Inception Phase of the EaP Programme
Supporting Education Reforms & Skills in the Eastern Partnership Region
29 May 2024, Turin
Programme covers 5 countries of Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

Duration: 3 years 2024 – 2026

Budget: 2.5 million EUR

Implementing agency: ETF
PROGRAMME RESULTS as per Action Document

Output 1: Diagnostic assessments of the national education sectors completed (up to 5 country analyses) (First Pillar)

Output 2: Strengthened capacities of the education administrations/institutions in governance, financing and planning of education (Second Pillar and Third Pillar)

Output 3: Increased training and peer learning opportunities (Third Pillar)
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<tr>
<th>Improve</th>
<th>Strengthen</th>
<th>Inform</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective 1: Improve governance of the education systems in the Eastern Partnership countries</td>
<td>Objective 2: Strengthen capacities in evidence-based planning and monitoring of performance in the education sector</td>
<td>Complementary objective: Inform the EU on priority needs and topics for policy dialogue and bilateral programming of EU support</td>
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INCEPTION PHASE  January – April 2024

• Identifying interest of the countries in programme activities and regional cooperation and exchange with their peers in Eastern Partnership;

• Documenting the current state of play, ongoing development and policy priorities in education sector reforms – country snapshots

• Finetuning programme activities and implementation timeline to meet the needs and expectations of the countries

• Mapping the key stakeholders of the countries and agreeing on coordination and national contact persons in the Ministries of Education in the countries.
Key Methodology and Milestones

Methodology:

• Rapid Education Diagnosis (RED) methodology
• Fact finding missions
• Participatory approach involving multiple stakeholders
• Modular structure for adaptability
• Comprehensive sector-wide analysis

Milestones:

• Country consultations completed by April 2024
• Workplan for 2024 elaborated
• Detailed country snapshots developed – sent for feedback
• Engagement of key stakeholders and EU Delegations
Main Actions and Plans for 2024 in Pillar 1

Diagnostic assessments using Rapid Education Diagnosis (RED)
• Launched in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova

Country Snapshots
• baseline papers on education systems, policies, ongoing programmes of EU and development partners supporting education reforms and stakeholder mapping developed on all 5 countries - to be discussed and validated by the countries and EU delegations

Specific studies or reviews
• To be agreed as a follow up of RED or upon request of the countries 2024-2026
Main Actions and Plans for 2024 with EaP Countries

Armenia:
• Comprehensive RED and capacity needs assessment
• Focus on reviewing the ongoing education reform and informing policy dialogue with the EU

Georgia:
• RED focused on governance and consolidating existing analyses
• Using findings to shape 2025 education strategy

Azerbaijan:
• Consultations with the government postponed for the second half of 2024
Main Actions and Plans for 2024 in EaP Countries

Moldova:
- Comprehensive RED combined with capacity building on the use of evidence

Ukraine:
- Supporting EU accession process and monitoring ongoing reforms with the focus on education statistics, VET legislation and school network optimisation
- Specific capacity development activity to be agreed with the MoES
- No RED in 2024 - possibly in 2025-2026 subject to agreement with the MoES and consultations with the EC
Main Actions and Plans for 2024 in Pillar 2 and Pillar 3

Pillar 2: Capacity Development
• Launch in second half of 2024
• Thematic scope defined based on RED and capacity needs assessments

Pillar 3: Training and Peer Learning
• Two annual thematic peer learning events (2024-2026)
• Collaboration with EU Member States’ education authorities for experience sharing
• Initial focus on evidence-based policymaking, teacher management and professional development, and school network optimisation
Main Actions and Plans for Pillar 3

In 2024:

- **Peer learning workshop on the use of evidence in education policies** on 29-31 May in Turin, Italy
- **Teaching Excellence: Empowering Educators for the Future** teacher professional development and teacher system management on 17-19 September 2024 in Helsinki, Finland (jointly with Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture)

In 2025: Q1/2025: on **Optimisation of School Network**, and a second one in Q3/4, then in Q1/2026.

- Country delegations of approx. 5 people will be invited to all events
Main Conclusions

• Country-specific implementation plans developed
• Extensive stakeholder engagement achieved
• Programme intervention logic and methodology refined

Ways Forward

• Implement RED in Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova
• Implement specific activities in Ukraine
• Continue stakeholder engagement and capacity building
• Focus on data and evidence use for policy planning, support for policy dialogue and EU integration in “TRIO”
• Ensure sustainability through regular monitoring and follow-up actions.
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