REC in Ukraine
Roadmap 2018–2020
COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Ukraine is a priority partner of the European Union, and one of six countries belonging to the EU’s Eastern Partnership, a policy initiative that was inaugurated in 2009. An Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine, which includes a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) between the two entities, was negotiated between 2007 and 2011, signed on March 21 and June 27, 2014, and entered into force on September 1, 2017. Replacing earlier frameworks for cooperation, the Association Agreement is the main tool being used to bring Ukraine and the EU closer together — primarily through deepening political ties, strengthening economic links, and promoting respect for commonly held values.

Under the Association Agreement, Ukraine has committed to making structural reforms in the areas of democracy, human rights, rule of law, good governance, trade and sustainable development. The agreement also foresees enhanced cooperation on environmental protection, social development and protection, transport, consumer protection, equal opportunities, education, youth and culture, industry and energy. The recent entry into force of the Association Agreement also gives new impetus to cooperation in areas such as foreign and security policy, justice, taxation, public finance management, science and technology, education and digital technology.
REC MISSION
The REC mission is to contribute to transparency, sustainability and European integration by implementing projects that build resilience to climate change, promote clean energy solutions, champion sustainable mobility, and strengthen environmental governance in Central and Eastern Europe and beyond. The organisation fulfils its mission by promoting cooperation among governments, non-governmental organisations, businesses and other stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation.

REC IN UKRAINE
Working in Ukraine since 2001, the REC has completed more than 60 projects, both nationally and regionally, valued at roughly EUR 10 million. The total value of current REC projects in Ukraine is EUR 5,630,475.

In line with its mission, the REC will contribute to the transparent and sustainable implementation of the Association Agreement by implementing projects that build resilience to climate change, promote clean energy solutions, champion sustainable mobility and strengthen environmental governance in Ukraine. Support will be focused on the following areas:

- implementation of Ukraine’s National Environmental Strategy and National Environmental Action Plan;
- implementation of the Paris Climate Change agreement;
- implementation of the Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in Ukraine (the EU’s strategic framework for cooperation with civil society);
- implementation of Ukraine’s National Energy Efficiency Action Plan; and
- assisting national and local authorities in moving towards decentralised management of sustainable development policies.

ADDED VALUE FOR UKRAINE
- The REC, a neutral, international and multilateral organisation with extensive knowledge and experience in working in partnership with governments, is a flexible and effective mechanism for cooperation. The REC has proved itself to be an effective mediator between EU institutions and national governments of countries in transition on issues of environmental protection and approximation of environmental legislation.
- The REC has been deeply involved in both the EU enlargement process and the approximation of environmental legislation since its establishment in the early 1990s. The organisation’s expertise and implementation experience extends to countries in transition in Eastern Europe.
- The REC also has extensive experience and high-level expertise in key development areas, such as sustainable economic growth, green job creation and green innovations, which can provide Ukraine with much-needed opportunities for rapid growth and development of export-oriented industries.
- The REC has an extensive portfolio related to education for sustainable development, which will benefit Ukrainian society as the country introduces significant reforms in the environment and energy sectors.
Office setup and review of REC best practices with line ministries. Mapping of short-term and mid-term technical assistance and capacity building needs of the relevant authorities. Networking with NGOs and local authorities, based on current projects and gained experience.

**Office setup**

**JANUARY-JUNE 2018**

Review of strategic documents with line ministries in the context of implementation, while providing support to implementation through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms and the preparation of project pipelines (i.e. organisation of processes). Preparation of project pipeline, based on identified needs and priorities for achieving strategic objectives in the fields of environment and sustainable development.

**Review of strategic documents**

**JULY-DECEMBER 2018**

Development and submitting of several complex technical assistance and capacity building projects to obtain funding from international donors. Introduction of a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of strategic documents. Establishment of a mechanism for effective communication between line ministries and CSOs.

**Development and submitting**

**JANUARY-JUNE 2019**

Initial implementation of awarded projects. A national conference on progress achieved against the requirements of Association Agreement requirements on environment and other areas will be held at the end of 2019; major projects and initiatives will be presented, as well as the vision of the international donor community for the coming years regarding environmental protection and sustainable development.

**Initial implementation**

**JULY-DECEMBER 2019**

The REC is established as an effective partner of the Government of Ukraine in supporting national and local-level administration in environmental protection, climate change, energy efficiency and energy security, thereby improving quality of life and meeting Association Agreement requirements in the environmental, climate and energy sectors.

**The REC is established**

**JANUARY-JUNE 2020**

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