

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND (EPTATF)

ABOUT THE TRUST FUND

The Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund (EPTATF) is a multi-donor, multi-sector trust fund, established by the European Investment Bank (EIB) in December 2010 in response to the creation of the Eastern Partnership one year earlier. The objective of the Eastern Partnership is to strengthen political and economic relations between the European Union, EU Member States and the partner countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Managed by EIB Global, the trust fund provides technical assistance and advisory support to public and private counterparts in the Eastern Partnership countries to enhance the development impact of EIB lending operations and bring the beneficiary countries onto the path of prosperity.

EPTATF enables EIB Global to mobilise technical assistance resources quickly and reliably, and helps promoters, national authorities and financial intermediaries to improve project identification, assessment methods and financial and risk management.

The trust fund fills critical gaps for the development and implementation of investment projects by providing financing for:

- pre-feasibility, feasibility, and other preliminary studies for investment projects;
- institutional and legal assessments;
- environmental and social impact assessments in accordance with the highest EU standards;
- project management and/or promoter support throughout the project implementation process;
- project scoping studies to identify investment needs and priorities;
- capacity building, such as skill development and consultancy assistance, throughout a project, including at an institutional level, to improve the ability of counterparts to manage complex projects in an autonomous way in the future.

Strategic priorities (2021-2027)

The trust fund's long-term objectives build on the European Commission's [Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020](#) and on the EIB's expertise and added value. The priorities are:

- resilient, sustainable and integrated economies;
- environmental and climate resilience;
- digital transformation.



€51 MILLION in donor funds contributed

44 EPTATF-supported technical assistance operations

€10.8 BILLION*

Total investment mobilised as of the end of 2023 in association with EPTATF technical assistance operations

*This sum includes €5.7 billion from partner institutions and €5.1 billion in mobilised EIB lending. The EIB aims to crowd in other investors and typically only covers up to 50% of a project's total cost.

Of the five Eastern Partnership countries supported through the trust fund, Ukraine has received the largest share of EPTATF grants, with 13 grant operations approved since the trust fund was founded, totalling €18.2 million. This accounts for 47% of total approvals as of the end of 2023. Georgia and Moldova are the second- and third-largest recipients of EPTATF funds, with 17% and 15% respectively (see page EP 4).

The immediate and long-term needs of the Eastern Partnership countries supported by EPTATF are greater than ever, as Russia's war in Ukraine and the escalation of conflicts in the Middle East add to the region's economic and energy insecurity. In addition, addressing climate change challenges remains a top priority, and work is in progress to mainstream gender considerations in our projects.

It is essential to continue to replenish the trust fund, which remains the EIB's single vehicle to channel donor funds for technical assistance into the Eastern Partnership countries beyond Ukraine.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Since 2008, the Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund has improved thousands of lives thanks to investments in vital infrastructure and in businesses that make up the economic fabric of the Eastern Partnership countries.

Projects supported by the fund are expected to provide **safe drinking water for 510 000 people and save 136 000 MWh per year** thanks to the implementation of energy-efficient measures. The trust fund also supports the renovation and retrofitting of public buildings such as hospitals and schools. So far, an area of **1.1 million m² of public buildings has been renovated**.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUPPORTED





