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.

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 Tukhikyan, Programme director
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
- www.pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/emerald-network

Organic farming

Beekeeper Samvel Mkhitaryan 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

-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