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**Eastern Partnership - Focusing on key priorities and deliverables**

## Table of contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>I. Introduction</b> .....   | 2  |
| <b>II. The proposed deliverables and outcomes</b> .....                                    | 4  |
| <i>Cross-cutting deliverables</i> .....  | 4  |
| 1. Civil Society.....  | 4  |
| 2. Gender equality .....   | 6  |
| 3. Communication.....  | 8  |
| <i>Priority I: Economic development and market opportunities</i> .....                     | 9  |
| 4. Regulatory environment and SMEs development .....                                       | 9  |
| 5. Gaps in access to finance and financial infrastructure .....                            | 12 |
| 6. New job opportunities at local and regional level .....                                 | 13 |
| 7. Harmonisation of digital markets.....   | 14 |
| 8. DCFTA implementation .....  | 16 |
| <i>Priority II: Strengthening Institutions and good governance</i> .....                   | 18 |
| 9. Rule of law and anti-corruption .....   | 18 |
| 10. Implementation of key judicial reforms.....  | 20 |
| 11. Public administration reform .....   | 22 |
| 12. Resilience and civilian security .....   | 24 |
| <i>Priority III: Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change</i> ..... | 26 |
| 13. Extension of the TEN-T core networks .....   | 26 |
| 14. Energy supply .....  | 28 |
| 15. Energy efficiency, renewable energy and reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions .        | 30 |
| 16. Environment and adaptation to climate change .....                                     | 32 |
| <i>Priority IV: Mobility and people-to-people contacts</i> .....                           | 34 |
| 17. Visa Liberalisation Action Plans and Mobility Partnerships .....                       | 36 |
| 18. Youth, education, skills development and culture .....                                 | 35 |
| 19. Eastern Partnership European School .....  | 39 |
| 20. Research and innovation .....  | 40 |

## EASTERN PARTNERSHIP - FOCUSING ON KEY PRIORITIES AND DELIVERABLES

### I. INTRODUCTION

The EU's relations with its neighbours are guided by the **Global Strategy**<sup>1</sup> and the revised **European Neighbourhood Policy** (ENP)<sup>2</sup>. Both call to focus on achieving the overall goal of increasing the **stabilisation** and **resilience** of our neighbours. The **Eastern Partnership**<sup>3</sup> (EaP) Summit in Riga in 2015, followed up by the Ministerial in May 2016, confirmed the consensus to step up actions in the four key priority areas of:

- **economic development and market opportunities:** to support EaP Partner Countries<sup>4</sup> move towards diversified and vibrant economies, to create jobs in new sectors, attract investments and foster employability;
- **strengthening institutions and good governance:** to fight against corruption, reinforce public administration and assist efficient governance of reforms for an improved business environment, economic growth and societal developments; to support **security cooperation**, notably for conflict resolution, crisis prevention, civil protection against new threats: all key for ensuring citizens' security and an investment-safe climate;
- **connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change:** to facilitate transport interconnections between EU and the Eastern Partners and within the countries in the region, facilitating economic development, regional economic integration and people's mobility; energy and climate action, to make EaP Partner Countries less exposed to external risks and helping them develop sustainable and low-carbon economies attracting investment and promoting sustainable development;
- **mobility and people-to-people contacts:** to target entrepreneurship and skills development key for adjustment and modernisation process, employability and development; foster, in particular, youth employability, facilitate exchanges between people, and promote research and innovation collaboration.

This more focused engagement ensures all actions undertaken in the framework of the EaP pursue the outreach and inclusion of **civil society**<sup>3</sup> with a tailor-made approach, and foster **gender equality** and the empowerment of girls and women by following the provisions of the **EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)**.

In this framework, the EaP supports delivery on key global policy goals set by the **UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals** and the **Paris Agreement on Climate Change**, which sets the path towards a modern and low-carbon economy and provides important opportunities for economic transformation, jobs and growth.

Furthermore, major developments are expected in the EU's relations with the Eastern Partners by the next Summit in November 2017. These should include in particular:

- Further progress in the implementation of the **Association Agreements (AAs)/Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs)** with Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova;
- **New frameworks** for EU relations with Armenia, Azerbaijan:

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<sup>1</sup> A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy was presented by the High Representative in June 2016.

<sup>2</sup> The European Neighbourhood Policy was reviewed in November 2015.

<sup>3</sup> The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a joint initiative involving the EU, its Member States and 6 eastern European partners: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

<sup>4</sup> EaP Partner Countries will also be referred to as Eastern Partners and/or EaP countries throughout the document.

<sup>3</sup> Including business and youth organisations.

- Finalisation of the new bilateral cooperation agreement with Armenia;
- Starting of negotiations for a new bilateral cooperation agreement with Azerbaijan;
- Stepped-up co-operation with Belarus steered by the newly created EU-Belarus Co-ordination Group is reflected in a Single Support Framework adopted for the first time covering the period 2017-2020;
- Adoption or progress on **Partnership Priorities/revised Association Agendas** and new Single Support Frameworks / Multi-Annual Indicative Programme in line with the ENP Review.

To maximise impact, a more focused approach is needed to deliver **tangible results for citizens** under each of the **four priorities agreed in Riga**. In order for this to be achieved, it is important to ensure the full alignment between policy and funding instruments, notably the financing streams of the **European Neighbourhood Instrument**, other sources of EU funding and the actions of **International Financial Institutions (IFIs)** through the policy reorientation of the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF)<sup>5</sup>. Increased engagement by Member States and partners will be key, supported by **political dialogue** and co-ordination at the level of Platforms and Panels, as well as at bilateral level. Strategic use will be made of **TAIEX** and **Twinning** as a catalyst for reforms as well as other vehicles to support the reforms and modernisation processes. Strengthened **strategic communication**, factored into EU programmes from the start and running in parallel to their implementation, will also support the successful implementation and delivery of the results on the ground.

In support of this approach, **20 key deliverables have been identified** in the framework of the priorities agreed in Riga, on the basis of already existing commitments on both EU's and EaP Partner Countries' side. Each deliverable is complemented by: milestones<sup>6</sup> to be reached by the next EaP Summit in November 2017; targets to be achieved by 2020; implementation modalities, and main actors involved. Where relevant, the current state-of-play has also been incorporated. This structure allows for the 20 key deliverables to act as a **work plan guiding our actions in the next phase of the EaP until 2020**, supporting us in delivering under our commitments, and allowing for an easier monitoring of progress. The next section of this document presents the key deliverables under each of the Riga priorities.

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<sup>5</sup> With a focus on SME support, connectivity and energy efficiency.

<sup>6</sup> NB: In some of the areas, milestones indicate a specific number of Partner Countries having taken certain steps. This approach reflects the reality in individual Partner Countries: (i) their strategic choices in terms of which reforms to pursue; (ii) differences in the degree of the challenges they face in different areas; (iii) differences in expected implementation time.

## II. THE PROPOSED DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

### ➤ Cross-cutting deliverables

Achieving ambitious results under each of the Riga priorities requires combined efforts by all the stakeholders. It is thus of utmost importance to engage with EaP Partner Countries at all possible levels, including with **civil society**. A vibrant civil society sector is crucial for private sector development, economic growth and social innovation. Besides, high-quality sector reform dialogue can only be achieved through increased technical expertise and stronger leadership of civil society organisations (CSOs).

Furthermore, negative gender stereotypes, pay-gaps between men and women, higher women unemployment and difficult access to credit for women entrepreneurs indicate the need for stronger support to **women's empowerment and gender balance** in the region, in order to reach all areas within the societies of Eastern Partners.

Finally, **EU visibility** is being stepped up with a clear focus on main priority areas of EU support and branding of key initiatives in order to ensure better visibility and outreach. Comprehensive EU messages in the EaP Partner Countries will lead to more understanding of and increased credibility for the EU among citizens across the EaP.

