

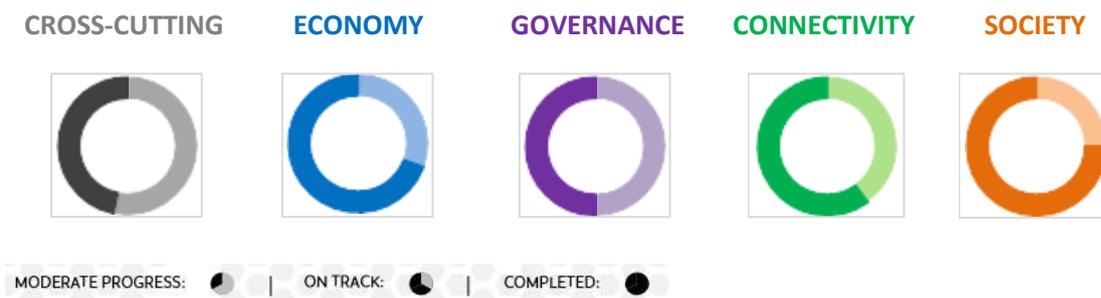
20 DELIVERABLES FOR 2020

Monitoring – State of Play in February 2020

The 2017 Eastern Partnership (EaP) Brussels Summit endorsed the ‘20 Deliverables for 2020’ as an ambitious work plan for reforms in the EaP that would bring tangible benefits for citizens.

To help Member States and partner countries guide the process, the EEAS and the Commission regularly monitor the implementation of the Deliverables, highlighting both achievements and areas where additional effort may be needed.

*This document provides an **updated overview of both the implementation** of the ‘20 Deliverables for 2020’ and **concrete results achieved by February 2020**. It does not contain new commitments. Its findings are based on an internal monitoring process that involved the EEAS and the Commission, which also take into consideration results from meetings of the EaP institutional structure (including platforms and panels). This document selectively highlights the most representative findings from the in-depth internal monitoring. The previous report covered results achieved until March 2019.*





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1 More engagement with civil-society organisations

- ✓ **Capacity-building actions are now ongoing in all partner countries.** These actions focus on **grassroots organisations, innovative ways to engage citizens and mobilisation of local resources.**
- ✓ **More than 60 fellowship projects by young civil society leaders were awarded a grant,** benefiting almost 200 youth leaders.
- ✓ A **pilot tool for monitoring civil society** was prepared for all EaP countries.
- ✓ The EU increased **engagement with the Civil Society Forum** to improve policy dialogue under the revised EaP institutional structure.

2 Increase gender equality and non-discrimination

- ✓ **Gender Action Plans** were updated in **Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.**
- ✓ **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine** have now introduced specific laws on gender equality.
- ✓ **All six partner countries** have now adopted specific legislation against domestic violence, with **Armenia and Ukraine** making further amendments to update their legislation.
- ✓ More than €60 million was allocated to almost **7,250 women-led SMEs,** and **290 women entrepreneurs** received training through the EU4Business initiative in 2018 alone.
- ✓ **Equality legislation** is being reviewed in **Armenia and Moldova,** while in **Belarus** a feasibility study is being conducted for an equality law in line with European standards.

3 Strengthen strategic communications and support diverse and independent media

- ✓ The EU conducted more consistent branding, messaging, visibility and outreach, under the umbrella message '**stronger together**'. It also **strengthened its outreach to young people, by appointing 730 'Young European Ambassadors'** to promote the EU and its values across the region.
- ✓ **Communication campaigns** were run on EU actions in **all partner countries.** For example, the EaP 10th anniversary (**#EaP10**) was celebrated in all EaP countries in 2019. There were also campaigns in Armenia (EU4Armenia), Azerbaijan (EU4YOU), Belarus (Neighbours Inspire), Georgia (EU4Georgia), Moldova (EU-Moldova: Stronger Together), and Ukraine (Moving Forward Together).
- ✓ According to the EU Neighbours East survey 2019, **67% of citizens** in the region have a **positive perception of the EU's relations with their country** (up 6% since 2017). **65% of EaP citizens** (up 6% since 2017) are confident that '**the EU provides tangible benefits to citizens in their everyday lives**'. The EU is also considered the **most trusted foreign institution by 58%** of EaP citizens.
- ✓ **More than 850 journalists and media professionals** have been **trained** to date thanks to EU support for journalism-literacy and journalism-skills, contributing to media independence.

