Capacity Development for climate policy in the countries of South East, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia, Phase III

Even 20 years after the commencement of the climate protection convention, the capacities for the design and implementation concerning effective climate policy in the countries of the project region are still weakly developed. The countries unite the common challenge of successfully transforming their economic systems into open market economies while at the same time integrating ambitious climate protection policies into national development planning. The necessary institutional, regulatory and financial capacities are restricted. There is a lack of human and institutional skills and know-how to integrate ambitious climate protection policy into comprehensive development planning. As a result, the countries cannot adequately transform their potential to implement and increase their climate protection ambitions.

The project develops instruments to create conditions for a significant reduction of greenhouse gases while achieving economic transformation targets. It strengthens the capacities of public decision-makers and institutions for the application of necessary integrated and inter-institutional planning processes. Effective knowledge management causes multiplier effects in other countries of the project region and at international level. In addition, individual and small cooperation projects are being implemented in the project region to strengthen capacities for ambitious climate policy. While the project contributes decisively to implementing national climate protection efforts in the partner countries, it simultaneously supports the development of sustainable, competitive economic systems.

The present project is a follow-up project to “Capacity Development for sustainable Energy and Climate Policy in Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia, Phase I”, which ran from 04/2009 until 02/2014 and “Capacity Development for Climate Policy in the Western Balkan, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia Phase II”, which ran from 09/2013 until 06/2018. During Phase I and II, various measures were implemented to initiate dialogue and support cooperation on climate policies.
between the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and corresponding institutions and partners in the region of implementation.

**Project objective**

The project aims to support project countries to integrate their national climate mitigation goals into national development strategies and, hence, into budgetary planning and regulative frame conditions.

In four selected partner countries including Georgia and Mongolia, the project cooperates with the respective governments to support the implementation of measures to raise awareness among decision-makers for effective climate protection policy and the improvement of national framework conditions. This will help to integrate their national climate protection targets into national development strategies. In addition, pilot activities are being implemented in the project region on specific topic complexes with high potential to regionally and internationally disseminate experience and results.

**Thematic priorities**

The individual measures supported by the project can be classified as having one of the following focuses:

1. Support of climate-resilient economic structures
2. Development of carbon markets and innovative financing mechanisms
3. Fostering the use of renewable energies
4. Protection of carbon sink capacities of prevalent vegetative forms
5. Supporting climate strategies at national, regional and municipal levels

**Outputs and related activities**

**Output I**

In the partner countries relevant ministries are strengthened in their interdisciplinary coordination role for the shaping of national climate protection policy

- Identification and planning of measures to raise awareness and capacity for integrated climate protection policy among national decision-makers.
- Advising and implementing measures for the capacity development of national decision-makers for interministerial climate protection policy conducted in at least three of the four partner countries.

**Output II**

In the partner countries relevant ministries have integrated ambitious climate mitigation indicators into their sector plans or programs to create national climate commitments

- Capacity building for NDC implementation in partner countries.

**Output III**

The methods and instruments developed in the project countries for the integration of national climate indicators into regional planning are widespread both regionally and internationally

- Planning and implementation of targeted outreach activities and regional knowledge management as well as development of strategic co-operation with multipliers (institutions and decision-makers).

**Output IV**

Partner countries and BMU benefit from the experiences gained in the project countries from small and individual cooperation projects fostering bilateral and multilateral climate change dialogue processes in the countries of the project region

- Development, coordination and implementation of individual measures (pilot projects, studies, conferences) in the project region.

**Partner organizations involved / Implementing partners**

An important implementing partner is the NewClimate Institute (NCI) essentially supporting the implementation of Output II in Mongolia and Georgia. In order to implement the activities of Output I and III NCI and GIZ cooperate through expert support and backstopping.

For the implementation of small and individual measures in the frame of Output IV, services are provided by other subcontractors and cooperations are undertaken with a diversity of implementing organizations such as universities and NGOs.