Given these considerations, the following horizontal deliverables are proposed:

1. A more **structured engagement with a wider range of civil society organisations** will be pursued, thus enabling partner governments to better implement the modernisation process by tapping into the innovation potential of CSOs.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit  | Implementation  | Main actors   | Target by 2020  |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>At least 6 large scale funding schemes in place (1 per country), to develop capacities of CSOs and support technical expertise in key sectors.</b><br/> <i>[To date one funding scheme in place]</i></p>  | <p>Civil Society Facility – East<br/>           (Technical Assistance, bilateral support, through sub-granting)</p>                         | <p>EaP countries' CSOs<br/><br/>           Relevant authorities at regional/local/national level<br/><br/>           European Commission<br/><br/>           EEAS</p> | <p><b>Strengthened management capacities and technical expertise of CSOs to constructively engage with governments at grassroots, local and national level.</b></p> |
| <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> group of Civil Society Policy Fellows have improved skills to generate evidence-based policy input, and 1<sup>st</sup> group of young leaders identified together with hosting organisations to provide technical support.</b><br/> <i>[To date first 9 Policy Fellows selected]</i></p> | <p>Regional Civil Society Facility<br/><br/>           EU4Youth<br/><br/>           Civil Society projects<br/><br/>           Erasmus+</p> | <p>CSOs from EaP countries<br/><br/>           European Commission<br/><br/>           EU/EaP countries' youth organisations</p>                                      | <p><b>80 Civil Society Policy Fellowships awarded and 300 youth leaders supported.</b></p>  |

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| <p><b>Improved stakeholder dialogue continued support to the EaP Civil Society Forum and its National Platforms.</b><br/> <i>[Institutionalisation of government – civil society – EU dialogue currently emerging, notably through the structures of the EaP Civil Society Forum]</i></p> | <p>Support to the EaP Civil Society Forum (Regional Civil Society Facility).</p> | <p>EaP countries' CSOs<br/> EaP Civil Society Forum Secretariat<br/> European Commission</p> | <p><b>Well-functioning and regular multi-stakeholder policy dialogue through the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and its National Platforms.</b></p> |
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**2. Gender equality and non-discrimination** will be at the heart of actions undertaken under the EaP to ensure the full outreach to societies within Partner Countries.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit  | Implementation  | Main actors   | Target by 2020   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Gender Analysis conducted.</b>   | Studies carried out by EUDs and HQ.<br><br>Gender mainstreaming in bilateral and regional programmes. | Relevant EaP Ministries<br><br>European Commission  | <b>Gender mainstreamed in public policies with gender disaggregated data available per policy and better gender specific statistics available.</b><br><br><b>Gender Action Plan implemented.</b>   |
| <b>Progress in the implementation of existing anti-discrimination legislation<sup>7</sup> and establishment of equality bodies or equivalent in at least three countries.</b><br><i>[To date three countries have anti-discrimination legislation and equality bodies or equivalent in place]</i> | Bilateral programmes  | Relevant EaP Ministries<br><br>European Commission<br><br>Council of Europe   | <b>Anti-discrimination legislation adopted in remaining countries and effectively implemented. Relevant legislation harmonised.</b><br><br><b>All countries to ratify the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention.</b><br><br><b>Gender based violence/domestic violence legislation adopted in all countries and effective referral mechanisms are in place.</b><br><br><b>Track record of equality bodies established and effective monitoring of anti-discrimination law.</b> |
| <b>Young women targeted in EU4Youth calls (50% target).</b><br><i>[EU4Youth to be implemented starting 2017]</i><br><br><b>New projects fostering women entrepreneurship and employability launched.</b><br><i>[M4EG launched in October 2016]</i>  | EU4Youth<br><br><br>Mayors for Economic Growth initiative   | European Commission<br><br>EaP countries' SMEs<br><br>EaP Ministries of Economy/Labour, public bodies dealing with equal opportunities. | <b>Access to financial services at community level for women entrepreneurs improved, with 550 more SMEs directly benefitting from the programme, creating or sustaining 2 500 jobs.</b>  |

<sup>7</sup> NB: this takes place with respect to local values and traditions.

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| <p><b>One year after completion of advisory projects, at least 40% of Women SMEs achieving increases in employment, and at least 50% of assisted Women SMEs achieving increases in turnover.</b></p> | <p>Women in Business (WiB) programme</p> | <p>European Commission<br/><br/>IFIs</p> | <p><b>At least 60% of FW funds disbursed in countries with ‘large’ and ‘medium’ access to finance gender gaps, and WiB sub-loan portfolio increased by at least USD 55 million.</b></p> |
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3. Better, clearer and tailored-made ***strategic communications*** will be provided, leading to more understanding of and increased credibility for the EU among citizens across the EaP.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation   | Main actors  | Target by 2020   |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>More communications events and thematic initiatives, to improve awareness of EU and EU programmes.</b></p> <p><b>More diverse channels of communications deployed; more diverse and regional audiences reached.</b></p>  | <p>Guidance provided to all implementers on how to step up communications efforts. Communications outcomes linked to wider monitoring of delivery of milestones.</p> <p>Pooling of resources for project communications.</p> <p>Revised visibility guidelines for EU funding</p> | <p>European Commission</p> <p>EEAS East Stratcom Task Force</p> <p>EUDs in EaP countries</p> <p>EU Member States</p> <p>EaP Governments</p> <p>Civil society in EaP countries</p> <p>International organisations</p> | <p><b>Increased number of people in EaP countries associates EU with positive change and concrete benefits.</b></p> <p><b>Enhanced capacity of beneficiaries and agencies implementing EU support to promote and actively support communication activities and public diplomacy in the region;</b></p> |
| <p><b>Three level campaign strategy implemented: (i) over-arching "stronger together" campaign; (ii) horizontal, thematic campaigns on regional programmes; and (iii) national campaigns in each EaP country, reflecting Riga priorities and linking in particular to the EaP Summit and the top 20 deliverables.</b></p> <p><b>Annual surveys and focus groups in each EaP country.</b></p> | <p>OPEN Neighbourhood CSP East (i.e.: digital campaigns, print and on-line articles, community events, discussion clubs)</p>   | <p>Independent media in EaP countries</p>  | <p><b>Increased number of people considers the EU reliable/credible/understandable.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Increased audience for EU information material to counter disinformation campaigns in EaP countries.</b></p> <p><b>Continued support to media plurality in EaP region.</b></p>   | <p>Comprehensive EU Russian language press and information service (focus on EU foreign policy).</p> <p>Continued work to identify and address disinformation, including through website and social media</p>  | <p>European Commission</p> <p>EEAS East Stratcom Task Force</p> <p>EUDs in EaP countries</p> <p>European Endowment for Democracy</p> <p>Russian Language News Exchange</p> <p>Independent media in EaP countries</p> | <p><b>Public support for the EU is level or increasing in all EaP countries</b></p>  |

➤ **Priority I: Economic development & market opportunities**

Economic and social development and support to transformation process are at the heart of the EU's contribution to stabilising the neighbourhood.

The foundation for such economic development is **macroeconomic stability**. The EU offers policy advice to EaP Partner Countries in this area through regular macroeconomic dialogues. For neighbouring countries in acute macroeconomic and external financial difficulties, the EU also stands ready to provide **macroeconomic** assistance, provided certain pre-conditions are met. The EU's Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) programmes have provided substantial, but temporary support to help beneficiary countries regain macroeconomic stability while pushing forward necessary structural reforms, including in the area of economic governance. The EU MFA programmes are closely coordinated with and **complementary to those of the IFIs**, notably the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

In addition to underpinning macro stability through **sound economic policies**, in particular fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies, EaP Partner Countries need to face the challenge of driving their economic transition process forward, i.e. implement reforms to transform and open their economies and to create an attractive environment and level playing-field for private-sector investments and business execution. This will also help to generate sustainable employment opportunities.

The EU supports these aspirations through improved market access, as well as support for innovation and SMEs development. Indeed, SMEs in the EaP region face challenges preventing them from maximising their full potential and increase their productivity, including difficult operational environment, lack of relevant skills (including in marketing) to start up and grow their businesses, poor public-private dialogue, constraints in accessing foreign markets, and limited access to finance. The EU's support to SMEs, packaged under the new brand **EU4Business** plays a key role in addressing these challenges and seizing the new opportunities. EaP Partner Countries are also modernising their economies in the areas of agriculture, greening of the economy and digital markets, with support from the IFIs and the EU.

The **Digital Economy** is widely recognised as an area with yet untapped potential for both the EU and the Partner Countries. It plays a key role for social and economic development, and for creation of growth and jobs. The EU's support for the harmonisation of digital markets in the EaP is packaged under the new brand **EU4Digital**.

Given these considerations, the following deliverables are proposed under Priority I:

**4. Key measures including on the regulatory environment**, taken by Partner Countries with support of the EU4Business initiative, will – along with reforms taken in the area of governance –also contribute to improve the investment climate and business environment and allow to unlock the growth **potential of SMEs** in the countries. More specifically, these will contribute to improve:

- The business climate, including the 10 principles of the Small Business Act (SBA), by following the recommendations of the 2016 SBA assessment<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> The SBA entails the following principles: entrepreneurial learning and women's entrepreneurship, bankruptcy and second chance for SMEs, regulatory framework for SME policy making, operational environment for SMEs, support services for SMEs and start-ups, public procurement, access to finance for SMEs, standards and technical regulations, enterprise skills, innovation, SMEs in a green economy, internationalisation of SMEs).