CROSS-CUTTING DELIVERABLES

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- Promoting the development of civil society
- Promoting independent media
- Ratification of international instruments and implementation of relevant legislation on gender equality and non-discrimination across the region

SUCCESS STORIES



#EaP10 – when we communicate together

The EU ran a communication campaign throughout 2019 focusing on the main achievements of the EaP as part of the EaP's **10th anniversary**. Focusing on

outreach to young people and audio-visual content, the campaign kicked-off in February, with a flash-mob by 100 'Young European Ambassadors' in Brussels and across the six partner countries. The campaign peaked in May with Europe Day celebrations in partner countries and high-level events in Brussels. These events attracted media attention from across the EaP region. In total, more than 43 million people were reached through TV, radio and news sites, and 2.1 million were reached through social media across the EaP region.



Working together for a better and more inclusive society

In 2019, the **EaP Civil Society Hackathon** was organised with EU support in Tbilisi, Georgia. Its aim was to encourage the participation of citizens and to exchange ideas on improving society. 70 civic activists and IT professionals from all six EaP countries took part and developed IT tools to tackle social challenges through innovation. In total, 20 project ideas were

developed from which three were pre-selected for the 2019 EU Digitalisation for Civil Society Award. The 2019 award winner was Anna Krys, for her project 'Interactive Map PROVIDNIK'. This project helps people with impaired mobility to access easier and safer routes in the cities of Ukraine so they can carry out their day-to-day activities. *'I wanted to create a map that would not only mark accessible and inclusive infrastructure but also consolidate society so that all people could engage with the map'*, she said. With EU support, Anna's interactive map is expected to be operational in April 2020.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

4 Improve the investment and business environment, and unlock the growth potential of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

- ✓ More than **18,000 SMEs** (around **70%** of total SMEs in **countries having Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTAs)**) have benefited from EU financial assistance since 2016. More than 90,000 jobs have been created or sustained as a result.
- ✓ Over **420 business-support organisations** received EU assistance through the EU4Business initiative
- ✓ The **SME policy index improved** in 2020 (+18% compared to 2016), with notable progress in the institutional framework and entrepreneurial human capital.

5 Address gaps in access to finance and financial infrastructure

- ✓ Out of €350 million in new access-to-finance programmes committed since the end of 2016, around **50%** will mobilise **local-currency lending**.
- ✓ The 'Structural Reform Facility' supported the development of action plans to develop **non-banking alternatives** for SME financing.
- ✓ **Credit registries** are in place in all EaP countries.

6 Create new job opportunities at the local and regional level

- ✓ Since 2016, over **300 'Local Authorities'** in EaP countries have committed to submitting a plan for local economic development (and **180 have already drafted such plans**), while **16 urban demonstration projects** on local economic development have been launched.
- ✓ **12 focal regions** have been selected in **five EaP countries** to maximise the impact and visibility of EU assistance.
- ✓ Five out of six EaP countries expressed interest in **smart specialisation**, with **Ukraine and Moldova** already advanced in drawing up strategies, and new smart specialisation activities are now being prepared for **Georgia, Armenia and Belarus**.

7 Harmonise digital markets

- ✓ Partner countries adopted a joint roadmap in 2019 and **committed to signing a Regional Roaming Agreement in 2020** to reduce roaming tariffs.
- ✓ All partners countries are preparing **National Broadband Strategies** aligned with similar EU strategies.
- ✓ Coordination has started on the cross-border 700 MHz frequency band, and is well advanced in **Georgia, Moldova and Belarus**.

