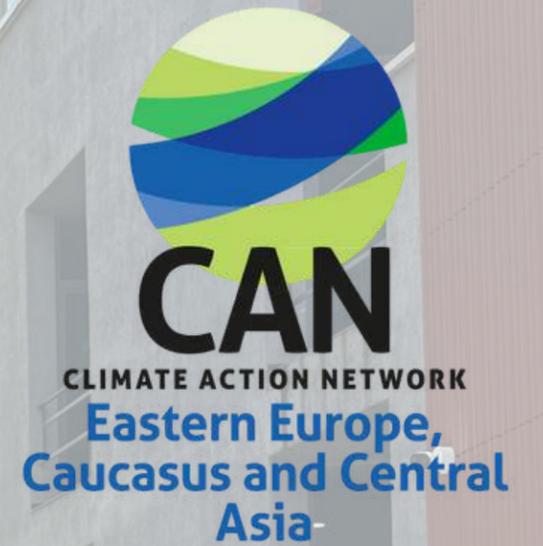


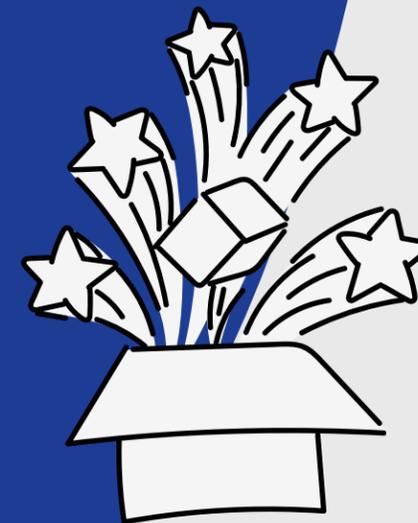
CAN EECCA Public Report 2024



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INTRODUCTION FROM THE BOARD OF CAN EECCA