- Services provided to SMEs by hundred business support organisations within the Eastern Alliance network;
- The quality of public private dialogue;
- Access to finance for the small companies across the region, allowing them to perform the needed capital investments;
- Information to SMEs on market opportunities in the EU and available EU assistance via the EU4Business Information Portal in all 6 countries.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation   | Main actors  | Target by 2020  |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>SME strategies and action plans/roadmaps adopted in at least one more country.</b><br/> <i>[To date three countries already have SME Strategies in place]</i></p>  | <p>Bilateral and regional programmes.</p> <p>New OECD programme on SMEs competitiveness.</p>   | <p>EaP Ministries of Economy</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>OECD, IFIs</p>                        | <p><b>EaP countries to improve score on a 2019 OECD Small Business Act assessment by 10% on the regulatory framework, the operational environment and support to SMEs (as compared to 2015).</b></p> <p><b>EaP countries provide for more transparent and efficient SME taxation system, as verified in the World Bank Paying Taxes report.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Improved support services to businesses via the strengthening of a network of at least 100 business support organisations.</b></p>   | <p>Successful implementation of Business Support Organisations (BSOs) strengthening programme.</p> <p>Improved communication on access to finance and services for SMEs in the region (EU4Business).</p> | <p>Business support organisations and networks</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>OECD, IFIs</p>      | <p><b>150 client-oriented business support organisations provide to their SME members with business development services, in particular in relation to the DCFTA requirements as well as global market requirements.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Priorities of the private sector in support of structural economic reform are identified and communicated to governments: position paper by EaP business community and national position papers are presented at the next EaP (business) Summit.</b></p> | <p>Bilateral programmes</p> <p>Regional programmes</p> <p>3rd EaP Business Summit (May 2017 tbc).</p>  | <p>Network of BSOs</p> <p>EaP Ministries of Economy</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>OECD, IFIs</p> | <p><b>Public Private dialogue institutionalised across the EaP region through appropriate mechanisms such as investors' council.</b></p>  |

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| <p>At least 1 000 SMEs have had increased access to finance (focus on DCFTA countries).</p> | <p>EU4Business credit lines for SMEs.</p> | <p>Financial intermediaries<br/>IFIs<br/>European Commission</p> | <p>At least 10 000 additional SMEs to benefit from EU assistance (with 80% in the DCFTA countries).</p> <p>At least another 60.000 jobs created and/or sustained since mid-2016.</p> <p>Increased women's participation in entrepreneurship and equal access to financial services at community level.</p> |
|---|---|--|--|

5. **Gaps in access to finance and financial infrastructure**<sup>9</sup> will be addressed to effectively pursue reforms for economic development and transformation.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit  | Implementation                    | Main actors  | Target by 2020  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Gaps in access to finance related to missing financial infrastructure identified in at least three countries. | Regional and bilateral programmes | EaP relevant Ministries<br>European Commission<br>IFIs | <p><b>Efficient credit registries developed in three countries, assuring a wider coverage and a more efficient flow of information among financial intermediaries, so to facilitate collateral based lending.</b><br/><i>[To date registers not in place/not fully functional]</i></p> <p><b>Set up and development of alternative sources of financing for SMEs supported. This should include: instruments to facilitate investments (i.e. leasing, factoring) and instruments to increase export (i.e. export guarantee mechanisms, insurance schemes).</b><br/><i>[To date such alternative sources of financing for SMEs are not in place]</i></p> |

<sup>9</sup> E.g. banking sector reform and legislation, improved credit / collateral registries, improved financial reporting and audit, measures enabling capital markets, such as development of micro-credit, leasing, factoring and insurance.

6. The creation of **new job opportunities at the local and regional level** will be supported via implementing EU programmes aimed at diversifying the economic activity and reducing disparities (i.e. between regions within the countries and between urban and rural areas). The new initiative **Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG)** will aim to mobilise at least 30 Local Authorities (LAs) in the EaP region to commit to the implementation of smart local economic strategies aiming at GDP/per capita growth and more employment opportunities.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation   | Main actors  | Target by 2020  |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>New M4EG initiative launched and at least 10 LAs committed to submit a plan for local economic development.</b><br><i>[M4EG launched in October 2016]</i> | M4EG initiative  | Local and Regional Authorities<br><br>European Commission<br><br>CORLEAP | <b>At least 30 LAs implement plan for local economic development, and at least 10 urban demonstration projects kick started.</b>  |
| <b>Local pipeline of projects elaborated and approved in at least one country.</b>   | Bilateral and regional programmes<br><br>Cross Border Cooperation programmes | Local and Regional Authorities<br><br>European Commission                | <b>Where appropriate, decentralisation process implemented as per relevant Public Administration Reform (PAR) strategy.</b><br><br><b>Regional development projects implemented where appropriate (and at least in 3 countries) via their pipeline and/or a regional development fund.</b><br><br><b>Regional/local stakeholders participating in development, planning and implementation in at least two countries.</b> |
| <b>At least one country committed to develop place-based smart specialisation strategy for research and innovation to enhance regional competitiveness.</b>  | Smart Specialisation Platform  | Local and Regional Authorities<br><br>European Commission<br><br>JRC     | <b>Smart specialisation strategies identifying key priorities for economic modernisation developed.</b>   |
| <b>Agricultural development strategies in place in three countries.</b>  | Bilateral programmes   | EaP Ministries of Agriculture<br><br>European Commission                 | <b>At least 15 000 farmers are members of business oriented farmer groups/cooperatives, and at least 1 000 business-oriented farmer groups created to promote better access to markets.</b>   |

7. The ***harmonisation of digital markets*** will be fostered to eliminate existing obstacles and barriers to the provision of pan-European e-Government and e-Business services. This will result in better online services at better prices and more choice; it will attract investments and boost employment. Existing companies will be enabled to grow faster and start-ups will be created more easily.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation  | Main actors  | Target by 2020  |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Commitment to establish an independent regulatory authority for electronic communications, by partners not having one in place.</b></p> <p><b>Feasibility study on unified roaming tariffs in the EaP completed. Commitment by partners to coordinate on spectrum of issues.</b></p> | <p>EU4Digital</p> <p>Alignment of funding approach with IFIs</p> <p>HDM Panel</p> | <p>Relevant EaP ministries and regulatory bodies</p> <p>Telecom network</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>IFIs</p> | <p><b>Independent national regulatory authority for electronic communications in place in at least four countries.</b></p> <p><b>Significant progress in spectrum coordination and in unifying roaming tariffs in the EaP<sup>10</sup>.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Commitment by partners to adopt eIDAS, the General Data Protection Regulation and other relevant EU <i>acquis</i>.</b></p> <p><b>On cyber issues, partners' needs assessment done and a platform for experience exchange with the EU in place.</b></p>                               |   | <p>Relevant EaP ministries</p> <p>Trust&amp;Security network</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>IFIs</p>            | <p><b>Pilot interoperable cross border eSignature and regional framework for cross border eServices for businesses in place.</b></p> <p><b>Network of national CERTs<sup>11</sup> in all partners in place, linked to EU CERTs.</b></p>         |
| <p><b>Commitment by partners to adopt eCommerce, eCustoms and eLogistics-related EU <i>acquis</i>.</b></p>   |   | <p>Relevant EaP ministries</p> <p>eTrade network</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>IFIs</p>                        | <p><b>Partners' eCommerce, eCustoms and eLogistics legal frameworks harmonised with those in the EU. Pilot cross-border eTrade system in the EaP.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>National coalitions for digital jobs established by all Partners, based on the EU's digital skills &amp; jobs coalition</b></p>  |   | <p>Relevant EaP ministries</p> <p>eSkills network</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>IFIs</p>                       | <p><b>National digital skills strategies formulated and implemented by all Partners, in line with similar EU strategies under the digital skills &amp; jobs coalition.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Mapping of Partners' digital innovation ecosystem stakeholders, including those in ICT research.</b></p> <p><b>Partners' stakeholders' information incorporated in Start-up Europe Networks and online platforms.</b></p>  |   | <p>Relevant EaP ministries</p> <p>ICTinnovate</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>IFIs</p>                           | <p><b>Well-structured ecosystems for ICT research &amp; innovation in all partners, linked to the EU's ecosystems.</b></p> <p><b>Connections among partners' ecosystems and with similar EU's ecosystems established.</b></p>                   |

<sup>10</sup> Discussions expected to start in spring 2018, after the first data on markets' reactions to EU's Roam-Like-At-Home.

<sup>11</sup> Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT).

