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MEMO

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New EU funding to boost regional cooperation in the Eastern Partnership region

The European Union has announced new support package, worth EUR 64.5 million to boost regional cooperation in the Eastern Partnership. It will help implement various actions addressing issues such as local sustainable development, water management, border management and support to civil society. The new support is in line with the priorities agreed at the Riga Summit of the Eastern Partnership in May 2015.

Eastern Partnership Flagship Initiative on Sustainable Municipal Development (EUR 20 million):

This initiative will support sustainable development of local authorities in the EaP region. It will for example promote economic development, energy efficiency, security of energy supply and local public administration reform. It will help local authorities with the development and implementation of their Sustainable Energy Action Plans. These plans aim at reducing CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2020, mainly through energy efficiency measures. More than 100 cities in the Eastern Partnership are committed to the Covenant of Mayors. Through the Mayors for Economic Growth initiative support will be provided to local authorities that want to work on local economic governance in order to foster sustainable and inclusive growth.

The European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EaP flagship initiative, EUR 23.5 million):

The European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+ 4 EaP) will help the EaP countries to bring their legislation closer to EU acquis in the field of water management. The main focus will be given to the management of trans-boundary river basins, as identified by the EU Water Framework Directive and by multilateral environmental agreements. Pilot river basin management plans will be developed and implemented, building on the improved policy framework and ensuring strong participation of local stakeholders. The goal is to develop tools improving the quality of waters in a long term and its availability for all stakeholders involved.

Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility Regional Actions 2015 (EUR 5 million):

This programme will support civil society's role in promoting reforms and democratic changes in the Eastern Partnership countries. A monitoring tool will be developed to assess the environment in which civil society organisations operate. Increased dialogue between CSOs and national and local authorities will be promoted via various activities, such as public consultations, country reports, comparative baseline studies and joint pilot projects. Social media and internet-based tools, such as e-learning courses and webinars,

will be established to increase transparency, accountability and participation of civil society actors in policy making processes and policy analyses.

European Union Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (EUR 16 million):

The EU Border Assistance Mission between Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) is an advisory and monitoring body established in 2005. Since then, it helps improve functioning of institutions responsible for border management, customs control and related work. In 2015-2017, the support will be given particularly to: further promote border and customs cooperation between both countries, confidence building measures, border monitoring activities on the Transnistrian segment of the border, monitoring of the implementation of Visa Liberalisation and of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) agreements, including facilitation of the external trade from Ukraine and Moldova.

For more information

Eastern Partnership:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/eastern-partnership/index_en.htm

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre:

<http://www.enpi-info.eu/>

The Covenant of Mayors:

http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html

EU Border Assistance Mission between Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM):

<http://www.eubam.org/>