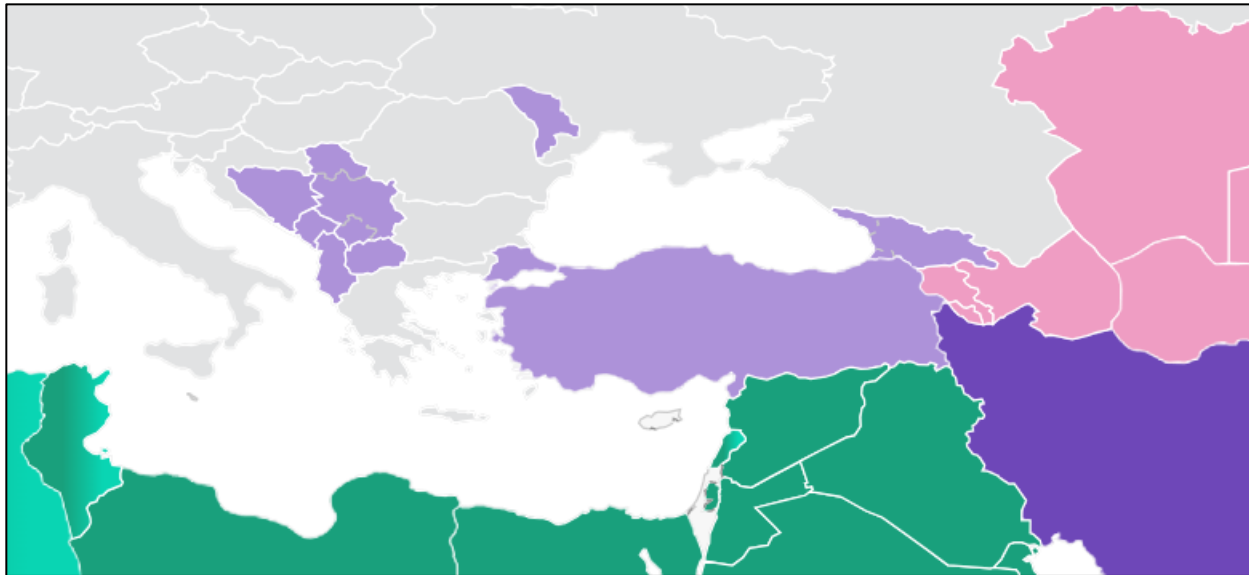


Assessment of Transparency Capacities in the Countries of the Eurasia Regional Transparency Network



November 2023

1. Contents

2	Background.....	4
3	Purpose and Scope of the Assessment of Transparency Capacities in the Eurasia Network.....	4
4	Assessment of transparency capacities of the Eurasia Network.....	5
4.1	Overall transparency System and status of reporting.....	5
4.1.1	Transparency Status in the Eurasia	5
4.1.2	Institutional Arrangements for Transparency in Countries.....	6
4.1.3	Transparency Reports under Preparation in the Eurasia	6
4.1.4	Transparency Outcomes Used for Policymaking.....	7
4.2	Transparency support received and good practices and lessons learned in transparency.....	8
4.2.1	Transparency support received in the Eurasia.	8
4.2.2	Good Practices and Lessons Learnt in Transparency.....	9
4.3	Implementing the ETF and preparation for the Biennial Transparency Reports.....	9
4.3.1	Understanding of ETF/BTR Provisions	9
4.3.2	Initiating the first Biennial Transparency Report	10
4.3.3	Challenges in implementing the ETF.	12
4.3.4	Potential Solutions to the Challenges.....	12
4.4	Assessment of capacities related to the four ETF reporting areas.....	13
4.4.1	Institutional Arrangements on the four ETF areas	13
4.4.2	Technical Capacities to collect data/track progress on ETF Reporting areas.....	14
4.4.3	Specific technical capacities related to GHG inventories.....	15
4.4.4	Specific technical capacities related to NDC tracking.....	16
4.4.5	Specific technical capacities related to adaptation, impacts and loss & damage.....	18
4.4.6	Specific technical capacities related to support needed and received (financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building).....	20
4.5	Gender mainstreaming.....	21
4.6	Support needs identified by Eurasia Network	22
5	Conclusions and recommendations	26

List of Figures

Figure 1 Overall Status of Country's Transparency System	5
Figure 2 Status of Countries Institutional Arrangements for Transparency	6
Figure 3 Understanding of ETF/BTR Provision.....	10
Figure 4 Steps taken by countries in preparing BTR.....	10
Figure 5 Status of Funding Requests for BTR from GEF.....	11
Figure 6 Institutional Arrangements for the ETF Reporting areas.....	13
Figure 7 Technical Capacities to collect data/track progress on ETF Reporting areas	14
Figure 8 Use of the IPCC Guidelines in the Eurasia.....	15
Figure 9 Use of the IPCC Software in the Eurasia.....	16
Figure 10 Status of QA/QC in the Eurasia.....	16
Figure 11 Modelling Tools Used for NDC	17
Figure 12 Indicators to track the progress towards NDC.	17
Figure 13 Domestic systems to monitor adaptation actions.....	19
Figure 14 NAP Status in the Eurasia	19
Figure 15 Assessing Loss and Damage.....	20
Figure 16 Tracking of Climate Finance received and Estimation of Support Needed.....	22

List of Tables

Table 1 The status of transparency reporting in the Eurasia Network	6
Table 2 Transparency Outcomes Used for Policymaking	7
Table 3 The approaches, methodologies and tools countries use to assess impacts, risks and vulnerabilities to climate change.	18
Table 4 Information on efforts of the countries to integrate gender considerations into the national Transparency System.	21
Table 5 Analysis of the priority support needed for Eurasia Network.....	24

2 Background

The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) is a global support project for capacity-building on transparency, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by UNEP and executed by the UNEP-Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC). The CBIT-GSP is a five-year long project, that is under implementation from 2022 to 2026, offering a multitude of support to developing countries to enable them to comply with the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement reporting requirements.

The project aims at providing targeted support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to the reporting requirements and to increase ambition of their NDCs to contribute to the Paris Agreement’s temperature goals.

The project supports developing countries in the transition to the BTRs, assists them in submitting NCs & their last BURs, and provide a one-stop shop for transparency. The project builds on the experience and lessons learned from the previous phase of the GSP and of the CBIT Global Coordination Platform, and provides support through several modalities: 10 regional transparency networks, implementation of capacity needs assessments to tailor regional and country level support, direct provision of support to countries in prioritized areas, organization of regional and in-country trainings & workshops, quality review of countries’ transparency reports and global workshops. The project also provides support for gender mainstreaming in climate transparency, among other through a dedicated toolkit.

The expected outcomes of the project are as follows:

- Developing countries have improved capacity to report under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF)
- Developing countries increasingly access information and get knowledge in support of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

3 Purpose and Scope of the Assessment of Transparency Capacities in the Eurasia Network

A survey was prepared by UNEP-CCC experts as an online questionnaire covering the ETF provisions under the Paris Agreement, and was sent out to the eight Eurasia countries in the region in June 2023: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye. Geographically, the area of Eurasia includes many countries, but the selection of countries for the support through CBIT-GSP network was made based on their similar socio-economic circumstances and level of development, as well as based on similar capacities and support needs in the context of the ETF. This includes the countries of the Western Balkans, as well as Moldova, Georgia and Türkiye. The survey aimed to assess the status of readiness of the countries to the ETF and to tailor the project support in the region to countries’ needs and gaps. It is also aimed at identifying countries’ main challenges and specific priorities for transparency.

The questions of the survey were categorized to reflect the areas of the Enhanced Transparency Framework, including Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI), Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) tracking, Adaptation and Impacts, including Loss and Damage issues, as well as Support Needed and Received. The survey also included questions on gender mainstreaming, other transparency support received and good practices in transparency efforts.

Out of the eight Eurasia countries, six have responded to the survey to date (29-Aug-2023). These countries are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye. Responses were provided by representatives from the national Ministries of Environment and in the case of Georgia from the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus.

4 Assessment of transparency capacities of the Eurasia Network

The assessment was conducted to identify the transparency capacities of countries in the Eurasia region. Most countries are geographically located on the Balkan Peninsula (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia), while the other two belong to the Caucasus (Georgia), and the Middle East Region (Türkiye). However, all selected countries have similar socio-economic, developmental, and natural characteristics that define their similar national circumstances, financial resources and technical capacities to respond to climate change. This assessment covers the four areas of the ETF: GHG inventory, NDC tracking, adaptation and impacts, including loss and damage and support needed and received.

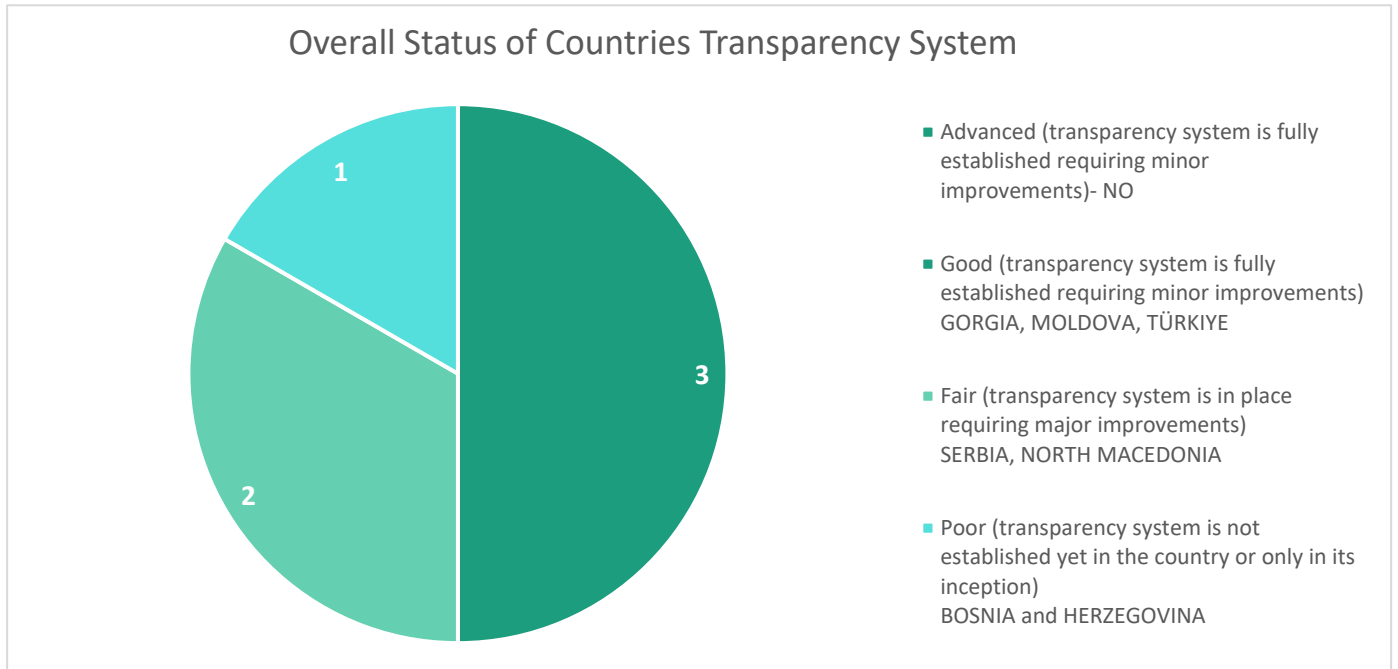
4.1 Overall Transparency System and status of reporting

Under the ETF, countries are to transparently report on GHG inventory, actions taken in climate change mitigation, adaptation measures and support provided or received through the submission of Biennial Transparency Reports and National Inventory Reports (NIR). This section focuses on the overall Transparency System in the Eurasia region and assesses its readiness for reporting under the ETF.