AREAS OF ACTION

Job creation
Green transition
Economic resilience
Gender equality

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

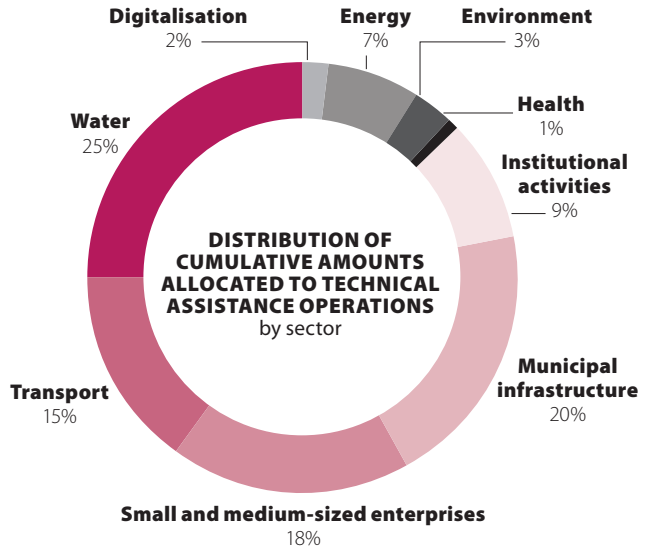
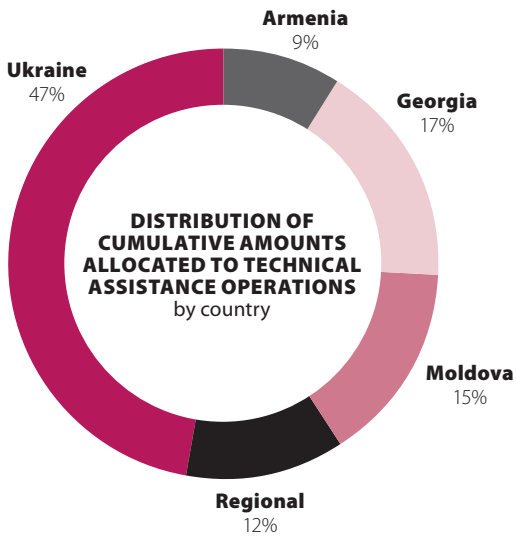
- Two grants from the Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund are **boosting climate action investment in Georgia**. Both grants were completed in 2023 and led to a €120 million investment for growth and green finance, to benefit small and medium firms. The first EPTATF grants [helped the Bank of Georgia produce a climate finance strategy](#) that considers the risks posed to its clients by climate change and identify new business opportunities. The second grant [helped TBC Bank improve its offer to small businesses](#) for loans targeting climate action projects. TBC Bank was able to enhance its know-how in sustainable financing and promote the advantages of climate action lending to current and potential clients. In 2023 the EIB signed loan agreements with both banks for eligible small firms and mid-caps. The loans will make financing available in Georgian lari and will be partially dedicated to investments in green and gender equality.
- In 2023, the [EIB and the city of Kyiv signed a cooperation agreement](#) to provide the Ukrainian capital with **strategic advisory services for transforming its urban electric transport system**. Under the agreement, the advisory team will help Kyiv prepare the investment needed for modernising its metro rolling stock, to end its dependence on Russian spare parts and equipment. This new partnership, including the advisory services and preparatory work, is supported by a €480 000 technical assistance grant from EPTATF.
- The Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund provided [a €498 000 grant to the government of Moldova](#) to **support the design and planning of two new regional hospitals**, one in Cahul, in the country's south, and one in Bălți, in the north. The Cahul hospital will make modern healthcare services – including chemotherapy, which is currently unavailable to patients in the region – accessible to more than 120 000 people. The new hospital will also increase the overall resilience of the public health sector in Moldova, which has been strained due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.
- After Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula and occupied two large parts of eastern Ukraine in 2014, the Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund approved a €3 million technical assistance operation to support the implementation of a €200 million EIB loan for the **Early Recovery Programme**, which assists people who fled the conflict, and the towns that took them in. As part of this programme, more than 90 hospitals, medical facilities and a large number of educational sites in eastern Ukraine have been repaired, insulated or refurbished to modern standards.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND AT A GLANCE

€51 MILLION in donor funds contributed

€39 MILLION allocated to operations

44
operations



OUR DONORS

Since its inception, the trust fund has been receiving contributions from the following donors:

AUSTRIA	GERMANY	POLAND
CZECHIA	LATVIA	SWEDEN
FRANCE	LITHUANIA	UNITED KINGDOM
EUROPEAN COMMISSION		