

## The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Working Group 3 Annual Activity Report 2021

### Main objectives, activities and achievements

In all Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, Working Group 3 (WG3) members are very active at the national level on environmental and climate change matters, including strengthening the environmental legislation, environmental impact assessment (EIA) practices, water management. To a lesser extent, members are involved in energy security, energy efficiency, green growth, and sustainable transport initiatives. All countries highlight some progress being made in 2021 with policies and legislation development, at the same time, concerns are raised for the national capacity to effectively implement reforms as prescribed in the adopted legislation.

### Armenia

In Armenia, the WG3 is committed to shaping an integrated sustainable, environmental, climate and energy policies in line with EaP priorities, which take into account national interests and aims to improve environmental protection, energy efficiency, as well as the capacity to face climate change and to mitigate dependency on energy imports or on one energy carrier. WG3 members report active engagement with national authorities on various topics, including access to environments information, EIA, sustainable energy development, environmental problems in the hydropower and the mining sector. A number of proposals from the members were submitted regarding the draft Law of EIA, protection of lake Sevan, potential tools for the evaluation of ecosystem services, etc.

Examples of successful initiatives, where concrete proposals were considered by the national authorities include:

- *A statement by “Freedom of information Center” and other members prevented the adoption of an amendment of the Law on freedom of information, which was in contradiction with the Aarhus convention.*
- *“EcoLur” Informational NGO drew attention to the problems in the mining sector, based on their detailed research.*
- *“Public Awareness and Monitoring Centre” NGO made suggestions on the improvement of public participation in decision-making related to the Environmental issues to the Ministry of Environment. The proposal is based on the Aarhus Convention and EU relevant directives.*
- *“Centre for Community Mobilization and Support” raised the problem of mining project in Karaberd community during the meeting of the Public Council under the Minister.*

Other examples of members activities at the national level include:

- *“Centre for Community Mobilization and Support” NGO, in cooperation with other NGOs, has been started an "Awareness for a Clean Environment" media campaign. It also works hard to both raise public awareness and encourage public participation in public hearings on projects that have a possible impact on the environment in the Lori region.*
- *"EcoLur" Information NGO held a series of discussions and meetings on the National Action Program of Adaptation to Climate Change and the list of measures for 2021-2025, as well as on the sectoral strategies.*
- *The "Dalma-Sona" Foundation in cooperation with "Public Awareness and Monitoring Center" NGO continues work to protect the interests of Dalma Garden's land users and the interests of the gardens themselves (they are over 3,000 years old) as very important historical and green area for Yerevan and for the adaptation to Climate Change.*
- *"Khazer" Ecological-Culture NGO promotes the idea of ecosystem approach and introduction of ES valuation in two targeted villages of Armenia.*
- *Energy Aware advocacy campaign have been going on during 2020-2021 by "Public Awareness and Monitoring Center" NGO targeting 3 Marzes (regions) and Yerevan. The main target groups are households (especially women) and youth.*

At the EU level, members of the WG3 are actively engaged in setting priorities for the EU-Armenia bilateral cooperation for coming years, with several proposals accepted by the EU Delegation in Armenia. Examples of members participation in various events at EU level include:

- *Participation in EU4CLIMATE Regional Event organised by UNDP for the governments of six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries: "CLIMATE FINANCE FORUM: Financing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Ensuring Technology Transfer in the EaP Region", 21-22 September 2021.*
- *During September-October, 2021, the Policy paper "EU-Armenia Cooperation's New Opportunities for Sustainable Energy Development in Armenia" was developed by NGO Ecoteam) and is currently broadly discussed with national and EU stakeholders.*

## **Azerbaijan**

The National Platform (NP) of Azerbaijan aims to improve its environmental legislation in line with the EU instruments and promote environmental initiatives. To this end, the bilateral and multilateral cooperation and exchange of good practices within the EaP Civil Society Forum (CSF) and civil society in EU countries is seen as a priority. The objectives of the NP are to increase attention on environmental issues in the country and among the Azerbaijani National Platform members as well as to revoke the anti-NGO national legislation.

