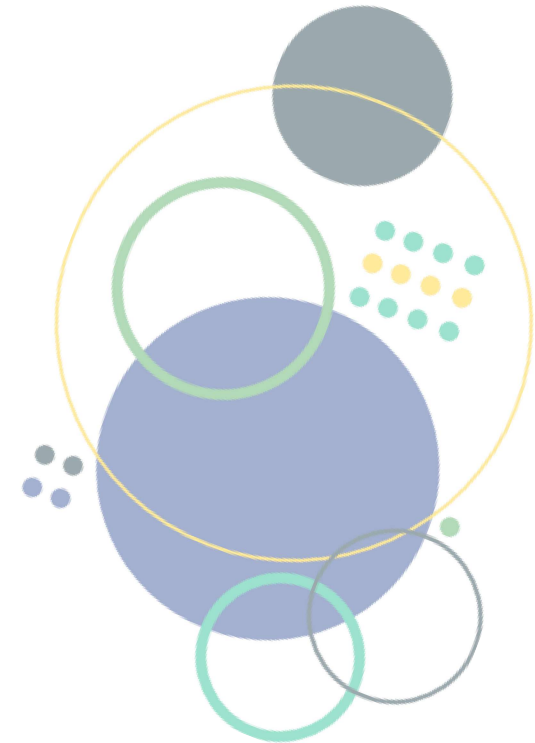


EU 4 GREEN RECOVERY EAST

Official title: "Recovery through a Circular Economy and Pollution Reduction in the Eastern Partnership countries"



Implementing partners:

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WHAT IS EU4GREEN RECOVERY EAST?

A regional EU programme for green and competitive economies in the Eastern Partnership (EaP)



Duration

Jan 2025 –
Dec 2028



Budget

€21.3 million
EU-funding



Geo. Scope

EaP region (includes
AM, AZ, GE, MD,
UA)



Implementing Partners

Environment Agency Austria (Lead),
Expertise France, OiEau France, OECD,
UNECE, UNIDO

5 COMPONENTS, 5 GREEN TOPICS



Promote Circular Economy & Resource Efficiency

Helping businesses adopt
circular models to create new
jobs, reduce costs, and
decrease reliance on imports.



Protect Water Resources & Reduce Pollution

Improving water quality
through better management
and monitoring to safeguard
public
and ecosystem health.



Align with EU Environmental Standards

Supporting governments in
aligning with EU environmental
policies (particularly Chapter 27
of the EU acquis).



Strengthen Environmental Data & Digitalization

Improving environmental
data integration with EU and
sharing data at national level
for better policy-making.



Enhance Transboundary Cooperation on Environmental Issues

Encouraging regional collaboration on
natural resources to promote sustainable
environmental policies and practices,
addressing cross-border pollution.

ACTIVITIES IN WASTEWATER SECTOR

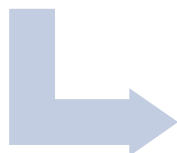
2025

2027

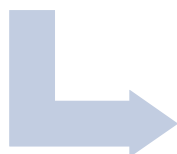


Measures for improving existing wastewater treatment processes including energy efficiency and climate resilience initiatives identified and promoted

1. Assessment of existing asset base
of WWTPs



2. Capacity building action targeting different audiences
from WWTPs, operator level to decision makers



3. Demonstrating proof of concept activities for selected
case studies

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1. BASELINE ASSESSMENT [2025]

Development of a national baseline report on the WWTP asset base and identify pilot sites

Main Activities

- Data collection – public and private stakeholder participation, national reports, project documentations
- Analysis of available data and consolidation
- Presentation to NFPs for pilot-site decision making
- Finalization of pilot sites and strategic recommendation
- Baseline assessment report: Armenia (finalized), Moldova and Ukraine (by end of December)

Preparation of an EU-MS Best Practices catalogue in energy efficiency, energy recovery and by-products valorization

Main Activities

- Collection of innovative and successful cases from EU WWTPs
- Engaging with focal points of selected cases and collection of information
- Regional reference catalogue to inspire future adaptations and orientation of development





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1. BASELINE REPORT

1. Country Overview

Geographic overview, roles and responsibilities, industrial activities, population distribution

2. Wastewater Data

Volume, sewer connections, treatment

3. Wastewater Treatment Plants

Treatment capacity
Process lines (primary, secondary, tertiary, sludge treatment)
Energy consumption
Sludge production
Existing sludge disposal/valorization pathways?

4. Regulatory Framework

National regulations and strategies in wastewater sector.
Adherence to EU regulations – WFD, IED, UWWTD, treated water reuse, sludge valorization.
Information system

5. Pilot Site Selection

List of criteria used for selecting potential wastewater treatment sites for implementation of proof-of-concept activities.
Finalized pilot sites for activity implementation.

