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Engagement Facility

Project Title: Green Accession Policy (GAP) Lab
Project Number: 01006092
Implementing Partner: UNDP
Start Date: 01 July 2026 End Date**:** 31 December 2026 **PAC Meeting date:** n/a

Brief Description
The Green Accession Policy (GAP) Lab is a strategic initiative led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support Ukraine's accession to the European Union in the area of Environment and Climate Change (Chapter 27 of the EU acquis). The initiative aims to strengthen Ukraine's capacity to plan, implement, and monitor environmental and climate reforms required for EU accession, while supporting the achievement of closing benchmarks under Chapter 27. Key activities include establishing and operationalizing the GAP Lab institutional architecture, providing embedded policy and technical expertise to government counterparts, piloting and validating priority reform instruments, and operating a Rapid Response Mechanism to address emerging policy needs. The initiative will support implementation of the National Programme for Adaptation to the Acquis (NPAA), development of Directive/Regulation-Specific Implementation Plans (D(R)SIPs), and other reforms necessary for compliance with EU environmental and climate legislation. The expected results of the GAP Lab include strengthened institutional capacities of the Government of Ukraine to advance EU accession reforms, accelerated implementation of priority environmental and climate policies, improved coordination among national and international stakeholders, and enhanced readiness to meet Chapter 27 closing benchmarks. Particular attention will be given to inclusive and gender-responsive approaches in environmental governance and policy implementation. Managed by UNDP Ukraine in close partnership with the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine and other key stakeholders, the GAP Lab will serve as a catalytic platform for translating policy commitments into practical reforms. By mobilizing technical expertise, fostering partnerships, and supporting evidence-based decision-making, the initiative will contribute to Ukraine's green recovery, sustainable development, and successful integration into the European Union.

Contributing CPD **UNDAF OUTCOME: 3 By 2029, people benefit from inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources, responding to major climate and environmental challenges. Expected CPD Output(s): Output 3.2 State implementation capacities are expanded for effective gender-responsive and accountable environmental governance, climate change adaptation and decarbonization** **Indicative Output with gender marker** Gender marker: GEN 1

Total resources required:		USD 15,000
Total resources allocated:		USD 15,000
	UNDP TRAC:	USD 15,000
	Private donor:	
	Government:	
	In-Kind:	
Unfunded:		

Agreed by (signature):

UNDP
Print Name: Mr. Christophoros Politis, Deputy Resident Representative, Officer-in -Charge
Date: 29-Jun-2026

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I. BACKGROUND

Since the escalation of the war in February 2022, Ukraine has faced unprecedented social, economic, and environmental challenges while simultaneously pursuing a strategic objective of joining the European Union. In February 2022, Ukraine formally applied for EU membership, obtained candidate status in June 2022, and has since launched accession negotiations. The Government of Ukraine has set an ambitious goal of completing the accession process by 2030, requiring accelerated reforms across all negotiation chapters, including Chapter 27: Environment and Climate Change.

Chapter 27 is widely recognized as one of the most complex and resource-intensive areas of the EU acquis. It encompasses more than 200 directives and regulations covering environmental governance, climate change, industrial pollution, waste management, water protection, biodiversity conservation, and related sectors. While Ukraine has made significant progress in advancing its European integration agenda, substantial gaps remain in both legislative alignment and practical implementation of EU environmental and climate requirements.

Accession negotiations require not only the transposition of EU legislation into national law but also the establishment of a demonstrable track record of implementation. To achieve this, Ukraine must implement the environmental and climate components of the National Programme for Adaptation to the Acquis (NPAA), develop Directive/Regulation-Specific Implementation Plans (D(R)SIPs) for the most complex legal acts, and undertake additional reforms necessary to meet Chapter 27 closing benchmarks. These processes require significant institutional, technical, financial, and human capacities that currently remain insufficient.

Consultations with the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine and other national stakeholders have identified critical capacity gaps related to policy planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement. Ukraine also faces a shortage of specialized expertise and practical experience in developing and implementing long-term reform roadmaps required for environmental and climate accession commitments. At the same time, successful implementation of Chapter 27 reforms requires coordinated action across government institutions, municipalities, the private sector, civil society, academia, and development partners.

