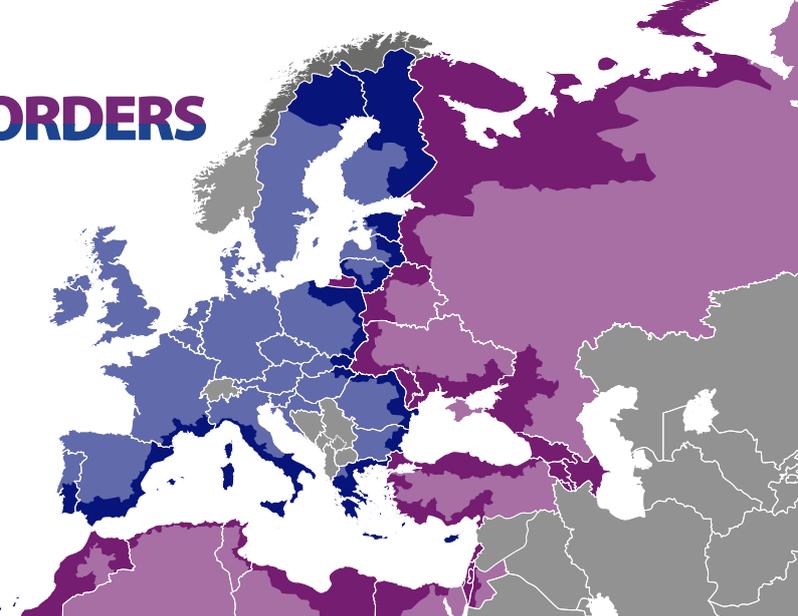


# COOPERATION ACROSS BORDERS



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## ENI CBC FOR THE PLANET



*How does cross-border cooperation foster the preservation of the environment?*

*Which innovative solutions are brought in by the projects?*

*And how are these projects paving the way for greener,  
low-carbon cross-border areas in the next programming period?*

These are the questions which guided a thorough mapping work carried out by TESIM on ENI CBC programmes and on the projects that they have approved so far, trying to determine how Member States and Partner Countries face the environmental challenge and which solutions are more commonly implemented in the regions on both sides of the external borders of the EU. This factsheet will introduce you the results of this analysis. It also presents you with a selection of environmental projects, as selected by the programmes themselves.

As a result of the analysis at programme level, programmes address environment under several thematic objectives: in the framework of our analysis we decided to focus on three of them. Under the thematic objective 6 **Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation**, popular topics are the sustainable use of natural resources, waste and water management, nature and protected areas management and environmental monitoring. Awareness raising and capacity building are important horizontal elements.

Thematic objective 8 **Common challenges in the area of safety and security** and thematic objective 5 **Support to local and regional good governance** also play an important role, the central elements being the capacity of public authorities in handling emergency situations, including risk and disas-

ter management, and in adapting to climate change.

As a result of the analysis at project level, we know that 12 ENI CBC programmes have chosen to work on several aspects of the global environmental fight, financing 126 projects (out of a total of 560). And it is a number bound to grow. They have devoted so far to this fight 173 million EUR, which is 22% of the total EU contribution of 785 million EUR so far allocated to the 560 selected projects. Over 600 organisations from 27 countries are working together in the field, implementing activities. Out of these 126 projects, 119 are projects selected through-out calls for proposal under the three thematic objectives mentioned above. The remaining seven are large infrastructure projects which have received a direct award out of their strategic relevance.



**126 projects**  
**173 million €**

**12 programmes (out of 15)**  
**126 projects (out of 560)**  
up to October 2019  
**EU contribution of 173 million €**  
(out of 785 million €)  
up to October 2019

The projects address a broad array of target groups. Local and regional authorities are the most often mentioned ones, followed by environmental state authorities and citizens (including students, tourists and business operators).

This huge bunch of projects addresses quite different challenges and several of them focus on very specific thematic matters, such as the protection of biodiversity, water and flood management, ecosystem-based approaches or recycling and marine litter removal, while others have a sectoral approach focusing on energy efficiency, forestry and agriculture.

For the purposes of this analysis, they have been further clustered in six categories. Even if a higher number of awarded projects does not lead to a higher allocation of funds, the table shows which are the most representatives areas of intervention.

 The **protection of nature and biodiversity** is the most popular sector within the ENI CBC community. Actions span from the sustainable use of natural resources to the protection of ecosystems. Just as an example, projects restore populations of fishes decreased (or disappeared) because of illegal fishing or pollution.

 The environmental **risk and climate change** adaptation gathers a relevant number of projects. Examples of adaptation measures include using scarce water resources more efficiently, or choosing tree species and forestry practices less vulnerable to storms and fires. Or even developing new tools to manage water storms, to minimise the discharge of dangerous substances from urban areas to fresh water sources.

 **Water resources protection and management** is also very high on the list, with some investment-heavy operations: activities involve a wide range of categories, from the alleviation of pollution of ground water to the introduction of new irrigation practices or new technologies to filter waters.

These sectors are not covered in the same way among the different geographic areas:

- Northern programmes such as Kolarctic and Karelia focus on “Protection of nature and biodiversity” and “Water resources protection and management” (19 and 13 projects respectively out of 44).
- Programmes involving Baltic and Central European countries put emphasis on “Environmental risks management and climate change adaptation” (24 out of 51 projects).
- Sea basin and sea-crossing programmes such as Italy – Tunisia, Black Sea Basin and the Mediterranean Sea Basin focus not surprisingly on “Marine and coastal areas management” and “Water resources protection and management” (10 and 9 projects respectively out of 31).