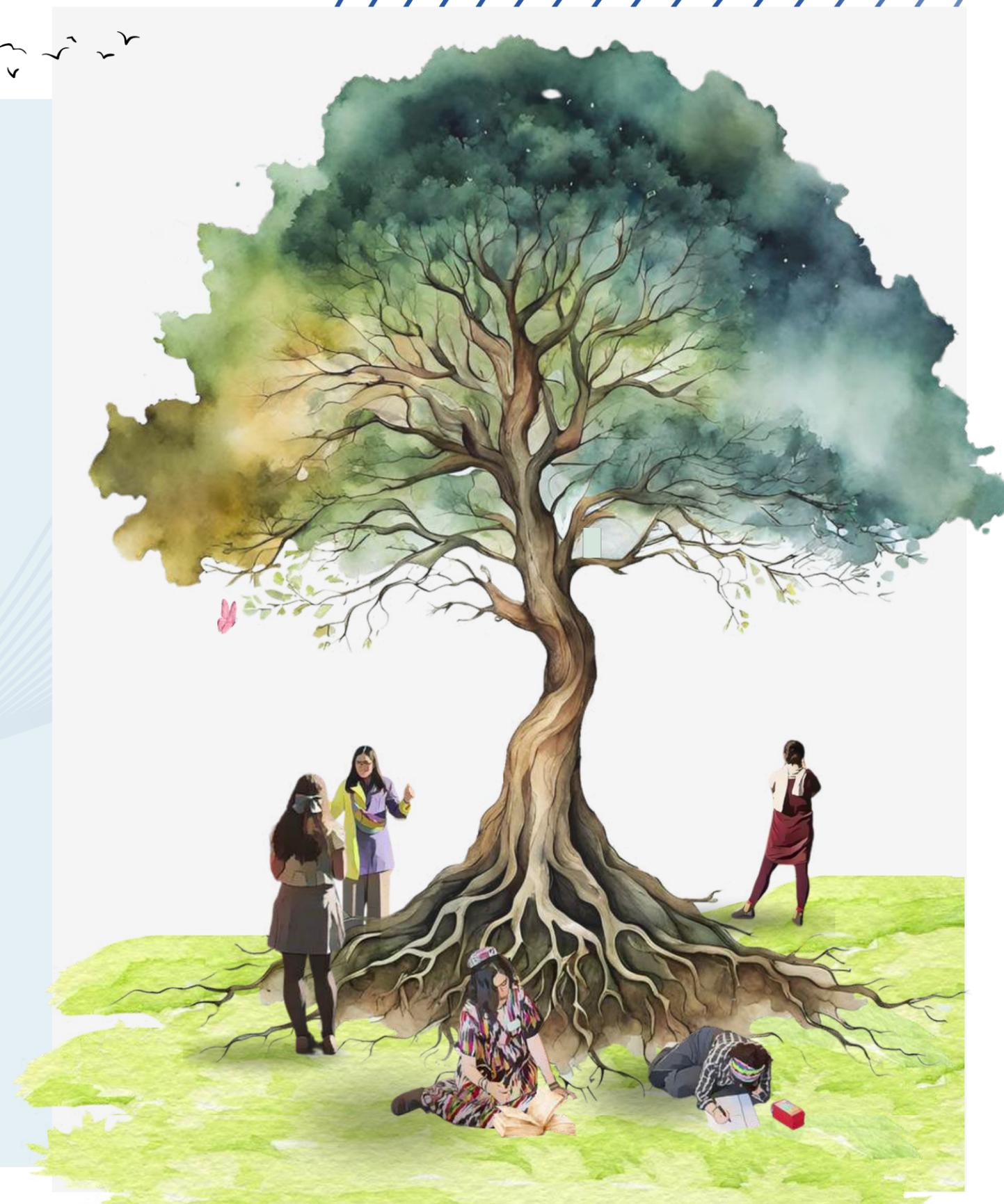


For CAN EECCA, the year 2024 is not just another milestone in the history of our network. This year has turned out to be a real test of strength, solidarity and faith in the values that unite us.

Civil society in our region is facing unprecedented challenges: pressure on freedom of speech, limited space for action, and increasing geopolitical instability. But it is in times like these that the true power of community emerges. It is then that the words “support”, “mutual assistance”, “sustainability” acquire their real weight.

CAN EECCA is not just a network of organizations. These are people who, despite everything, continue to do the impossible: organize trainings for students and journalists, involve new partners in climate initiatives, conduct advocacy campaigns in the face of censorship, create local solutions where a crisis of trust is growing.

In this report we want to do more than just list our achievements. We want to talk about those who choose to act every day.



About those who turn knowledge into a force for change. Who builds bridges instead of walls. Who believes that justice is possible - even when the world around becomes more and more unpredictable.

We're proud of how our network is even more connected and vibrant in 2024.

We held dozens of meetings, supported initiatives in various parts of the region, expanded our influence on international platforms and, most importantly, preserved the atmosphere of mutual support and respect that has always been our strength.

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A special place this year was dedicated to “Climate Dialogues” and initiatives within the framework of mini-grants for members of our network. These are stories that inspire: how young activists in Moldova studied citizen monitoring of air quality, how an interdisciplinary school of art and science was held in Kazakhstan, how the first environmental journalism course was created in Uzbekistan, and examples of women's leadership in adapting to a changing climate were found in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Karakalpakstan.

These are important steps that together add up to a powerful wave of change.

We are proud of the voice of CAN EECCA at COP29 in Baku.

Our network didn't just participate—we initiated dialogue, raised issues of justice, spoke openly about the rights of vulnerable communities, and insisted on transparent decisions. We have shown the world that civil society not only exists in the EECCA region, it is actively shaping the future.

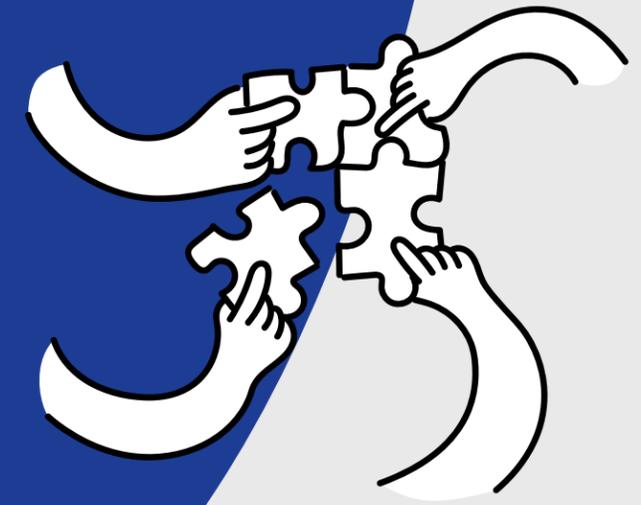
Of course, the path forward will not be easy. New challenges await us. But we have the main thing: a community of people who believe in the power of solidarity, in the value of justice and in the need for action here and now.