4.1.1 Transparency Status in the Eurasia

The first section of the survey inquired about the status of the overall Transparency System as well as the status of reporting in each country in the Eurasia Network. Three out of six respondent countries (Georgia, Moldova, Türkiye) rated the overall status of their country's Transparency System as 'good', i.e., their Transparency Systems are fully established, requiring minor improvements and able to continuously prepare and submit transparency reports, in line with the enhanced transparency framework. The other two countries, Serbia and North Macedonia rated their transparency system as 'fair' with need for major improvements. As the only country in the network, Bosnia and Herzegovina has rated its transparency system as 'poor', meaning that it is not established yet or is in preparatory phase. It is to be noted that none of the countries have rated their system as 'advanced'. The figure below reflects these answers:

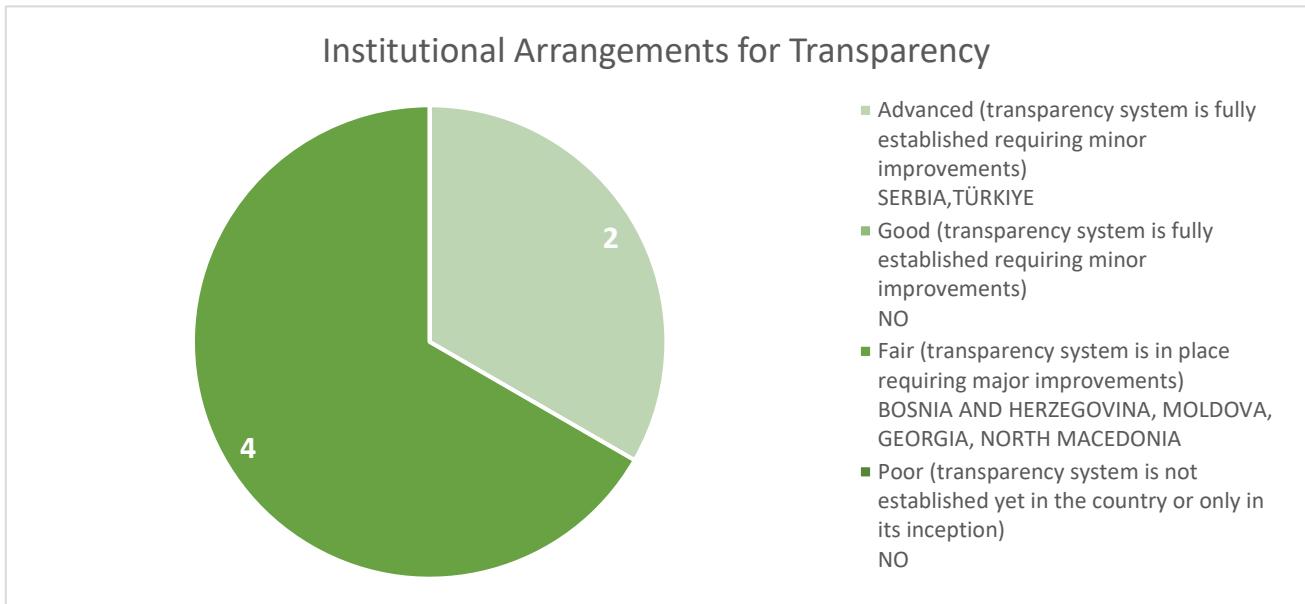
Figure 1: Overall Status of Countries' Transparency System



4.1.2 Institutional Arrangements for Transparency in Countries

Institutional arrangement for transparency includes, among others, clearly defined roles of all actors, an established legal base with clear arrangements and data-sharing agreements. Out of the six countries that participated in the survey, four rated their Institutional Arrangements for Transparency System as ‘fair’ (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, and North Macedonia) which means that the countries have the Transparency System in place, but it requires major improvements. On the other hand, two countries have rated their institutional arrangements as ‘advanced’ (Serbia and Türkiye).

Figure 2: Status of Countries Institutional Arrangements for Transparency



4.1.3 Transparency Reports under Preparation in Eurasia

This section covers the status of transparency reporting in Eurasia, which includes both transparency reports submitted to the UNFCCC as well as report(s) under preparation by the countries of Eurasia. The countries of Eurasia are at different stages regarding the number of reports submitted to the UNFCCC: four countries are currently preparing their National Communications (NC), of which Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia are on their fifth communication, while Serbia and North Macedonia are preparing their fourth communication. Importantly, all six countries requested funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the preparation of their first BTRs.

Table 1: The status of transparency reporting in the Eurasia Network: reports under preparation and submitted reports

Countries	Transparency Reports UNDER PREPARATION NC/ BUR / BTR/ NIR	Transparency Reports SUBMITTED to UNFCCC NC/ BUR / BTR/ NIR
Albania	No information available	4NC, 1BUR, 4NIR
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5NC/ 1+2 BTR (approved by GEF)	4NC, 3BUR
Georgia	5NC/ 1BTR (approved by GEF)	4NCs, 2BURs, 4NIRs
Moldova	1 BTR (approved by GEF)	4NCs,3BURs, 4NIRs
Montenegro	4NC/1BTR (approved by GEF)	3NC, 3BUR, 3NIR
North Macedonia	5NC/1BTR (submitted to GEF)	4NC, 3BUR
Serbia	4NC/1+2BTR (approved by GEF)	3NCs, 2BUR-under submission
Türkiye	1BTR (submitted to GEF)	8NC and 5BR

4.1.4 Transparency Outcomes Used for Policymaking

This section summarizes how countries use their transparency reports at the national level beyond fulfilling the reporting requirements under the UNFCCC. Specifically, the survey inquired about whether countries have utilized the outcomes of their Transparency System for national policy-making.

Table 2: Transparency Outcomes Used for Policymaking

Countries	Transparency Outcomes Used for Policymaking
Georgia	The first outcome used is vertical integration of climate reporting system between national and sub-national levels.
Moldova	Not yet/ not much
Serbia	No response
North Macedonia	No response
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Not sufficiently
Türkiye	No response

Out of the six countries, just one country indicated to have used the outcomes of its Transparency System for national policymaking, while the two other countries have not done so (yet) or not much/sufficiently. For example, Georgia has used outcomes of its Transparency System for the vertical integration of climate reporting system between national and sub-national levels. Other countries did not elaborate their answers while three countries did not answer this question.

4.2 Transparency support received and good practices and lessons learned in transparency

4.2.1 Transparency support received in the Eurasia

This section of the report focuses on previous or ongoing support for transparency that countries have received through the various support organizations active that in the Eurasia region. Although only two countries responded to this question, for the purposes of this report the information was supplemented with publicly available information from the GEF website or from the pages of projects/activities implemented in these countries. The table below provides information on the support that Eurasian countries have received for transparency:

Countries	Area of support	Agency provided the support
Albania	-Development of NC/BUR -Support to Energy and Climate Monitoring	UNDP, country office EEA
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-Development of NC/BUR/BTR -CBIT -NECP -Support to Energy and Climate Monitoring	UNDP, country office GIZ EEA
Georgia	-Development of NC/BUR/BTR, MRV Road Map -CBIT -Review of BURs, and Sectoral Improvement Recommendations -Support to Energy and Climate Monitoring	UNDP, country office UNEP/RECC PATPA/GIZ EEA
Moldova	-Development of NC -Development of NC/BUR/BTR -CBIT project under preparation -Support to Energy and Climate Monitoring	UNDP, country office UNEP, country office FAO EEA

Montenegro	-Development of NC/BUR/BTR -CBIT -Support to Energy and Climate Monitoring	UNDP, country office EEA
North Macedonia	-Development of NC/BUR/BTR -CBIT -Support to Energy and Climate Monitoring	UNDP, country office EEA
Serbia	Development of NC/BUR/BTR CBIT -Support to Energy and Climate Monitoring	UNDP, country office EEA
Türkiye	Development of NC/BR -BTR (project under preparation)	UNDP, country office FAO

In most countries, the development of transparency reports is supported by UNDP, except in Moldova, where support is also provided by UNEP (for NCs BURs, and newly approved 1BTR). Also, CBIT projects that were implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia were supported by UNDP, except in Georgia where support was provided by UNEP and executed by RECC (Regional Environmental Center for Caucasus). Additionally, FAO is providing support to Moldova for the preparation of its national CBIT project. In Georgia, UNDP provides support for MRV Road Map development and in addition Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA) in cooperation with GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) provides support for review of BURs, and Sectoral Improvement Recommendations (PATPA/GIZ).

Additionally, the European Environment Agency (EEA) with Energy Community supports seven countries of Eurasia Network (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Georgia, and Moldova) to enable reporting their climate and energy data to the Energy Community Secretariat. This includes support for reporting of detailed information on the mitigation policies and measures, detailed information on adaptation planning and strategies, and on use of revenues from carbon price mechanisms.