8 Support intra-regional trade between partner countries and between partner countries and the EU

- ✓ The number of **companies from DCFTA** countries exporting to the EU **has significantly increased** since 2015: in **Georgia by 46%**, **Moldova by 48%** and **Ukraine by 24%**.
- ✓ Trade volumes between all EaP countries and the EU **increased** between 2016 and 2019 by **27%** with **Armenia**, **55%** with **Azerbaijan**, **40%** with **Belarus**, **7%** with **Georgia**, **42%** with **Moldova** and **50%** with **Ukraine**.
- ✓ Volumes of **intra-regional trade** among the six EaP countries **increased** between 2016 and 2018 by **51%**.

STRONGER ECONOMY

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- Securing sources of finance for SMEs
- Incubation and pre-acceleration of start-ups in information and communication technologies (ICT), and development of skills in innovation, entrepreneurial and creativity
- E-signature, e-trade, e-commerce, e-customs, and e-logistics
- Intra-regional trade and full implementation of trade agreements
- Negotiations over the accession to the Convention on the Simplification of Formalities in Trade in Goods also need a concerted push in the coming years.

SUCCESS STORIES

Improving people's lives by investing in small businesses in Moldova and Belarus



In **Moldova**, a company specialised in hydraulic engineering and based in Chişinău received an EU-funded investment loan in 2016. The loan was to purchase high-performance machinery to clean up the bed of the River Durleşti, as part of an EU project. This action saved the river from degradation, made the area more attractive for investment, and improved the lives of 1,000 people living in the immediate vicinity of the river.



In 2018, the EU supported a small company in **Belarus**, which specialises in a cutting-edge, 3D, holographic-display system. The system provides an immersive experience enabling viewers to create, manage and display 3D videos that appear to hover in the air. The EU helped the company to increase its management effectiveness and productivity. This led to an increase in the company's profitability and helped to create or sustain 150 jobs. The company's products

have now reached international brands and markets, and it is exploring ways to use interactive holograms in various sectors including education and medicine.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

9 Strengthen the rule of law and anti-corruption mechanisms

- ✓ Legal frameworks on **confiscation** are in place in **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova** and **Ukraine** covering different confiscation regimes.
- ✓ Systems for declaring assets and conflicts of interest are in place in **Armenia, Georgia, Moldova** and **Ukraine**.
- ✓ **Ukraine** has set up a **High Anti-Corruption Court**, and selected judges for this court in cooperation with international experts.

10 Support the implementation of key judicial reforms

- ✓ Initial steps have been taken towards setting up a system to monitor the track records of judges and prosecutors. These include the creation of an online appraisal system for prosecutors in **Georgia** and planned work or initiatives in **Armenia** and **Ukraine**.
- ✓ **Armenia** has advanced its strategic framework in the justice sector, including by adopting a new comprehensive reform strategy for the justice sector.

11 Support the implementation of public administration reform (PAR)

- ✓ **PAR strategies** were developed in line with the 'Principles of Public Administration' in **Georgia, Moldova** and **Ukraine**. **Armenia** undertook its first baseline assessment in line with the 'Principles of Public Administration'.
- ✓ **All six EaP** countries have introduced service-centre **one-stop-shops and e-government services**, making their administrations more accessible and service-oriented.
- ✓ There has been increased engagement of citizens in the EaP countries through high-level civil-society dialogue in **Armenia, Georgia** and **Ukraine**. This paves the way for more open and accountable state administrations in the EaP countries.

12 Stronger security cooperation

- ✓ **Georgia, Moldova** and **Ukraine** have adopted **strategies and action plans on cybercrime**. Although they are not yet fully aligned with the Budapest Convention, **all six EaP countries** have set up **specialised cybercrime units**
- ✓ **Joint investigations** between EaP partner countries and Europol have increased.
- ✓ **Hybrid-threat surveys** have been carried out with **Moldova** and **Georgia**
- ✓ **Five regional guidelines** and tools were developed to address flood-risk management and raise awareness about disasters and civil-protection volunteering.

