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## European Neighbourhood Policy

[ec.europa.eu/world/enp](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp)

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- EU Member States
- ENP partner countries
- Candidates for EU membership
- Potential candidates for EU membership



## For good measure

Georgia is reliant on imports to meet its consumption of natural gas, estimated at about 2 billion cubic metres per year. Secure energy supply is especially crucial during the winter, when most of the country's population feels particularly vulnerable to the subzero temperatures.

One important component of a reliable energy supply is to ensure that both the supplier and buyer are satisfied. However, Georgia's gas sector, with its ageing infrastructure, has faced major challenges of getting the quality and quantity of gas crossing the border measured accurately.

### Georgia goes with the flow

With EU support, Georgia has taken action to remedy this problem – based on the recommendations of a group of experts – by constructing a state-of-the-art metering station.

"Remoteness and the old station's outdated equipment caused a considerable number of measurement errors," explains Irakli Kiladze, an engineer with the Georgia Gas Corporation. "The most valuable benefit we have gained from the EU project is that we now possess the technology to control and fully measure the volumes of natural gas received."



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## A clean start for Jenin

The Palestinian town of Jenin overlooks the stunning Jordan Valley in the West Bank. However, the town and its environs suffered from a waste disposal problem which was not only a blight on the landscape but also posed a serious health hazard for the local population.

Locals were forced to dispose of their rubbish in dozens of random dumps located around the town and in the surrounding countryside. To resolve this problem, the region, with EU backing, built the state-of-the-art Zahrat al-Finjan facility which disposes of rubbish from northern Palestinian cities and villages. The move led to the closure of 84 illegal and hazardous rubbish dumps.

The site, with an expected lifespan of up to 30 years, can process as much as 700 tonnes of waste daily.

### Green garbage

The facility is also environmentally friendly. It employs a 'progressive disposal method' which breaks down waste using natural fermentation brought about by micro-organisms. The landfill pit is lined with several layers of impermeable material to prevent the leakage of contaminants, known as leachates, into the underlying soil. Contaminates can sink into the soil, polluting the groundwater and wells used by locals for drinking water.

"Now there is no random dumping in the north West Bank area. There is no need for people to do this and they were pleased to see random sites closed because of their negative health and environmental impact," explains Hani Shawahneeh, the executive manager of the facility.

Much of the land reclaimed from the closure of the 84 illegal dumps is now being farmed. There are also plans for a playground on the site of a former dump in Deir Abu Daeif near Jenin and for a public park on another in Tubas.

Zahrat al-Finjan plans to set up a recycling plant for plastics and paper that will create more jobs. There are proposals to open similar facilities in other parts of the West Bank.



EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY:  
 ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

# CHALLENGES WITHOUT BORDERS





The majority of European Union citizens, a recent survey found, are in favour of closer co-operation with neighbouring countries. They believe that closer ties could strengthen peace and democracy.

This is precisely what the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) is about. Developed in 2003/2004 with the aim of drawing the enlarged EU and our neighbours closer together, the ENP is about taking concrete action to support reforms and to enhance prosperity: to improve the daily lives of people in our neighbourhood.

So how does it work? The EU and each of its neighbours agree on how to build closer relations and support reforms over a three-to-five-year period. The joint commitments are spelled out in so-called Action Plans. Expertise and funding (almost €12 billion from 2007 to 2013) is available under the 'European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument' (ENPI) to assist with modernisation and reform.



## Challenges without frontiers

Some challenges know no political borders – such as energy, the environment and modern transport networks – and call for a high level of co-operation both within the EU, and between the Union and its neighbours.

Energy supplies are becoming increasingly critical as the world faces a growing energy crunch. Co-operation in the fields of conventional, renewable and nuclear energy is vital for the energy security, efficiency and safety of the EU and its neighbours.

The world is increasingly recognising that economic activity can carry a heavy environmental price tag. The EU is committed to reducing this burden on our planet and this requires effective international co-operation. The ENP focuses both on global and local environmental concerns.



