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European Union

# EU4Climate

Better Climate Policies for Eastern Partner Countries



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# UKRAINE




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## Impact of the war in Ukraine



On 24 February 2022, Russia launched a large-scale military invasion of Ukraine. The unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine has caused severe human and physical damage, also heavily targeting the civilian population and civilian infrastructure nationwide. To respond to the humanitarian emergency caused by the war, the EU4Climate has been repurposing part of the project's budget towards emergency response and addressing the immediate needs of the war-distressed population, complementing EU humanitarian assistance:

-  **procurement of medical supplies to address the immediate needs of the Ukrainian population;**
-  **provision of basic needs for internally displaced people staying in Ukraine's national parks and other protected areas (with the engagement of the Frankfurt Zoological Society);**
-  **assisting in needs assessment of the impacted municipalities, purchasing and delivering equipment such as power generators for critical infrastructure, and providing training on the safe use of the generators for selected municipalities (in cooperation with the Association "Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine").**

Ongoing and planned activities of the EU4Climate Ukraine are being implemented as allowed.



The war in Ukraine, in all its dimensions, is producing alarming cascading effects on a world economy already battered by COVID-19 and climate change, severely disrupting food, energy, and financial markets.

## A preliminary assessment of damage to the environment and its climate impact



Some early assessments have already registered pollution incidents that place people and ecosystems at risk of acute and long-term harm. Ukraine will be facing huge environmental problems as the war is poisoning the nation's air, water, and soil. These concern air pollution from military sites and materiel, including soil and water contamination, also coming from coal mines in the zone of conflict.

Besides recorded and future damage to the ecosystems, both the military build-up and impacts from the fighting will generate significant GHG emissions. Compared to 2021, the total area of forest fires in Ukraine increased 100 times, with most fires happening in the South and East of Ukraine. Additionally, to the serious biodiversity losses, destroyed forests and peatlands will largely impact the possibility a) to offset carbon emissions; and b) to increase adaptation capacity via nature-based solutions. Additional pressure is created by the occupation of Ukrainian sea ports by the Russian military, already causing serious concerns about the world's food security and forcing Ukrainian authorities and the international community to seek alternative logistical solutions to deliver lifesaving food supplies to the most vulnerable countries, which will generate additional GHG emissions.

According to the latest calculations by the Ministry of Environment and international experts, as a result of the war in 2022 (covering the period of 24 February – 31 December 2022), at least 33 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions were recorded. Of them:

- from hostilities - about 8.9 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq;
- from the movement of internally displaced persons - about 1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq;
- from fires – more than 23.4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq.

Potential indirect emissions of greenhouse gases due to the need for post-war reconstruction and reconstruction are estimated at 48.7 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq.





## Green reconstruction



The post-war reconstruction of Ukraine should take into account the principles of building back better and green reconstruction from the outset. Ukraine applied for EU membership in February 2022 and was granted EU candidate Status in June 2022. Green Reconstruction and Ukraine's path to EU membership will be mutually reinforcing processes. The impact of the war on Ukrainian society and economy has been severe, estimated reconstruction and recovery needs, as of February 24, 2023, are estimated at about US\$411 billion according to the RDNA2, undertaken jointly by the World Bank, the Government of Ukraine, the European Commission, and the United Nations<sup>1</sup>. Integrated into these needs are critical steps toward becoming a modern, low-carbon, disaster- and climate-resilient country that has aligned with European Union policies and standards in view of being ready to join the European Union, and where the population's vulnerabilities are addressed and people live in prosperity. While the financing envelope is overwhelming, experience from other countries shows that a phased approach to reconstruction is critical. Those figures are expected to further increase as the war continues.

Accelerating the pace of the green transition on the basis of EU standards and regulations is more important than ever to mitigate negative environmental and climate impacts and to ensure Ukraine rebuilds a sustainable, green, and just economy. At the same time, this will also accelerate the path of Ukraine towards EU membership. Initial steps towards post-war reconstruction have already been made by the government of Ukraine. To support the post-war reconstruction, the Commission has proposed to set up the 'Rebuild Ukraine' Facility which will be implemented through the 'Ukraine reconstruction platform', led by the Ukrainian government. The European Union stresses that the reconstruction should be in line with the European green and digital agenda.