4.2.2 Good Practices and Lessons Learnt in Transparency

Countries have gained valuable experiences in climate reporting and, have achieved important milestones and results that could be shared and potentially replicated to the other countries. This section summarizes the good practices and lessons learned in transparency countries reported that they either would like to share with or learn about from other countries. Only two countries provided answers to the question on sharing good practices with other countries (Georgia and Türkiye). Georgia has elaborated that they have good practice in regard of vertical integration process, including data gathering and sharing from local level to the central level and vice-versa, they can share with other countries. Also, their experience showed that joint and harmonized work of all relevant institutions gives the best results when it comes to transparency reporting and achievement of climate goals. From their practice, Türkiye suggests that other countries should also establish a “climate change board” to facilitate decision-making processes which is crucial for harmonized and sustainable transparency reporting.

Regarding learning about best practices and lessons learned from other countries, three counties expressed interest in hearing experiences in topics such as:

- Identification of new source categories (it relates mostly to the Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector and approach that helps country to identify new source categories), development of a national registry system, Key Category analysis while improving the methodologies and data management, specifically national GHG inventory and emissions reduction recording system that avoids double counting. The Key Category analysis is taking place at the beginning and at the end of the inventory process. IPCC defines a Key Category as a category that is prioritized within the national inventory system because its estimate has a significant influence on a country's total inventory of greenhouse gases in terms of the absolute level, the trend, or the uncertainty in emissions and removals. Because of great importance of having an accurate key category analysis, it would be appreciated if similar experiences with key category analysis from other countries could be shared to complete the GHG inventory on time (Georgia).
- Experiences in transparency reporting to the EU and in other developing countries (Moldova).
- Good practice and experience from countries that have established MRV systems and EMIS (Energy Management Information Systems) with a decentralized data management scheme, since the country has a decentralized administrative structure (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

4.3 Implementing the ETF and preparation for the Biennial Transparency Reports

Under the ETF, countries are to report on the four areas of GHG inventory, NDC tracking, adaptation and Impacts, including loss and damage, and support needed and received.

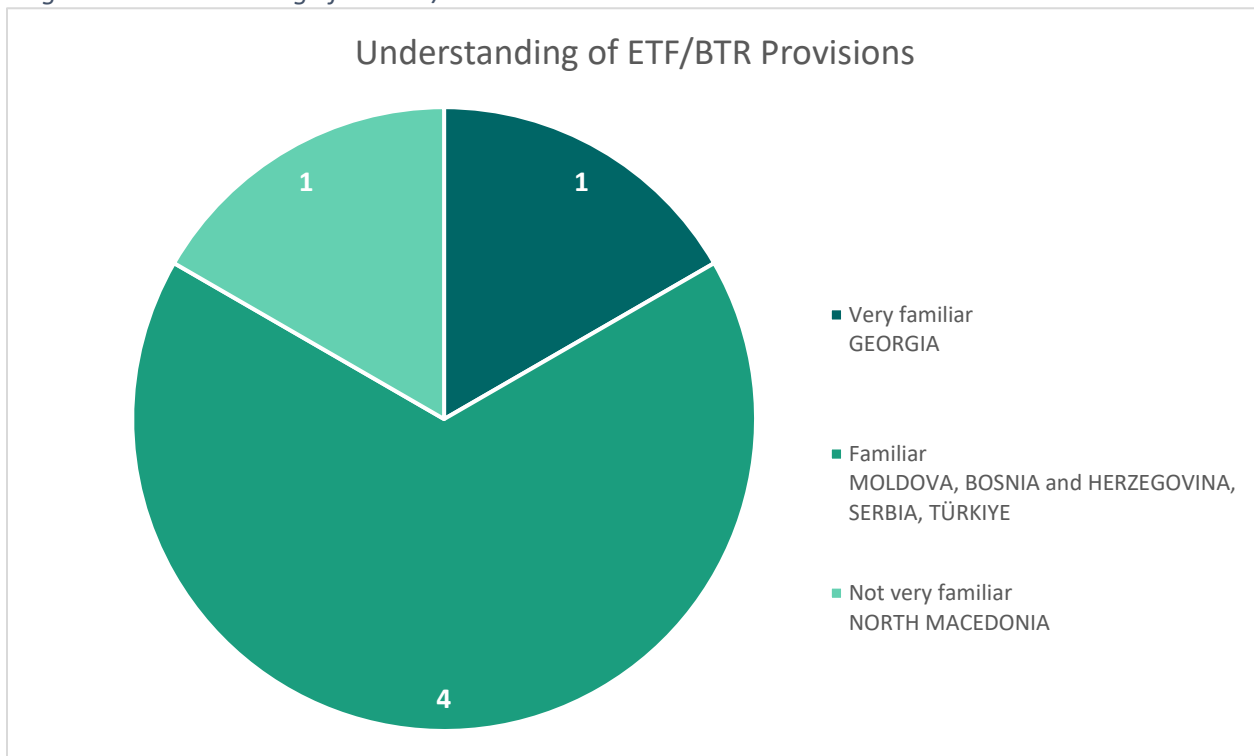
4.3.1 Understanding of ETF/BTR Provisions

The ETF represents a key component of the Paris Agreement with the expectation that it builds trust and confidence in countries’ climate ambitions and actions.

The survey inquires about countries familiarity with the ETF/BTR provisions, including the reporting templates. Out of six respondents of the Eurasia Network, only one respondent from Georgia indicated to be ‘very familiar’, while four countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Serbia, and Türkiye) indicated to be ‘familiar’ with the ETF/BTR provisions.

North Macedonia, as the only country, has indicated to be ‘not very familiar’ with the ETF/BTR provisions. This means that additional support will be needed for countries to familiarize themselves with the ETF provisions to the extent necessary to report in accordance with the new requirements. Figure 3 below reflects the responses of the countries.

Figure 3: Understanding of the ETF/BTR Provisions

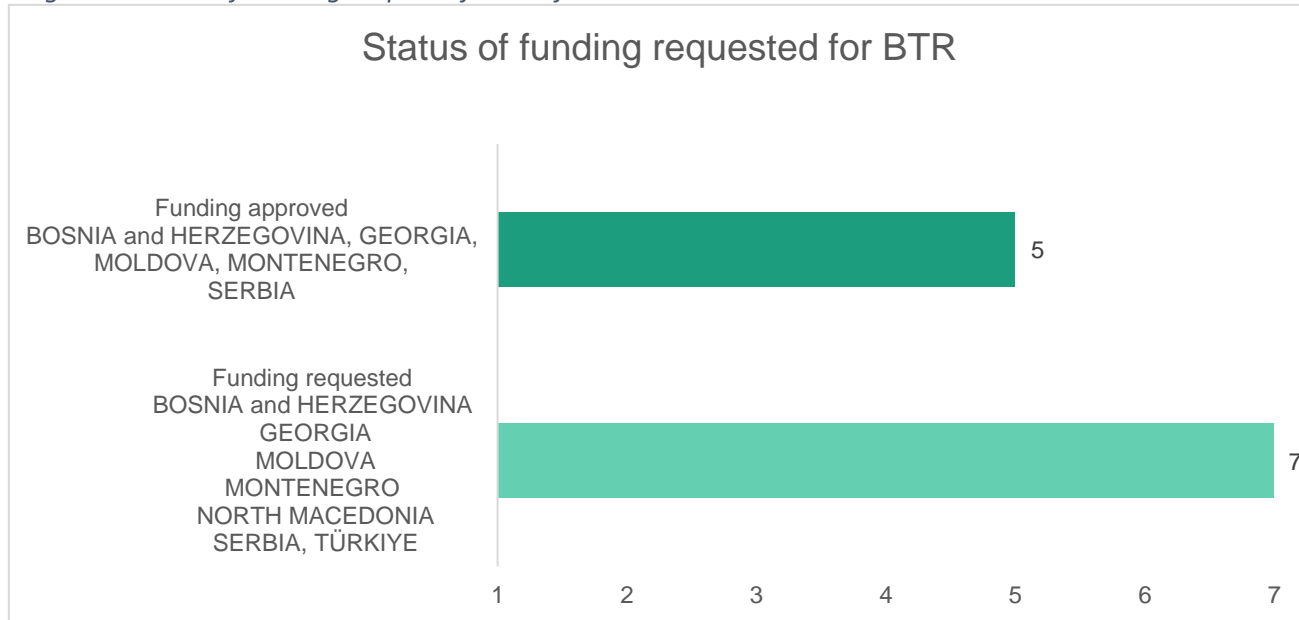


4.3.2 Initiating the first Biennial Transparency Report

In addition, countries were asked to provide information on whether they have taken steps towards preparing their first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR).

All six countries have taken steps for the preparation for their first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). Funding for the BTR has been requested from the GEF by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Türkiye, of which five projects have been approved to date (for Moldova, Serbia, Montenegro, Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina). Georgia and Bosnia and Hercegovina are also still implementing the CBIT project with support of UNDP (Bosnia and Hercegovina) and UNEP (Georgia), while FAO supports the project application for development of Türkiye’s first BTR (submitted to GEF).

Figure 5: Status of Funding Requests for BTR from GEF



4.3.3 Challenges in implementing the ETF

With the new reporting provisions, the efforts needed to implement the ETF in developing countries are becoming greater and require significant capacities in countries. This section explores the challenges that countries are facing in their efforts to implement the ETF. The challenges identified by countries are as following:

- Building data archiving system, addressing Transparency, Accuracy, Completeness, Comparability and Consistency principals (TACCC), applying 2006 IPCC Guidelines for the Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector (Georgia)
- Challenge related to the development of sustainable capacity building for reporting to the UNFCCC and unify the raw database for reporting to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) (Moldova)
- Lack of capacities and lack of understanding of the reporting requirements (Serbia)
- Lack of institutional and technical capacity, and coordination of governmental institutions (North Macedonia)
- Lack of regular processes for reporting, as the reporting to the UNFCCC has so far been conducted on a project-by-project basis (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Challenges related to NDC tracking and Finance Reporting (Türkiye)

Bosnia and Herzegovina further elaborated on its specific in-country situation including an ad-hoc and project-by-project approach as well as a problematic political situation. This makes it difficult to develop and maintain sustainable capacities for transparency. Without GEF support, the country would undertake periodic reporting on climate change, but it would not be able to undertake transparency activities to the full extent of its potential. The country would also be limited in the contributions that it can make to global understanding of climate change and actions to address it.