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| <b>Regional recommendations for harmonised eHealth systems in the EaP.</b> |  | Relevant EaP ministries<br>eHealth network<br>European Commission<br>IFIs | <b>Pilot cross-border eHealth services in the EaP.</b> |
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8. Progress on the ***DCFTAs implementation*** will be supported. The start of gradual establishment of the DCFTAs between the EU and Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine respectively, has been a milestone for the EaP. This ambitious process has created the conditions for economic integration of signatory countries with the EU, due to the opening new trade and investment opportunities for businesses as well as – due to regulatory approximation commitments – guiding the public authorities in their domestic reforms in trade related areas. To this end, in order to effectively reap the benefits of the DCFTAs, associated countries are engaged in designing and implementing reforms considerably changing their domestic business environment, as a result of progressive alignment with EU legislation, rules and standards. This will be beneficial for associated countries and their companies. Moreover, their citizens will profit from broader choice of products on the market (not only imported, but also developed domestically due to growing competition), products and services of higher quality and safety, which respect the increased standards of consumer protection. The deliverables indicated below reflect both the economic benefits of the DCFTAs (higher trade and investment flows) and the quality aspects<sup>12</sup>.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation  | Main actors   | Target by 2020   |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Joining the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention on Preferential Rules of Origin by DCFTA countries</b>                    | Gradual and reciprocal market access opening for goods, public procurement and services in accordance with the staging foreseen in the DCFTAs.  | Ministries of Economy/Trade in DCFTA countries<br><br>European Commission             | <b>Growth in volume of Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in the DCFTA countries.</b>   |
| <b>Intermediate data available on the number of companies (notably SMEs) from the DCFTA countries exporting to the EU.</b> | Continuous DCFTAs implementation in terms of regulatory approximation commitments.  | EU companies exporting and investing in the EaP<br><br>Companies of Partner Countries | <b>Increased number of companies (notably SMEs) from the DCFTA countries exporting to the EU increased.</b>  |
| <b>Intermediate data showing an increase on the volume of exports from DCFTA countries to the EU.</b>                      | Gradual update by private operators (notably SMEs) of their production facilities towards compliance with EU standards, notably thanks to the DCFTA Facility for SMEs and other state-sponsored programmes. |   | <b>Growth in volume of exports from DCFTA countries to the EU.</b>   |
| <b>Intermediate data showing an increase on the volume of total trade flow volume between DCFTA countries and the EU.</b>  |   |   | <b>Increased volume of total trade flow volume between DCFTA countries and the EU.</b>   |
| <b>Increased number of entities from DCFTA countries authorised to export agricultural/food products to the EU.</b>        |   |   | <b>Recognition by the EU of equivalence of food safety measures for sectors/products that will fully comply with EU acquis and feature enforcement by inspection structures in the DCFTA countries, with the aim of initiating the process of determination of equivalence of relevant measures.</b> |

<sup>12</sup> e.g. aiming at the equivalence of food safety measures; advancement of reforms in the area of technical barriers to trade in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, and progress in the regulatory dialogue, leading to the future negotiations of an Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products with Ukraine and Moldova

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| <p><b>Adoption and start of implementation of the public procurement roadmaps, aiming at the creation of a well-functioning, competitive, accountable and transparent procurement system in DCFTA countries.</b></p>                      |  |  | <p><b>Increased market access opening on reciprocal basis in accordance with the staging provided in the DCFTAs.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Adoption and start of implementation of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Strategies by the DCFTA countries, aiming at aligning their legislation and hence gaining further access to the EU market for agricultural products.</b></p> |  |  | <p><b>Accession to the Convention on common transit and thus simplification of the transit procedures between the parties to the Convention.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Setting up Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme in DCFTA countries.</b></p>   |  |  | <p><b>Implementation of compatible AEO programmes in DCFTA countries allowing further facilitation of customs procedures in mutual trade and a possible dialogue on mutual recognition of the AEO programmes.</b></p> |

➤ **Priority II: Strengthening institutions and good governance**

Improved **governance** and **justice reform** are at the basis of all other policies, particularly being a precondition of economic growth and citizen's trust in the state. Only when a functioning justice system is in place, there is a chance that **fundamental rights** are respected and that crimes, corruption and violence are reduced. A functioning legal system and an efficient, corruption-free public administration are also crucial for the business environment. Furthermore, the stronger **security cooperation** proposed by the ENP Review will also improve Partner Countries' resilience and institutional resources.

Given these considerations, the following deliverables are proposed under Priority II:

**9. Rule of law and anti-corruption mechanisms** will be strengthened by: building on good examples<sup>13</sup>; ensuring that legislation<sup>14</sup> and institutional changes are implemented effectively; developing further anti-corruption mechanisms aligned with international standards and recommendations; strengthening transparency; introducing faster, more transparent, and more efficient processes to improve business and investment climate, thus impacting economic development positively.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation   | Main actors   | Target by 2020   |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Effective progress towards a system of declarations of assets and conflicts of interest, to increase public scrutiny on unjustified wealth: adoption of the required legislative framework (including verification mechanisms and dissuasive sanctions against false declarations) as well as the launch, publication and verification of easily searchable public registries of interests and assets in at least three countries.</b></p> | <p>Bilateral and regional programmes</p> <p>"Programmatic Cooperation Framework" (PCF, EU+CoE)</p> <p>SIGMA<sup>15</sup></p> | <p>EaP Ministries of Justice and anti-corruption bodies</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>EEAS</p> <p>Council of Europe (CoE)</p> <p>OECD, IFIs</p> | <p><b>Easily-searchable electronic public registries of interests and assets for Members of Parliament (MPs), politicians and high ranking officials developed and implemented in at least four countries.</b></p> <p><b>Public registries of beneficial ownership of legal entities and legal arrangements developed in at least 3 countries.</b></p> <p><b>Steps taken to implement GRECO<sup>16</sup> recommendations on political party funding, based on the outcome of the GRECO third round of evaluations.</b></p> |

<sup>13</sup> e.g. creation of the Anti-Corruption Bureau in Ukraine, and specialised anti-corruption prosecution units or bodies.

<sup>14</sup> All Eastern Neighbourhood countries are party to the UN Convention on Corruption. Also the European Commission on behalf of the EU is party. It is the most comprehensive anti-corruption instrument and based on the obligations under the Convention, countries should inter alia establish systems for verifying declared assets and address conflicts of interest.

<sup>15</sup> SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management) is a joint initiative of the OECD and the EU. Its key objective is to strengthen the foundations for improved public governance.

<sup>16</sup> Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption.

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| <p><b>Effective progress towards independent specialised high-level anti-corruption institutions in at least three countries.</b></p> <p>Feasibility studies for establishment of centralised bank account registries for investigation purpose conducted.</p> | <p>Bilateral and regional programmes</p>  | <p>EaP Ministries of Justice and of Interior</p> <p>CoE</p>   | <p><b>Independent specialised high-level anti-corruption institutions fully operational in at least four countries.</b></p> <p>Centralised bank accounts registries established and Financial Intelligence and Investigation Units in EaP countries reinforced, with rapid reaction powers and access to all relevant national databases.</p> |
| <p><b>Effective Offices for the recovery and management of assets (AROs) established in at least three of the EaP countries.</b></p>   | <p>Bilateral and regional programmes</p> <p>PCF</p> <p>TAIEX Training on best practice of AROs in Member States on tracing and identifying criminal assets.</p> | <p>EaP Ministries of Justice, Interior, Finance and anti-corruption bodies</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>EEAS</p> | <p><b>Improved legal framework allowing for the effective seizure and confiscation and management of crime proceeds across the EaP region.</b></p> <p><b>Fully-fledged AROs in place with a track record for identification, freezing, management and confiscation of criminal/unjustified wealth across the EaP region.</b></p>              |

**10.** The ***implementation of key judicial reforms*** will be supported through essential measures strengthening the independence, impartiality, efficiency and accountability of the judiciary, i.e. procedures for merit-based recruitment, procedures to address conflict of interests and disciplinary responsibility, as well as a track record of successful implementation. A special focus will be dedicated to demonstrating the **track record** by agreeing on a set of key indicators by 2017. Additional measures include the set-up of **ICT systems** for the judiciary including for random case allocation and the improvement of the enforcement of judgements.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit  | Implementation  | Main actors  | Target by 2020  |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>A transparent and merit-based recruitment<sup>17</sup> of judges and prosecutors adopted in at least two countries via an independent single entry point and selection procedures in line with European standards, confirmed through an expert review mission.</b>   | Bilateral and regional programmes<br><br>PCF<br><br>TAIEX Peer review missions to assess judicial recruitment/appointment processes in place and to formulate recommendations | EaP Governments and Presidential Administrations<br><br>EaP Ministries of Justice<br><br>EaP Judiciaries<br><br>European Commission<br><br>EEAS<br><br>CoE | <b>Track record of transparent and merit-based recruitment and promotion system disaggregated by gender in place in at least three countries.</b><br><br><b>Independent training institutions delivering initial and continuous training to the judiciary, in line with the EU standards and best practices.</b><br><br><b>Track record of judges' and prosecutors' performance, as per their career development, in place in at least three countries.</b> |
| <b>Progress in the adoption of effective disciplinary rules and codes of ethics in line with EU standards for judges and prosecutors.</b><br><br><b>Functioning complaint mechanisms accessible to the public adopted in at least three countries. This would be indicated <i>inter alia</i> by the number of disciplinary proceedings initiated and by the number of sanctions pronounced against judges and public prosecutors.</b> | Bilateral and regional programmes<br><br>PCF<br><br>TAIEX Peer review missions and exchange of best practice with MSs on disciplinary rules and codes of ethics.              |  | <b>Track record of convictions, including both disciplinary proceedings against judges and high profile corruption cases, increasing public perception of independence, impartiality, integrity, accountability of the judiciary, in place in at least three countries. This would be indicated <i>inter alia</i> by public surveys, accessibility of data and by the number of disciplinary proceedings initiated and sanctions pronounced.</b>            |

<sup>17</sup> The recruitment is undertaken through transparent, merit-based and objective criteria and fair selection procedures.