Energy relations with Ukraine will remain focused on sustainable energy security and the green energy transition. Implementing reforms to enhance Ukraine's resilience, energy security and green transition are closely linked to the European Union's candidate status and, therefore, a priority.

<sup>1</sup> <https://ukraine.un.org/en/224374-updated-ukraine-recovery-and-reconstruction-needs-assessment>



## EU4Climate support



With EU4Climate support, policymaking and research will also contribute to building back Ukraine better, increasing its climate resilience, financing climate solutions and decreasing energy dependence on fossil fuels. Reconstruction of infrastructure and areas affected by hostilities should consider the restoration of the ecosystems' adaptability to climate change. In this context, the Methodological Guidelines for Risk Assessment and Vulnerability to Climate Change, which are currently being developed, are of particular importance, as due to hostilities natural and natural-anthropogenic systems were heavily destabilized, significantly increasing their vulnerability to external influences, resilience, and ability to adapt to climate change. EU4Climate also develops a feasibility study on the potential of alternative fuel use in aviation and water transport. Refueling from sustainable and achievable sources is a major part of energy security, rebuilding the energy system in a green way and achieving the GHG emissions targets.

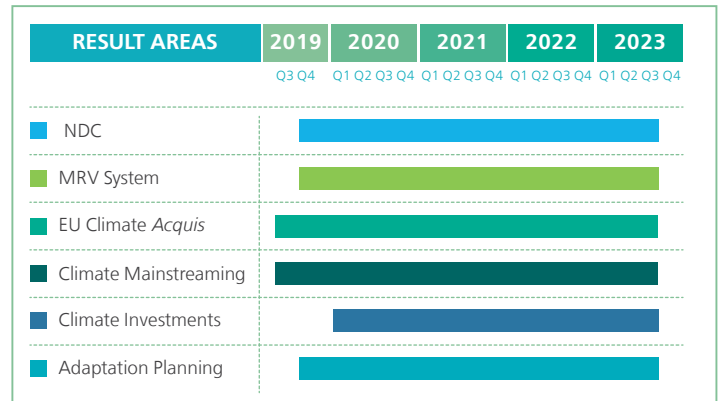
*On 23 June 2022, the European Council adopted conclusions on the membership applications from Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia and has decided to grant the status of candidate country to Ukraine and to the Republic of Moldova, also recognizing the European perspective of Georgia.*



# Climate policy development and advancing cooperation with the EU in Ukraine

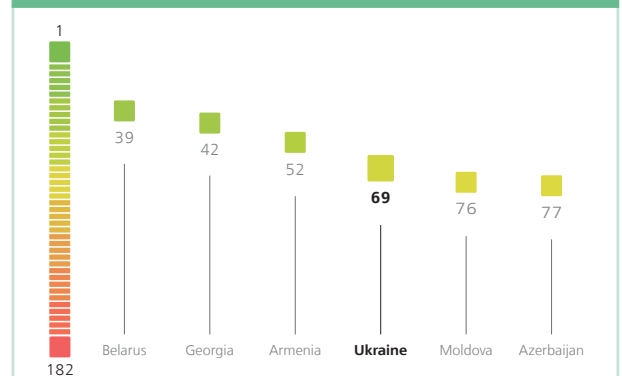


## Result areas and timeframe in Ukraine



The Implementation of the EU4Climate activities started in Ukraine in the second half of 2019, with some initial activities relating to the stocktaking, planning and development of a National Adaptation Strategy and aligning the national climate change legislation with the EU *Acquis* performed in 2019.

## Country Climate Vulnerability Index



ND-GAIN Country Index, composed of vulnerability and readiness score, ranks the vulnerability of countries to the impacts of climate change; a higher number means a higher vulnerability. (As developed by the University of Notre Dame<sup>2</sup>).



