Main results

1. **Sector reforms** supported through EU budget support programmes, complemented by infrastructure projects via the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF).
2. Innovative approach to **differentiation** (the 'more for more' principle).
3. **Building institutions** involved in the implementation of EU agreements and approximation process through various EU programmes.
4. Increased EU support to **civil society**.
5. Strengthened **regional cooperation** through programmes and flagship initiatives.
1 | EU SUPPORT FOR SECTOR REFORMS

The EU encourages and accompanies key sector reforms in partner countries. It provides financial assistance and shares know-how to help bring about lasting changes.

☐ EU budget support is the main form of EU assistance in the EaP region; it is used to support reforms in mutually agreed sectors, for instance: justice, agriculture, energy, regional development.

UKRAINE Promoting mutual trade between Ukraine and the EU

This EU budget support programme promotes gradual integration of Ukraine’s economy into the EU’s Single Market, by removing barriers to trade. **Main results achieved so far:**
- New laws were developed and adopted, e.g. legislation on general product safety and market surveillance.
- Technical regulations in line with EU directives were adopted, for instance in the area of low voltage equipment and safety of machinery.
- 380 market surveillance inspectors and 260 customs officers were trained on how to implement the newly adopted Law on market surveillance.
- The national plan to upgrade the equipment of testing and metrological laboratories was adopted.

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA Supporting employment and poverty reduction through education and training

This EU budget support programme on vocational education and training (VET) is encouraging reforms in the education sector, adapting it to the current job market’s needs. **Main results achieved so far:**
- 12 Armenian colleges were selected, registered, renovated and equipped as regional multifunctional VET centres – a new type of teaching institution offering coaching and management methods in line with the job market’s needs.
- Since 2011, over 1200 teachers, training instructors and directors of VET institutions were trained in the organisation and implementation of the learning process, management of VET institutions and business planning.
- In the academic year 2011-12, 39 new, results-oriented curricula were introduced in the VET colleges, and around 20 more in 2012-13.
- Twice as many students received free education in VET colleges in 2012 in comparison to 2008.

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN EU support for economic development in rural areas

Thanks to this budget support programme, the EU encourages economic development of rural areas in the Republic of Moldova. It supports small businesses, promotes regional development, provides technical assistance and facilitates policy dialogue. **Main results achieved so far:**
- Progress in the implementation of the regional development policy: following the creation of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development, three

Regional Development Agencies (North, Centre, and South) have been established.
- The first general agricultural census was conducted across the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova.
- The legal framework for business activities has improved, especially as regards the simplification of business registration (licensing).
- Five new business incubators have been established hosting up to 15 small businesses each, out of which one third are female-run or female-owned.

2 | THE ‘MORE FOR MORE’ PRINCIPLE

The ‘more for more’ principle is the incentive based approach that implies that those partners that deliver on reforms promoting deep democracy and respect of human rights will get more support from the European Union, including additional financial assistance. The Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation (EaPIC) programme was launched in 2012 to fast-track funds in line with the principle of ‘more for more’.

☐ Thanks to the EaPIC programme, in 2012 and 2013 the EU has mobilised significant extra resources (€ 150 million) for the EaP countries that made progress in deep democracy and respect of human rights (Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Republic of Armenia).

3 | COMPREHENSIVE INSTITUTION BUILDING

Reinforcing national institutions is a key factor for successful and long-lasting reforms. Institutions in the partner countries are responsible for designing their own reforms and putting them into practice. The transition can be long and challenging. Existing institutions need to be upgraded or reorganised to be able to deliver services that are in line with European standards and good practices.

☐ This is why the EU accompanies reforms focused on developing the capacities of institutions. The new agreements with the EU (Association Agreements including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas) are the key drivers of change in the EaP. They need fully functioning institutions that can follow-up on approximation and regulatory convergence with EU legislation in many domains – for example: border and customs control, metrology and industrial standards, food safety, geographical denominations, civil aviation safety, etc.

☐ The Comprehensive Institution Building (CIB) initiative reinforces few ‘core institutions’ in key reform areas of the new agreements – for example: food safety controls (sanitary and phytosanitary standards), intellectual property rights, technical barriers to trade, border management.

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN Supporting capacity development of the national parliament

A dedicated team of lawyers supports the ‘Milli Mejlis’ (Parliament) when law-making requires ‘approximation’ – which means bringing national legislation closer to EU law and standards. A virtual EU info centre accessible from the website of the Milli Mejlis facilitates access to information on the EU for Members of Parliament and the citizens. This result was delivered thanks to collaboration between the Milli Mejlis and its ‘twin’ institution in Lithuania, the Office of the Seimas.
4 | EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY

The EaP Launch gave a strong impetus to the EU's engagement with civil society. Following the establishment of the Civil Society Forum and its national platforms, civil society is now a major actor in the implementation of EaP reforms and democratic changes. A new programme, the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility, was created.

Since the EaP launch, EU support to civil society in the region has more than doubled and has reached some €63 million for 2010-13 for the six countries concerned.

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
EU supporting civil society organisations

Civil society organisations in the Republic of Azerbaijan can learn how to better analyse and monitor budget of state programmes thanks to a project funded under the Civil Society Facility. Thanks to EU support, civil society can increase its role in advocacy, policy development and monitoring reviews on the allocation and use of state budget. The results so far include two published state budget review papers, municipal budget hearings for more than 500 community members, capacity-building trainings on local budget development, accountability and transparency for 10 rural municipalities and development of awareness-raising materials on budgetary issues.