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| <p><b>Progress in the adoption and implementation of necessary structures, policies and practices to ensure that the principle of access to justice for all (including women, children, the poorest and the most vulnerable) is respected.</b></p> <p><b>Effective legal aid, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and electronic judicial case management systems<sup>18</sup> established in at least two countries, as indicated <i>inter alia</i> by public budget allocated to legal aid and by the number of cases referred to the court for which legal aid was granted.</b></p> <p><b>Improvement in the day-to-day administration of courts without undue interference from executive or legislative authorities in at least two countries, as indicated <i>inter alia</i> by effective electronic judicial case management systems that are able to provide random case allocation and judicial statistics, as well as peer reviews assessing the transparency of court decisions, private interests or other branches of government.</b></p> | <p>Bilateral and regional programmes</p> <p>PCF</p> | <p>EaP Ministries of Justice</p> <p>EaP Judiciaries</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>EEAS</p> <p>CoE</p> <p>Civil society</p> | <p><b>Improved access to justice in at least three countries, in particular for women, children and the most vulnerable groups, and whenever civil rights or obligations are at issue or criminal charges are to be determined. This would be assessed through the amount of legal aid spent per capita, public access to free legal aid, information mechanisms and special arrangements for vulnerable persons.</b></p> <p><b>Strengthened independence of Supreme Councils for the Judiciary in place in at least three countries, assessed by an expert review mission.</b></p> <p><b>Improved enforcement of judgements in civil and administrative cases as well as court decisions' execution according to enforcement timeframe and recovery rates indicators in at least three countries.</b></p> <p><b>Substantial reduction of the backlog of civil and criminal cases and case disposition time across EaP countries.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Training of the judiciary ensured in at least two countries, by approximation of the judicial training practices with the EU standards via strengthening capacities and programmes.</b></p>  |   | <p>EaP Ministries of Justice</p> <p>EaP Judiciaries</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>EEAS</p> <p>CoE</p>                      | <p><b>Comprehensive and effective training of the judiciary on judicial competences and ethics in at least three countries, demonstrated <i>inter alia</i> by an increase in budget allocated to initial and in-service training.</b></p>   |

<sup>18</sup> Able to provide random case allocation and judicial statistics.

11. Support will be provided to the ***implementation of public administration reform in line with the Principles of Public Administration*** establishing a professional, depoliticised, accountable and ethical public administrations that provide **high level public services for** citizens and businesses through measures such as clarifying roles, responsibilities and career paths for civil servants; improving inclusive and evidence-based policy and legislative development and impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation of policies; better accountability; improving management and transparency of public finances; improving citizens' rights to good administration, access to information and administrative justice; and improving service delivery by introducing e-government services and streamlined administrative procedures.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation   | Main actors   | Target by 2020  |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Principles of Public Administration presented across the EaP region.</b>  | Support through regional platforms and bilateral meetings, including for baseline assessments.<br><br>OECD/SIGMA | EaP Governments/<br>administrations<br><br>European Commission<br><br>EEAS                        | <b>At least two-three EaP countries upgraded or adopted their PAR strategies in line with the Principles of Public Administration.</b>  |
| <b>Successful launch of major Public Administration Programme in Ukraine.</b><br><br><b>Civil service laws assessed in one-two countries.</b>  | Bilateral assistance<br><br>OECD/SIGMA   | OECD/SIGMA<br><br>CSOs/other non-state actors   | <b>Civil service laws depoliticised in at least two countries.</b>  |
| <b>Citizens' engagement increased in line with the Open Partnership agendas in at least two EaP countries</b>  | Bilateral and regional programmes  | EaP governments/<br>administrations<br><br>European Commission<br><br>CSOs/other non-state actors | <b>Accountability and openness of state administration strengthened in at least three countries:</b><br>- access to Information Laws adopted/amended and implemented in one-two countries;<br>- accessible, more service-oriented administrations in place, also through e-gov. services and one-stop-shops in one-two countries. |
| <b>Communication and dialogue with civil society improved, aimed at reinforcing transparency and accountability in economic governance including via Citizens Budgets, budgetary governance, internal and external performance audits in at least two countries.</b> | Bilateral and regional programmes  | EaP governments/<br>administrations<br><br>European Commission                                    | <b>Decisions taken on the changes required to approximate national governance with EU standards related to economic governance, including via reinforced budget oversight, fiscal rules and councils, and medium-term budgets, in at least two countries.</b>   |

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| <p><b>At least one country revises its statistical law and adopts it, in accordance with the "Generic Law on Official Statistics".</b><br/> <i>[To date no revisions carried out]</i></p> | <p>EaP Panel on Statistics</p> <p>Global assessment with recommendations to revise the statistical law</p> | <p>EaP countries' National Statistical Institutes</p> <p>EaP governments/administrations</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>EEAS</p> | <p><b>At least four countries have revised their statistical laws in accordance with the "Generic Law on Official Statistics".</b></p> |
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12. The **resilience** of the Partner Countries will be strengthened through stronger cooperation in the area of **civilian security**. The aim is to support Partners, including through capacity building projects, to ensure the security of their population, to make them more resilient to security threats and to be better prepared to prevent and respond to conflict and crisis.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation   | Main actors   | Target by 2020  |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Action Plans to address cybercrime adopted by Partner Countries.</b></p> <p><b>Operational contact points for international police-to-police and judicial cooperation on cybercrime and e-evidence designated.</b></p> | <p>Bilateral and regional programmes</p> <p>PCF</p>  | <p>EaP Ministries of Justice and Interior</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>EUROPOL</p> <p>CoE</p>                              | <p><b>Budapest Convention fully implemented, particularly as per procedural law for the purpose of domestic investigations, public-private cooperation and international cooperation.</b></p> <p><b>Fully-fledged, operational cybercrime units in law enforcement authorities created.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Operational Action Plan aiming at sharing intelligence and operational data regarding the illicit firearms trafficking adopted by at least one country.</b></p>  | <p>Bilateral and regional programmes</p> <p>TAIEX/CEPOL training</p>   | <p>European Commission</p> <p>EEAS</p> <p>EaP Ministries of Interior and Finance</p> <p>Europol</p> <p>CEPOL</p> <p>Frontex</p> | <p><b>List of risk indicators established in at least one country about potentially dangerous firearms transport and hotspots.</b></p> <p><b>EU Liaison Officers deployed in at least one country.</b></p> <p><b>Intelligence-led multinational Join Actions.</b></p>                           |
| <p><b>Participation by at least 3 Partner Countries in EU's CSDP operations.</b></p>   | <p>Framework participation agreements with individual Partner Countries.</p> <p>Security agreements with Partner Countries participating in EU missions and/or battlegroups.</p> | <p>EaP Governments/administrations</p> <p>EEAS</p> <p>European Commission</p>   | <p><b>Conceptual and technical interoperability of Partner Countries' units with the EU facilitated, enabling systematic participation in EU missions.</b></p> <p><b>Stable participation in EU battlegroups.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Risk mapping integrated into national, trans-boundary and regional disaster prevention policies.</b></p>   | <p>Technical Assistance and projects</p>   |   | <p><b>Measures for disaster risk reduction and preparedness based on risk mapping.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>At least one EaP country established, or is working towards establishing, closer working relationships with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.</b></p>  |  |   | <p><b>EaP countries closely cooperate with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.</b></p>  |

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| <p>At least one EaP country adopted legislation equivalent to the EU's on prevention of major industrial accidents involving dangerous chemicals that are harmful to human health and the environment.</p> |  |  | <p>The societal resilience against the risk of industrial accidents in all EaP countries increased up to the EU standards at national, trans boundary and regional levels.</p> |
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➤ **Priority III: Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change**

Better **transport links** provide the necessary infrastructure to open new opportunities for economic development and to enable closer communication and exchanges between the EU and the Partner Countries, as well as among the Partner Countries themselves. Similarly, **energy interconnections** and **sustainable energy** help Partner Countries to reduce energy dependency and to bolster their resilience. On the environment side, political commitments to pursue a green transition have recently been reinforced by the successful conclusion of the **Paris Climate Agreement** and the adoption of the **Sustainable Development Goals** and the adoption of **EaP Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation on Environment and Climate Change**. Enhanced climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts help Partner Countries to develop more efficient economies, while becoming less vulnerable to the adverse impact of climate change. Furthermore, developing policies for a more circular economy and climate-proofing infrastructure are key for citizens' well-being and for opening up new economic opportunities.

Given these considerations, the following deliverables are proposed under Priority III:

**13.** Progress on the ***extension of TEN-T core networks***<sup>19</sup> will be supported following a long-term investment action plan put in place by all key stakeholders (including the IFIs) to complete the TEN-T network by 2030. This will not only make trade more efficient, but also strengthen Partner Countries' governance of transport and logistics systems. Progress will also be made towards the signature of **Common Aviation Area Agreements**.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation  | Main actors  | Target by 2020   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Agreement reached on highest priority projects to be incorporated into the single coordinated pipeline, feeding into NIF (e.g. East –West Highway; reconstruction of interchanges on TEN-T - corridor roads, including M1 and M5 (E95), M6 (E40), M7 (E373)).</b></p> <p><i>[Discussion currently ongoing in the context of the EaP Platform and Panels; first analysis provided in dedicated study]</i></p> | <p>Focussing IFI-financing on core TEN-T network.</p>   | <p>European Commission</p> <p>IFIs</p> <p>EaP Ministries of Transports</p> | <p><b>Implementation under way on SIX missing links on the extended core TEN-T network with agreed pipeline of projects in place.</b></p>                                  |
| <p><b>Financial mechanisms agreed with countries and IFIs.</b></p>   | <p>Identification of potential projects (pre-feasibility studies) and bottlenecks.</p> <p>Financial mechanisms to attract private funds and finance smaller projects (NIF framework loans, complemented with EU-grant component).</p> |  | <p><b>Bottlenecks in the logistic chain removed, through 'quick win' projects.</b></p> <p><i>[First analysis currently conducted; some projects under development]</i></p> |

<sup>19</sup> e.g. road, rail, ports and airports and inland waterways.