Azerbaijan's WG3 notes some positive developments with regard to the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of renewable energy projects. Following a seminar organised by the group, ESIA was considered for the planned construction of wind farms near Baku.

The WG3 also prepared a position paper analysing and providing recommendations on the main environmental issues Azerbaijan is facing, reflecting on the 13 biggest ecological problems in the country. These include the intensive development of agriculture, problems created by hydroelectric plants, desertification as a result of climate change, the drinking water supply to the population, the development of the green economy (sustainable development), the protection of the Caspian Sea from oil pollution, deforestation, decreasing biodiversity, and air pollution. The document outlines the steps taken by the Government to solve the problem as well as the activities carried out and planned. A dissemination campaign was organised, involving mass media and social media.

Other examples of the WG3 activities include:

- *Analysis and recommendations on how to deal with the decreasing water levels of the Kura river, the country's main water source. The reasons for the lack of drinking water have been identified and made public according to the analysis, the Kura river's lack of water is caused by the illegal use of water reserves by oligarchs in the regions close to the river delta.*
- *Within the framework of the Green Week WG3 activists organised two events were held in two national parks in Azerbaijan. A number of excursions for volunteers, schoolchildren and nature lovers to Azerbaijan's national parks were organised by a environmental NGOs members of the National Platform.*

## **Belarus**

Throughout 2021, Belarus has been facing obvious difficulties due to serious breaches of the rule of law and human rights situation in the country, affecting many members of the WG3 and environmental activists as well. In this ongoing context, many civil society activists, including from the Belarusian NP, have been repressed and civil society organisations (CSOs) are having trouble operating or are closed by the national authorities. In total 26 environmental organisations have been closed. Cooperation with the authorities remains difficult if not impossible within the current political context.

The Astravets nuclear power plant, inaugurated in May 2020, remains the group's main concern. It was launched without a nuclear waste management plan. CSOs tried to influence decisions participating in public hearings with no actual possibility of impact. The second most pressing issue is a battery plant in Brest. The referendum on the plant promised before August 2020's elections never took place while the plant is currently operating.

The WG3 also scored some victories. As a result of WG3 members activism, the country now has a technical code on waste management especially for pharmaceutical waste. The Minsk City Council created a programme for the installation of containers for the collection of pharmaceutical waste in pharmacies. At the same time, plastic waste remains an issue, as single-use plastics are still allowed in canteens and other places.

## **Georgia**

The objectives of the Georgian NP are effective implementation and strengthening the legislation in the areas of EIA and strategic environmental assessment (SEA), sustainable

water management and transition to river basin management, competitive energy markets, climate change and the Black Sea Action Plan.

Georgia reports rapid advancement in terms of adopting legislation and strategic plans. It has harmonised most of its legislation on waste management with the EU acquis and is advancing rapidly with the energy and energy efficiency related legislation. However, such advances are fragile as the capacity of both Government and civil society to effectively implement reforms is limited.

In 2021, the Georgian WG3 was actively involved in the mediation process concerning the construction of the Namokhvani HPP on the Rioni River in western Georgia. The WG3 worked closely with the protesters and all stakeholders involved in the process from the very beginning of the conflict. Three streams were developed as part of the mediation: (1) De-escalation of the conflict in the HPP construction zone; (2) Development of a TOR for an independent review of the Environmental Impact Assessment document; and (3) Development of an Energy Security Strategy for Georgia.

The first stream was completed as the conflict de-escalated and the license holder refused to proceed with the construction. A dedicated Committee for the second stream was established with participation of two representatives of the WG3. The WG3 also contributed to the development of the Energy Security Strategy within the third stream.

In addition, individual members of the WG3 successfully contributed to the prevention of changes to the legislation on Environmental Assessment, which Government was pursuing. WG3 is also cooperating with Ukrainian and Moldovan partners in developing a plan on energy security in occupied territories, where investigative journalists are supported in researching energy security issues.