4.3.4 Potential Solutions to the Challenges

In addition to challenges, countries were also asked to provide potential solutions for those challenges. The respondents proposed the following potential solutions to their challenges:

- Sharing others' experience in finding solutions, elaboration of a step-by-step improvement plan (Georgia),
- To receive from the UNFCCC Secretariat an approved template/ model of database unified for reporting both to UNFCCC and Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution -CLRTAP (Moldova),
- State entities capacity building for reporting, with national co-financing (Moldova),

- Public Administration Reform, planned for 2024 (North Macedonia),
- Establishing a system to identify, collect and record the relevant sectoral data to calculate GHG emissions in accordance with the relevant tiers in the various IPCC guidelines (Bosnia and Herzegovina),
- Enhancing the capacity of the GHG inventory team to conduct cross-cutting analyses prior to submitting the BUR, in particular to develop a QA/QC plan, and to train staff at institutions involved in the GHG inventory preparation (Bosnia and Herzegovina),
- Capacity building (Türkiye).

4.4 Assessment of capacities related to the four ETF reporting areas

The reporting under the ETF will also indicate the additional needs for capacity building to adequately comply with the reporting in the countries. Thus, this section assesses the capacities related to the ETF area for the Eurasia region.

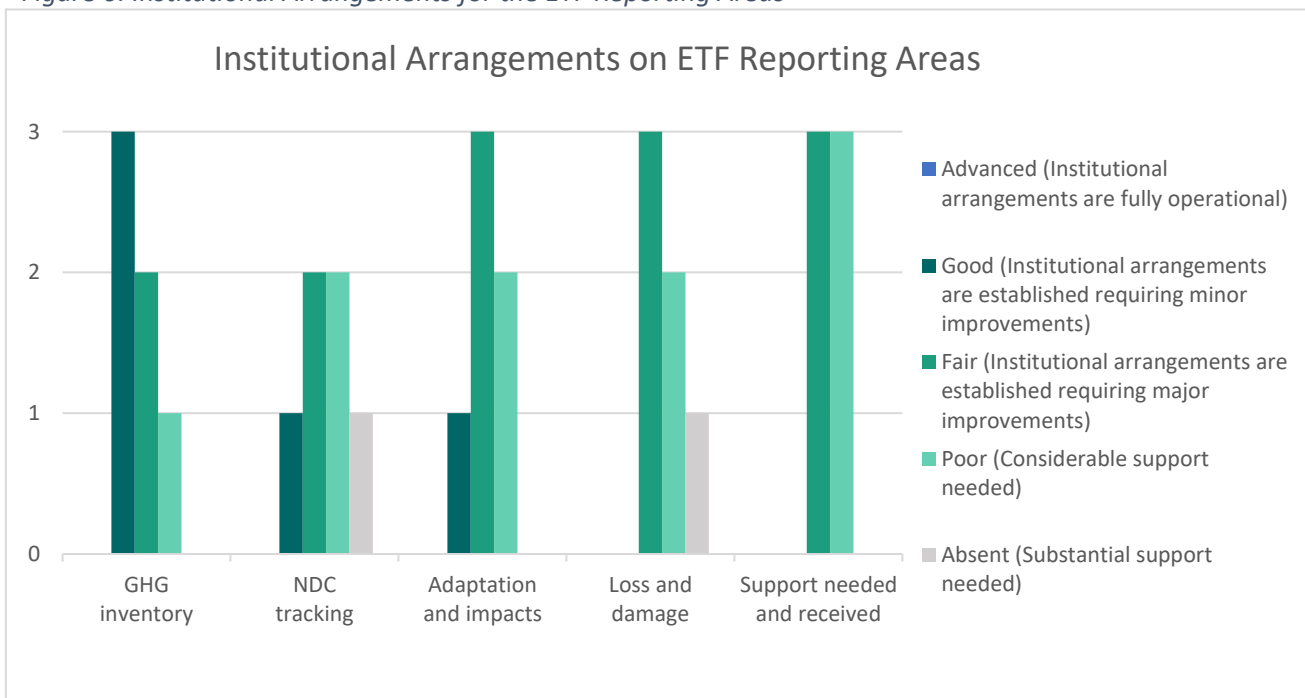
The following section provides an overview of the status of institutional arrangements as well as technical capacities related to the four ETF reporting areas which are GHG Inventory, NDC Tracking, Adaptation and Impacts, including Loss and Damage as well as Support Needed and Received.

4.4.1 Institutional Arrangements for the four ETF areas

Regarding the institutional arrangements for the ETF areas, most countries have rated their institutional arrangements (IA) for the ETF as ‘fair’ and ‘poor’ or even ‘absent’. This indicates the need for robust institution arrangements in all the areas and the significant needs that countries have in the institutional context.

The chart below represents the responses by countries on how they assess their institutional arrangements for each of the four ETF reporting areas.

Figure 6: Institutional Arrangements for the ETF Reporting Areas



For the area of GHG Inventory three countries (Georgia, North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) rate their institutional arrangements as either ‘fair’ or ‘poor’ and three countries (Moldova, Serbia and

Türkiye) as ‘good’. This indicates the need for major improvements and significant support to existing institutional arrangement in the GHG Inventory area.

When assessing institutional arrangements for NDC Tracking five countries (Moldova, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Türkiye) had selected either ‘fair’, ‘poor’ and ‘absent’ while only one country (Georgia) has chosen ‘good’.

As for the area of Adaptation and Impacts five countries (Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) selected either ‘fair’ or ‘poor’ as best describing their institutional arrangements, while also here only one country (Türkiye) rated them as ‘good’.

The two ETF areas with the lowest assessed status of institutional arrangements are Loss and Damage and Support Needed and Received, where all six countries selected either ‘fair’, ‘poor’ and ‘absent’ (Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Türkiye), signifying those major improvements and considerable support is necessary in these areas.

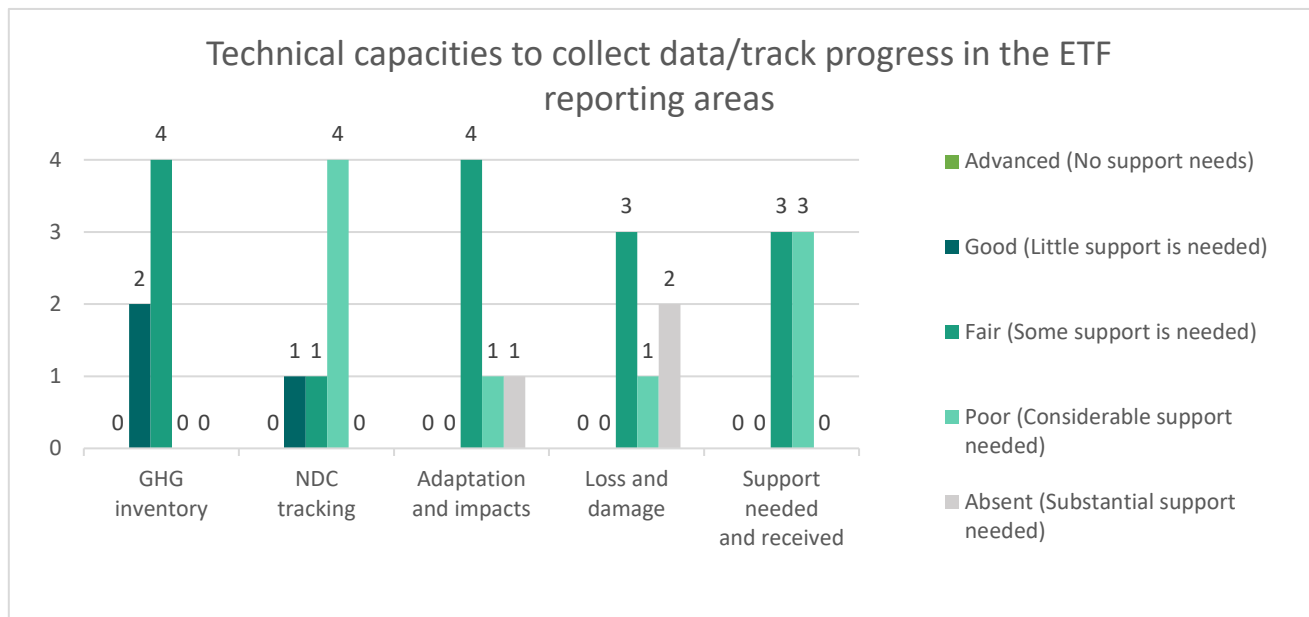
An overview of all responses can be seen below:

ETF Reporting Area	Status rate	Responding Countries
GHG Inventory	Advanced	-
	Good	Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye
	Fair	Georgia, North Macedonia
	Poor	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Absent	-
NDC Tracking	Advanced	-
	Good	Georgia
	Fair	Moldova, North Macedonia
	Poor	Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Absent	Türkiye
Adaptation and Impacts	Advanced	-
	Good	Türkiye
	Fair	Georgia, North Macedonia, Serbia
	Poor	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova
	Absent	-
Loss and Damage	Advanced	-
	Good	-
	Fair	Georgia, North Macedonia, Türkiye
	Poor	Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Absent	Moldova
Support needed/received	Advanced	-
	Good	-
	Fair	Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia
	Poor	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Türkiye
	Absent	-

4.4.2 Technical Capacities to collect data/track progress on ETF Reporting areas

The second part of the survey inquired about the technical capacities to collect data and track progress in the four ETF reporting areas and report on them. The figure below shows how the countries assess their technical capacities in these areas.

Figure 7: Technical Capacities to Collect Data/Track Progress on ETF Reporting Areas



As can be seen from the figure above, most respondents have rated their technical capacities for collecting data and tracking progress in the different reporting areas as either 'fair', 'poor' or even 'absent'. Only two countries indicated to have 'good' technical capacities for GHG inventory (Moldova and Türkiye) and only one country chose 'good' for NDC Tracking (Georgia). This shows the need to increase technical capacities in the countries of Eurasia Region for collecting data and tracking progress in all ETF reporting areas.

In both the GHG Inventory and NDC Tracking areas, three countries (Serbia, North Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina) selected either 'fair' or 'poor' expressing the significant need for building capacity in the two areas, while only two countries ranked their technical capacity as 'good' for GHG Inventory (Moldova and Türkiye) and NDC Tracking respectively (Georgia).