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| <p><b>Continued and/or launched negotiations on a Common Aviation Area Agreement (CAA) with at least three more countries.</b><br/> <i>[To date two countries are provisionally implementing the agreement, while progress on negotiations with other three countries is under way]</i></p> | <p>Political dialogue with the countries involved.</p>  | <p>European Commission<br/> EEAS<br/> Relevant Ministries of Transport</p>             | <p><b>Having in place CAAs with the six countries.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Negotiations ongoing for the inclusion of inland waterways (IWW) into the indicative TEN-T network.</b></p>   | <p>Political dialogue with Romania (lower Danube), Ukraine.</p>   | <p>European Commission<br/> EEAS<br/> Romanian government</p>                          | <p><b>Inclusion of IWW into the indicative TEN-T network.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>National road safety action plans adopted in and national agencies established where possible.</b></p>  | <p>Country expert group meetings<br/> Twinning.</p> <p>Investments in black spot improvement and ITS.</p> <p>Awareness raising campaigns (via NGOs)</p> <p>Data harmonisation, collection and exchange.</p> | <p>Road Agencies<br/> EaP Transport Ministries<br/> Enforcement agencies<br/> IFIs</p> | <p><b>Number of fatalities due to road accidents reduced.</b></p> <p><b>National road safety action plans adopted and national road safety agencies/platforms established in all countries.</b></p> <p><b>Road design standards in line with EU standards and vehicle technical inspection services operational according to EU standards.</b></p> |

14. The security of **energy supply** will be increased through enhanced gas and electricity interconnectivity among Partner Countries themselves and between them and the EU. This will be achieved notably through the ongoing activities in the framework of the Energy Community, and by developing an objective methodology for identifying key interconnection projects involving Partner Countries that are not Contracting Parties of the Energy Community. Furthermore, under the **EU4Energy** initiative, the efficiency and transparency of energy markets will be achieved by improving the availability and quality of data for consumers, investors, researchers and policy makers, as well as through better management, analysis and translation of data into policy decisions<sup>20</sup>.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit  | Implementation   | Main actors  | Target by 2020  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>EU4Energy national work plans are developed for the newly established programme.</b>   | Regional programme EU4Energy (follow-up of INOGATE) started in July 2016.<br><br>EU4Energy to develop methodology for project pipeline.                                | European Commission, International Energy Agency<br>Energy Community Secretariat and Energy Charter Secretariat<br><br>EaP relevant Ministries<br><br>IFIs | <b>Defining projects involving Eastern Partners outside Energy Community framework.</b>   |
| <b>Adoption of projects of strategic importance: Projects of Energy Community Interest (PECI) and Projects of Mutual Interest<sup>21</sup> list (PMI).</b><br><i>[New PEGI list adopted in October 2016; first PMI list adopted in October 2016]</i>  | Transposition of all necessary provisions of Regulation 347/2013 as adopted in the Energy Community and monitoring and reporting obligations of all selected projects. | European Commission<br><br>Energy Community Secretariat<br><br>EU MSs and Energy Community Contracting Parties   | <b>Projects implementation review; update and review of key priority projects related to Eastern Partners.</b>  |
| <b>Moldova-Romania: progress in finding an agreement on financial arrangements for gas interconnection.</b><br><i>[Interconnector operational since May 2015, pipeline Ungheni-Chisinau to be constructed; feasibility study finalised in July 2016; Financing Decisions expected in December 2016]</i> | Resolving outstanding issues regarding financing and operation of the pipeline.  | European Commission<br><br>IFIs<br><br>Ministries of Economy of Moldova and Romania  | <b>Gas interconnection Ungheni operational.</b>   |
| <b>Solid progress made on the expansion of the South Caucasus Gas Pipeline</b><br><i>[Currently most contracts awarded; first shipment of pipes to arrive shortly; work started on construction of compressor station]</i>  | Southern Gas Corridor (SGC) Advisory Council.<br><br>Pentalateral Working Group and implementation of the Ashgabat Declaration of 1 May 2015.                          | European Commission<br><br>IFIs<br><br>Governments of all countries along the SGC corridor   | <b>Southern Gas Corridor operational and gas flowing to Turkey and the EU.</b><br><br><b>Tangible progress on SGC extension towards Central Asia.</b> |

<sup>20</sup> Some actions in the area of energy security can include when relevant "neighbours of the neighbours", i.e. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

<sup>21</sup> Between EU MSs and Energy Community Contracting Parties.

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| <p><b>Electricity interconnections Georgia-Armenia.</b><br/> <i>[Currently no reliable power connection between Georgia and Armenia]</i></p> | <p>Technical Assistance financed through NIF.</p> | <p>European Commission<br/>         IFIs<br/>         Governments of Georgia/Armenia</p> | <p><b>Establishment of the NIF supported back-to-back electricity interconnection between Georgia and Armenia.</b></p> |
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15. Decisive steps will be taken to **improve energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, and to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions**, in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, through:

- **Alignment of financial instruments** with plans promoted by the EU, IFIs and EaP authorities, and with EaP national policies and measures aimed at reducing energy intensity, promoting energy efficiency and increasing renewable energy production<sup>22</sup>;
- Implementation of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP) through the **Covenant of Mayors (CoM) Programme** to reduce CO2 emissions beyond 20% in 2020, with a possible further increase to at least 30% by 2030, in line with the Paris Agreement;
- Implementation of **SME support** for sustainable efficiency<sup>23</sup>, ensuring synergies between EU4Business and EU4Energy;
- Support to the preparation of national mid-century, long-term low **greenhouse gas (GHG) emission development strategies**<sup>24</sup>;
- Support the establishment of national emissions monitoring, reporting and verification.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation  | Main actors  | Target by 2020   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>CoM East II is launched (Yerevan, October 2016).</b></p> <p><b>At least 20 Local Authorities (LAs) committed to CoM-East 2030 objectives</b><br/> <i>[Currently at the beginning of the implementation process; no commitment expressed yet]</i></p>   | <p>Design and implementation of local SECAP (including energy efficiency measures, i.e. better-performing district heating systems, energy efficient public transportation/lighting).</p> | <p>EaP cities/city networks, LAs</p> <p>EaP Ministries Energy/Climate</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>IFIs</p> | <p><b>At least 100 LAs reduced urban CO2 emissions of 20%.</b></p> <p><b>At least 50 LAs committed to more ambitious objectives.</b></p>       |
| <p><b>Nationally determined contributions (NDC) to the Paris Agreement developed.</b><br/> <i>[Currently two countries have developed their NDCs as they ratified the Paris Agreement]</i></p> <p><b>Sectoral Policy guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement drafted.</b><br/> <i>[Currently no such guidelines in place]</i></p> | <p>Clima East Project</p> <p>Future regional project on climate action (to be formulated) and possibility for twinning projects (to be assessed).</p>                                     | <p>European Commission</p> <p>International organisations</p> <p>Relevant EaP Ministries, EU MS experts</p>      | <p><b>EaP countries on-track with Paris Agreement to communicate their mid-century, long-term low GHG emission development strategies.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Start upgrading national GHG monitoring, reporting and verification practices in line with the Paris Agreement.</b></p>  |   |  | <p><b>EaP countries getting on-track with Paris Agreement transparency requirements.</b></p>   |

<sup>22</sup> Enhanced collaboration with IFIs in pilot countries.

<sup>23</sup> EU support: €55 million.

<sup>24</sup> To be communicated to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat.