STRONGER GOVERNANCE

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- Tackling high-level and complex corruption across the region, and setting up an anti-corruption institutional framework. This framework should include the creation of track records of cases, effective use of financial investigation tools, and making publicly available all registry data on beneficial ownership
- Merit-based recruitment, reduction of case backlogs, and enforcement of judgments in civil and administrative cases
- Fighting organised crime
- Addressing hybrid threats, including cyber threats, to strengthen critical infrastructure.

SUCCESS STORIES

Fighting corruption in Ukraine

The High Anti-Corruption Court was set up in **Ukraine** in September 2019 to handle complex, high-level corruption cases against top officials and politicians. These high-level corruption cases are investigated by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and prosecuted by the specialised Prosecution Office. EU assistance ranged from technical advice on the relevant legislative and institutional framework, to provide equipment and training. The Court was set up following a rigid and highly transparent selection procedure that is now being replicated in other selection and vetting processes across Ukraine. This process is now attracting great interest from other countries. The Court is now fully operational, and the first 38 judges have been selected by international independent experts. The Court has already issued its first two judgments in plea-bargaining cases, and more judgments are expected in the coming months with an intensive schedule of hearings in highly publicised cases.



Access to public and private services in Azerbaijan

With EU support, public services are now more accessible in **Azerbaijan** through the ASAN state agency. ASAN consists of centres that function as 'one-stop shops' providing more than 300 services including: birth, death and marriage registration; identity cards; passports; driver's licences; real-estate records; registrations of companies; and e-

visas. The network of ASAN centres is equipped with a mobile service providing access to people in remote areas. Having improved the visibility and professionalism of public service delivery in Azerbaijan, the ASAN service received the UN Public Service Award in 2015. ASAN, which means 'easy' in Azerbaijani, has significantly improved the lives of citizens, making access to services easier and quicker thanks to the use of modern technology.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

13 Extend the core Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)

- ✓ **'High-Level Understandings'** on drawing up the indicative extended **core TEN-T network** were signed, and the related European Commission Delegated Act entered into force in January 2019. The **Indicative TEN-T Investment Action Plan** has identified priority investment projects. A €20-million technical assistance facility to help implementation of the TEN-T has also been set-up.
- ✓ All countries have endorsed a **Declaration on Road Safety**. **Road Safety Investment Programmes** have been approved in **Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine**.

14 Increase the security of energy supply

- ✓ The **Southern Gas Corridor** is reaching completion, with **different sections now connected** (the South Caucasus Pipeline, the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline, and the Trans-Anatolian Pipelines); ceremony to mark the completion of the Trans-anatolian Pipeline took place in Greece in November 2019.
- ✓ **Ukraine** has finished the implementing the third energy package on unbundling.

15 Improve energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy; reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)

- ✓ Under the **Covenant of Mayors** framework, **187 Local Authorities** have committed to cutting **CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2020**, and **240 Local Authorities** have committed to cutting emissions by **30% by 2030**.
- ✓ The E5P Fund has provided **more than €150 million** in investment grants to **36 projects** benefiting **8 million people**. This has made it possible leverage a total investment of almost **€800 million**. The E5P now covers **all six countries**, with **Azerbaijan** joining in 2019.
- ✓ The **high-level EU-International Financial Institutions (IFIs) energy-efficiency initiative** has increased political ownership in **Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine**. For example, **Ukraine** has set up an energy-efficiency fund for residential buildings.
- ✓ **Ukraine** has adopted regulations on ozone and fluorinated gases and a law on monitoring, reporting and verification of GHG emissions in December 2019.