On behalf of the CAN EECCA Board, we would like to thank all network members, partners and allies. Thank you for your courage, for your perseverance, for your faith in the best.

Head of the CAN EECCA Board,
Maria Kolesnikova



WHO ARE WE AND WHAT WE WORK FOR



CAN EECCA is an independent, informal network of organizations and activists operating in 11 countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

We are not legally registered, but our voice is heard, our actions are visible, and our influence grows every year.

Our mission is to support the region's civil society, strengthen its voice in national and international climate policy, and advance the principles of climate justice.

We are united by values:

- 🌱 Climate justice
- 🌱 Horizontal leadership
- 🌱 Solidarity and mutual assistance
- 🌱 Nonviolence
- 🌱 Protecting climate activists



The coordination of EECCA CAN occurs through the work of the Council and the Secretariat. The main decision-making body is the General Assembly of Members.

The organization's **Board** in 2024 included:



Nugzar
Kohreidze,
RICDOG, Georgia



Anisa
Abibbuloeva,
Little Earth,
Tajikistan



Maria
Kolesnikova,
MoveGreen,
Kyrgyzstan



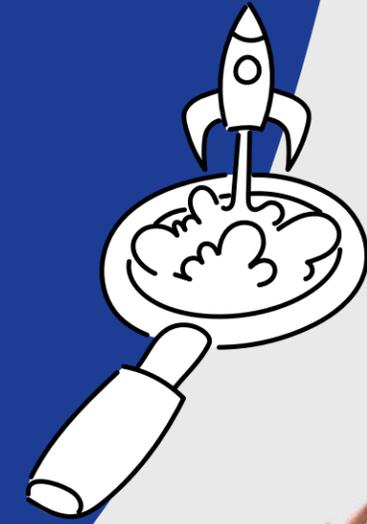
Irina Ponedelnik,
Green Network,
Belarus



Natalia Kravchuk,
Gutta-Club,
Moldova

In 2024, CAN EECCA included 57 NGOs from 11 countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Unfortunately, due to the persecution that many NGOs in our region face, not all members of the organization can be mentioned publicly, as this would put them at risk.

NETWORK IN ACTION 2024



2024 has become a time of true solidarity.

We held more than 15 regular meetings online, discussed strategic plans, coordinated actions in climate policy, and supported each other in difficult moments.

CAN EECCA in numbers:



15+ Online Network Meetings



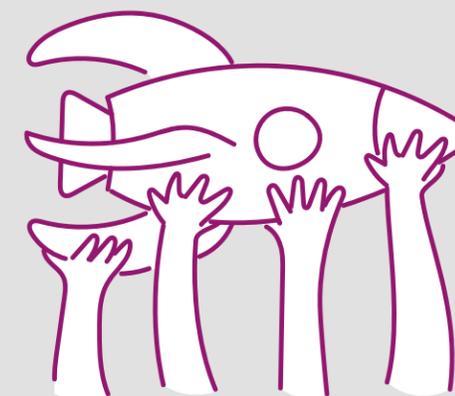
7 Supported Mini-grant Initiatives



6 Regional Webinars



100+ joint publications with network members



2 million people are covered by communication campaigns

Our network is a vibrant community where every voice, every idea, and every contribution matters.

CLIMATE DIALOGUE WITHOUT BORDERS: PARTICIPANTS' STORIES



In 2024 the program "**Climate Dialogues**" has become not just an educational initiative, but a real platform for interregional cooperation, exchange of experience and joint creation of media materials reflecting climate challenges and solutions in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

In May 2024, a three-day seminar was held in Tbilisi, bringing together 22 participants from 11 countries in the region. The program included:

- 🌱 Training sessions on climate policy, storytelling, data visualization and communications.
- 🌱 Field visits to study real environmental problems such as air pollution in Rustavi.
- 🌱 A peer-to-peer mentoring program where participants became both mentors and mentees, creating collaborative media materials under the guidance of experienced mentors.