Regarding technical capacities to collect data/track progress in the area Adaptation and Impacts four countries, rated their capacities as 'fair' (Georgia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Türkiye), while two countries (Moldova and Serbia) selected 'poor' and 'absent' technical capacities respectively.

Additionally, for Loss and Damage and Support Needed and Received areas about three countries are considering their capacities as 'fair' (Georgia, North Macedonia and Türkiye), requiring major

improvements, while three countries selected either ‘poor’ (Bosnia and Herzegovina) or ‘absent’ (Serbia and Moldova) indicating the limited technical capacities in the countries to collect data and track progress in the two areas. Overview of all answers can be seen below:

ETF Reporting Area	Status rate	Responding Countries
GHG Inventory	Advanced	-
	Good	Moldova, Türkiye
	Fair	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia
	Poor	-
	Absent	-
NDC Tracking	Advanced	-
	Good	Georgia
	Fair	North Macedonia
	Poor	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Serbia
	Absent	Türkiye
Adaptation and Impacts	Advanced	-
	Good	-
	Fair	Georgia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Türkiye
	Poor	Serbia
	Absent	Moldova
Loss and Damage	Advanced	-
	Good	-
	Fair	Georgia, North Macedonia, Türkiye
	Poor	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Absent	Moldova, Serbia
Support needed/received	Advanced	-
	Good	-
	Fair	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia
	Poor	Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye
	Absent	-

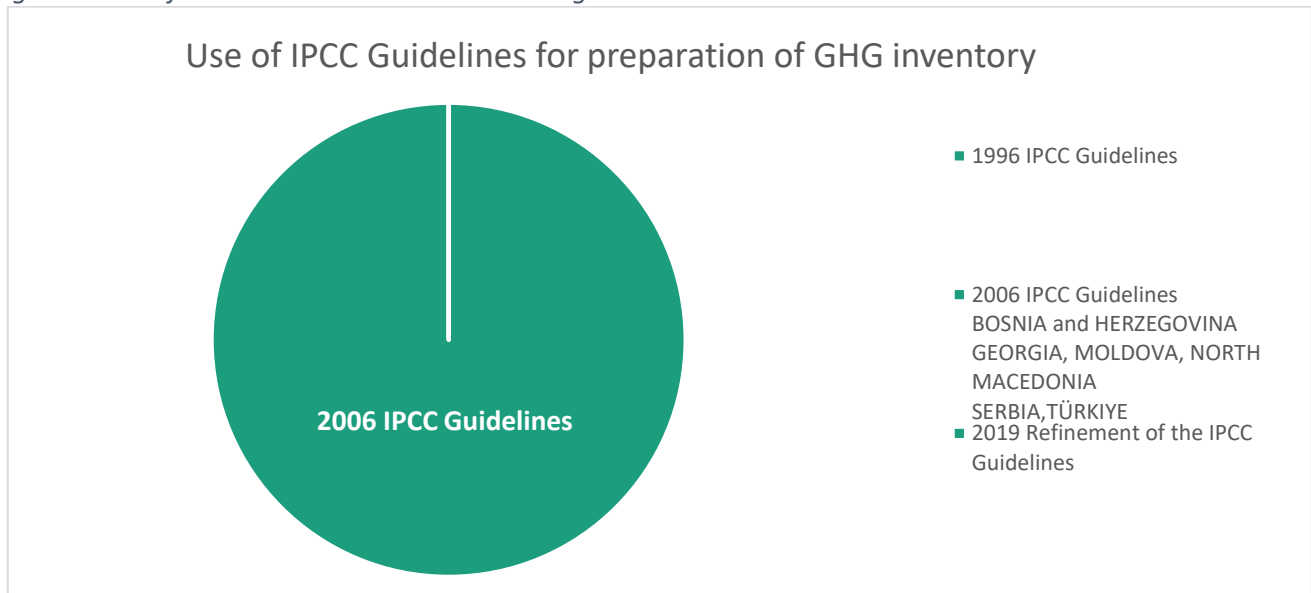
4.4.3 Specific technical capacities related to GHG inventories

As part of the ETF, all Parties must use the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. These guidelines provide methodologies for estimating national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks. They have been designed to assist countries in compiling complete, national inventories of GHGs and enable countries to present a clear picture of their achievements. This section presents the results of the survey in relation to capacities of the countries to perform GHG inventories, including IPCC Guidelines, IPCC Software and QA&QC procedures.

4.4.3.1 Use of IPCC Guidelines in the Eurasia Region

Regarding the use of IPCC Guidelines, the countries can use one of the following methodologies for the preparation of their GHG inventory: 1996 IPCC Guideline, 2006 IPCC Guidelines, and 2019 Refinement of the IPCC Guidelines. All survey participants of the six Eurasia countries indicated to use the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for preparing their GHG Inventories (see Figure 8).

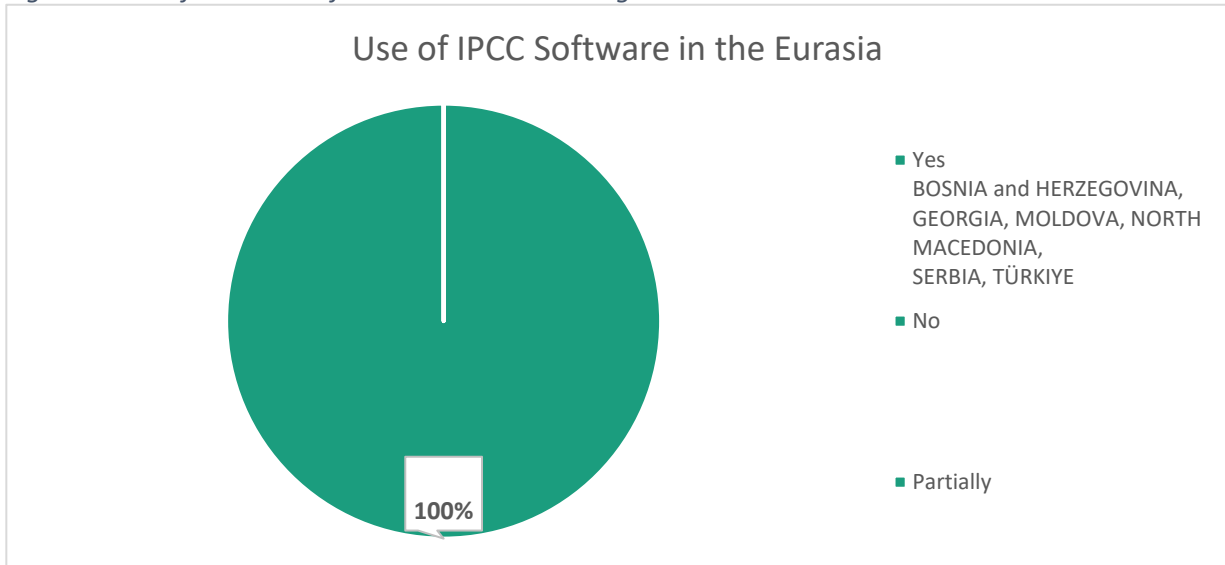
Figure 8: Use of IPCC Guidelines in the Eurasia Region



4.4.3.2 Use of IPCC Software in the Eurasia Region

The survey results are similar for the use of the IPCC Software, where all six countries indicated that they use the IPCC Software to prepare their GHG Inventory data (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Türkiye).

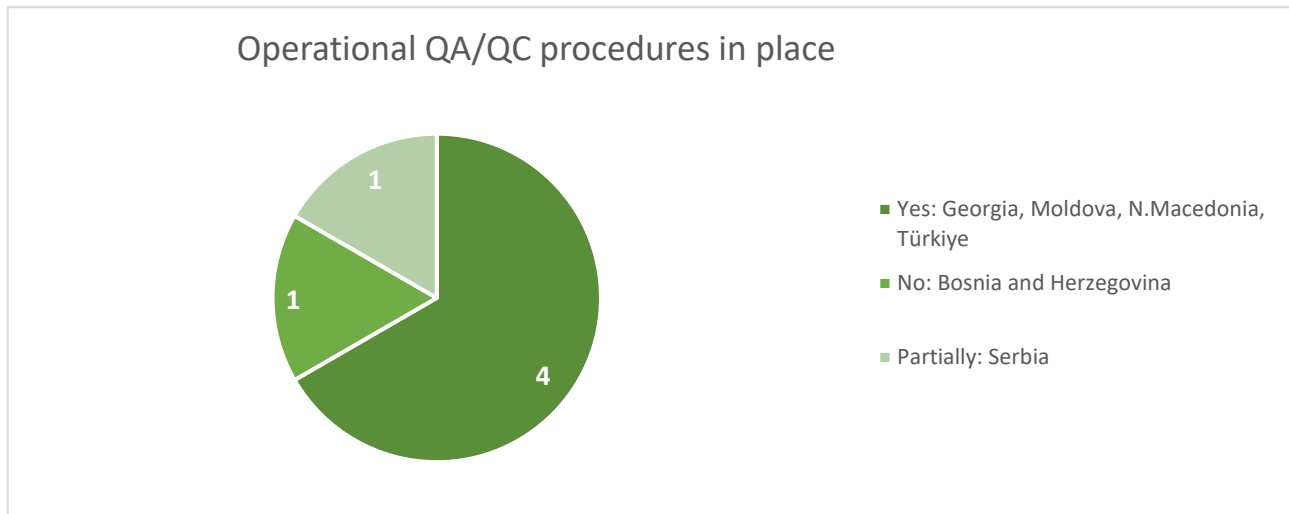
Figure 9: Use of the IPCC Software in the Eurasia Region



4.4.3.3 Status of Quality Assurance and Quality Check in the Eurasia Region

Regarding Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Check (QC), countries were asked if they have operational QA/QC procedures in place. Here four out of the six countries indicated to have operational QA/QC procedures in place in their respective countries namely Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia and Türkiye. Serbia has indicated to have partially established QA/QC procedures, while Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have operational QA/QC procedures in place yet. According to information provided the QA/QC system in Georgia will be tested during its first BTR while other countries did not elaborate further on their response.