16 Support the environment and adaptation to climate change

- ✓ **Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine** adopted new laws on **environmental assessment of strategies, plans, and investment projects**.
- ✓ To protect and connect natural areas, **Emerald Network** sites now exist in **Belarus (155 sites), Georgia (58 sites), Moldova (61 sites), and Ukraine (377 sites)**. **Armenia and Azerbaijan** officially nominated **23 and 17 sites** respectively.
- ✓ EU support has promoted **modern water policy at river-basin level**, covering **500,000 km²** and affecting more than **30 million people** across the region. Since 2017, **Armenia, Belarus and Moldova** adopted **four river-basin plans** in line with EU benchmarks. **All countries** received **modern equipment** to better monitor and reduce people's exposure to toxic pollutants.
- ✓ Environmental data from all six EaP is available **online via an internet-based tracking tool** hosted by the European Environment Agency (EEA).

STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- Interconnection projects in the gas and electricity sectors, including the unbundling of the operators of the gas-transmission system in Energy Community Contracting Parties
- Monitoring and implementing the reduction of CO2 emissions in line with the Paris Agreement
- Access to climate finance
- Climate adaptation
- Environmental health

SUCCESS STORIES



Working together for a greener and safer environment in Georgia

In **Georgia**, the EU-funded Tbilisi bus project purchased 143 modern, compressed-natural-gas buses for the city. The blue buses have improved the bus service for the city's 1,2 million inhabitants by increasing

the safety and efficiency of public transport. The new eco-friendly buses are able to accommodate people with disabilities, the elderly, and parents with children, while reducing pollution. Natalia Maziashvili is happy to use these new buses: *'As a mother of two, I find clean air and the environment very important,'* she said. *'That is why these new buses that are 'green' are very welcome. I use them almost every day.'*



Saving together for energy efficiency in Moldova

In **Moldova**, Cantemir has the first kindergarten that is thermally renovated in compliance with European standards. Four educational institutions in the city are also switching to renewable energy sources thanks to EU support. The renovations include: thermal insulation of external

walls; installing biomass boilers; adding individual heating control points; installing solar collectors and photovoltaic panels; and replacing internal lighting systems with LEDs. As a result, the 50-year-old building now offers improved learning conditions for 135 children, while using at least 20% less energy and addressing climate change.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

17 Progress on Visa Liberalisation Dialogues and Mobility Partnerships

- ✓ **Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine** continue to fulfil the benchmarks of the **Visa Liberalisation Action Plan**. **Visa Facilitation and Readmission agreements** with **Belarus** were signed in January 2020.
- ✓ **Modernisation of the Border Crossing Points** is on track. The network has now helped to set up jointly operated crossing points between **Poland and Ukraine** and between **Moldova and Ukraine**.
- ✓ **Integrated border-management strategies** have been introduced in **almost all EaP countries** and structured cooperation is now in place.

18 Strengthen investment in young people's skills, entrepreneurship and employability

- ✓ The **EU4Youth Erasmus+** capacity-building scheme helped to fund **100 projects** working with **265 EaP organisations**. These projects supported **civic engagement and entrepreneurship among young people**. **EU4Youth** grants supported six large-scale projects for **youth employment, employability and transition to work**. This benefited **23,000 young people** in the region.
- ✓ **Erasmus+** encourages mobility and quality of formal and non-formal education. Since 2016, **32,000** students and academic staff from EaP countries participated in **academic exchanges**, **46,000 young people** were involved in other exchanges, trips and **volunteering**, almost 500 Master's students received an Erasmus Mundus scholarship, and nearly **3,000 schools** and **7,600 teachers** were connected via **eTwinning Plus**.
- ✓ All EaP countries engaged in structural dialogue through the **Torino process on Vocational Education reforms** to improve human capital development, vocational education and policies on training.
- ✓ Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine signed agreements for participation in **Creative Europe**. EaP cultural organisations were involved in 44 projects.