6. Strategic Recommendations

Opportunities towards measures for improving existing wastewater treatment processes with focus on energy efficiency, recovery and by-product valorization

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2. CAPACITY BUILDING [2026-27]

Main activities:

1. A regional training Workshop on UWWT Directive
2. A country approach to identify capacity building needs using:
 - A targeted questionnaire to identify gaps for plant operators and decision makers
 - Interviews (authorities, operators, NGOs, other donors...)
 - Bibliography
3. Proposal for a synthetic training plan based on the needs identified
4. Training modules for WWTP operators and decision makers with focus on technical performance, operational costs and energy efficiency
5. Lessons learnt for future capacity building



2. ASSESSMENT OF TRAINING GAPS

Two questionnaires for two different target groups:

- Stakeholders involved in the implementation (decision-makers: relevant ministries, local authorities and wastewater utilities)
- WWTP Operators and their staff

Goals of the questionnaires:

- To better identify existing competence gaps and respective training needs
- To gain interest and confirm willingness to take part in trainings

Dissemination of the questionnaires planned for **Q1 2026**

Response to questionnaires is important for designing training modules

Proposed operator training module

Austrian technical guidances for WWTP operators:

- technical guidance no. 13 on data collection, evaluation and recording
- technical guidance no. 22 on evaluation of WWTP performance – self-assessment

Expected results

Operators will improve their knowledge on:

- Formula needed for UWWTPs (primary sedimentation, aeration tanks and sludge treatment)
- Calculations for the operation of activated sludge process
- Guiding values for efficient UWWTP operation
- Importance of self-monitoring of UWWTPs (data collection, evaluation and interpretation)

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3. PROOF OF CONCEPT ACTIVITIES [2026-27]

Provide technical assistance to selected WWTPs with regards to energy efficiency and by-product valorization

Main activities:

- Field visits to selected plot sites for process line inspection and data collection
- RECP audits of the WWTPs for identification of energy efficiency measures
- Selection of best fit energy efficiency or by-product valorization orientations
- Feasibility study and pilot implementation of identified options
- Feasibility report for further implementation and funding opportunities

**RECP
Audits**



**Energy
Efficiency**



**By-products
Valorization**



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3. PROOF OF CONCEPT ACTIVITIES

Potential options for energy efficiency, energy recovery or by-product valorization include:

- Variable speed drivers
- Biogas recovery
- Hydrodynamic screw or turbine
- Heatpump
- Nutrient recovery



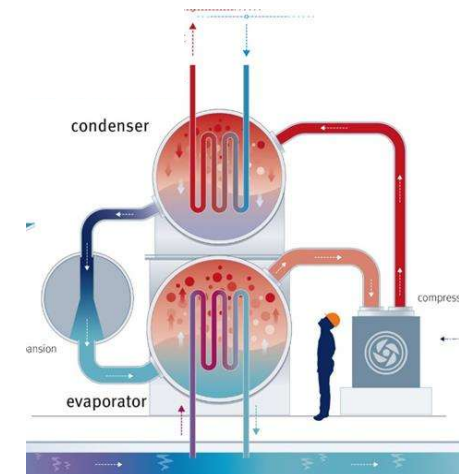
Source: Water Europe Marketplace



Source: SternE-Smart City Wien



Source: ©Christian Houdek



Source: Wien Energie

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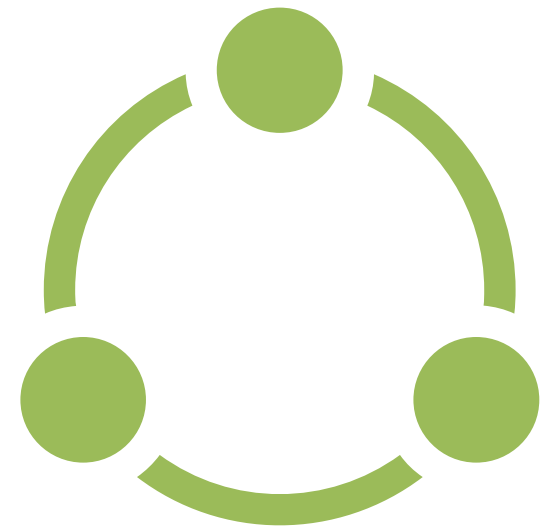
EXPECTED OUTCOMES & BENEFITS

National Authorities and Decision Makers

- Overview of the national wastewater treatment asset base
- Preparedness for EU environmental requirements
- Strengthened alignment with EU directives (UWWTD, WFD, IED)
- Gain a clear picture of capacity building needs
- Learn from EU reference cases and proven approaches to energy efficiency, energy recovery, and by-product valorization

Wastewater Utilities and Plant Operators

- Actionable pathways for climate-resilient wastewater services
- Targeted capacity-building, technical guidance, and tools to improve plant performance
- Reduce operational costs
- Practical solutions for energy efficiency and resource recovery
- Realistic technology options for future investments





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THANK YOU



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15/12/2025

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