<sup>2</sup> <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>

### 2014

- Association Agreement with EU National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) (2015-2020)

### 2015

- INDC 2021-2030
- COP21 Paris Agreement
- Pledge to Sustainable Development Agenda 2030
- National Renewable Energy Action Plan till 2020

### 2016

- Ratification of Paris Agreement
- The Concept on State Policy on Climate Change till 2030

### 2017

- EU-Ukraine AA fully effective
- The Action Plan to Implement Concept on State Policy on Climate Change till 2030
- Energy Strategy of Ukraine (2035)

### 2018

- LEDS submitted (2021-2050)
- National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP) working group

### 2019

- EU4Climate launched
- Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of GHG emissions Law adopted
- Law on Ozone-Depleting Substances and F-gases adopted

### 2020

- Secondary legislation on MRV implementation adopted
- Sublegal acts on Ozone-depleting substances and F-gases adopted

### 2021

- Updated NDC to Paris Agreement (2021-2030) approved
- National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) (2021-2030) – *under development*
- Environmental Safety and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy by 2030 and Adaptation Action Plan

### 2022

- NDC Implementation Plan
- NDC Financial Strategy and Action Plan by 2030
- Methodological recommendations on sectoral climate risks and vulnerability assessment
- Recommendations and training on alternative fuels in avia and water transport
- Law on waste management updated
- Legislation on air emissions updated

### 2023

- Framework Climate Law of Ukraine – *under development*
- National reconstruction plan, including environment and climate elements – *under development*
- National Energy and Climate Plan update (NECP) 2021-2030 – *under development*
- Strategic Environmental Assessment of NECP update – *under development*
- National Adaptation Communication

# EU4Climate key policy interventions and expected impact



➤ The primary tool for bringing Ukraine and the EU closer together is the Association Agreement (AA), including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) signed in 2014. One of the priority reforms in the AA is energy efficiency. The EU contributes substantially to the Ukrainian Energy Efficiency Fund and supports raising awareness for energy efficiency investments. The EU continues providing assistance for the modernization of the gas and electricity sectors and market reform in Ukraine. It is also supporting the establishment of an independent energy regulatory authority and new gas and electricity laws to improve efficiency in the energy sector. The EU also helps Ukraine with its ambitious transport agenda, and the country has drafted a comprehensive action plan to improve and decarbonize the transport sector.



➤ The EU4Climate Programme, funded by the European Union, aims to support the development and implementation of climate-related policies by the Eastern Partnership countries.

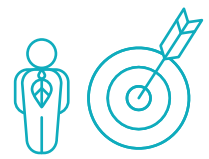
The EU4Climate initiative supports Ukraine in elaborating its long-term low emission development strategy and mainstreaming climate in the sectoral strategies. A robust domestic emissions monitoring, reporting and verification system will be established, to inform the government and the international community on the progress of its NDC implementation. Throughout the programme, the best international and EU practices will be applied.



## Activities in 2023

- Elaborating an NDC implementation action plan and roadmap in connection to Ukraine's reconstruction plan
- Conducting vulnerability and risks analysis for priority sectors and developing recommendations for sectoral adaptation
- Developing the National Bicycle Transport Strategy with micro mobility policy recommendations
- Preparing a Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure for the National Energy and Climate Plan update
- Providing preparatory advice on the climate policy architecture in Ukraine
- Developing the legislation for transport ecolabelling
- Developing the Strategy for Low-carbon emission transport development by 2030
- Adaptation Communication to UNFCCC
- Providing humanitarian assistance in purchasing medical equipment, mobile generators, support to internally displaced people.

