

## The EU allocates €75.25 million to regional projects in Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus

The European Commission approved funding of new regional programmes for the EU's Neighbourhood region and Russia, in such diverse areas as culture, border management or information and communication. Projects in the environmental and energy sector will also be supported and aviation safety and air traffic control will be improved. Most of the will support the implementation of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative addressed to the EU's six neighbouring countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine).

The assistance package will address the following areas and sectors:

- Regional cooperation in the cultural sector in order to support policy reform and modernization of the cultural sectors in the Eastern Partnership region, strengthen regional links and dialogue as well as support awareness raising and cultural initiatives having a regional impact on sustainable economic and social development, democratization, and enhanced inter-cultural dialogue.
- Transport recognised as an essential pre-requisite in order to facilitate regional integration and boost economic development; issues to be tackled in the transport sector will be among others the improvement of aviation safety and air traffic control.
- Environment-related issues and problems having obviously a trans-boundary dimension, the new programme will help to tackle trans-boundary problems of the Black Sea and poorly regulated coastal development.
- Information and communication activities will be developed in order to further raise awareness and understanding of EU cooperation in the region among ENPI countries' populations.
- In the field of border management, improvements will be supported in order to fight major challenges such as organised crime and corruption, which are hindering commercial exchanges and people-to-people contacts and pose a challenge to mobility of persons.
- Energy efficiency will be increased and a greater use of renewable energy will be promoted in order to reduce CO2 emissions. Long-term, stable and secure energy supply shall be supported through creating the necessary institutional structure for a more effective and sustainable energy policy.

The last two actions (namely on border management and energy efficiency) will support Flagship initiatives launched in the framework of the Eastern Partnership (EaP).

This funding will also offer support to the implementation of the multilateral

framework of the EaP, namely to the organisation of meeting fora and technical seminars on exchanges of best practices between the EU Member States and Eastern Partnership countries. The Civil Society Forum established under the EaP will also benefit from financial support.

Background:

The assistance package of €75.25 million is funded from the 2010 EU budget in the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

The allocations from the ENPI Annual Action programmes are the main source of EU cooperation for partner states along the Eastern border of the EU and the Mediterranean. It aims to promote enhanced cooperation and progressive economic integration between the EU and the partner countries. Furthermore, it shall also encourage partner countries' efforts aimed at promoting good governance and equitable social and economic development.

Download the ENPI East Regional Annual Action Programme 2010 – Part I :

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/ap/aap/2010\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/ap/aap/2010_en.htm)

For more information:

ENPI Info Centre:

[http://www.enpi-info.eu/indexeast.php?lang\\_id4=450](http://www.enpi-info.eu/indexeast.php?lang_id4=450)

- On the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP):

[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/eastern/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eastern/index_en.htm)

- On the Eastern Partnership:

[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/eastern/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eastern/index_en.htm)

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