Figure 10: Status of QA/QC in the Eurasia



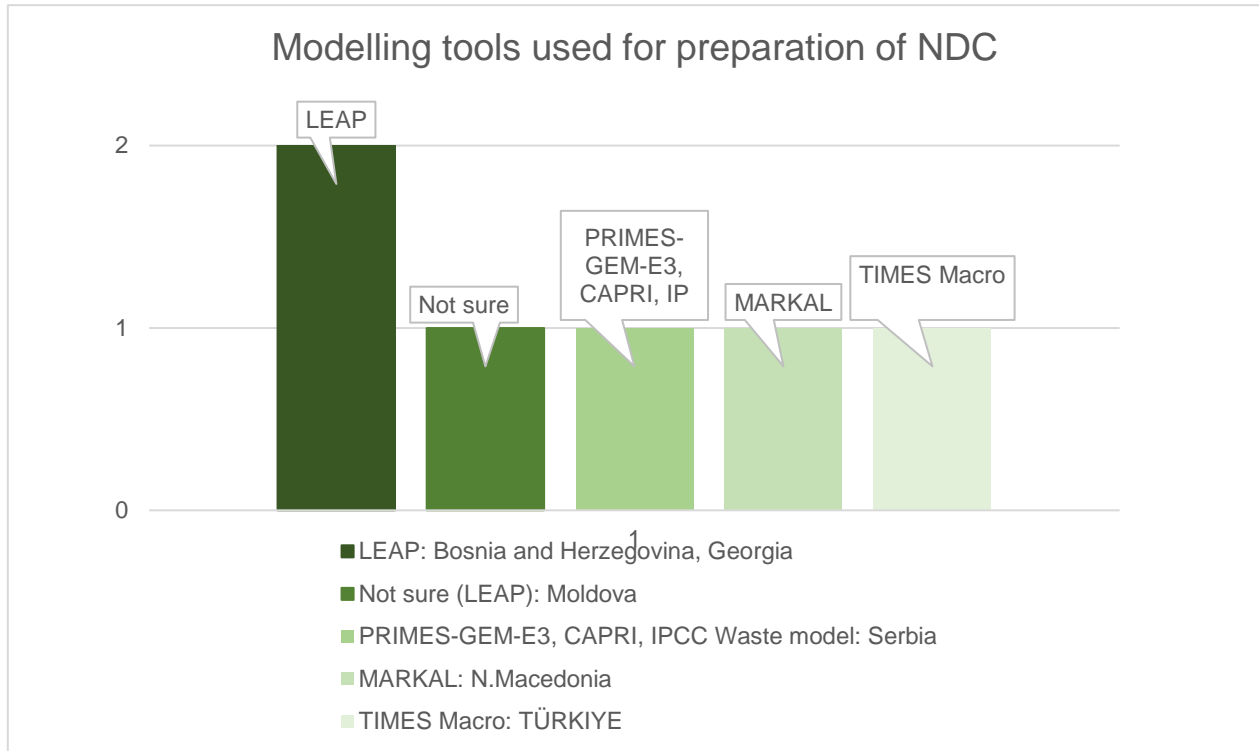
4.4.4 Specific technical capacities related to NDC tracking

This part of the survey aimed at identifying specific technical capacities in the Eurasia Region related to NDC tracking, including modelling tools, NDC indicators and the familiarity of staff with these modelling tools.

4.4.4.1 Modelling tools used in the preparation of its NDC

Regarding modelling tools used for the preparation of countries' NDC, all countries indicated to have used a modelling tool. Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova have used the Low Emissions Analysis Platform (LEAP) model, while Serbia has used the PRIMES-GEM-E3, CAPRI and IPCC Waste model. North Macedonia declared to have used the MARCAL Model while Türkiye applied the TIMES Macro modelling tool. The figure below illustrates the answers:

Figure 11: Modelling Tools Used for Preparation of NDC

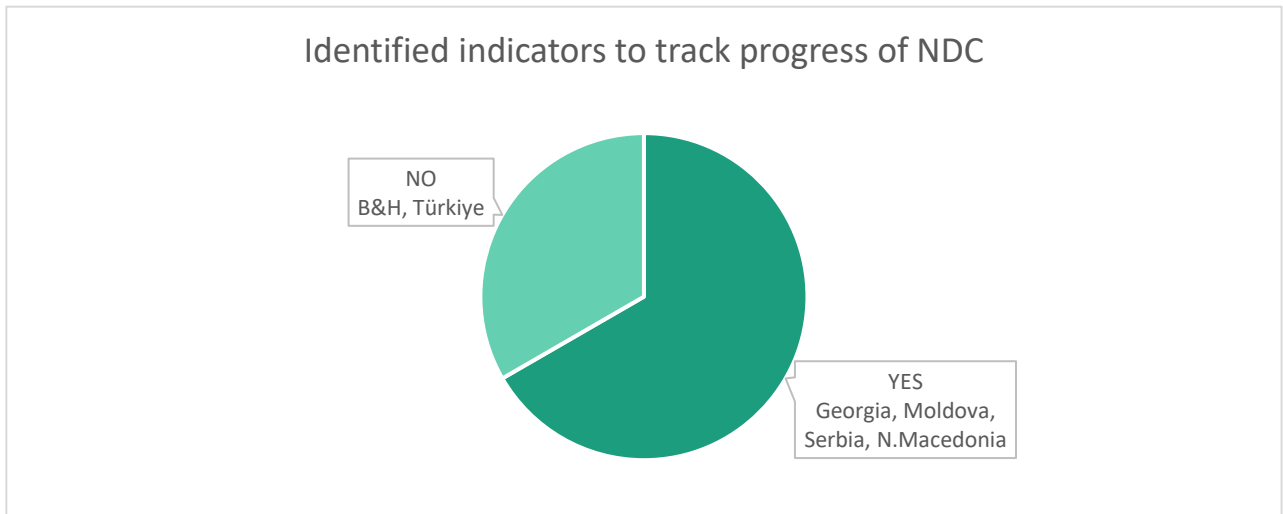


Regarding the familiarity of the technical personnel with those modeling tools, four respondents noted that the technical personnel is ‘not remarkably’ familiar with those modeling tools, while in two countries the technical personnel is ‘familiar’. However, no country indicated that their staff is “very familiar”. This further indicates the limited technical capacities of the countries in use of modelling tools and an expressed need for technical support.

4.4.4.2 Indicators to track progress towards the achievement of NDCs

Regarding NDC tracking, countries were asked if they identified relevant indicators to track progress towards the implementation and achievement of their NDCs. Four countries, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia and North Macedonia responded that have already identified indicators to track progress towards the implementation and achievement of NDCs. Specifically, Georgia has identified indicators related to measure energy savings and renewables development. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Türkiye responded that they had not developed indicators. to track progress towards the implementation and achievement of NDCs. Figure 12 illustrates the responses.

Figure 12: Indicators to track the progress towards NDC



4.4.5 Specific technical capacities related to Adaptation, Impacts and Loss & Damage

Since adaptation to climate change is gaining more and more importance due to the devastating effects of climate change, countries have increasingly noted their needs for specific action in that context. That consistently brings an increased need and demand for greater and more in-depth reporting on adaptation needs, priorities, plans, and actions and loss and damage. This section aims to identify the capacities in the Eurasia region in relation to reporting on adaptation, impacts and loss & damage.

4.4.5.1 Approaches, Methodologies and Tools for Impact, Risk and Vulnerability assessment

There are different tools and methodologies used by countries in the Eurasia in relation to adaptation, impacts and loss & damage. Countries were asked to explain which approaches, methodologies, and tools their country use to assess impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities to climate change. In this regard, Moldova has indicated that for the assessment of Impact, Risk and Vulnerability it needs more information and training related to methodologies and tools for assessment. The table below shows the responses of other countries:

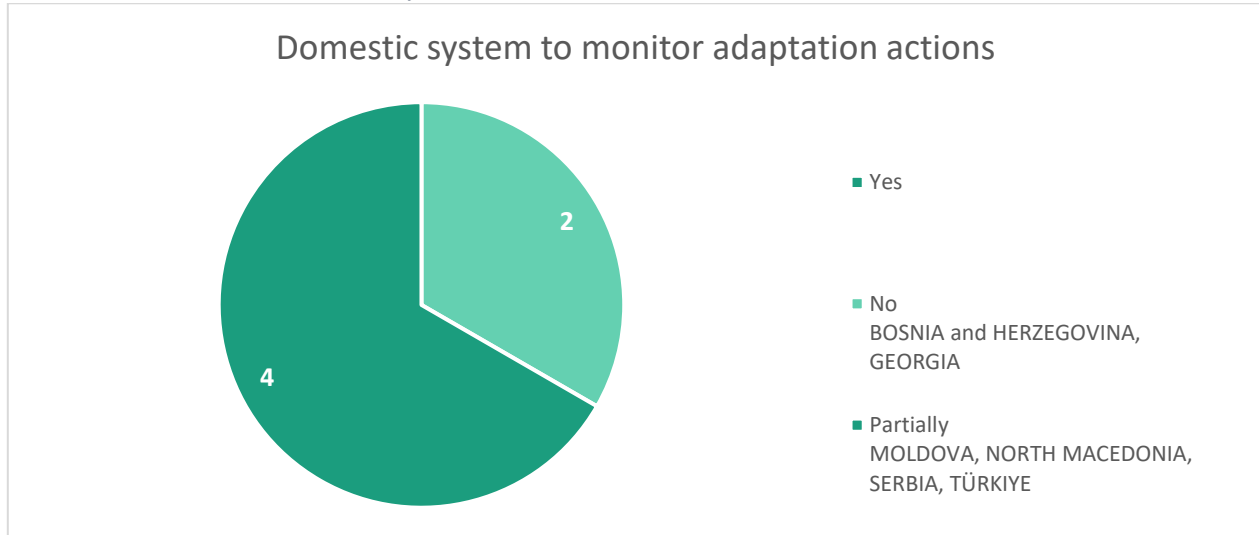
Table 3: Approaches, methodologies and tools countries use to assess impacts, risks and vulnerabilities to climate change.

Countries	Approaches, Methodologies and Tools Used
Georgia	<i>Scientific research, climate modeling tools, recorded data on natural hazards etc.</i>
Serbia	<i>All data will be available in the Climate Change Adaptation Programme (under preparation) and 3NC</i>
North Macedonia	<i>IPCC tools and methodologies, country-specific methods</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Vulnerability assessment</i>
Türkiye	<i>Türkiye's National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan has been upgraded for years 2023-2030, during this study GCM models results have been evaluated to assess impacts, risks and vulnerabilities to climate change.</i>

4.4.5.2 Domestic systems to monitor adaptation actions

Another question in the survey inquired about whether countries have established domestic systems to monitor and evaluate (M&E system) the implementation of their adaptation actions. Figure 13 below represents the responses.