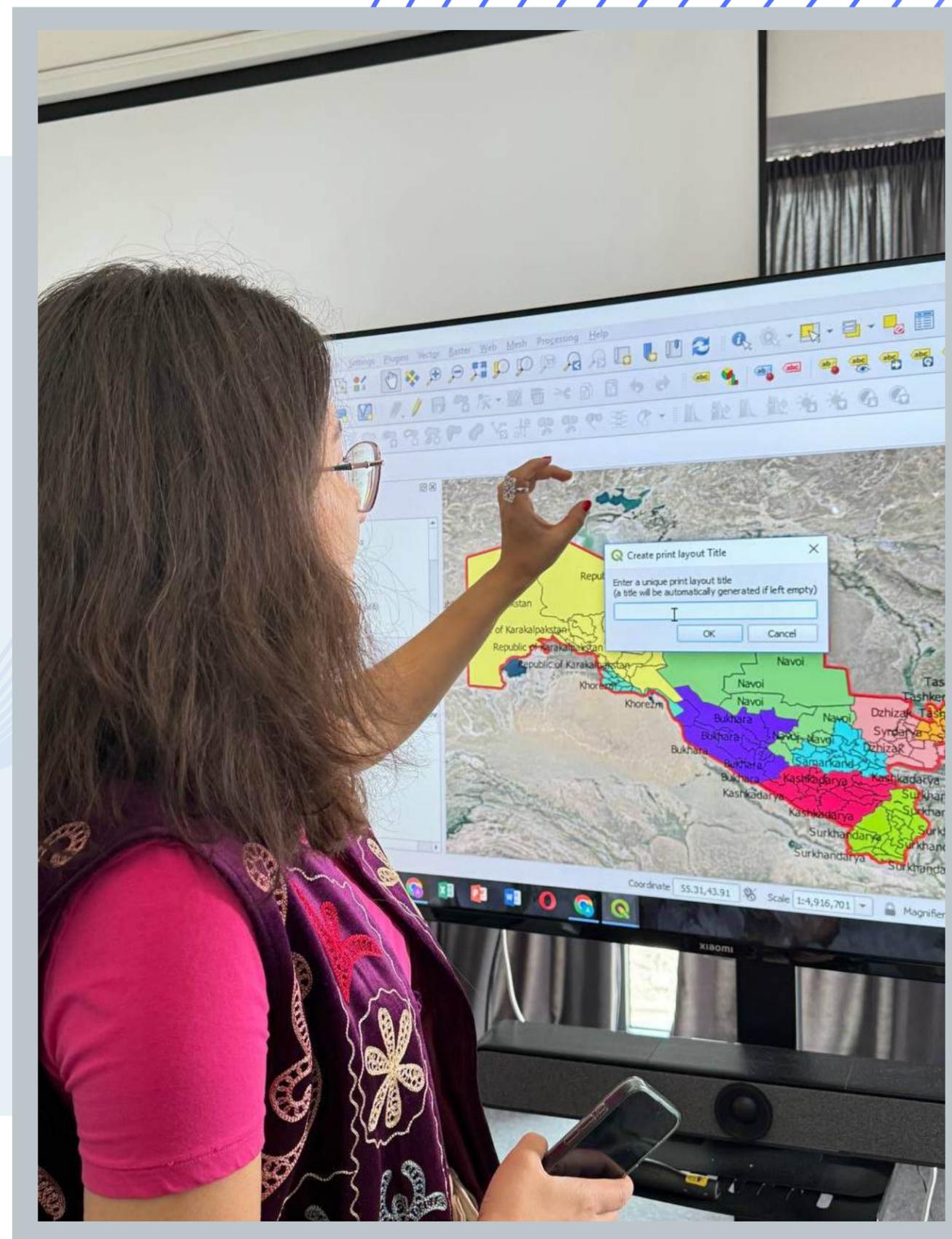
Climate Dialogue participants worked on a variety of topics, including:

- 🌱 Just transition and social justice.
- 🌱 Climate adaptation and vulnerability.
- 🌱 Green recovery.
- 🌱 The role of civil society in combating climate change.
- 🌱 Decolonial approaches to climate action.

