



## THE EUROPEAN UNION AND BELARUS: TOGETHER FOR ENVIRONMENT



Protecting, preserving and improving the environment is essential for present and future generations. Belarus, like other countries in the region, faces difficult challenges in air pollution, ensuring a clean and safe water supply and sustainable waste management. The European Union is working together with Belarus to tackle climate change and to ensure a better quality of life for Belarusian citizens through the development of better environmental policies and greener investments in the modernisation of the social and technical infrastructure in cities.

### HOW ARE THE EU AND BELARUS WORKING TOGETHER?

- **Promoting decisions which respect both people and the environment:**

Developing and implementing policies which ensure a high level of environmental protection and improve the quality of life of Belarusian citizens.

- **Protecting nature:**

Building a joint network of protected areas across the Eastern Partnership region, the **Emerald Network**, and supporting the sustainable management of forests, crucial for better livelihoods in forestry-dependent communities.

- **Investing in an environmentally friendly future:**

Unlocking cheaper and more sustainable finance for local companies, municipalities and households willing to invest in environmentally friendly technologies.

- **Managing vital resources better:**

Improving the water management systems.

- **Delivering on climate policy goals:**

Supporting the delivery of the goals set by the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

### Investing in an environmentally friendly future

With the provided by EU assistance to **support the transition to a green economy in Belarus**, the Goznak paper mill has significantly upgraded its production of **recycled paper**. Before the pilot initiative, the mill could only produce low-grade paper from recycled materials: now, with new equipment purchased with EU funds, the mill delivers quality office paper, at hugely reduced cost.

- **Raw material costs down** €800,000/year
- **Fuel and energy costs down** €17,000/year
- **New jobs** created and better conditions for workers

The paper mill was one of 23 pilot initiatives supported by the EU across Belarus for a total budget of €5 million.

Find out more:

[www.greenlogic.by](http://www.greenlogic.by) and [www.green-economies-eap.org](http://www.green-economies-eap.org)



*"We were interested in recycling waste paper for a long time: investing in new equipment has allowed us to recycle waste paper into quality white paper, reducing raw material costs and saving energy."*

**Aliaksiej Kashyn,**  
Goznak paper mill, Barysaŭ

## Protecting biodiversity

Healthy peatlands are essential to preventing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The EU provided support to clean and preserve the Zvaniec and Sporaŭskaje fens in Belarus, which together absorb and accumulate 4,100 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> a year.


What was done?

- **714 hectares** of peatland have been cleaned
- **1,800 tons** of dry wood and 0.9 tons of reed have been harvested
- **3,500 ha** of shrubs, reeds and trees have been cut
- **2,500 tons of dry biomass** harvested and pelleted for use as fuel, which will result in reduced emissions of 15.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/ha/year
- **improved environment** for the preservation of endangered wildlife

Find out more:

[www.climaeast.eu](http://www.climaeast.eu)

and [www.pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/emerald-network](http://www.pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/emerald-network)



*"So far, we have cleaned up around 700 hectares out of the planned area. It is more than we expected."*

**Vadim Protasevich,**  
Director  
Sporauski National Reserve


## Forest communities

As the head of the executive committee of her village, **Angela Timoshenko** deals with the management of forest resources, which provide heat, food and jobs to her community. She worked in partnership with the EU-funded forestry protection programme FLEG II, whose research on forest dependency in Belarus helped communities like Angela's to use forest resources more effectively.

In addition, the project supported Belarus in developing its **Strategic Forestry Development Plan** for 2015-2030, aiming at creating productive and sustainable forests, along with the conservation of their biological and landscape diversity.

Find out more:

[www.enpi-fleg.org/activities/belarus/](http://www.enpi-fleg.org/activities/belarus/)



*"I want to leave the forests to my children in the same condition as they are now."*

**Angela Timoshenko**

## LOOKING FORWARD

To help deliver on its commitments the EU is launching two major initiatives:

- **EU4Environment** integrates in a single strategic framework initiatives to achieve: **greener decision making** – sustainable economy and green growth – 'smart' environmental regulation – ecosystem protection – knowledge sharing
- **EU4Climate** will support the Eastern partner countries to implement their climate policies by contributing to **low emission** and **climate resilient development**, and helping them to meet their commitments under the 2016 Paris Agreement on Climate Change

## KEY STATISTICS

To find **key environmental statistics for Belarus** on air pollution, biodiversity, waste, etc. visit the portal of the EU-funded project for shared environmental information systems – ENI SEIS II East.

[www.eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east](http://www.eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east)