BELARUS EU supporting civil society organisations via the Clearing House

The Clearing House, an EU initiative implemented by the Office for Democratic Belarus, encourages networking and exchange of best practices within the civil society in Belarus. It has carried out training sessions for local NGOs on how to apply for EU grants and individual consultations for small NGOs with limited capacity. It has also facilitated four projects implementers meetings in Brussels. Since 2011, 87 civil society organisations and grass-root initiatives have received counselling support on the availability of funding instruments and the preparation of application forms. 747 civil society organisations representatives receive regular information on various Funding opportunities.

5 | REGIONAL PROGRAMMES AND FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

Regional cooperation programmes complement bilateral cooperation and support the priorities of the Eastern Partnership. They also contribute to the ongoing Eastern Partnership Flagship Initiatives that focus on border management (Integrated Border Management), the economy (support to small and medium sized enterprises), energy (regional electricity markets, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources), civil protection (prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters – PPRD-East) and environment (environmental governance).

SME Flagship

Under the SME Flagship, the EU finances and supports:

1. The ‘SME Policy Index for the Eastern Partner Countries’ – an OECD publication with recommendations on how to implement the EU ‘Small Business Act’ in the EaP countries.

2. SME facilities providing guarantee schemes for local banks to increase lending to SMEs in the region. So far, thanks to an EU contribution of nearly €10 million, local banks could lend approximately €100 million to finance SMEs in the region.

3. Capacity building and consulting programmes, such as:

   - East Invest, which has successfully created a network of EU and EaP business support organisations and helps SMEs in the EaP to access the EU market and attract financing. More than 100 representatives of business associations and 200 companies have been trained as part of this programme.

   - The Enterprise Growth Programme and Business Advisory Services (EKP-BAS), which provides consultancy services to SMEs helping them to develop and improve their businesses. To date, more than 600 SMEs in the EaP have benefited from this support with outstanding results: 90% of the participating SMEs increased their turn-over by an average of 43% after one year.

Integrated Border Management Flagship

The Integrated Border Management Flagship Initiative helps improving cross border movement of people and goods and at the same time increasing security and reducing smuggling/human trafficking on the borders between the EaP countries.

The flagship is mobilising EaP countries around common projects that aim at improving capacities and infra-structures at borders. So far, 10 projects have been financed to boost regional integration and connectivity as well as contribute to the socio-economic development on both sides of the border.

Additional investments have been mobilised via the Neighbourhood Investment Facility and European Financial Institutions. For example, a NIF grant, blended together with loans from the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and
Development, is being used to modernise border crossing points between the Republic of Armenia and Georgia (at Bagratashen, Bavra and Gogavan).

**Energy Flagship**
(Regional electricity markets, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources)

This flagship focuses on sustainable energy promotion and security of energy supply. It is supported by the INOGATE programme, which helps the EaP countries to improve energy security and promotes investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. Thanks to the programme, partner countries are making progress in the following areas:

- **Regional markets**: Georgia has applied for full membership in the Energy Community.
- **Renewable energy**: Bioenergy know-how facilitates project development in Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Belarus and Republic of Moldova. Belarus is considering introducing a new secondary legislation promoting sustainable energy.
- **Gas & electricity standards**: all EaP countries have adopted new gas standards in 2012 (12 in total). Ukraine has included 14 more gas standards in their standardisation programme for 2014 while Georgia has created an Electro-Technical Committee for Electricity and Gas Standards to function in line with EU principles.
- **Energy efficiency**: the Energy Efficiency Agency in the Republic of Moldova will implement 25 projects for around €5 million thanks to the INOGATE trainings on industrial energy audit for bankable projects.
- **Energy statistics**: All EaP countries have formally adopted a National Energy Statistics Action Plan that will result, in 2014, in the compilation of final energy balances in line with international/EU standards.

**EU support for higher education: Erasmus Mundus and Tempus**

Erasmus Mundus helps improve and enhance the career prospects of students and academic staff, promotes intercultural understanding between the EU and the EaP countries, and contributes to the sustainable development of their higher education systems.

**Main results achieved so far:**

- 626 students from the EaP countries have been able to improve their academic and professional prospects by obtaining an EU Masters’ degree. This includes 184 scholarships for EU joint Masters, granted under the special ENPI windows for the EaP countries in 2012 and 2013.
- 46 Erasmus Mundus scholars from the EaP region have been able to teach or research in the EU.
- Over 30 partnerships between EaP and EU universities have been funded since 2007.
- These selected partnerships have organised (or plan to organise) mobility for 4,485 students and 702 staff from the Eastern Partnership countries.

**Tempus** has supported over 185 higher education institutions in 100 projects in EaP countries over the period of 2008-12. Programme evaluations show that Tempus has:

- Advanced the modernisation of higher education by reforming institutions and higher education systems through curriculum reform, university governance and quality assurance projects.
- Increased the capacities of its participants. University professors have learned project management skills. Administrative university staff has learned from their EU counterparts about management systems. 9 institutions in the EaP countries are now acting as project coordinators, leading their EU counterparts in projects.
- Developed links between higher education institutions and industry. University courses are now better tailored to the needs of the job market and thus students are more employable after their studies.
- Equipped universities with the latest scientific and communication technology worth approximately €15 million.
- Strengthened regional cooperation through multicountry projects, breaking down national barriers and prejudices.
- Provided networking opportunities between the EU and EaP countries.

**The future of the Eastern Partnership**

Through the new financial instrument for 2014-20 (European Neighbourhood Instrument), the EU will continue to encourage necessary reforms in partner countries. Financial assistance and know-how will be provided to ensure that EU cooperation brings about lasting changes. For countries fully committed to political association, economic integration and building deep and sustainable democracies the support will be stepped up.

**Find out more about the Eastern Partnership:**
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/easternpartnership
http://www.enpi-info.eu/