The result is publications that reflect the unique perspectives and challenges of the region:

- 🌱 **Experts from Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan analyzed** how women's leadership contributes to the development of effective climate adaptation practices.
- 🌱 **Participants from the youth initiative "Rozviy"** wrote an article about the prospects for a green recovery in post-war Ukraine, emphasizing the role of civil society in this process.

- 🌱 **Activists from Central Asia researched** The role of civil society organizations in ensuring a just and green transition, focusing on the inclusion of marginalized communities.
- 🌱 **Experts from Armenia and Kazakhstan** explored fair energy topics **transition** and personal journey into environmental **advocacy**, presenting stories from their countries.
- 🌱 **Activists from Moldova** raised the problem of **air pollution** in Chisinau, presenting the results of air quality monitoring and emphasizing the importance of public participation in solving environmental problems.
- 🌱 **Activists from Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan researched** traditional Turkic environmental practices and the impact of colonialism on climate change, presenting a Climate Justice Compass model for tailoring climate action to different populations.





The 2024 Climate Dialogues demonstrated the power of interregional cooperation and the importance of including diverse voices on the climate agenda.

The materials produced not only enriched national discourses, but also contributed to global understanding of climate challenges and solutions, highlighting the uniqueness and diversity of the EECCA region.

We are now developing a network of alumni and are open to new partnerships to continue the impact of Climate Dialogues in the EECCA region.

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL IMPACT: RESULTS OF MINIGRANTS FOR EECCA CAN MEMBERS





In April 2024, CAN EECCA launched an open call for **mini-grants** aimed at increasing the ability of network members to influence the climate agenda in their countries and promote practical solutions to climate problems.

Based on the results of the competition, four initiatives were selected, each of which received funding in the amount of 2,000 euros.

These projects have become real examples of how local actions can influence global processes.

Belarus: School of Climate Leadership

The Belarusian NGO "**Green Network**" organized School of Climate Leadership is an online program aimed at preparing youth from Eastern Partnership countries to participate in international climate processes, including COP29 in Baku.

From July 1 to August 2, 2024, more than 300 participants attended interactive seminars led by experts and regional activists on the role of youth in climate policy, fundraising for participation in negotiations, and the regional specifics of EECCA.

One of the main achievements of the project was the writing of six youth NDC statements for Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Additionally, the program touched on the topics of climate health, migration, social justice and gender, attracting more than 7,000 views via Instagram livestreams.

"The school helped lay a solid foundation for the sustainable participation of the region's youth in international climate advocacy," said organizer Irina Ponedelnik.





Uzbekistan: Climate journalism for students

The organization "Ecologist" from Uzbekistan focused on developing the capacity of young journalists in the field of climate communication. Two-day trainings were held for students of the University of Journalism and Mass Communications and the Uzbekistan State University of World Languages.

Training topics included:

- coverage of climate issues in the media
- international and national experience of adaptation to climate change,
- working with sources of information.

40 students participated in practical exercises and developed climate media materials. Moreover, as part of the project, a full-fledged course program "Journalism and Climate Change" of 8 modules was created, which will be introduced into university curricula in 2025.

"Access to expert knowledge on climate for young journalists is the foundation for accurate and responsible reporting of the most important challenges of our time," said organizer Nargis Kosimova.