Other examples of the WG3 activities include:

- *Advocacy activities on climate, water and environment. The Clean-up Georgia campaign involved 65 municipalities with a total number of 5000 participants.*
- *During the Climate week more than 20 events aimed at raising public awareness on climate issues were organised with 500 participants. The WG was lobbying for a new law on water, which is required as per the association agreement with the EU.*
- *Lobbying for the draft Water Law.*
- *Raising awareness among government authorities and international organisation on oil leaks in the Caspian Sea.*

## Moldova

For the period of 2020-2021, the Moldavian WG3 focuses on three objectives, namely: *i)* increasing public awareness about environment protection and adaptation to climate in the Republic of Moldova; *ii)* increasing involvement of the Moldovan authorities in facilitating investments in energy sector and transport at local level; *iii)* withstanding the environment initiatives/actions that compromise Moldova's agreement with the EU and impede the qualitative implementation of its commitments.

In terms of policy developments, Moldova achieved good progress in the energy sector with the EU acquis on energy efficiency and renewable energy now been fully transposed into the national legislation. In the area of environment, Moldova has submitted its NDCs and developed and approved a strategy document mainstreaming climate change and risk reduction.

Moldova's WG3 activities focused on environment, energy efficiency and transport issues. A study was conducted on investment bias in energy efficiency and campaigned against the passing of a law allowing the use of underground water for irrigation, although this was ultimately unsuccessful. The NP of Moldova called on the governments of Ukraine and Moldova to negotiate on the functioning of hydropower complexes in preserved areas along the Dniester river. All advocacy activities are widely covered by national media, including press, TV and radio, social media channels are also broadly used for the campaigning. Moldova remains the only country in Europe with no age restriction on car imports. Currently there is an initiative in parliament that would additionally allow the import of used car parts and CSOs are actively advocating against it.

Creating a separate Ministry focused on environmental issues is considered the biggest achievement of the WG3 after their long-lasting advocacy activities. The Ministry of Environment was created based on the Parliament Decision no. 89 of August 6, 2021. Another positive achievement is the launch of a national programme of forest management and natural protection, which we see as a victory of civil society.

Examples of other activities include:

- *January 21 2021 - [DECLARATION](#) of the National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on the protection and sustainable use of the Dniester River;*
- *July 7 - [DECLARATION](#): STOP illegal, barbaric and destructive recreational activities in the area of the Cultural-Natural Reserve "Orheiul Vechi" and in other reserves and natural areas protected by the state;*
- *September 15 2021 - [Statement](#): Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment with regard to the construction of the 330 kV power line and the new road along the Moldovan-Ukrainian border;*
- *October 25 2021 - [DECLARATION](#) of the National Platform of the Republic of Moldova of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on the non-solidarity of the Government of the Republic of Moldova with European countries on the violation by the Government of Belarus of the right of citizens to associate in NGOs;*

- Statement: Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment with regard to the construction of the 330 kV power line and the new road along the Moldovan-Ukrainian border
- DECLARATION on the impact of burning waste and plant debris on atmospheric air
- *333*Involvement of WG3 members in EU campaigns at national level, including EU Green week, Sustainable energy week;
- *Public awareness campaign on waste management, water and sanitation.*

## Ukraine

The main objectives of the Ukrainian NP are i) advocacy of Ukraine's membership in the EU Ukraine, ii) transform the focus of the Eastern Partnership policy from the "neighborhood" to "membership" policy and iii) increase the expert, analytical, advocacy potential of the NP. The WG3 has been very active on advocacy for Ukraine's environmental and climate resilience as part of the new European Green deal. Ukraine notes positive changes in the first half of 2021 in the areas of environment and climate, most notably in its participation in the European Green Deal as well as the development of environmental strategy. The adoption of important new laws however is still pending, as many have not yet passed through the Parliament. The least progress is observed with regard to energy and urban transport policies, though a cycling strategy was recently adopted.

Ukraine's WG3 is quite active, holding close talks and participating in meetings at governmental and parliamentary level. At the same time, the group could benefit from improving the communication among members and with the WG3 from other EaP countries. In 2021, Ukraine's WG3 focused on: promoting the goals of the new EaP policy; promoting reforms and advocating the EU membership for Ukraine; strengthening cooperation among the WG3 and members. In terms of analytical research, the group focused on sustainable transport, environmental and climate sustainability, and the SEA of community development strategies.

