

European Neighbourhood Program for agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) in Georgia

Final evaluation of ENPARD III and mid-term evaluation of ENPARD IV

The overall objective of ENPARD is to assist the Government of Georgia in eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable and inclusive growth, and consolidating and improving democratic and economic governance.

The specific objectives of ENPARD III are: i) to strengthen democratic governance, regulatory framework and improve institutional capacities; ii) strengthen and diversify rural economies; iii) foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth and reduction of rural poverty.

ENPARD IV focussed on improving rural livelihoods, living conditions and enhancing food safety for the citizens of Georgia. Its specific objectives are: i) to strengthen agri-food & rural development institutional governance & regulatory frameworks; ii) to enhance agri-food competitiveness, international trade and consumer protection; iii) to foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment in rural areas.

ENPARD III was implemented from 2017 to 2022 with a total budget of EUR 77,500,000 and ENPARD IV, with a total budget of EUR 55,000,000, started in 2020 and will end in 2026.

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Main findings

ENPARD III and ENPARD IV effectively aligned with national policy objectives.

Agri-food trade gaps could be reduced with market intelligence and value chain integration.

ENPARD support play a critical role in establishing rural development as a strategic priority.

Progress in adoption of new food safety regulations have accelerated alignment with EU standards but gaps in enforcement and compliance remain.

Lessons learnt

A monitoring of blended short medium and long term result indicators and targets is necessary to inform decision-making and policy dialogue.

A progressive alignment of agriculture and rural development sector with EU regulatory framework must be consistent with the enforcement capacities, the resources of the Competent Authorities and the engagement of the private sector.

Grants for small-scale farmers are most effective when they are designed to integrate farmers into value chains .

Tailored financial and technical support for farmers and businesses is critical to address economic challenges, while public awareness campaigns help build understanding and support for reforms.

Recommendations

Improve programme budgeting for tangible and measurable outcomes.

Enhance the LEADER approach and tailor the Local Action Groups initiatives to Georgia's rural needs.

Prioritise targeted value chains and enhance their alignment with market needs adopting climate-smart agriculture and eco-friendly practices.

Address market access and producer cooperation gaps to strengthen competitiveness.

Expand access to finance for farmers and food business operators.