To address these challenges, UNDP proposes the establishment of the Green Accession Policy (GAP) Lab as a dedicated platform to support Ukraine's environmental and climate accession agenda. The GAP Lab will strengthen government capacities, provide rapid and flexible technical assistance, facilitate coordination among stakeholders, support the development and implementation of priority reform instruments, and mobilize expertise and partnerships necessary to accelerate Ukraine's alignment with EU environmental and climate acquis, with all planned activities expected to be completed by December 2026. Through this initiative, UNDP aims to contribute to Ukraine's green recovery, sustainable development, and successful accession to the European Union. After the project ends, the Thematic Team on Environment will take over the follow-up and continue engagement with the national counterparts.

II. KEY OBJECTIVE OF THE ENGAGEMENT FACILITY

The key objective of the Green Accession Policy (GAP) Lab is to strengthen Ukraine's institutional and

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technical capacity to plan, implement, and monitor environmental and climate reforms required for accession to the European Union under Chapter 27: Environment and Climate Change. The GAP Lab will support the implementation of the National Programme for Adaptation to the Acquis (NPAA), development of Directive/Regulation-Specific Implementation Plans (D(R)SIPs), and other reforms necessary to achieve Chapter 27 closing benchmarks.

Recognizing the need for a dedicated and flexible mechanism to support Ukraine's environmental and climate accession agenda, UNDP proposes the GAP Lab as a platform for policy support, technical assistance, capacity development, and stakeholder coordination. The initiative will establish core institutional capacities, provide rapid response expertise for emerging reform needs, and facilitate cooperation among government institutions, development partners, academia, civil society, and the private sector, contributing to Ukraine's green recovery and successful EU accession.

III. OUTPUT AND ACTIVITIES

Expected Results

Output 1: *Institutional and technical capacity established to enable effective implementation of EU Chapter 27 environmental and climate acquis in Ukraine.*

Activity 1: Convening of policy dialogues, stakeholder consultations, and coordination events to support the initial operationalization of the Green Accession Policy (GAP) Lab and advance priority Chapter 27 outputs. Through this activity, UNDP will support the organization of conferences, policy dialogues, consultations, and coordination meetings to support the establishment and initial operationalization of the GAP Lab. The support will include provision of technical and analytical expertise to assist government counterparts in advancing priority environmental and climate reforms related to EU accession under Chapter 27.

The activity will contribute to strengthening institutional coordination, supporting the policy dialogue, and creating the foundation for effective planning, coordination, and monitoring of environmental and climate acquis alignment processes in Ukraine.

IV. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Green Accession Policy (GAP) Lab is aligned with the UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) 2025–2029, particularly Outcome 3: By 2029, people benefit from inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources, responding to major climate and environmental challenges. The initiative supports Ukraine's EU accession process by enhancing institutional and technical capacities required for implementation of Chapter 27: Environment and Climate Change, contributing to the achievement of national reform priorities, environmental sustainability objectives, and the successful alignment of Ukraine's environmental and climate policies with the EU acquis.

V. COMPLIANCE, MONITORING AND EVALUATION, AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT

The engagement facility will be fully managed by UNDP Ukraine Country Office. Under the overall supervision of the Deputy Resident Representative and the direct supervision of Team Leader, Energy and Environment Portfolio, the Project Manager will manage the engagement facility. Government entities, other UN agencies, development partners and other stakeholders will be consulted and involved in particular activities, as relevant to their mandates and roles.

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UNDP programme and project management policies and procedures, as outlined in the Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), will be applied throughout implementation. All activities will be implemented in accordance with UNDP financial rules and regulations, including requirements related to reporting, risk management, audit, and social and environmental standards.

UNDP will monitor implementation through regular progress reviews, stakeholder consultations, and assessment of progress against the agreed output indicator and milestones. Lessons learned and good practices will be documented and used to inform implementation and future scaling of the GAP Lab. Financial and narrative reporting will be conducted in accordance with UNDP procedures to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective use of resources.

