

Proposed activities of the WGECC in 2022

- In the next few years, EU-CA WGECC will continue to implement the outcomes of the 6th EU-CA High Level Conference of the EU-Central Asia Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation held in Tashkent in 2019.¹
- Also, the WGECC will focus on the European Green Deal.
- The EU is on the road to ensure net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050 and decouple economic growth from resource use. This road cannot be walked alone, so the EU will involve partner countries and regions like Central Asia to stop environmental degradation and minimise climate change.
- The main activities of the WGECC will follow the structure highlighted in the 6HLC: Environmental Governance, Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, water resources management, Cross-Cutting Issues, including biodiversity.
- In the EU Green Deal framework, the EU-CA WGECC will also consider recently launched EU flagship initiatives, which might interest Central Asian Countries. Among those, we can mention the Zero Pollution Action Plan, Blue Economy, EU Forest Strategy till 2030 and the New European Bauhaus.
- In addition, there are also emerging issues with particular importance for Central Asia like cleaning the energy sector (including mining of coal, oil and gas) and transport systems or working with nature to become more resilient to climate change
- Reduction of methane emissions in the CA countries is a most critical issue as 3 CA countries (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) together represent around 8% of global methane emission (available emission reduction potential in these 3 countries represents 8 % of global emission reduction potential as well but emission reduction potential at no net costs achieves 19 % of global potential).²
- WGECC will also consider the upcoming 8th Environment Action Programme, guiding European environmental policy until 2030.
- The WGECC will be open to supporting the liaising with other ongoing existing initiatives and multilateral processes (EU, single Member States, UN Agencies, IFIs, etc.) involving Central Asia, such as the UNECE EPR, UNECE Environment for Europe, Regional TEIs for Central Asia, GCF and other IFIs Regional Programmes in Central Asia, regional initiatives of single Eu Member States, and so on.
- The WGECC support the further discussion of the recommendations of the UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews carried on for CA Countries, which represent a source of concrete elements on which basing future projects or activities.

¹ <https://wecoop.eu/events/6-high-level-conference/>

² See the Methane tracker database developer by the International Energy Agency (<https://www.iea.org/articles/methane-tracker-database>)

- The WGECC will continue to support CA Countries in preparing concrete project proposals for their submission for funding through specifically tailored workshops and technical support.
- WGECC will assist EU in cooperation with the European Financial Institutions (EIB, EBRD) through the Investment Facility for Central Asia (IFCA) and European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+) – instruments with which the European Union is leveraging funds for investments contributing to ‘green’ transition, protection of environment and biodiversity, financial inclusion, innovation and digitalisation as well as interregional cooperation and connectivity in Central Asia taking into consideration that. the EU support will be provided through green loans, investment grants, technical assistance and guarantees.
- The WGECC will continue to collect from CA Countries suggestions to improve activities to strengthen cooperation between the countries and the EU, as well as improving the work of the Coordination Coordination Committee.