The following advocacy actions were initiated:

- Appeal to the Government on the development of sustainable transport
- Appeal to the Government and the Energy Community Secretariat for the implementation of the National Emission Reduction Plan
- Appeal to the Government on the environmental component of regional policy
- Appeal to the Government of Ukraine with a recommendation to accept the Nationally determined contribution for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 65%

Examples of projects and activities of WG3 in Ukraine include:

***Management of Transboundary Emerald Sites of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova***  
*- the project helps to unite representatives of the Ukrainian, Moldovan and Belarusian NPs, whose activities were aimed at approximating national environmental policy to EU*



regulations by strengthening the dialogue mechanism between national governments and representatives of National Platforms.

Within the project a Policy paper is developed with specific recommendations:

- to the Ministry of environment on management, monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of birds under Resolution 6 of the Berne Convention on the territory of transboundary Emerald objects of Ukraine, as part of the obligations of the Association Agreement;
- to local authorities and local communities on the territory of which the Emerald objects are located with a list of conservation measures for the conservation of birds that are globally endangered and have an unfavorable national conservation status.

**Cycling Infrastructure as a Response Measure for the Pandemic Transport Demand in Kyiv** - the goal is to improve urban mobility, which is especially crucial at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic. As no road works could appear in winter, our activities were focused on advocacy, planning and expert support. The Project focuses on advocacy and expert support for the development of safe and comfortable cycling infrastructure in Kyiv, increasing the safety of urban mobility during COVID pandemic. A COVID Cycling Network Action Plan is developed in cooperation with police, local government authorities and the civil sector as well as a detailed plan of development of cycling infrastructure “Creation of Linked Cycling Network in Kyiv, plans for 2021. The city deputy mayor took the paper as the basement of the city planned program “100 km of cycling lanes in 100 days” currently under development.

**Policy paper “Environmental and climate sustainability of the Eastern Partnership – assessment of the prospect of achievement in Ukraine”**, taking into account new strategic development documents (developed/adopted in 2021) and possibilities of green recovery after the COVID-19 lockdown.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment of Community Development** - aim of the initiatives to promote effective strategic planning across Ukraine by using proper application of Strategic Environmental Assessment tool. Within the project a survey was undertaken among civil society organisations to identify barriers and problems to conducting SEA regional development strategies for communities. A final analytical documents was published highlighting the current situation with regard to the SEA regional development programs Developing recommendations for both: community level and regional level through advisory activities to regional programs and government structures responsible for developing local development strategies. The document also provides a list of case studies with positive and negative examples.

An event on “Improving Health Waste and Pharmaceutical Waste Management in the Eastern Partnership Countries” was held at the framework of The European Green Week 2021 on June 8 2021, at the initiative and with the participation of the Ukrainian WG3. The purpose of the event was to discuss the presence of pharmaceuticals in surface waters in the Eastern Partnership countries and the measures needed to reduce pollution from pharmaceutical residues and medical waste. The event was attended by representatives of the European Commission, relevant ministries of the region, civil society. In addition, the WG3 members regularly participate in numerous national and international online events

*important for the EaP region and Ukraine, in particular in the framework of EU4CLIMATE, EU4Environment and others.*

## **EU level**

Apart from the meetings within the EaP CSF framework, no major activities or achievements were reported by the countries' WG3 regarding policy dialogue at the EU level. Only one country (Azerbaijan) informed that the WG3 representatives regularly participate in meetings involving the Government and the European Union representatives, however, no further details are available on discussion topics, outcomes and statements made by the WG3 representatives.

Priority work areas for the WG3 EU delegates include transboundary water management, sustainable agriculture and rural development, sustainable urban mobility, environmental protection and education. As a positive development, it is noted that urban mobility is included now in the countries' NP priorities. The EaP CSF members are starting to be active on this issue at national and local levels. With the support of EU4Environment, green economic development is supported (in Moldova, Georgia and Belarus). The EU member organisations supported the development of concrete project proposals in renewable energy, local public transport and presented a best practice manual for energy cooperatives.