# EU4Climate Ukraine: key results achieved in 2022



- 1 **Implementation and update of NDC**
- 2 **Alignment with EU Acquis included in bilateral agreements and Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action**
- 3 **Adaptation planning**
- 4 **To address the immediate war-related needs of the Ukrainian central and local authorities, and reduce the impact of the war on the distressed population of Ukraine**

● In July 2021, the Government of Ukraine updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 65 percent by 2030 from the 1990 levels. Every five years, countries need to review and enhance the level of ambition reflected in that national climate action plans to ensure that the global average temperature will not rise above 2°C, with aims to limit the temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. In Ukraine, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions over the next ten years will be achieved through a number of complex solutions, including:

- modernizing of the energy infrastructure and industrial enterprises,
- developing of renewable energy sources,
- introducing energy efficiency measures,
- waste management reform,
- reforming forest management.

A 2-day national training on applying QA/QC for the MRV system was organized on 2-3 June 2022 for 42 participants, representatives of the institutions that are part of the National MRV system.

● Compliance check on the compatibility of Ukraine's legislation with the EU acquis was performed by the Energy Community Secretariat in 2020. A **roadmap for alignment** with the EU Acquis was produced by the **Energy Community Secretariat** and presented on 29 September 2020. The ECS continued to support the development of the draft of the climate law for the Ministry in 2022. The current document is a combination of the previous draft law which also included comments received from DG CLIMA and incorporated the new Ministry's vision of the document.

● A climate adaptation working group was established in October 2020 to further support the development of a **National Adaptation Strategy for Ukraine**. The Environmental Security and Climate Adaptation Strategy, complemented by the **Operational Action Plan**, was approved on 20 October 2021. The Strategy sets the framework for adaptation action in Ukraine, focusing on essential steps to assess climate impacts on society, economy and nature, integrating adaptation in sectoral and local policies, and ensuring the better use of climate data. **The Action Plan sets out required changes to legislation, including incorporating climate adaptation in local economic and social development strategies**, an environmental assessment process, and an environmental impact assessment process.

● Since the start of the large-scale Russian aggression in February 2022, the EU4Climate project' contributing to humanitarian needs over \$800,000.00 for: the procurement of medical equipment; providing support to internally displaced people in Ukraine; and assisting war-impacted municipalities in Ukraine.

The project partner Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), has been conducting activities related to emergency support for IDPs located in or near protected areas. Most of this IDP support is focused on the Carpathian region where 13 target protected areas of the FZS are located.

The other partner "Association Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine" has finalized the transfer of thirteen generators for the territorial communities of Pokrovsk, Novopokrovska, Blyzniukivska, Chuguyivska, Mykolaivska, Druzhkivska, Kramatorsk, Mykolaiv and two for villages in Kharkiv oblast.

The Ministry of Healthcare agreed on supply of the negative pressure wound therapy systems which are expected to be procured in 2023.



## Environmental Security and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Ukraine



The **Environmental Security and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Ukraine until 2030** developed with the support of the **EU4Climate** will contribute to the delivery of Ukraine's international obligations under the Paris Agreement. Endorsed by the Ukrainian government, the new strategy is to make Ukraine a more environmentally safe and climate-resilient country, ready to meet the already unavoidable impacts of the global climate crisis in Ukraine.

According to the Strategy, the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change in Ukraine are biodiversity, water resources, energy, public health, forestry, coastal areas, fisheries, agriculture, soils, etc. And these are the areas the main activities of the Government within the framework of the document implementation will be aimed at.

The strategy sets the framework for adaptation action in Ukraine, focusing on essential steps to assess climate impacts on society, economy and nature, integrating adaptation in sectoral and local policies, and ensuring the better use of climate data. It defines ten vulnerable sectors and natural components – biodiversity; water resources; energy; public health; fisheries; agriculture and soils; forestry; cities and territorial communities; transport and infrastructure; coastal areas, and tourism. By 2024, these sectors are to undergo an analysis of their climate vulnerability and the risks they face. Based on this research, vital adaptation measures will be developed and prioritized in sectoral and regional adaptation plans.