The project will be implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine and other critical stakeholders and other critical stakeholders (including NGO sector).

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VI. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN

Expected Output	Planned Activities	Activity Timeframe Y -2026	Responsible party	Funding Source	Budget description	Planned budget (USD)
Output 1: Institutional and technical capacity established at the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine to enable effective implementation of EU Chapter 27 environmental and climate acquis in Ukraine **Gender marker:** Gen 1 **Indicator 1: Number of policy dialogues conducted** **Baseline and Target:** 0;5 **Indicator 2: Number of public officials, women and men participating:** a) Female b) Male **Baseline and Target:** 0; 30: a)15 b) 15	Activity 1: Convening of policy dialogues, stakeholder consultations, and coordination events to support the initial operationalization of the Green Accession Policy (GAP) Lab and advance priority Chapter 27 outputs.	X	UNDP	TRAC	75700 - Training, Workshops and Confer	13 616,56
					64300 Staff Mgmt Costs	272,33
					74500 GOE Miscellaneous Expenses	
Output 1 Subtotal						13 888,89
GMS			UNDP	Private partners		1 111,11
Total						15 000,00

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ANNEX: RISK LOG

#	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub-category *(including Risk Appetite)*	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level *(see Annex 3 Risk Matrix)*	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner *(individual accountable for managing the risk)*	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
	Delays in implementation of Chapter 27 reforms due to political, institutional, and security-related challenges	Limited institutional capacity, wartime priorities, political transition, unstable security environment, and changes in governmental leadership and policy direction	(1) Delays in achieving project outcomes and EU accession benchmarks; (2) reduced effectiveness of reform implementation; (3) disruptions to stakeholder engagement and coordination; (4) operational delays caused by security instability	**7. STRATEGIC (7.7. Alignment with national priorities) - UNDP Risk Appetite: OPEN TO SEEKING**	Likelihood: **3 - Moderately likely** Impact: **3 - Intermediate** Risk level: **HIGH RISK (equates to a risk appetite of SEEK)**	From: 01-Apr-25 To: 01-Jan-27	Project Manager/Project Coordinator	Risk Treatment 1.1: Establish embedded technical support and coordination mechanisms within GAP Lab Risk Treatment 1.2: Maintain continuous engagement with high-level government stakeholders and apply adaptive implementation modalities, including remote coordination mechanisms. Risk Treatment Owner: Project Manager/Project Coordinator
	Lack of qualified experts on EU acquis and D(R)SIPs	Limited national expertise and lack of prior experience with Chapter 27 implementation planning	(1) Delays in development of D(R)SIPs and reform instruments; (2) reduced quality of technical outputs; (3) dependency on external expertise	**4. ORGANIZATIONAL (4.7. Human Resources) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN**	**Likelihood: 2 - Low likelihood** **Impact: 3 - Intermediate** **Risk level: MODERATE**	From: 01-Apr-25 To: 01-Jan-27	Project Manager/Project Coordinator	Risk Treatment 2.1: Engage international and national technical experts to support implementation. Risk Treatment 2.2: Strengthen national capacities through

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#	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub-category *(including Risk Appetite)*	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level *(see Annex 3 Risk Matrix)*	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner *(individual accountable for managing the risk)*	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
					(equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)			mentoring, knowledge transfer, and targeted trainings Raising awareness among partners. Risk Treatment Owner: Project Manager/Project Coordinator
	Insufficient donor funding for long-term operationalization of GAP Lab	Dependence on external financing and uncertainty of multi-donor contributions	(1) Reduced sustainability of GAP Lab operations; (2) inability to scale reform support activities; (3) delays in implementation of planned deliverables	**2. FINANCIAL (2.6. Budget availability and cash flow) - UNDP Risk Appetite: MINIMAL TO CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood: 3 - Moderately likely** **Impact: 3 - Intermediate** **Risk level: MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Apr-25 To: 01-Jan-27	Project Manager/Project Coordinator	Risk Treatment 3.1: Develop and implement a resource mobilization strategy targeting multiple donors and partners 3.2: Strengthen donor coordination and communication on GAP Lab results and impact.