The WG3 coordinator, Ruslan Havryliuk represented the SCF at the 3rd Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change. In his address, he outlined that EaP roadmap obligations and EU assistance have provided solid support to the advancement of environmental protection and energy policy reform in EaP countries. In addition, the European Green Deal and EaP policy beyond 2020 offer new opportunities for EaP countries to bring about reforms in the environmental field. However, many critical problems remain, such as weak environmental governance, delays in the adoption of legislation, faulty implementation, degradation of ecosystems, weak enforcement, lack of transparency and consultation with stakeholders. To ensure that the 2021-2025 EaP framework is effective, it is essential to address two important stumbling blocks that are currently undermining the ambitious goals set by the European Green Deal and enshrined in the draft Presidency Conclusions. More information <https://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/Environmental-Ministerial-Long-Speech-For-Web-and-Dissemination.pdf>

## **Main challenges to the WG3 activities at national and EU levels**

All EaP countries point out that the COVID19 pandemic caused severe limitations to their activities and negatively impacted the results achieved throughout the year. Concerning policy reform, the biggest challenge in all countries is the effective implementation of the legislation. Alongside, the EU delegates referred to the following main challenges in their work - underfunding of the CSOs, ongoing political crisis in the energy sector, the waste disposal sector and poor environmental control.

In Armenia, the WG3 members had higher expectations for speeding up necessary reforms after the Velvet revolution. However, the Government does not fully accept the proposals made by the group and reforms are not visible.



In Azerbaijan, the WG3 is challenged by the collective underestimation of the importance of environmental issues by the national authorities, the general population, and some National Platform members from other working groups.

In Belarus, authorities are actively trying to prevent cooperation between civil society and the EU institutions and the EU member states. It is unclear to what extent the implementation of several initiatives, including the national green energy plan (developed within EU4Climate) is realistic in the current situation.

The fragmentation of civil society in Georgia remains a problem as many associations regroup CSOs, making it harder to coordinate and cooperate. The lack of a coordinated approach among civil society in the adoption of the sustainable development principles was confirmed during recent protests around the Kutaisi hydropower development, which witnessed polarisation and fighting among various CSOs and parties. Moreover, Georgian WG3 noted that “keeping reforms intact is a challenge in itself as powerful interest groups often promote law amendments seeking to slow down or halt reforms”.

### **Civil society engagement in policy dialogue**

Although formal procedure for public consultation of legislative proposals exists in all countries, this is usually done but at a very late stage, when there is almost no scope to influence the policy outcome. Civil and business society usually do not participate at early stages of identification, development and amendments of environmental, energy and climate change related policies, legislation and respective institutional framework.

In some EaP countries, the WG3 members are formally part of a Public Council or thematic working groups on specific legislative initiative. However, it is noted that this participation is more of a formal nature, as usually proposals of CSOs are ignored by the Government without providing well founded argumentation.

In Armenia, WG3 members are involved in the Public Council under the Ministry of Environment, therefore they provide input to stakeholders discussions on environmental and climate issues. Concerning energy security and transport issues, opportunities for the group to influence policy development and decision making are limited.

The Georgian members of the WG3 are involved in policy development in such areas as climate change, energy, waste management, water management, forests at both local and national levels. In particular, the WG3 took an active part in thematic groups for the development of the National Strategy on Climate Change 2030 and the Work Plan 2021-2023 and the NDCs under UNFCCC. Representatives of civil society also have the opportunity to participate in thematic studies conducted by the Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. For example, stakeholders are currently invited to participate in a thematic study on the sustainable management of inert waste. The Georgian NP and individual CSOs regularly produce thematic policy papers, which are broadly discussed with stakeholders and relevant governmental bodies.

In Moldova, representatives of 3 member organisations of WG3 are part of the dialogue between the Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities on the Dniester, within the Moldovan-Ukrainian Commission. The members of the WG3 participated with proposals for the priorities of the new Government as well as in the consultations regarding the Government Action Plan for the period 2021-2022, but no feedback is received on the proposals made.

