



THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ARMENIA: TOGETHER FOR ENVIRONMENT



Protecting, preserving and improving the environment is essential for present and future generations. Armenia, 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 Armenia to tackle climate change and to ensure a better quality of life for Armenian 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 ARMENIA 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 Armenian 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 EU support through the 'Turning environmental challenges into opportunities: Introducing building materials from plastic waste' project, the town of Kapan, in Syunik Province, will start sorting plastic waste, and preparing for recycling and re-use in the construction sector.

The results are:

- **Start-up recycling facility** established in Kapan
- Creation of infrastructure for **separation and collection of plastic waste**
- Production of **6 types of building materials** using plastic waste
- **35 permanent jobs** created
- **60 people trained**



"With this project, for the first time in Armenia we'll try to recycle plastic waste and obtain building materials."

Armine Tuhikyan,
Programme director

Protecting biodiversity

Armenia's forest ecosystems form a vital eco-corridor which extends through the Eastern Lesser Caucasus. The EU and Armenia have been working to restore the degraded mountain pastures and forests of Armenia, while supporting local communities to achieve economic benefits through sustainable land management.

What was achieved?

- improved management of **7,500 hectares of pastures**
- **34.2 hectares of new forest belts** established by planting **35,000 new seedlings**, including indigenous and wild fruits
- local residents trained on **sustainable management** of mountain forest and pasture ecosystems under changing climate conditions

Find out more:

www.climaeast.eu
and www.pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/emerald-network



"Back in the 1990s, massive logging took place in this area. We didn't think about the environment then... We should be more responsible and think how to protect the forest from the same 'fate' of the past."

Taguhi Boyakhchyan,
Head of Tsapatagh community

Organic farming


Beekeeper Samvel Mkhitarian is a beneficiary of the EU-funded **Organic Agriculture Support Initiative**. With the support of the project, he will soon receive a certificate allowing him to export his 100% organic products.

The initiative provides:

- small **grants to smallholder farmers** seeking to start, diversify or expand organic production
- bigger grants to established **organic farmers, co-operatives** and **processors** for enhancing productivity and market access
- support for organic technologies
- **marketing assistance** and network support
- support to **curriculum development**

Find out more:

www.facebook.com/oasiarmenia



"We don't use any chemicals – look at this honey, we can say that no one has ever touched this except the bees."

Samvel Mkhitarian,
Beekeeper from Vanadzor

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 Armenia** 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