As a result of the Strategy's implementation, it is expected:

- reduction of industrial pollution;
- creation of an effective chemical safety system;
- ensuring the rational use of natural resources; achieving "good" ecological state of waters;
- ensuring sustainable forest management and increasing the adaptive capacity of forest ecosystems;
- creation of legal and economic bases for the introduction of a hierarchy of waste management;
- increasing the efficiency of the state system of environmental impact assessment and state supervision (control) in the field of environmental protection;
- conservation of biodiversity and ensuring the development of the nature reserve fund of Ukraine;
- strengthening the adaptability and resilience of social, economic and environmental systems to climate change;
- stabilization of ecological balance in the temporarily occupied territories, etc.



To bring the Strategy to the life, changes to legislation are also required, including incorporating climate adaptation in local economic and social development strategies, an environmental assessment process, and an environmental impact assessment process.





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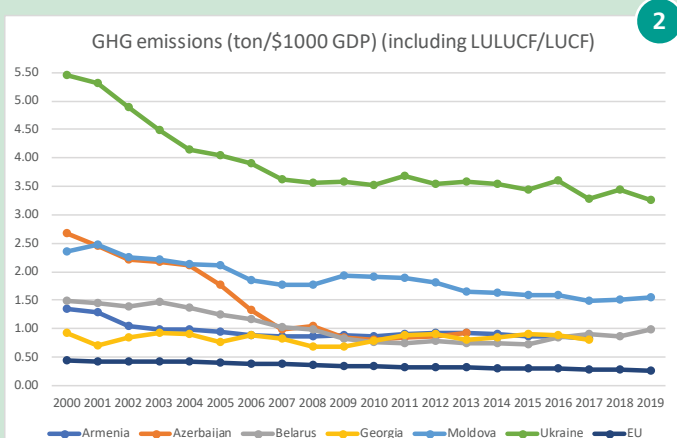
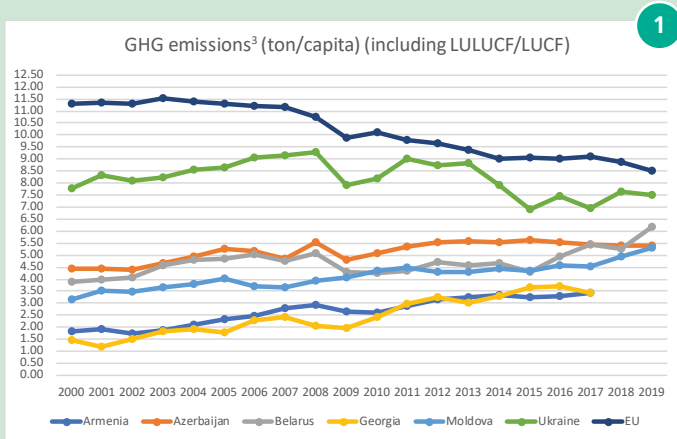


➤ The **EU4Climate Programme** helps governments in the six EU Eastern Partner countries to take action against climate change. It supports countries in implementing the Paris Agreement and improving climate policies and legislation.

EU4Climate assists the EaP countries to integrate the low-emissions and climate resilience objectives into development policies and plans, to improve and consolidate climate policies and legislative alignment. Its ambition is to limit climate change impact on citizens' lives and make them more resilient to it.

The Programme builds on important achievements of past cooperation programmes, such as the EU's ClimaEast Programme, which supported Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Neighbourhood East and was completed in 2017. EU4Climate directly contributes to the targets of the Joint Staff Working Document "Recovery, resilience and reform: post 2020 Eastern Partnership priorities", adopted in July 2021.

The scope of the Programme was defined in cooperation with all partner countries. The Initiative is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. The European Commission provides the overall policy direction.



**Partner Countries:**  
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus<sup>4</sup>, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

**Duration:**  
2019-2023

**Budget:**  
EUR 8.8 million  
(EU contribution: EUR 8 million)

**Implementing Partner:**  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Overall direction:**  
European Commission

<sup>3</sup> Participation of Belarus in the EU4Climate was suspended as of 24.02.2022 until further notice.  
<sup>4</sup> Greenhouse gas emissions data is taken from the latest Biannual Update Report (for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova) and the National Inventory for Ukraine.

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