



EaP | Eastern
Partnership

**The Eastern Partnership
beyond 2020:
Reinforcing Resilience –
an Eastern Partnership
that delivers for all**

#strongertogether

Launched in 2009 as a joint policy initiative, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) aims to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union (EU), its Member States, and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

In 2019, as the partnership marked its 10th anniversary, the European Commission carried out a broad and inclusive consultation to define the future policy objectives. Overall, there is a consensus that the Eastern Partnership is robust and delivers tangible benefits to the daily lives of people across the region.

Beyond 2020, the EU, its Member States and the partner countries will work together to strengthen resilience as an overriding policy framework through **five policy objectives**:

A Partnership that CREATES

Strengthening the economy is key to meeting citizens' expectations, **reducing inequality** and making partner countries places where people want to build their futures. **Strong interconnections** between the EU and the EaP, as well as among the partner countries, are important drivers for economic development, regional integration, trade and mobility. The aim is to create **decent jobs** and **economic opportunities**, ensuring prosperity for people living in the partner countries.

What's next?

The EU and the partner countries will work together for resilient, sustainable and integrated economies:

- ✓ Increasing the **trade** and further regional and bilateral **integration of economies**
- ✓ Focusing on the full implementation of Association Agreements with Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas and other **trade agreements**, for maximum benefits
- ✓ Providing stronger incentives for **structural reforms**, improving **access to finance** and supporting **SMEs, particularly women and young entrepreneurs**, to foster growth and investment
- ✓ Strengthening the interconnections through more investment in physical **connectivity** and **infrastructure** (in transport, energy and digital)
- ✓ Continuing to **invest in people**, with an emphasis on the young
- ✓ Better connecting **education, research** and **innovation** with private sector needs.

A Partnership that PROTECTS

Good governance and **democratic institutions, rule of law**, successful **anti-corruption policies**, the **fight against organised crime**, respect of **human rights** and security, including support to populations affected by conflict, are important preconditions for a functioning market economy and for sustainable growth and are the backbone of strong and resilient states and societies

What's next?

The EU and partner countries will renew their commitment to the fundamentals of the partnership, in particular for accountable institutions, the rule of law and security:

- ✓ Proposing ways to better measure the impact of **judicial reforms**
- ✓ Reinvigorating EU support for **fighting economic crime and corruption**
- ✓ Considering progress in **rule of law** reforms when deciding on assistance; the EU's incentive-based approach will continue to benefit those partner countries more engaged in reforms
- ✓ Continuing cooperation with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to enhance prevention, preparedness and response to **natural and man-made disasters**
- ✓ Stepping up support for **security dialogues and cooperation**.

A Partnership that GREENS

The European **Green Deal** makes it clear that environmental and climate challenges require urgent action by the EU and the partner countries. In the move towards **climate neutrality**, the EU and partner countries have the joint responsibility to fulfil their nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement and modernise their economies, reducing their carbon footprint.

What's next?

The EU and partner countries will work together towards a resilient and sustainable future:

- ✓ Transforming the region into fair and prosperous societies, with modern, resource-efficient, clean, circular and competitive economies, while increasing their **environmental and climate action**, including through more sustainable use of natural resources
- ✓ Developing **new green jobs** and economic opportunities linked to the **green transition**
- ✓ Developing **local** and **renewable energy sources**, thus halting the loss of biodiversity
- ✓ Continuing investment in **environmental governance** and in raising awareness, including by teaming up with civil society
- ✓ Accelerating the shift to **sustainable** and **smart mobility**
- ✓ Scaling up action in areas that are critical for **people's health** and **well-being**.

A Partnership that CONNECTS

A modern economy based on data can only be fully realised if citizens and businesses have access to high quality electronic communications infrastructure and services at affordable prices. The **Strategy on Shaping Europe's digital future** calls for a strong digital presence in the EU's neighbourhood to enable growth and drive sustainable development.

What's next?

The EU will invest further in the digital transformation of partner countries and will aim to extend the benefits of the Digital Single Market:

- ✓ Supporting the extension of secure and very high capacity Gigabit **broadband**, in particular in remote or less densely populated areas, and ensuring services are available at affordable prices
- ✓ Supporting the implementation of **roaming** and **spectrum** agreements among the partner countries and, where appropriate, with the EU
- ✓ Strengthening **e-Governance** in the EaP region to increase the efficiency, transparency and accountability for public administrations and facilitating reforms
- ✓ Scaling up support to highly innovative digital **start-ups** and facilitating their business cooperation across borders
- ✓ Further supporting and assisting the **cyber security** of the partner countries.

A Partnership that EMPOWERS

Transparent, citizen-centred and accountable public administrations, free and fair elections are essential for democracy. Together with an engaged **civil society**, **free, plural and independent media**, as well as the **protection of citizens' rights**, these are key ingredients for resilient, fair, inclusive, and democratic societies.

What's next?

The EU and partner countries will work together towards resilient, fair and inclusive societies:

- ✓ Ensuring that authorities **involve citizens** in decision-making, with the aim to support democratic systems and empower people to make informed choices
- ✓ Further supporting the capacity of **civil society organisations**, particularly grass-roots organisations and youth, to meaningfully engage in policy-making, and promote reforms and public accountability
- ✓ Promoting a well-functioning **media environment**, and independent journalists to ensure access to accurate and fact-based information
- ✓ Promoting social, economic and political **inclusion for all**, including women, children, persons belonging to minorities and conflict-affected populations
- ✓ Ensuring **mobility** and people-to-people contacts in a secure and well-managed environment, and ensuring support to vulnerable migrants and refugees.