In Ukraine WG3 members participate in working groups that developed the Water Strategy of Ukraine, the Biodiversity Strategy and other important documents and laws. Not all civil society proposals however are adequately perceived and taken into account.

### **Monitoring of reforms**

It seems there is limited or no involvement of CSOs in monitoring the reforms in the WG3 respective areas in all EaP countries. It is of concern, as it is difficult to deliver successful advocacy or formulate policy recommendations without adequate monitoring and collection of evidence and data. This is well recognised by the WG3 delegates, in particular from the four countries, which have agreements with the EU (AAs and CEPA). They consider that civil society should be more active in monitoring of reforms by collecting information on the implementation of reforms, analysing the shortcoming and presenting relevant recommendations to the responsible government authorities.

On the other side, in countries like Azerbaijan and Belarus no real reforms are happening as well as no real opportunities for CSOs to initiate or facilitate such reforms.

WG3 in Ukraine is actively working to monitor the actions of the government in particular within the framework of the initiative "Environmental and Climate Sustainability of the Eastern Partnership – Assessment of Prospects for Achievement in Ukraine". All changes in policies, draft laws, their compliance with European directives, the potential for their implementation and application in practice, etc. are continuously analysed.

### **Priorities for 2022 and the role of the EaP CSF**

Armenia identifies four priority areas for future WG3 activities: environmental policy development and legislation, promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, settlement of hydropower issues, including revision of the minimum threshold, and continuing resolving problems in mining areas. In terms of improvement opportunities, the Armenian WG3 would benefit from better evaluation of activities, based on real and measurable outcomes.

The Georgian WG3 would focus on adaptation to climate change, energy security, environmental safety of the Black Sea, monitoring the implementation of the environmental commitments made by Georgia, waste management monitoring.

The WG3 of Moldova plans to continue monitoring the implementation of public environmental, climate and energy policies in the context of the new Ministry of Environment. Further activities will be aimed at promoting the national program of forests, protection and sustainable use of the Dniester and education and ecological awareness of citizens - on topics such as waste water, forests, access to information.

Looking ahead, Ukraine's main priorities in WG3-related areas include: the implementation of the EGD in Ukraine, the integration of environmental and climate issues in the response to COVID-19, the greening of national policies, adaptation to climate change, the introduction of integrated water resources management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable transport.

Stronger and more active collaboration at regional level is recommended by all EaP CSF WGs. The EaP CSF is seen as a platform for information and experience exchange, providing opportunities for experts research, capacity building and organisation of joint workshops.

Members would like to explore opportunities for joint projects, experience sharing and country visits. Publication of joint newsletters and dissemination of information on significant achievements in a particular field of environmental protection are also among the suggestions received.

The participation of CSOs and WGs from the EaP countries in the EU regional initiatives such as EU4Environment, EU4Climate and EU4Energy is seen as limited and one recommendation would be to seek opportunities for more active participation of civil in projects held under these initiatives.

In terms of financing opportunities, a common concern appears to be the preparedness of small NGOs to receive grants or develop a winning project proposal. Regional cooperation and active involvement of strong partner organisations from EU

### **Some Key messages from National coordinators and EU delegates**

“Последствия изменений климата как никогда очевидны и актуальны для всех стран и народов. Только объединив наши усилия сможем противостоять надвигающимся невзгодам, вызванным нашим же воздействием на окружающую среду.

Больше внимания общим усилиям!”

“В мире Желаю всем людям чистой окружающей среды и здоровой жизни без пандемии “

“Start working to improve mobility, first in your city and then think about global issues.”

