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EU4Climate

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine



Photo credit:
UNDP in Armenia

ARMENIA

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Climate policy development and advancing cooperation with the EU in Armenia

> With a population of around 3 million (2020), Armenia contributes as little as 0.02% to the total global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and is in the lower range of per capita footprint with 3.33 ton CO₂e. In its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Armenia committed to achieving ecosystem neutral GHG emissions by 2050, with an ambition of only 2.07 ton CO₂e per year per capita, conditional on the support of adequate international financial, technological and capacity building assistance.

Energy and agriculture are the two sectors with the largest GHG emission shares, and therefore this is where the majority of the mitigation potential lies.

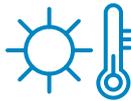


energy
70.0%



agriculture
22.0%

Climate change is already affecting Armenia, with an annual temperature increase higher than the global average and a significant decrease in precipitation.



temperature
increase
↑



precipitation
decrease
↓

> Climate change is increasing the vulnerability of Armenia, with an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events, worsening desertification and land degradation.

The most vulnerable sectors are agriculture, human health, water resources, forestry, transport and energy infrastructure.



The Strategic Program of Prospective Development 2014-2025 - the overarching development strategy of the country - mentions climate change, which needs to be addressed in order to improve rates of economic growth. A strong focus is given to mitigation and emissions reduction. The country has a set of climate-relevant environmental laws with further amendments (e.g. Water Code, 2002, and Law on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy, 2004) and policies (e.g. National Forest Policy, 2004, and the Strategy of the Main Directions Ensuring Economic Development in Agricultural Sector 2020-2030, 2019). However, these existing laws and policies do not have a specific focus on climate change. To address this, the government decided to develop national action plans for all climate-sensitive sectors. The National Strategy on Disaster Risk Management (2017) integrates climate change and incorporates Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The National Adaptation Plan is under development with support from the Green Climate Fund. The designated authority for climate change in Armenia is the Ministry of Environment, and an Inter-Agency Coordination Council for the Implementation of the Requirements and Provisions of the UNFCCC was established in 2012.



The EU cooperates with Armenia through the Eastern Partnership, the eastern regional dimension of the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy. The EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA), from June 2018, covers transport, energy and environment/climate amongst other things. Environment and adaptation to climate change are supported by improving water resources management and transboundary cooperation, mainstreaming environmental goals, developing sounder environmental governance, enhancing environmental awareness, improving the sustainable management of key natural resources and promoting climate change resilience. Armenia is moving forward on its sustainable energy and climate resilience pathway, with strong support from the EU and international financing institutions.



2014

- Strategic Program of Prospective Development 2014-2025



2015

- INDC 2015-2050
- COP21 Paris Agreement
- Pledge to Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



2016

- Stakeholder consultation for National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- 1st Biennial Update Report submitted to the UNFCCC



2017

- Ratification of Paris Agreement
- National Strategy on Disaster Risk Management
- Energy Community Secretariat assistance



2018

- Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with EU
- CEPA Roadmap
- 2nd Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC



2019

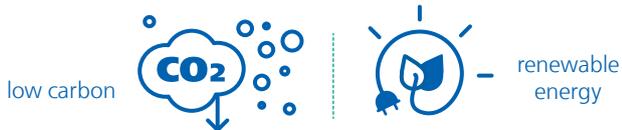
- EU4Climate launched



2020

- Updated NDC 2021-2030
- 4th National Communication to the UNFCCC
- 3rd Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC
- Framework NAP

EU4Climate key policy interventions and expected impact



Armenia is a country with an ambitious climate change agenda, which makes significant efforts towards a low carbon development through increasing the share of renewable energy, promoting energy efficiency, preserving and enhancing forest-covered areas and reporting regularly to the UNFCCC. **However, as a developing country, Armenia needs international financial, technological and capacity-building support.**



EU4Climate Programme, funded by the European Union, aims to support the development and implementation of climate-related policies by the Eastern Partnership countries. EU4Climate supports Armenia's commitment to update and enhance the country's NDC in 2020, with an ultimate goal to identify a realistic implementation strategy for the limitation of GHG emissions and prioritisation of adaptation measures for coping with risks to the country's sustainable development. The main tool for the successful implementation of the Armenian NDC, as well as the Climate Action SDG, is a long-term Low-emission Development Strategy (LEDS), including the development of energy and agriculture sectoral strategies. A robust domestic emissions measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system will be established, to inform the government and the international community of the progress of its NDC implementation. Throughout the programme, the best international and EU practices will be applied, including some alignment with EU *Acquis*.

Result areas and timeframe in Armenia

RESULT AREAS	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
NDC								
Long-term LEDS								
MRV System								
EU Climate <i>Acquis</i>								
Climate mainstreaming								
Climate investments								
Adaptation planning								



EU4Climate substantial activities started in Armenia in the second half of 2019 and laid the footing for assisting the country in the implementation of Armenia's commitments under the Paris Agreement.