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| <p><b>Launch of climate action investment facilities agreed with countries and IFIs.</b><br/> <i>[Currently no specific climate action investment facilities agreed]</i></p> | <p>Financial mechanisms to attract private funds and finance investment projects (NIF framework loans and EU grant).</p> | <p>IFIs<br/> European Commission</p> | <p><b>At least one major climate action investment facility per country in place.</b></p> |
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**16. Environment and adaptation to climate change** will be supported by improving water resources management and trans-boundary cooperation, mainstreaming environmental goals, developing sounder environmental governance, and promoting climate change resilience, taking into account the bio-economy concept<sup>25</sup>. These actions will notably lead to:

- Benefits for citizens in the range of **EUR 300/200 per household per year**<sup>26</sup>;
- Higher **agricultural and industrial productivity** (i.e. higher crop yields and optimised use of biomass, including residues and organic waste for bioindustry);
- Establishment of the necessary basis for achieving **gains of up to 2% of GDP** in terms of avoided premature deaths and related economic costs stemming from environmental pollution and adverse impacts of climate change;
- An improvement in the **health and quality of life** of citizens as a result of the reduction of environmental pollutants in air and water;
- Better **preparedness** and reduced citizens' exposure to extreme weather events<sup>27</sup>.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit  | Implementation  | Main actors  | Target by 2020   |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p><b>National and regional work plans to improve water management ready.</b></p> <p><b>River Basin Management Plans adopted.</b></p> <p><b>Water quality surveys, including Joint Black Sea survey carried out.</b></p>  | <p>EU Water Initiative+</p> <p>Environmental Monitoring of the Black Sea project</p> <p>CBC programmes</p>    | <p>EaP relevant Ministries</p> <p>OECD, UNECE</p> <p>European Commission</p>   | <p><b>Management of 50% of river basins based on the EU Water Framework Directive.</b></p> <p><b>Risk for Black Sea degradation identified and marine litter clean-up actions launched.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Club created.</b></p> <p><b>Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments legislation in place and implemented.</b></p> <p><b>Green economy principles implemented by EaP Partner Countries.</b></p> <p><b>New EaP GREEN programme formulated.</b></p> <p><b>Action Plan drafted along provisions of EaP Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation on Environment and Climate Change.</b></p> <p><b>Adaptation measures identified as part of sector-specific actions.</b></p> | <p>EaP GREEN Programme</p> <p>National programme in BY</p> <p>EaP Panel on Environment and Climate Change</p> | <p>EaP relevant Ministries/ Governments, LAs</p> <p>CSOs</p> <p>SMEs and Business Support Organisations</p> <p>OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNDP<sup>28</sup></p> <p>IFIs</p> <p>European Commission</p> | <p><b>200 SMEs trained.</b></p> <p><b>10% cost savings realised by 60 pilot enterprises due to cleaner production.</b></p> <p><b>Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments legislations fully compliant and applied in line with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements.</b></p> <p><b>1 000 SMEs familiar with green economy benefits.</b></p> |

<sup>25</sup> Ref. COM(2012)60 final.

<sup>26</sup> Or between 1-1.5% of the GDP of individual countries.

<sup>27</sup> Based on past experience, can be up to €1 billion per event per country.

<sup>28</sup> Organisation for Economic cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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| <b>Launch of preparation national and sectoral adaptation plans.</b><br><i>[To date no plans in place]</i> | Clima East Project                                | EaP relevant Ministries<br>European Commission        | <b>National and sectoral adaptation plans in place.</b>                       |
| <b>National work plans and a regional work plan developed and adopted.</b>                                 | "Shared Environmental Information System" Project | EaP relevant Ministries<br>European Commission<br>EEA | <b>Improved on-line access to data and state of the environment analyses.</b> |

➤ **Priority IV: Mobility and people-to-people contacts**

Mobility and people-to-people contacts bring EU and Partner Countries' societies closer together and offer tangible benefits to citizens. **Visa liberalisation** promotes movement of people and the diversification of professional cross-regional networks.

Highly-skilled educated staff is a key asset for the economy and contributes to the creation of an open flow of knowledge and expertise, to enhance growth and competitiveness, and to build prosperous and harmonious societies. Investing in **education** brings a pronounced impact on education policies and systems. The quality and relevance of education in EaP Partner Countries will be further enhanced with the focus on the modernisation agenda and reforms in line with the European Higher Education Area.

Efforts must be made to support and empower the **young generation**, particularly in terms of developing their skills and fostering their employability. Formal and non-formal education equips with key skills for academic and professional development, increasing employability and promoting civic engagement. Furthermore, the coordination between the education system and the labour market can be enhanced by *inter alia* improving links between education and the world of work; promoting apprenticeships, traineeships and work experience; improving the quality and attractiveness of vocational education; promoting the acquisition of core competences, including ICT and entrepreneurship, as well as soft skills (i.e. communication and interpersonal relations). Development of **human capital** should be further assisted with focus on labour market-relevant skills and active labour measures aligned with social-security nets to ease labour market transformations.

Cooperation on **culture** enriches contacts between societies and promotes cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. The participation of three EaP countries in Creative Europe increases opportunities for cultural exchanges and facilitates peer-to-peer learning. The support to the development of the cultural and creative sectors, provided by the EU-EaP Culture Programme II, is an important complement to support social and economic development of EaP Partner Countries.

Finally, creating better links between **research and innovation** (R&I) initiatives and results to market demand and opportunities, would help accelerate the market uptake of research results and help improve competitiveness and innovation in economic development.

Given these considerations, the following deliverables are proposed under Priority IV:

17. Progress on ***Visa Liberalisation Dialogues and Mobility Partnerships (MPs)*** will be supported, with visa free travel with Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine, the possible opening, in due course, of a Visa Liberalisation Dialogue with Armenia and the holding of the first High-Level MP meetings with Belarus and Azerbaijan.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation  | Main actors   | Target by 2020  |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Visa free regime for Ukraine and Georgia, once adopted by co-legislators.</b></p> <p><b>Possible launch of a Visa Liberalisation Dialogue with Armenia, if conditions allow.</b></p> <p><b>Re-launch and finalisation of the Visa Facilitation and Readmission negotiations with Belarus.</b></p> <p><b>Holding of first High Level meeting under Mobility Partnership with Belarus.</b></p> <p><b>Holding of the first High Level meeting under Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan.</b></p> | <p>Increased people to people contacts between the EU and EaP countries as a consequence of considerably eased travel conditions.</p> <p>TAIEX peer review</p> <p>Improved migration management in the EaP countries.</p> | <p>EaP Ministries of Foreign Affairs/ Home Affairs</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>EEAS</p> <p>European Border and Coast Guard Agency</p> <p>European Training Foundation</p> | <p><b>Continued implementation of VLAP benchmarks for Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine.</b></p> <p><b>Effective implementation of all Mobility Partnerships, with balance between the 4 pillars (legal migration, irregular migration, migration and development, international protection).</b></p> <p><b>(Possibly) Conclusion of VLAP with Armenia and subsequent visa-free travel for its citizens, if all benchmarks are met.</b></p> <p><b>Possible launch of a Visa Liberalisation Dialogue with Azerbaijan, if conditions allow.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Integrated Border Management (IBM): reconstruction works under way in at least seven Border Crossing points (BCPs).</b></p>  | <p>IBM Flagship Initiative</p> <p>Frontex-led EaP IBM capacity building project</p> <p>CBC programmes</p>   | <p>EaP governments/ administrations</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>EEAS</p> <p>European Border and Coast Guard Agency</p>  | <p><b>Modernised network of BCPs among partners and between them and EUMSs.</b></p> <p><b>Contribution to enhanced trade flows among partners and between them and the EU.</b></p>  |

**18. Youth leadership and entrepreneurship** will be fostered through a new **EU4Youth** initiative, which by 2020 *inter alia* will aim to provide support to 100 youth organisations. **Over 20,000 students and academic staff** will have studied, taught or been trained thanks to **Erasmus+** mobility opportunities. The Erasmus+ programme is also expected to involve more than **60,000 young people and youth workers** from EaP Partner Countries in joint non-formal learning activities in the field of youth with their peers from Europe. The participation of EaP countries to Erasmus+, Creative Europe, COSME and Horizon 2020, including the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, opens up new mobility opportunities for administrations, businesses, professionals, students and researchers. These are further supported by new IT-based tools such as the EaPConnect, allowing researchers and students in the EaP to **virtually collaborate** with their counterparts in over **10,000 research and education establishments in Europe**. All these efforts will support broader **skills development actions**.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit  | Implementation | Main actors  | Target by 2020   |
|---|----------------|--|--|
| <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> group of multilateral partnerships supporting entrepreneurship education and social entrepreneurship established (see also Civil Society Fellowships; Deliverable 1).</b><br/> <i>[EU4Youth implementation starting in 2017]</i></p>   | EU4Youth       | <p>European Commission</p> <p>Youth organisations in EU and EaP countries</p>  | <p><b>Along Civil Society Fellowships for youth, partnerships for Entrepreneurship and transnational cooperation projects implemented, with 100 youth organisations supported and reduced mismatch between skills and labour market demands.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>800 bilateral projects among Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and 60 capacity building projects carried out.</b><br/> <i>[In 2015-2016: 613 HEI and 47 capacity building projects carried out]</i></p> <p><b>10 000 individual mobilities from EaP countries funded.</b><br/> <i>[In 2015-2016: 7500 individual mobilities from EaP countries funded]</i></p> <p><b>200 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees full scholarships awarded.</b><br/> <i>[In 2014-2016: 164 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees full scholarships awarded]</i></p> <p><b>1 500 projects, 1 300 teachers and 500 schools connected via eTwinningPlus.</b><br/> <i>[In 2014-2015: 880 projects, 727 teachers and 292 schools connected]</i></p> | Erasmus+       | <p>European Commission</p> <p>HEIs from EU and EaP countries</p> <p>Ministries of education EaP Countries</p> <p>Central and National Support Services of eTwinning and eTwinning Partner Support Agencies</p> | <p>Over 1 200 bilateral projects among HEIs and 110 capacity building projects carried out.</p> <p>Over 20 000 mobility opportunities in the field of education.</p> <p>Around 350 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees full scholarships awarded.</p> <p>Increased quality and relevance of education systems and employability of graduates.</p> <p>Universities modernised along EHEA and Bologna principles.</p> <p>Erasmus+ traineeship for ENP students introduced.</p> |