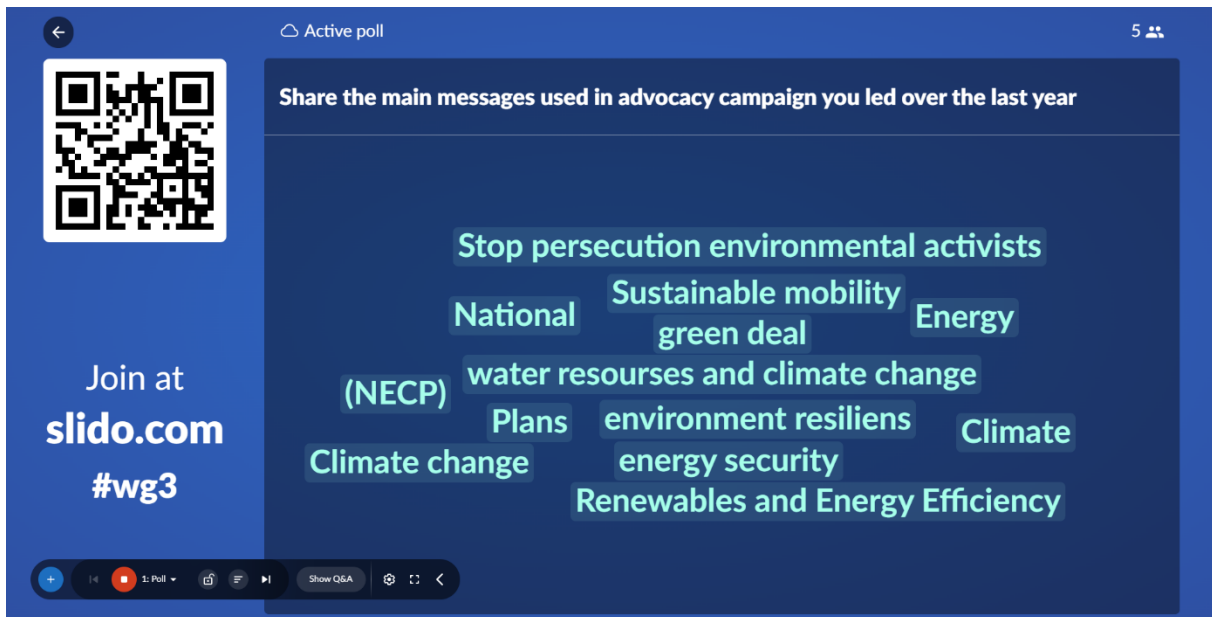
“Nature has no boundaries. If the Eastern Partnership countries do not receive the resources for change, there will be no climate-neutral Europe.”

### **WG3 meetings in 2021**

WG3 held two online thematic meetings during 2021. The spring meeting was on 17-19 May 2021 – [report](#) is available via the link.

The second meeting was organised on December 2 2021 in the 2021 CSF Annual Assembly framework. The meeting began with opening remarks from Working Group 3 coordinators Ruslan Havryliuk and Ana Otilia Nutu who outlined the meeting agenda and presented Ms Bilyana Chobanova, consultant to the WG3 and moderator for the meeting.

Brief ice-breaker session via sli.do warmed up participants for the discussions to follow.



The meeting continued with policy and activities updates in the areas of environment, climate change and energy from the WG3 national coordinators. All information presented is integrated in the previous sections of the annual activity report.

Further participants welcomed the recently published EaP CSF Position paper on the Joint Staff Working Document (JSWD) ‘Recovery, resilience and reform: post-2020 Eastern Partnership priorities’. In addition, WG3 members decided to bring to the attention of the EaP Summit some specific recommendations on how to facilitate full and effective implementation of the post-2020 environmental and climate change priorities in EaP countries. The WG3 recommendations will be included in the EaP CSF’s Statement and Press release in reaction to the EaP Summit Declaration.

A brainstorming session followed on the priority topics for the next WG3 meeting in 2022. It was proposed that WG3 looks more in-depth into the opportunities and challenges for the EaP countries to join and implement EU Green Deal and majority of participants supported the idea. The WG3 coordinators noted that the implementation of the green deal in EaP countries

should be a priority as it is an important part of reform in everyone’s respective countries. Furthermore they underlined that the implementation of the Green Deal will have considerable impact on many sectors and policies within the EaP, for example the Carbon Adjustment Plan and it would be pertinent to develop policy papers around these strong consequences.

[Photos/screen shots from the WG3 meeting at the Annual Assembly 2021]