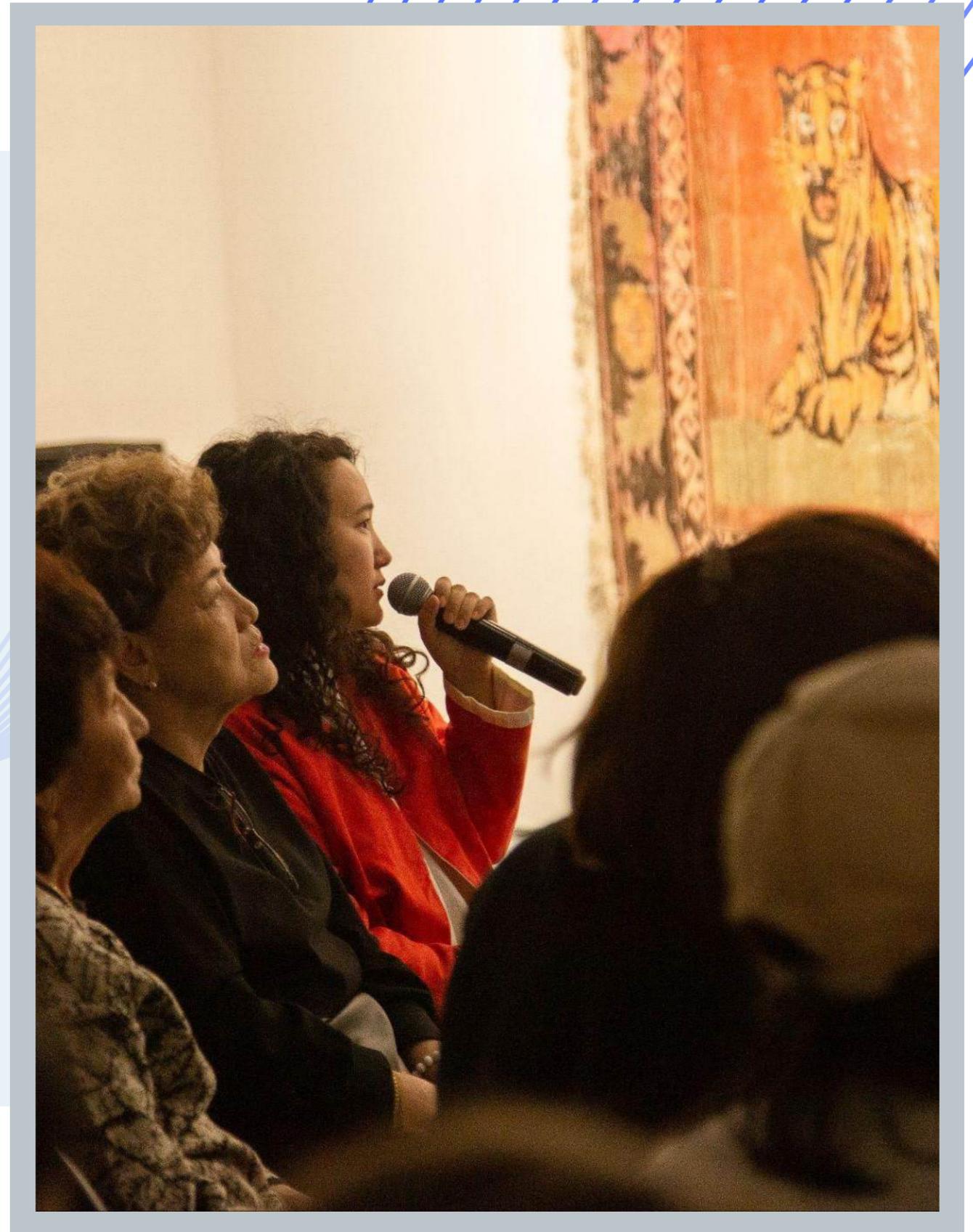
Kazakhstan: Art and climate in Balkhash

The Artcom platform from Kazakhstan implemented the project **Art Collider Balkhash x Almaty**, who combined art and science to save the unique ecosystem of Lake Balkhash.

At the two-day school and exhibition, organized jointly with the Balqashqa Qamqor Initiative and Aspan Gallery, 14 experts from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan spoke about the threats posed by water scarcity, climate change and the need to transition to sustainable water management.

More than 60 participants - activists, researchers, cultural figures and students - discussed ways to protect the ecosystems of Balkhash and the Balkhash-Alakol basin.

The project emphasized that water conservation is not only an environmental, but also a cultural task that requires the involvement of the entire society.





Armenia and Georgia: Transboundary climate doctrine

NGO Khazer from Armenia, together with Georgian organizations Ecovision and Green Regions, launched an ambitious project to develop innovative climate cooperation doctrines.

The project included:

- comparative analysis of national climate policies of Armenia and Georgia,
- assessing the compliance of local initiatives with the requirements of the Paris Agreement,
- development of the concept of transboundary interaction based on the ecosystem approach and principles of environmental integrity.

"Our questions to ourselves are simple: why haven't we learned to take care of the planet together? And how can we change this - starting with our local communities?" - noted the organizers.

These four initiatives clearly showed that when civil society has the support and resources in its hands, change is possible.