## After the storm...

In November 2007, a fierce storm in the Kerch Strait between Ukraine and Russia damaged 13 vessels, four of which sank, releasing hundreds of tonnes of oil. In an effort to avert an environmental disaster, authorities on both sides of the border kicked into action to launch a large-scale clean-up operation.

Local volunteers assisted hundreds of Ukrainian emergency workers. "Coastal citizens worked round-the-clock to clean up the beaches," recalls Ukraine's Deputy Minister for the Environment Dmitro Sergeievich Gurskiy.

### *Navigating dire straits... with a map*

The full extent of any maritime disaster is quite literally submerged in the murky depths. Understanding the extent of the situation and deciding what course of action to follow requires detailed and in-depth information – and such intelligence must be provided rapidly if it is to be of value.

Within 24 hours of Ukraine's acceptance of an offer of assistance from the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism, a team of experts from five different EU Member States was in the country to help assess the damage, producing a comprehensive report on the situation. "We are grateful for the support the EU provided," notes the Deputy Minister. "The arrival of the EU team was timely and its presence beneficial."

The EU and Ukraine co-operate closely on environmental issues, and the Union is assisting Ukraine in its efforts to introduce better environmental policies.



## Safety first in post-Chernobyl Ukraine

In 1986, an accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine proved to be the worst nuclear disaster in history. Since then, Ukraine, with the support of the EU, has adopted a safety-first approach to its nuclear power industry.

Ukraine is among the world's top ten producers of nuclear energy and has developed plans to expand this industry. For more than 15 years, EU efforts have focused on promoting state-of-the-art nuclear safety measures and standards. On-site assistance seeks to upgrade technical and safety systems at Ukraine's operational nuclear power plants. Off-site assistance helps boost Ukraine's preparedness. An example is the early-warning system, which uses a ring of detectors to monitor potential emergencies.

### *Licence to regulate*

Capacity-building aims to enhance design and operational safety by bolstering the ability of Ukraine's independent State Nuclear Regulatory Committee (SNRC) to set robust safety standards, to assess compliance and to licence new plants.

At the newly commissioned Khmelnytsky and Rivne plants, the SNRC has integrated stringent safety features into the design, including monitoring and diagnostic systems, an indestructible 'black box' to store important data, and a technical support centre to help operate the facility in emergency situations.

Oleg Zeleny, a Ukrainian safety expert, explains that EU support has paid major dividends and that Ukrainian nuclear power plants are now operated in a more safety-conscious culture. "Safety evaluations carried out by Ukrainian and EU experts have become largely consistent with one another," explains Zeleny.



## Law of the land

As a sign of the growing importance Jordan attaches to environmental issues, it established a fully-fledged ministry charged with protecting and preserving the fragile environment of one of the world's most water-poor countries.

"Set up only in 2003, the Ministry of the Environment is a very young institution, but already it has made major inroads," says Ruba al-Zu'bi, the director of policy and development at the ministry.

To fulfil its mandate of protecting and improving the environment, the ministry supervises protected areas across the country, sets and monitors environmental standards, raises stakeholder awareness of environmental issues, and has even created a ranger force to monitor and report on any violations.

Being such a young institution, the ministry has exerted significant efforts, with EU support, to establish a sustainable and robust institutional framework through its capacity-building programme, which was launched in 2004.

### *Successful formula*

"What has made our programme successful is the ownership and commitment of the ministry, from the minister down," points out al-Zu'bi.

The ministry has formulated a strategic plan to cover 2007 to 2010. It outlines a strategy for boosting local environmental capacity across the kingdom, and a plan to deal with dangerous substances. It is also working on plans to move closer to EU environmental standards. The ministry recognises that the way forward is to mainstream environmental concerns into other development sectors.

In addition, the ministry seeks to enhance regional co-operation by both setting an example for the region and learning from experienced neighbouring countries, such as Egypt, in the area of combating pollution. It has already embarked on a number of joint initiatives with Syria, Lebanon and Morocco.