Number of environmental projects per category

Other horizontal aspects such as awareness raising, capacity building and monitoring activities, are integrated in the project strategies.

So, from the Baltic to the Mediterranean Sea, it is fair to say that the ENI CBC community is working in a variety of directions to tackle environmental problems and to explore solutions.



 Projects dealing with **waste treatment and recycling** involve the use of improved technology to recycle waste, as well as the revitalisation of polluted areas. Waste management is a crucial issue, also for what concerns marine and costal littering. Just as example, one of our projects is turning the organic waste produced by heavily touristic areas into compost, to be used for agricultural purposes.

 **Marine and costal areas management** initiatives deal for a good part with the cleaning up of marine debris: as United Nations' reports show, millions of tons of garbage reach the marine environment every year.

 In the sector of **energy efficiency** projects deal with the promotion of solar and hydro energy, with environmentally friendly transport, with new construction technologies. In the North, scientists and technicians are joining forces to develop new ice-resistant materials, or energy-saving construction techniques.

# PROJECT PORTFOLIO

In order to better understand how all the challenges previously mentioned are being tackled on the ground, an online survey addressing those programmes who have selected T05, T06 and T08 was launched in late August.

**8 out of 12 programmes** (Kolarctic, Karelia, Latvia-Russia, Poland-Belarus-Ukraine, Black Sea Basin, Hungary-Slovakia -Romania-Ukraine, Mediterranean Sea Basin, Italy-Tunisia) answered it, providing information on **13 projects** that they consider as the most representatives of the initiatives being implemented in their territories (the large majority has suggested projects funded under T06, followed by the T08; no projects were suggested under T05).

Despite their medium-degree of innovation, **the assessment in terms of tangible outputs and long-lasting results is quite positive**. Among the 13 suggested projects, we have selected the ones covering the different geographical areas and the most popular topics such as water resources protection, environmental risk management and climate change adaptation, protection of nature and biodiversity.



The provision of safe and high quality water without depleting the water resources is a permanent challenge. Rivers of the area are carrying often heavy loads of harmful substances while discharges land in lakes; alternatives must be found. The **Latvia-Russia** Programme recently started implementing the project **Pure water for programme regions** aiming to provide an alternative drinking water supply in the Russian town of Pskov. Infrastructure provision alone however is not enough; the project will implement also a number of interactive exhibitions on the cycle of the water and the organisms living in it. Last but not least, officers and personnel in charge of water supply and treatment will be trained on the available sustainable waste management systems and wastewater treatments.

In the Mediterranean water is an ever-scarce resource; fresh water is not enough to cover the needs of the population, while salinization becomes threatening. Partners from Palestine, Jordan, Italy and Tunisia joined forces to explore alternative irrigation sources in the **MEDISS** project, funded under the **Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme**. Recently selected, MEDISS aims to develop innovative and sustainable solutions, adapting existing technologies to the harsh conditions of the partner regions. For example, it tests methods for collecting surface water, blending and enhancing saline artesian water, using photovoltaic panels for use in desalination plants and improving ammonia removal from waste water treatment for use as fertiliser. These technologies are tested in pilot plants, and useful conclusions are drawn for large scale application. The aim is to produce mature solutions that can be handed over to - and operated by - local municipalities in the long-term.



In the **Kolarctic** programme area, mining activities leave a heavy legacy behind them. Processing of minerals and waste handling are a permanent risk for the environment and the biodiversity of the region. Four universities and science centres from Finland, Sweden and Russia came together to see how they can manage those risks in a coordinated way. The **SEESIMA project** (Supporting Environmental Economic and Social Impacts of Mining Activity) aims to raise awareness of technological solutions mitigating environmental impacts of mining activities. Mining and mineral processing companies are provided with a toolbox of best practice technologies, guidelines on how to apply them and case studies illustrating the implementation and the benefits expected.



The Carpathian ecoregion is one of the most biodiversity-rich regions in Europe, and it is protected by the Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. Maintaining and improving ecological connectivity between habitats and maintaining ecosystem functions and services is a key to sustainable development. Local NGOs from **Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine** came together to implement the project **OBWIC – Open Border for wildlife in the Carpathians**. Habitat connectivity and the identification of key ecological transboundary corridors are central to the project. OBWIC takes a holistic approach; participatory management planning, advocacy actions, awareness raising and education together with scientific wildlife monitoring are preconditions for local sustainable development. The project is at an early stage; by 2021, however, the key ecological corridors of transboundary interest in this part of the Carpathians will be identified and will benefit from state of the art on management measures, increased protection and visibility.



Marine litter is a constant threat to marine biodiversity and ecosystems. Concerns rise rapidly at international, regional and national level, calling for cross-border actions, especially at closed seas as the Black Sea. The **Black Sea Basin project Zero Waste Strategy For Good Environmental Status** is currently under implementation, combining the forces of a university, a local economic institution and two NGOs.

The project is expected to deliver several outputs:

- an integrated database on the status quo of the marine biodiversity and ecosystems in the project area;
- reports on collected marine litter;
- four shore clean-up campaigns with 1.600 volunteers;
- four fishing for litter campaigns with 330 fishermen and last but not least;
- a complete ecosystem education programme with three multi-media education sets and a web-based online game.

*These are however just a few examples, and the majority of them is still in an early implementation stage. We will explore their achievements along the way and will add more projects to the list. A thematic publication, available by mid-2020, will gather all findings for you.*