EVALUATION OF THE EU’S SUPPORT TO CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT (2014-2020)

PURPOSE
Provide an evidence-based, independent assessment of the contribution of EU support in the policy area of Environment and Climate Change (Env. & CC).

SCOPE
EU support in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions during the period 2014-2020, covering policy dialogue and all funding and delivery mechanisms used under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

THE EVALUATION – KEY ELEMENTS OF THE METHODOLOGY
A diversity of methods/tools and sources of information

11 case studies
156 semi-structured interviews
An extensive documentary review and portfolio (financial) analysis
172 respondents (e-Survey)

CONCLUSIONS

FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIC ENTRY POINTS
- A solid foundation at EU policy and institutional level, but low priority in bilateral programming
- A mix of instruments that allowed providing support through multiple ‘entry points’, but a lack of clear medium/long-term vision which limited integrated approaches

IMPLEMENTATION
- Important time lag in translating EU strategic objectives into action
- A key role played in policy dialogue and fostering multi-stakeholder engagement
- Limited effective mechanisms established to learn on Env. & CC

ACHIEVEMENTS
- Positive EU contributions to progress through spending and non-spending activities
- Some strengthening of policy/legal framework in partner countries, but legacy effects (e.g. dependence on fossil fuels) and low political will limiting implementation
- So far, outcomes do not aspire to the transformational change objectives called for by the EU

EU funding serves the role of backbone and leveraging further international public funding.*

staff from an International Organisation, EU in the Neighbourhood East

Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
RECOMMENDATIONS
Recognising the need for a fundamental change in EU strategic orientations and financial commitments

R1
Better reflect Env. & CC as overarching priority

R2
Increase funding and long-term capacity building

R3
Ensure an inclusive green transition

R4
Adopt stronger tailored approaches

R5
Support system change through bottom-up approaches

R6
Step up collaborative efforts

R7
Increase learning

THE EU INVESTED IN A DIVERSITY OF FIELDS IN THE AREA OF ENV. & CC...

Nature protection (CBC project) in Prespa and Korcha

Energy efficiency in Eastern Europe

Depollution of lake Bizerte in Tunisia

Air quality monitoring in Enlargement Region

2,8 billion EUR were contracted in the field of Env. & CC during the period 2014-2020, of which:

Neighbourhood South 1.418 m€
Neighbourhood East 506 m€
Enlargement 894 m€

331 million EUR allocated to regional level support

2,5 billion EUR allocated to country level support

Disclaimer: Reuse of this document is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license). For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders. Icons © Streamline.

*These quotes come from the eSurvey that was carried out by the evaluation team between August and November 2021.