/workshop, publications, policy work, and mostly focus on knowledge management related work.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.).

**4. Summary of LPAC member comments**

- The Project is supported by all LPAC members as a very strategic and important initiative.
- LPAC members acknowledged that the project document is well defined and structured.
- The Project is fully supported by the LPAC members with specific recommendations provided by UNDP Moldova, UNDP IRH Gender and Communication Teams. (Comments Log is annexed to the Minutes) to be addressed in the final project document.

**5. Final LPAC recommendation:**

LPAC recommends to approve the project which is of high quality to move to the implementation stage. The recommendation made by the LPAC members will be included in the project document prior to its final approval and signature. The LPAC members recommend that during the project Inception Phase the Project Implementation Team develops a specific and targeted communication plan in cooperation with the IRH Communications Team. A detailed comments log is in the Annex 1 to this document.

Prepared by:



Natalia Olofinskaya, Programme Specialist, Climate and Disaster Team

Cleared by:



Armen Grigoryan, Climate Change/Disaster Resilience Team leader and Global Energy Policy Advisor

Cleared by:



Ekaterina Paniklova, Senior Programme Coordinator

LPAC recommendation is approved by:



(Chairperson of the meeting)  
Gerd Trogemann  
Istanbul Regional Hub Manager

Date:

### Annex 1. Comments Log during LPAC Review

Comments from LPAC Members	Response from the Presenter
<p><i>UNDP in Armenia:</i> Endorsed from UNDP Armenia. We are looking forward to the start of the project's implementation.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>UNDP in Azerbaijan:</i> I reviewed the project and I confirm my endorsement. Looking forward to start with implementation.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>UNDP in Belarus:</i> We in Minsk also fully support this timely and important project and discussed with the Minister this morning.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>UNDP in Georgia:</i> Thank you very much for this very interesting Programme EU4Climate. It is endorsed on our side. My colleague Nino Antadze will follow up with Nataly on next steps and some clarifying questions.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>UNDP in Moldova:</i> First of all, to say that we endorse the project. We only have the following brief remarks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No additional proposals for the Activity Plan. All MD suggestions have been included.</li> <li>• Some minor updates in track changes were made in: (i) the list of relevant climate projects implemented in Moldova (Annex 1) and (ii) stakeholder engagement.</li> <li>• Since there is no detailed budget included in the document suggested for review by PAC members, it would be great if IRH could re-confirm that the country allocations remain the same as at the design stage. In the case of Moldova USD 1,080,700 was earmarked.</li> </ul>	<p>The detailed review and comments are highly appreciated and included in the final draft of the project document. Stakeholder information and the list of relevant projects in Moldova are updated.</p> <p>Detailed project budget outlining an indicative distribution of funds between the countries is attached to the LPAC minutes. EUR allocation to various country offices is preserved as discussed with the COs during the project design. The USD allocations have been adjusted to reflect changes in the EUR/USD official exchange rate.</p>
<p><i>UNDP in Ukraine:</i> This is endorsed from the Ukraine CO side.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>IRH Gender Team:</i> Thank you for the revised document. We have read it through again and see the efforts made. But can you please make the following clearer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the concrete outputs of gender mainstreaming, if any?</li> <li>• What are the measurable contributions to the objectives and do we have indicators to measure them?</li> <li>• What are the financial contributions for gender equality-relevant activities in the project? The UNDP and UN SWAP corporate minimum is 15 percent of project budget.</li> </ul> <p>Based on the above answers, we will be able to determine the gender marker.</p> <p>We see this as a great opportunity to show multi-country / sub-regional gender results in an area where this is not always being done.</p>	<p>The detailed review and feedback is highly appreciated.</p> <p>The comments of the Gender Team have been addressed in the final draft of the project document. A separate file reflecting responses to the comments and references to the responses in the revised project document is provided.</p> <p>In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific sex-disaggregated indicators included in the project results framework;</li> </ul>