Figure 13: Domestic systems to monitor adaptation actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye

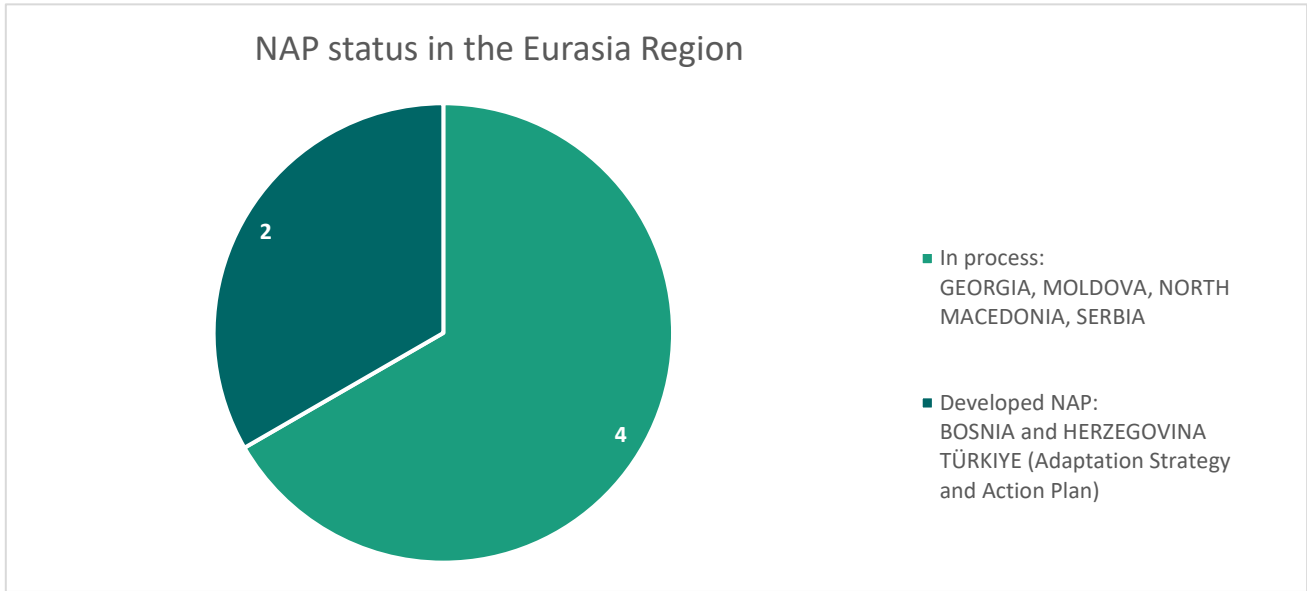


Despite the increased need for adaptation monitoring, not a single country stated that it has fully established domestic system to monitor and evaluate the implementation of adaptation actions. Four respondents, representatives from Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye, and North Macedonia indicated that have partially developed system in place to monitor their adaptation actions while Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina do not have system to monitor adaptation actions. This is an area where significant assistance can be provided to the countries.

4.4.5.3 Status of NAP in the Eurasia Region

The survey also inquired about countries’ status in the development of a National Adaptation Plan. Only one country from the Eurasia region (Bosnia and Herzegovina) responded to have already developed its National Adaptation Plan and submitted to it the UNFCCC while Türkiye has updated its National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for years 2023-2030. The other four countries highlighted that they are currently in the process of developing their NAP (Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Montenegro). Figure 14 below illustrates the responses from the six survey participants.

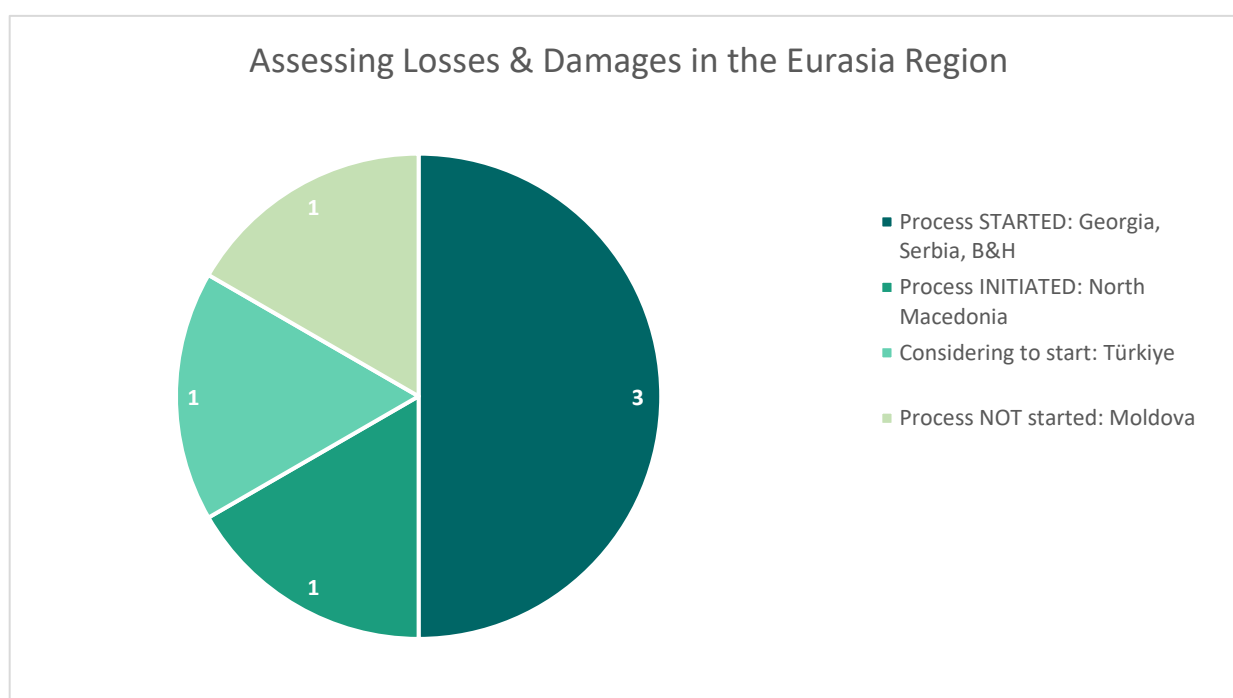
Figure 14: NAP Status in the Eurasia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye)



4.4.5.4 Assessing Losses and Damage in the Eurasia Region

The survey also asked if countries started assessing losses & damages or are considering doing so. Three countries out of six have started assessing losses & damages (Georgia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina). In Georgia, the climate finance working group is working on data gathering in the country, while in Serbia an assessment has started, and will be stipulated in a by-law. In North Macedonia the process of assessing losses & damages is initiated, while in Moldova not yet. Türkiye is considering starting assessing losses and damages.

Figure 15: Assessing Losses and Damages



4.4.6 Specific technical capacities related to reporting on support needed and received (financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building)

Under the ETF, developing countries should provide information in their BTRs on financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support needed and received. A proper tracking of international finance received is vital for countries as it will provide information on the different sources and amount of funds disbursed into the country for climate actions. With that, this section provides information about the technical capacities related to support needed and received in the countries of Eurasia.

4.4.6.1 Tracking of Climate Finance

The survey asked countries whether they track international climate finance received. Three out of five countries indicated that international climate finance received is tracked in their countries. The tracking of financial support is mainly coordinated by their Ministries of Finance. However, Georgia also reports that the system for the tracking of financial support is not at a satisfactory level. Responsibility for tracking is hereby placed under the (Project) Implementation Unit but the tracking is not done well at the level of the relevant ministry. This is an area where Georgia asked for support in capacity-building for tracking international finance they received. Serbia responded to not track international finance/support received. Also Türkiye has not reported its finance received and needed in previous reports and doesn't track finance needed for any plan. As the country confirmed, it is necessary to develop capacities to assess and report how much finance is needed to implement the climate plans and programs prepared by the country. . In general, based on the answers of six countries there is a need for capacity-building to improve transparency on support received for better national planning and for including this data in their transparency reports to the UNFCCC. Figure 16 below illustrates the responses from the six survey participants.

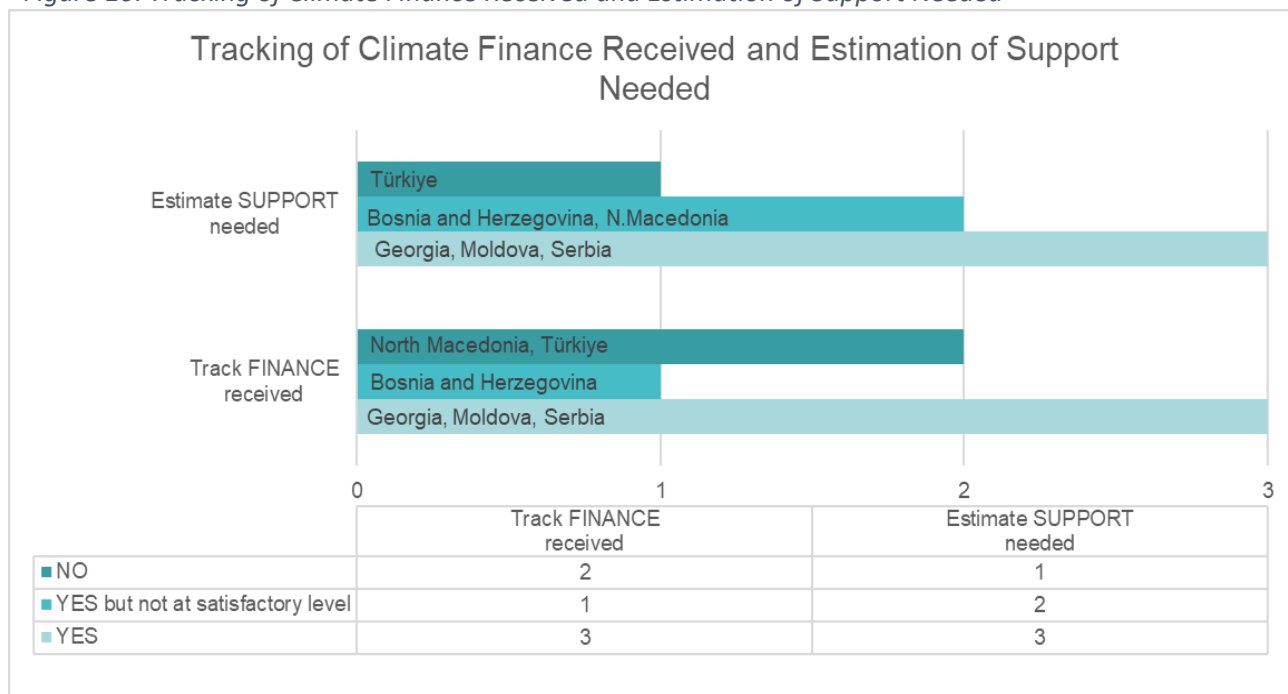
4.4.6.2 Estimation of Support Needed

The second part of the section asked the countries whether they estimate the support needed and to specify which area of support needed (financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building). Four countries (Georgia, Moldova, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) have indicated that they estimate support needed. Bosnia and Herzegovina also added that the process of estimation of support needed has to be underpinned with further assistance, through trainings for improvement of tools and methodologies for these estimations. North Macedonia responded that support needed is not fully estimated but they stated that technology development and transfer and capacity building is mostly needed in this context. Türkiye has not reported its finance received and support needed, but within the ETF process they will estimate and report its support needed.