EU4Climate Armenia: key results achieved in 2019



- 1 **Implementation and update of NDCs**
 - 2 **Development of mid-century long-term LEDS**
 - 3 **Introduction of robust emissions measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework**
 - 4 **Alignment with EU *Acquis* included in bilateral agreements and Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action**
 - 5 **Mainstreaming climate in economic sectors**
 - 6 **Enhancement of capacities to manage and leverage climate investments**
 - 7 **Adaptation planning**
 - 8 **Communication and visibility actions**
- 1 A series of regional and national events enhanced the **knowledge and capacities of twelve policy makers to plan and update the NDC** to result in a **NDC Roadmap**.
 - 2 Baseline situation addressing opportunities, obstacles and stakeholders was analysed for the **further development of the LEDS**.
 - 3 **Cooperation and partnerships were established with the EU institutions** and programmes in support of a robust national MRV system. UNFCCC Secretariat conducted a **review of the existing MRV system** and delivered recommendations to be further pursued with EU4Climate.
 - 4 **Approximation of the EU legislation was launched: partnership agreement** concluded with the Energy Community Secretariat and Environment Agency Austria to provide advice on EU *Acquis* alignment. Regulatory **Gap Analysis** was initiated.
 - 5 **Policy Instruments in Energy and Agriculture** towards the Low Emission Development Strategy were comprehensively analysed for climate action mainstreaming into sector strategies.
 - 6 Identified the ways **to improve climate investment management** through financial tools for the promotion of climate change technology transfer.
 - 7 A regional workshop enhanced capacities of sixty-nine EaP government officials for **national and sectoral adaptation planning and development**.
 - 8 **Round table discussions increased understanding** of national stakeholders on COP25 follow up actions for implementation of the Paris Agreement in Armenia accompanied by the "Time for Action" video performance on Facebook reaching 87,443 people with 15,702 views and 695 comments, shares and clicks.



Future Activities

- > Updated NDC of Armenia and its presentation through public campaigns.
- > Development of National Program on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy for 2021 to 2030 and Triennial Action Plan for the First Phase of its Implementation.
- > Climate finance budgeting and expenditure pilot study, introducing climate change parameters into national budget planning and reporting.



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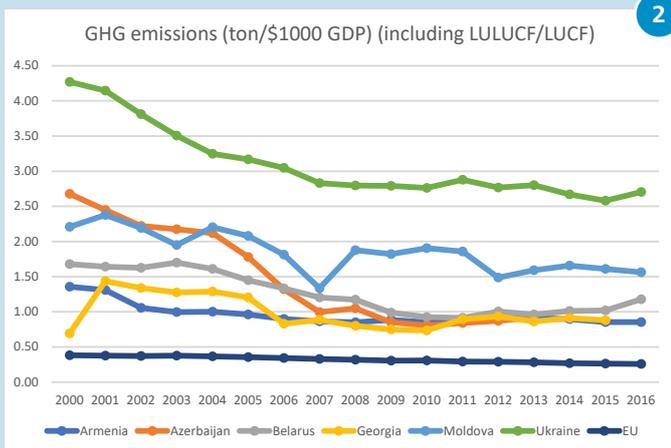
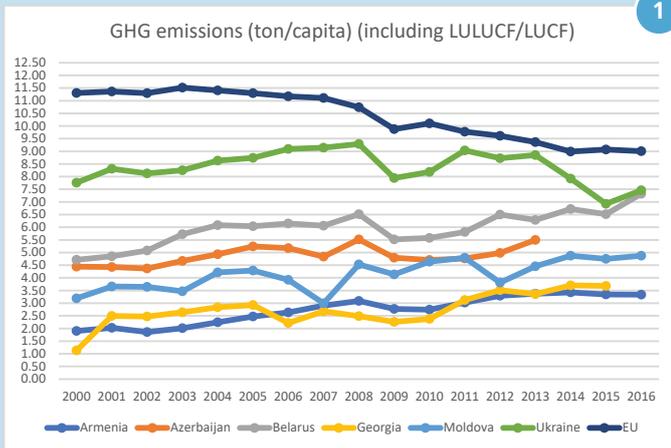
➤ **EU4Climate Programme** helps governments in the six EU Eastern Partner countries to take action against climate change. It supports countries in implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and improving climate policies and legislation.

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 EU ClimaEast Programme, which supported Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Neighbourhood East and was completed in 2017.

EU4Climate takes into account the enhanced cooperation endorsed as part of "20 Deliverables for 2020" at the EU Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2017.

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 direction.



Partner Countries:
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Duration:
2019-2022

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

Implementing Partner:
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Overall direction:
European Commission

- eu4climate.eu
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