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| <p><b>Over 20.000 young people/youth workers from EaP countries involved in Erasmus+<sup>29</sup>. [In 2014-2015: 14.000 young people/youth workers involved]<sup>30</sup></b></p> <p><b>Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange initiative in place.</b></p>                    | <p>EU4Youth programme</p> <p>Erasmus+</p> <p>EaP Youth Forum</p> | <p>European Commission</p> <p>Youth organisations, youth workers and young people from EU and EaP countries</p> <p>EaP Ministries responsible for youth policy</p>                          | <p><b>Over 60 000 young people and youth workers from EaP took part to Erasmus+.</b></p> <p><b>EaP youth benefits from facilitated inter-cultural dialogue and increased employability and civic skills.</b></p> <p><b>Enhanced openness/inclusiveness in EU-EaP cooperation.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Youth employment and transition to work strategies and action plans/road maps adopted in at least two or more countries.</b></p> <p><i>[Work in progress]</i></p>  | <p>Bilateral and regional programmes.</p> <p>EaP Pannel</p>      | <p>EaP Ministries of Education and Employment</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>European Training Foundation</p>  | <p><b>EaP countries reduce youth unemployment and NEETs rates.</b></p> <p><b>EaP countries develop employment and transition strategies and skills- development actions.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>The quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training (VET), and in particular its responsiveness to labour market needs, is enhanced.</b></p> <p><i>[Bilateral programmes in place and supported by Torino process]</i></p>                   | <p>Bilateral and regional programmes.</p>                        | <p>EaP Ministries of Education and Employment</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>European Training Foundation</p> <p>Other multilateral and bilateral donors</p>                             | <p><b>Enrolment in VET is increased.</b></p> <p><b>The percentage of VET graduates in employment or further study after six months is increased.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>At least three countries participate in the Creative Europe programme, and at least one more country is likely to join.</b></p> <p><i>[Currently three countries already participate]</i></p>  | <p>Creative Europe</p>   | <p>European Commission</p> <p>EaP Ministries of Culture</p>   | <p><b>Extension of Creative Europe network in the Neighbourhood.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Increased participation in international cultural cooperation initiatives and synergies between public and private actors.</b></p> <p><i>[Work in progress; between April 2016 and October 2016, 66 events were held, with 6709 direct participants]</i></p> | <p>EU-EaP Culture Programme II</p>                               | <p>Programme consortium (British Council, Soros Foundation Moldova, National Centre for Culture of Poland, Goethe-Institut)</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>EaP Ministries of Culture</p> | <p><b>Cultural and creative sectors are integrated into cultural policy reforms and strategic document of EaP countries.</b></p> <p><b>Civil society in EaP countries actively participates in the formulation of culture policies.</b></p>   |

<sup>29</sup> Youth exchanges, European Voluntary Service, Youth workers training and networking, meetings between young people and decision makers in the field of youth.

<sup>30</sup> From 2014-2016 about 66000 young people and youth workers from Erasmus+ Programme Countries and EaP countries have been involved in joint non-formal learning youth projects. About one third of these participants are from EaP countries.

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| <p><b>Active participation of EaP countries in researcher mobility and exchanges.</b><br/> <i>[In 2014-2015: 129 EaP research fellowships; 43 participating institutions]</i></p> | <p>Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions</p> | <p>European Commission<br/> MSCA National Contact Points in EaP countries</p> | <p><b>Increased number of EaP researchers and research organisation benefitting from opportunities for mobility, training, and cooperation under MSCA.</b></p> |
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**19.** An ***EaP European School*** will be established to provide **high quality education** to pupils from the EaP countries; increase their educational and employment opportunities; and promote co-operation, multi-cultural understanding, tolerance, fundamental values; and a better understanding of the EU and its engagement in the region.

| <b>Milestone by 2017 Summit</b>   | <b>Implementation</b>  | <b>Main actors</b>  | <b>Target by 2020</b>  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Study on setting up the school finalised and plan for establishment developed.</b><br><br><b>Proposed didactic programme, governance and funding arrangements developed.</b> | Study<br><br>EU funded programme   | International schools<br><br>Governors Board of International Baccalaureate<br><br>European Commission<br><br>EaP Ministries of Education/Foreign Affairs | <b>EaP European school set up.</b>   |
| <b>The setting of the network of EaP universities delivering EU-focused programmes in progress.</b>   | EU funded programme with strong alignment with Erasmus+ and MSs initiatives. | HEIs from EU and EaP countries<br><br>European Commission   | <b>Network of EaP universities will be up and running focusing on EU studies and excellence in teaching.</b> |



**20.** The *integration of EaP and EU research and innovation systems* will be promoted through a new **EU4Innovation** initiative, aiming at enhancing the employment and career prospects of researchers; funding research and innovation on a competitive basis; increasing the openness of national R&I programmes and infrastructures; supporting institutional capacity-building for the definition and management of sound R&I policies; and fostering research-industry partnerships.

| Milestone by 2017 Summit   | Implementation   | Main actors   | Target by 2020   |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Fully functional associations of at least four countries to Horizon 2020.</b><br/> <i>[Currently all EaP countries participate to H2020; as of November 2016 four of them will have signed the agreement to be also associated to the programme]</i></p> | <p>Horizon 2020 support actions and projects</p> <p>Horizon 2020 Programme Committees</p> <p>Joint Horizon 2020 Association Committees</p> | <p>EaP Ministries of Education and Science</p> <p>National Academies of Science; research and business communities</p> <p>European Commission</p>   | <p><b>Associated countries' R&amp;I stakeholders integrated in relevant EU networks/ fora, and alignment of associated countries' and EU's strategies for R&amp;I.</b></p> <p><b>Full access of EaP countries to all Horizon 2020 funding schemes for individual researchers/innovators.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Successful implementation of the association of Ukraine to the Euratom Research programme.</b><br/> <i>[Association Agreement entered into force in October 2016; implementation already started]</i></p>  | <p>Ukraine-Euratom Research and Innovation Committee</p> <p>Euratom Programme Committee</p>  | <p>National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU) and its research institutes</p> <p>Ukrainian Ministries of Education and Science; Energy and Coal</p> <p>State Enterprise "National Nuclear Energy Generating Company "Energoatom"</p> <p>State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine</p> <p>European Commission</p> | <p><b>Reinforced cooperation in nuclear research (fission and fusion).</b></p>   |

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| <p><b>New coordination and support project of H2020, EaP Plus promoted; coordination platform fully operational.</b><br/> <i>[Platform launched in September 2016]</i></p> | <p>Networking and brokerage events, training, promotion of Horizon 2020 calls.</p> <p>Study visits to relevant EU national ministries/agencies<sup>31</sup>.</p> | <p>EU and EaP research and business communities</p> <p>EaP Ministries of Education and Science</p> <p>European Commission</p> | <p><b>Substantially increased participation of EaP countries in Horizon 2020.</b><br/> <i>[Currently 103 retained H2020 participation]</i></p> <p><b>Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Recommendations “EU-EaP beyond 2020” based on fact-finding reports for EaP countries.</b><br/> <i>[No such recommendations currently in place]</i></p> <p><b>Six new EU-EaP Innovation Clusters (one per country) established, and innovation managers in EaP countries trained.</b><br/> <i>[No such Clusters currently in place]</i></p> |
| <p><b>Peer-reviews of at least four countries' R&amp;I systems.</b><br/> <i>[Process ongoing for the four countries]</i></p>   | <p>Technical assistance and experts missions</p>   | <p>National authorities</p> <p>European Commission</p>  | <p><b>National public R&amp;I systems reformed to improve performance, competitiveness.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>High-capacity broadband internet network for research and education established and operated across EaP countries.</b></p>   | <p>EaP Connect</p>   | <p>GÉANT</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>National research and education network (NREN)</p>                                 | <p><b>Six NRENs in the region integrated in pan-European GÉANT network, decreasing digital divide.</b></p> <p><b>Eduroam deployed and integration with GÉANT services stimulated.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Development of a Marine Strategic Research Agenda in the Black Sea basin.</b></p>  | <p>Four workshops on marine research development priorities</p>  | <p>National authorities</p> <p>European Commission</p>  | <p><b>Development of a Marine Strategic Research Agenda to be presented at a Presidency hosted EU Maritime Day on 20 May 2018 in Burgas, Bulgaria.</b></p>   |

<sup>31</sup> Covering topics such as IPR, science/industry links, research integrity including ethical behavior, open access.