

EVALUATION ROADMAP

Roadmaps aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's work to allow them to provide feedback and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to share any relevant information that they may have.

TITLE OF THE EVALUATION	Evaluation of the European Union's co-operation with Armenia - Country Level Evaluation
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	NEAR A4
INDICATIVE PLANNING (PLANNED START DATE AND COMPLETION DATE)	Planned Start Date Q1 2018 Planned Completion Date Q2 2019
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	DG NEAR: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/eastern-partnership_en EEAS: https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/896/armenia-and-eu_en EU Delegation in Armenia: https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/armenia_en

The Roadmap is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the document, including its timing, are subject to change.

A. Context, purpose and scope of the evaluation

Context

This evaluation is part of the DG NEAR multiannual Evaluation plan.

EU relations with Armenia are based on the EU-Armenia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (1999¹), which provides for wide-ranging cooperation in the areas of political dialogue, trade, investment, economy, promotion of democracy and human rights, law-making and culture. Armenia is part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP²), as a southern Caucasus country since 2004 and in the Eastern Partnership³ since its creation in 2009.

In 2015, Armenia joined the EEU (Eurasian Economic Union)⁴ with Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Despite Armenia's decision in 2013 not to sign the Association Agreement with the EU, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA), Armenia and the EU continue their political and trade dialogue in areas where this is compatible with Armenia's participation to the EEU. Negotiations on the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA)⁵ were successfully concluded in February 2017. The new CEPA will replace the current EU-Armenia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

Based on the ENP Review⁶ guidance and the new agreement, consultations with Armenia on a new, more focused, country-specific framework for bilateral cooperation in the form of joint Partnership Priorities, aimed at replacing the ENP Action Plan, have been launched.

In 2007-2013, the EU committed EUR 281.5 million for bilateral assistance to Armenia under the ENPI⁷. This included EUR 40 million made available in 2012-2013 under the Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation.

¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu-armenia_partnership_and_cooperation_agreement_en.pdf

² http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/pdf/pdf/com03_104_en.pdf

³ https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/eastern-partnership_en

⁴ <http://www.eaeunion.org/?lang=en>

⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/armenia/>

⁶ http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/pdf/pdf/com_11_303_en.pdf

⁷ http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/pdf/pdf/oj_1310_en.pdf

For the period 2014-2017⁸ the EU financial cooperation with Armenia amounts to EUR 140-170 million in grants under ENI⁹. In line with the revised ENP's 'more for more' principle, an additional EUR 25 million was provided as grants to Armenia in 2013, under the Eastern Partnership Integration & Cooperation programme.

For the programming period 2017-2020 a new Single Support Framework is being prepared with an overall envelope between EUR 144,000,000 and EUR 176,000,000.

During the period covered by this evaluation Armenia has also benefitted from regional, European Neighbourhood-wide collaboration, cross-border cooperation¹⁰, twinning¹¹, TAIEX¹² and from the European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights¹³, Non-state actors and local authorities budget line (DCI/CSO-LA¹⁴), Instrument for Nuclear Safety¹⁵ and the Instrument for Stability (IfS¹⁶/IcSP¹⁷). Armenia also benefits from the Neighbourhood Investment Facility¹⁸ and participates in ERASMUS+¹⁹.

Purpose and scope

This evaluation will assess the performance of the European Union's co-operation with Armenia (2010-2017) and will serve as one source of information for the implementation of the new Single Support Framework (2017-2020). The evaluation will assess to what extent the various projects and programmes financed by the EU under the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI), and the EU thematic programmes, focused on human rights and civil society, and other programmes funded by other EU instruments are contributing to the achievement of the strategic objectives of the EU Cooperation with Armenia.

The evaluation will:

- identify key lessons and produce recommendations in order to improve the current and future European Union's strategies for, and programmes and actions in Armenia.
- provide an assessment of the effectiveness and suitability of EU bilateral and Member States' assistance mechanisms in Armenia.

In accordance with the Better Regulation, the following evaluation criteria will be used: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and added value, complemented with impact, sustainability and complementarity.

B. Better regulation²⁰

Consultation of citizens and stakeholders

Targeted consultation of stakeholders represents a crucial element of the evaluation methodology and will be ensured throughout all evaluation phases. In addition, all interested actors are invited to provide feedback to this roadmap. During the inception and desk phases, the EU and national/regional stakeholders will be consulted via phone/email/face to face discussions based on a consultation strategy to be developed during the Inception phase. During the field phase the evaluators will visit Armenia. The mission will be essential to ensure that views from the national stakeholders, direct and indirect beneficiaries are heard. In addition to the national authorities Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) will be consulted. A stakeholders' workshop will be held in Armenia towards the end of the field phase before the elaboration of the draft final report to discuss the findings.

The stakeholders for this evaluation include national authorities, international financial institutions, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations organisations, bi-lateral donors, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe, CSOs and international social partner organisations.

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/armenia_2014_2017_programming_document_en.pdf

⁹ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014, OJ L77, p 27

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/cross-border-cooperation_en

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/tenders/twinning_en

¹² https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/tenders/taix_en

¹³ <http://www.eidhr.eu/>

¹⁴ http://www.welcomeurope.com/european-funds/dci-civil-society-organisations-local-authorities-cso-la-931+831.html#tab=onglet_details

¹⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/funding-instruments-programming/funding-instruments/instrument-nuclear-safety-cooperation_en

¹⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:114171>

¹⁷ http://www.welcomeurope.com/european-funds/instrument-stability-847+747.html#tab=onglet_details

¹⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/neighbourhood-wide/neighbourhood-investment-facility_en

¹⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

²⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/index_en.htm

Data collection and methodology

Data will be collected mainly during the Inception and Desk phases, and the field mission to Armenia, from different sources, including in particular:

- Programming documents, budget documents, action documents, the EU results framework, annual reports, Results Orientated Monitoring and evaluations launched by the EC.
- Government planning and policy documents, documentation from local authorities and local partners.
- International sources of information concerning democracy, human rights, labour rights, justice and security, corruption, trade flows, gender equality, internal economic and social disparities and employment levels.
- General documents, such as Communications of the European Union, Partnership and Cooperation agreement, ENP Action Plan with EU²¹, EU's Black Sea Synergy initiative²², EU's Eastern Partnership initiative, ETF publications and projects.

²¹ http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/enp/pdf/pdf/action_plans/armenia_enp_ap_final_en.pdf

²² https://eeas.europa.eu/enp/pdf/pdf/com07_160_en.pdf