

## European Commission provides €10 million to support economic transition of Eastern Partnership countries

Today, the Commission adopted the third part of the regional east annual action programme which will promote the economic transition of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries towards market economies. Projects will mainly target small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the EaP region. SMEs will be supported among other activities through mentoring programmes. Moreover, the funding will support improvement and capacity building of the local consulting market. Projects will be implemented through the Turn Around Management (TAM) and Business Advisory Services (BAS) Programmes of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Through the Turn Around Management (TAM) and Business Advisory Services (BAS) Programmes, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) promotes economic transition in its countries of operation. The TAM and BAS Programmes are complementary schemes, aimed at helping enterprises adapt to the demands of a liberal market economy.

The programme will be receiving €5 million from the 2010 EU budget and it is expected that another €5 million will be provided from the 2011 budget for the regional programme of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The regional east programme addresses projects with a regional dimension and tackles mainly the areas of transport, energy/environment, culture, integrated border management and support to SME development. Moreover, it is the main vehicle for supporting the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership.

### Background:

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed in 2004, with the objective of extending the area of prosperity, stability and security to EU's neighbours, based on cooperation with its neighbours, building upon a mutual commitment to common values.

Building on the successful work already accomplished within the ENP, the Eastern Partnership offers Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine the prospects of political association and economic integration with the EU.

Additional 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 regional cooperation:

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/index_en.htm)

- On the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP):

[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/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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