When it comes to the second question inquiring on what areas of support are being estimated, only Moldova responded that they estimated finance need for each measure in the actions plans of programs.

Figure 16 below summarizes the responses on climate finance received and estimation of support needed from the six survey participants:

Figure 16: Tracking of Climate Finance Received and Estimation of Support Needed



4.5 Gender Mainstreaming

The COP 25 recognized that the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women in all aspects of the UNFCCC process and in national and local-level climate policy and action is vital for achieving long-term climate goals. Accordingly, the gender and climate change decision 3/CP. 25, paragraph 11 "Encourages Parties to appoint and provide support for a national gender and climate change focal point for climate negotiations, implementation and monitoring".

In the Eurasia region, seven out of eight countries have appointed a UNFCCC National Gender & Climate Change Focal Point: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye (source: UNFCCC).

This section of the survey asked countries to provide information on their efforts to integrate gender considerations as well as considerations for disadvantaged groups into their national Transparency System, including their NDC. Table 4 below shows the responses from the countries:

Table 4: Information on efforts of the countries to integrate gender considerations into the national Transparency System, including NDC

Countries	Efforts Undertaken
Georgia	Country collects sex disaggregated data in the national Transparency System through the NC, BUR, and other reporting instruments. Specific gender-responsive indicators are being monitored in relation to climate actions/measures/projects. Gender analysis and sex disaggregated data is actively analyzed to influence climate policy, planning, and reporting.
Moldova	Country collects sex disaggregated data in the national Transparency System through the NC, BUR, and other reporting instruments.
Serbia	Gender analysis and sex disaggregated data is actively analyzed to influence climate policy, planning, and reporting. Country supports inclusive approaches in analyzing the impacts of climate change and benefits of climate actions for the disadvantaged groups.
North Macedonia	Specific gender-responsive indicators are being monitored in relation to climate actions/measures/projects. Country supports inclusive approaches in analyzing the impacts of climate change and benefits of climate actions for the disadvantaged groups.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Country has undertaken capacity-building for gender mainstreaming and inclusive processes for disadvantaged groups through the NDC indicators, Transparency Systems and/or other reporting instruments/processes. Country supports inclusive approaches in analyzing the impacts of climate change and benefits of climate actions for the disadvantaged groups.
Türkiye	Country has undertaken capacity-building for gender mainstreaming and inclusive processes for disadvantaged groups through the NDC indicators, Transparency Systems and/or other reporting instruments/processes. Within ETF process Türkiye is planning to report climate change issues, research and systemic observation, education, training and public awareness related to gender mainstreaming.

The results indicate that countries in Eurasia are at an advanced stage when it comes to gender mainstreaming including through supporting gender equality, sex disaggregated data, and dedicated indicators to influence climate policy, planning, and reporting. Nevertheless, Moldova stressed that activities need to be strengthened further and noted the need for trainings on gender actions.

4.6 Support needs identified by Eurasia Network members

Enhancing climate transparency is one of the most important tools in informing the Global Stocktake at the international level and contributing to streamlined, evidence-based policies at the national level. The ETF marks significant advancement in reporting provisions for developing countries. However, more strict reporting requires more resources and capacities and represents new challenges for most developing countries.

Enhancing capacities for transparency is therefore a priority for countries, particularly with their efforts to transition to the new ETF provisions. The priorities for transparency support highlighted by the countries of Eurasia in the survey results were summarized as follows:

Institutional Capacity-building: Three countries expressed the need for building institutional capacities for reporting (Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia), and work with the UNFCCC and with climate funds (Moldova), exchange of good practices as well as for the implementation of climate-related EU Directives (North Macedonia) while Bosnia and Herzegovina requested support for development of ETF related legal framework. Most countries in the Eurasia Network expressed the need to strengthen their capacities for transparency reporting (e.g., through trainings), support for operationalization of the transparency system and accompanying IT tools, preparation/capacity building of all relevant stakeholders, preparation of legal framework for reporting and development of UNFCCC reports.

Technical Capacity-building: Georgia needs support to enhance data collection in the LULUCF sector, to improve data archiving systems and estimations of carbon sinks. Bosnia and Herzegovina requested support in the area of GHG Inventory and in **tracking and reporting on policies and measures**. Moldova and Türkiye require support for **tracking of climate finance** received. In addition, Türkiye needs support for **NDC tracking** in general.

The table below summaries priorities and needs of Eurasia countries:

Table 5 Analysis of the priority support needed for Eurasia Network

Country	ETF	GHG Inventory	NDC Tracking	Adaptation and Impacts	Loss and Damage	Support needed and received	Other/Specific
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-ETF provisions and reporting within the BTR	-GHG inventory (LULUCF, transport, buildings) and related policies, - Review of GHG Inventory -MRV Systems (best practices)	-NDC reporting -Tracking and reporting on policies and measures				Development of QA/QC
Georgia	-	-The key category analysis -Applying 2006 IPCC Guidelines for the LULUCF sector -Data gathering and estimations of carbon sinks -Improvement of archiving systems				-Capacity-building for tracking international finance received -Increase capacity for working with climate funds	
Moldova	- Institutional and individual capacity building for reporting (1) and working within the UNFCCC -Reporting templates-CTFs	-Development of unified database for reporting		-Capacity building to assess impacts, risks and vulnerabilities to climate change			-Gender actions -CBIT preparation and implementation experiences
Montenegro	- Institutional and individual capacity building for reporting	-Applying 2006 Guidelines for the LULUCF sector	-Capacity building for NDC tracking, GHG emission projections - MRV systems and data management: Best international practices			- Capacity building for tracking and reporting climate finance	-Climate projections
North Macedonia	-ETF/BTR provisions						-Capacity strengthening, Implementing EU Directives, Exchange of good practices.
Serbia	-Capacity building on ETF reporting provisions -Operationalization of the transparency system and its accompanying IT tool,		-NDC tracking and reporting -Operationalization of the MRV system			-Tracking and reporting of finance received	



Türkiye

<i>-Capacity building of all relevant stakeholders</i>						
<i>- Preparation of legal acts and UNFCCC reports</i>						
		<i>-NDC Tracking and reporting</i>			<i>-Climate Finance tracking and reporting</i>	

5 Conclusions and Recommendations

The capacity needs assessment conducted for the countries of the Eurasian Network shows that there are large and specific support needs related to transparency. Given that all countries are transitioning to the ETF and with the submission deadline of the first BTRs at the end of 2024, the countries in the Eurasian network have expressed the need for further capacity building and technical support to improve transparency within their national framework and meet the new reporting requirements. According to countries' responses, their countries national systems of transparency require minor to major improvements, especially in the area of institutional arrangements, which in most countries have been assessed as "fair". At the same time, not a single country reported having an established and fully functional national Transparency System.

When it comes to the transition to the ETF and the preparation of the first BTR, all countries (Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Türkiye) have already requested financing from the GEF for their first BTR, while the projects for the preparation of the BTR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Georgia, and Serbia have already been approved.

Countries in the Eurasia Network face several challenges regarding implementing the ETF, including a lack of data and data management as well as lack of institutional and technical capacities, lack of coordination and general understanding of transparency by the governmental institutions, and an ad-hoc approach to reporting. Regarding capacities related to the four ETF reporting areas, GHG inventory is the area with the highest level of capacities. All other areas of reporting (NDC tracking, adaptation and impact, loss and damage, and support needed and received) require significant support and the strengthening of technical capacities to collect data and track progress. Supporting strong institutional arrangements for transparency, including legal settings, will be an important first step in some countries in Eurasia.

The countries in Eurasia stated different priority support areas for the ETF including general training on the ETF, but also more specifically capacity-building for NDC tracking, climate finance tracking and reporting, tracking and reporting of climate policies and measures, LULUCF sector data management and estimations of carbon sinks, and in general, institutional and individual capacity building for transparent reporting. Tracking of NDCs, including the definition of targets and indicators, is another identified area for support. Building technical capacity to monitor adaptation and assess losses and damages is equally important, as is monitoring of support needed and received.

The integration of gender issues into the national Transparency System is also of key importance and countries in Eurasia have undertaken multiple steps towards gender mainstreaming within climate transparency and climate change. This includes efforts to promote the involvement of all genders in climate change initiatives and support inclusive approaches in analyzing the impacts of climate change and the benefits of climate actions. However, some countries have expressed the need for further strengthening these activities including the need for training on gender actions in climate change. It is also important to note that most countries have nominated UNFCCC Gender Focal Points, which shows that this issue is given high priority.

Despite progress in some areas of reporting, given their similar circumstances, shortcomings, and challenges they still face, countries can share lessons learned from their past transparency efforts and benefit from mutual learning and exchange of knowledge and experiences in the region.

Although transparency support has already been provided to the countries of Eurasia through the activities of numerous organizations such as UNEP, UNDP, FAO, EEA and GIZ, they require further support in to fill gaps and shortcomings that remained from the previous period and for the upcoming ETF requirements.

Therefore, the support of the CBIT-GSP project responding to the above-mentioned needs could be of key importance in bridging the existing gaps in reporting and significantly supporting the transition to reporting according to ETF requirements.