CAN EECCA mini-grants are an investment in the leaders of tomorrow, in ideas that start with local action and reach global processes.

OUR VOICE AT COP29 IN BAKU



The **UN COP29 climate talks**, held in Baku in November 2024, became a historic event for the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region.

For CAN EECCA, this was not just an opportunity to be heard - it was a moment when the **voice of the region's civil society** was truly heard on the global stage.

CAN EECCA played an active role:

- Coordinated the work of civil society in the region before and during the negotiations.
- Helped prepare positions for national delegations.
- Organized three official side events as part of the COP program.
- Held actions in support of climate justice.
- Actively worked in the coalitions CAN International and Climate.
- Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.





Key topics of our work:

- 🌱 The need for equitable, debt-free climate finance for countries in the region.
- 🌱 Supporting vulnerable and marginalized communities in climate change processes.
- 🌱 Defending the principles of transparency and inclusiveness in negotiations.
- 🌱 The need for real steps to phase out fossil fuels.

More than 30 participants from CAN EECCA attended COP29 in Baku: activists, NGO representatives, researchers.

They took part:

- 🌱 In panel discussions.
- 🌱 In negotiations at the working group level.
- 🌱 In public events.
- 🌱 In media work, covering what is happening for a regional audience.

CAN EECCA liaised with national delegations and also provided financial support for 5 network delegates, ensuring wider representation and influence.

This allowed the Network to host 15 side events and sessions to share experiences at COP29, including the sessions “Just Transition in Central Asia”, “Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Asia: Solutions for People.” and “Climate policy and the aspect of decolonization in the EECCA region.”

The media wrote about CAN EECCA and our members at least 40 times during COP29, including publications such as Bloomberg, Cabar.Asia and ABC media.

At COP29 in Baku, CAN EECCA proved that civil society in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region does not just exist. It sets the agenda, advocates for the rights of its communities, and fights for justice where it is needed most.



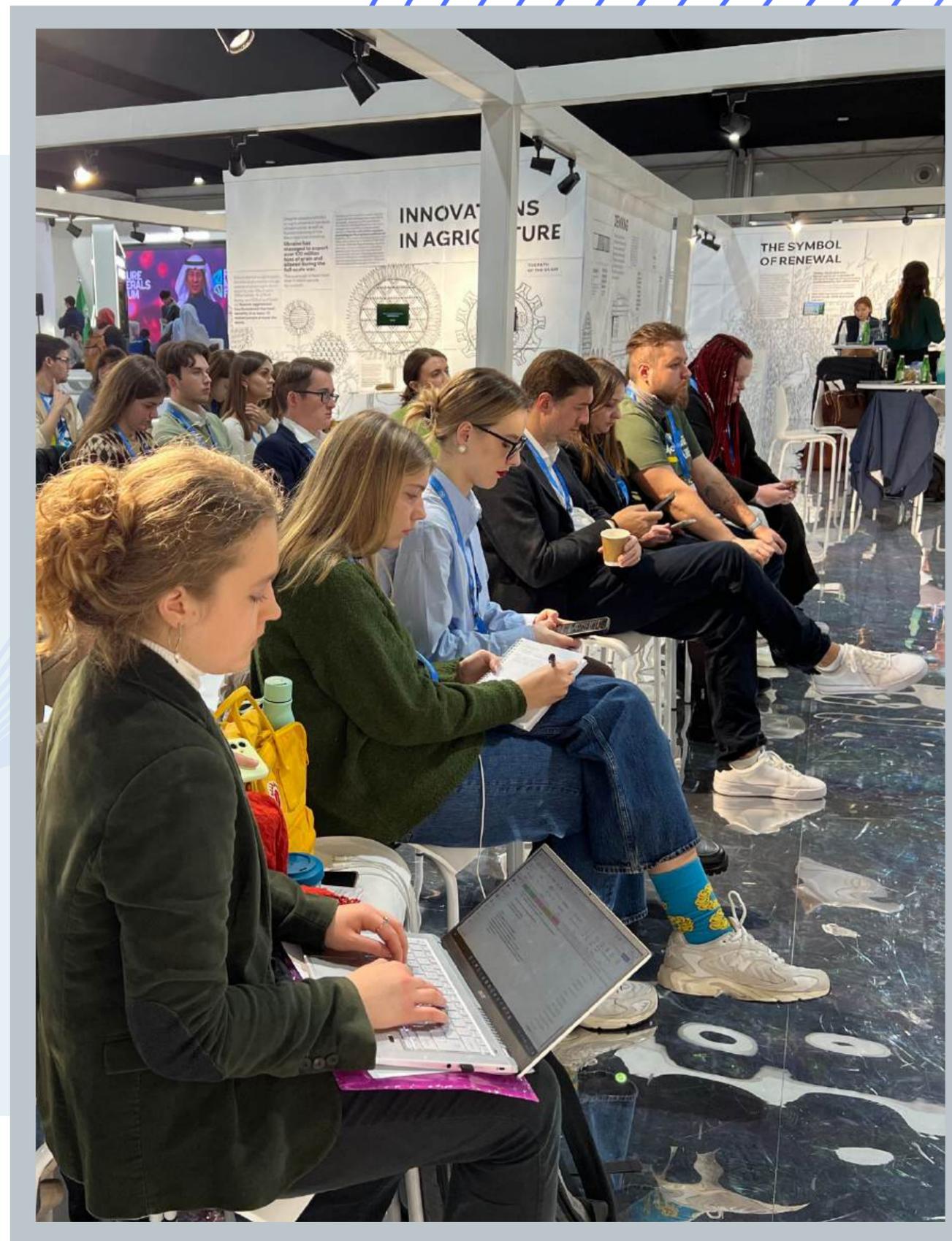
PARTNERSHIPS AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE



In 2024, we actively built bridges of cooperation with international and regional organizations.

Our key partnerships:

- 🌱 **Webinars** and media campaigns with a focus on climate adaptation in cities and agriculture in EECCA countries.
- 🌱 Collaboration with BUND and FES on the Climate Dialogues project.
- 🌱 Participation in the global campaign **#WorldWeWant**, where we told the world about the climate problems of the region.
- 🌱 Partnership with CEE Bankwatch to promote renewable energy and build the capacity of network members.



CLIMATE JUSTICE IS OUR COMMON GOAL





Climate justice is not just a slogan for CAN EECCA. This is practical work under pressure, threats and restrictions.

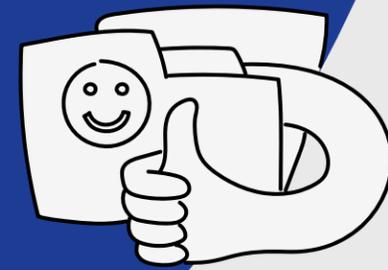
In 2024:

- 🌱 we continued to defend the right of civil society to participate in climate policy;
- 🌱 built up internal expertise through training and experience exchange;
- 🌱 worked to ensure that the voices of vulnerable groups were heard at all levels - from local communities to global negotiating tables.

Why is this important: In our region, many environmental organizations face attempts to discredit, restrict their activities, or even repress.

But we know that without a vibrant civil society, it is impossible to achieve fair climate policies or real change.

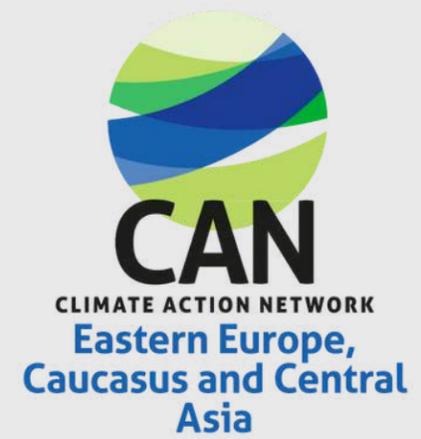
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



CAN EECCA expresses its sincere gratitude to:

- 🌱 **Network members and our community**— for courage, professionalism and faith in change.
- 🌱 **Partners** — for joint projects, support for initiatives and solidarity.
- 🌱 **Donors** — for investments in the development of sustainable civil society in the region.
- 🌱 **International allies** — for the fact that our voice sounds louder and further.

Thanks to you, climate justice in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia is becoming not a dream, but a reality.



CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK
EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

 <https://canecca.org/en/>

 can.eecca@gmail.com

Designed by Mariam Kvaratskhelia

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