19 Establish an EaP European school

- ✓ The **EaP European School** in Tbilisi has been **open since September 2018**. **65 students** from all EaP countries in the school have been awarded an EU-funded scholarship for an international baccalaureate (IB) diploma focused on European studies. **Phase II** of the project was **launched in 2019** with the aim of setting up a fully-fledged EaP European School by 2023 under the Ministry of Education of Georgia.

20 Integrate EaP and EU research and innovation systems and programmes

- ✓ Four EaP countries are associated to the EU's Horizon 2020 research-and-innovation programme. Research-and-innovation stakeholders from these four countries are also integrated in relevant **EU networks/platforms**.
- ✓ **All partner countries** have full access to **all Horizon 2020** funding schemes for **individual researchers**, with **135** already receiving grants. Under the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie** scheme, **915 EaP researchers** benefit from EU support.
- ✓ National research and education networks from all partner countries are integrated in the Pan-European **GÉANT network**, as well as Eduroam.

STRONGER SOCIETY

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- Quality in education and in teaching methods
- Lifelong learning
- Addressing the challenges of youth employment and the brain drain
- Research and innovation
- Using smart specialisation and technology transfer to: (i) improve performance and competitiveness; (ii) develop regional and local economies.

SUCCESS STORIES



The first EaP European School

In September 2018, the first **EaP European School** outside the EU opened its doors in Tbilisi, Georgia, to over 30 bright students from across all six partner countries. Not only do these students receive a high-quality education, but they also learn new languages and learn from a wide range of cultures. Through the EU-funded scholarship programme, students are offered an innovative IB diploma programme that brings together IB studies with a unique focus on European studies. The IB diploma

programme also promotes multicultural exchanges and EU values. Young students have the can choose their courses, meet with different people from across the entire EaP region, and engage in volunteering actions, which are part of the academic programme. So far, 65 students have been part of this experience.



The EU supporting digital education in Armenia

The EU TUMO Convergence Centre for Engineering and Applied Science in **Armenia** was launched in 2019. It aims to give young people access to project-based and industry-led learning with professionals in the tech industry. Organised as a hub for research, education entrepreneurship and start-ups, the centre serves as an incubator for

businesses and talented people. It hopes to facilitate innovation, and create the jobs of the future. The 15,000-square-metre centre will house infrastructure for: educational programmes (the TUMO Labs); a French university's IT and applied maths faculty; a software engineering school; 42 shared research facilities; high-tech industry units; a conference centre; and revenue-generating commercial space to ensure the centre's long-term viability.

CROSS-CUTTING DELIVERABLES		STATUS (since 2016)	CHANGE (since 3/19)
1.	More engagement with civil-society organisations		
2.	Increase gender equality and non-discrimination		
3.	Strengthen strategic communications and support diverse and independent media		
STRONGER ECONOMY			
4.	Improve the investment and business environment and unlock the growth potential of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)		
5.	Address gaps in access to finance and financial infrastructure		
6.	Create new job opportunities at the local and regional level		
7.	Harmonise digital markets		
8.	Support intra-regional trade between partner countries and between partner countries and the EU		
STRONGER GOVERNANCE			
9.	Strengthen the rule of law and anti-corruption mechanisms		
10.	Support the implementation of key judicial reforms		
11.	Support the implementation of public administration reform (PAR)		
12.	Stronger security cooperation		
STRONGER CONNECTIVITY			
13.	Extend the core Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)		
14.	Increase the security of energy supply		
15.	Improve energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy; reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)		
16.	Support the environment and adaptation to climate change		
STRONGER SOCIETY			
17.	Progress on Visa Liberalisation Dialogues and Mobility Partnerships		
18.	Strengthen investment in young people's skills, entrepreneurship and employability		
19.	Establish an EaP European school		
20.	Integrate EaP and EU research and innovation systems and programmes		

Implementation since 2016: completed ; on track ; limited progress

Change since March 2019: no change ; progress