<p>In addition to LPAC reviews, it would be good during the programme implementation to see how the gender dimensions are being addressed and we can support. Look forward to your support in facilitating this.</p> <p><u>Comment dated 8 January 2019:</u> We have reviewed gender inputs in this final Project document based on the gender team suggestions and there are couple of comments that we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do we know what the budget is for gender mainstreaming and activities?</li> <li>- In our view this Project remains GEN 1 with this level of interventions made. There is a window opportunity to agree with stakeholders at SC to have Gender Action Plans developed.</li> </ul> <p>Based on those possible interventions in the inception phase and with higher level of ambition for contribution to gender equality, project could be upgraded at GEN 2.</p> <p>Last, but not the least, please note that Gender team is at your disposal for joint work in regard to support and advice during implementation of the program actions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments added in the Budget Notes to highlight sources of funds directed at gender mainstreaming;</li> <li>• Additional details on gender mainstreaming activities and approaches are included in the description of the project components, outcomes and activities, as well as in the gender mainstreaming section and Gender Action Plan (Annex 4);</li> <li>• Implementation arrangements for gender mainstreaming specified;</li> <li>• Concrete gender mainstreaming output of the project will be constituted in having specific climate policy and planning documents that incorporate gender analysis and gender mainstreaming objectives (e.g. LEDS, NAPs, sectoral plans, etc).</li> <li>• Gender marker recommended as GEN1.</li> </ul> <p>We cannot indicate any particular budget for gender mainstreaming in the project document because the budget was approved by the donor and any budget revision will need to be approved by the donor (EC) through a formal process. We have added indication on the sources of gender budget in the budget notes.</p> <p>We agree with the suggested GEN1 rating and have reflected it in the project document and in Atlas. We would work further during the project inception phase and the project implementation to mainstream gender in the project so that in future, as suggested, the project could be upgraded to GEN2 rating.</p>
<p><i>IRH Communications Team:</i></p> <p>It's great to see there's a whole annex on communication, and thought has been given to audiences, key messages and communication objectives. Here are some thoughts on that particular annex:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would simplify and shorten dramatically to make the communications section both simple and actionable. Right now it's too big to sink one's teeth into.</li> <li>• What are the top three things we want to achieve with communications? 1. Report on results for the EU, 2. Position the programme among global policy circles, 3. Encourage action from NGOs and the wider public, 4. Get potential emerging donors and non-traditional sources of funding interested.</li> </ul>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated.</p> <p>The Communication and Visibility Plan attached to the proposal has been reviewed, edited and cleared by the donor (EC/DG Near) and is included as an annex in the EC-UNDP Funding Agreement. In view of this, we suggest that we do not modify this document itself. However, to address very practical and good comments of the IRH Communications Team, we would suggest that the Project Implementation Team during the project Inception Phase (2019)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separation of objectives and audiences makes it very hard to comment appropriately. For instance, “Raise awareness and increase visibility of the Paris Climate Agreement” without an audience is hard to comment on because it is too general. Instead, the two should be combined and simplified with sentences that explain clearly what we expect from each audience. For instance: “Raise awareness of possible mitigation actions the general public can undertake – advocating with MPs, and reducing household-level carbon footprint”</li> <li>• Bottom line: this feels like a very long laundry list of possible communication channels, principles and activities but I don’t see sufficient prioritization.</li> <li>• I also don’t always see measurable impact indicators between outputs and outcomes. For instance, between “messages communicated” and “awareness raised” (in table on page 79), how do we specifically measure whether a targeted audience has a better grasp of the issues? For instance, through qualitative surveys and collecting x number of positive responses.</li> <li>• I notice some of the objectives aren’t specifically communications-related. (e.g. Facilitate development, adoption and implementation of reforms and relevant laws)</li> </ul> <p>I hope this helps. Am happy to sit with project colleagues on this when I return in January.</p>	<p>develops a more practical, specific and targeted communication plan for the project in cooperation with the IRH Communications Team.</p> <p>Regarding the comment on measuring results, the project will be conducting an institutional capacity assessment to measure the baseline and change in institutional capacities of our partners, which would include measuring change in their awareness and communication capacities. The institutional capacity assessment will be developed and launched in 2109 (1st year of the project).</p>
<p><i>IRH Country Support Team:</i>          Congratulations for the project, to be supported of course, no comment from our side.          My only point is about DPC - how this issue was addressed/incorporated by the project - this may be of an example (or not) for other EU projects.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated.</p> <p>Consultations with UNDP Brussels Office on DPC have been conducted during the project design and planning phase. EU do not allow budgeting for GOE-related DPC (General Operating Expenses). Only direct project staff costs (CTA and part-time PA) have been budgeted upon consultations with the donor and as referenced in the funding agreement/description of action.</p> <p><i>EC’s standard General Conditions: “18.2 The following costs <u>may not be considered eligible direct costs</u> but may be charged as part of the remuneration/indirect costs [7% GMS]: all eligible costs that, while necessary and arising as a consequence of implementation, are supporting the implementation of the Action and not considered part of the activities that the Union finances as described in Annex I, including corporate management costs or other costs linked to the normal functioning of the Organisation, such as horizontal and support staff, office or equipment costs (except when duly justified and described in Annex I, such as a project office).”</i></p>