



# CAN EECCA 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

# 1. INTRODUCTION FROM THE BOARD OF CAN EECCA

**2025 became a year for CAN EECCA that we will remember not for outward shine or loud achievements, but for the amount of inner work, doubt, and quiet resilience it contained. It was a year of transition and restructuring—a year when the familiar support system disappeared, and we had to rebuild from scratch the rhythm and logic of how the network operates.**



Maria Kolesnikova MoveGreen

After the departure of the coordinator who had carried the architecture of CAN EECCA for many years, coordination temporarily fell on the shoulders of the Board. It was a vulnerable period marked by overload, uncertainty, and decisions that had to be made on the fly. We learned, made mistakes, reworked things, and at times doubted ourselves, but we did not fall apart or retreat into the shadows. It was precisely through this process that it became truly clear that CAN EECCA is not about one person or formal roles, but about people who are willing to take responsibility for one another and for the shared cause.

Civil society in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia continues to operate in conditions where the space for action is shrinking, pressure is increasing, and instability has become almost a constant backdrop. In such a reality, resilience ceases to be a word from presentations and strategies and turns into a daily practice: the ability to support one another, to stay in dialogue, and to continue doing the work even when it feels like strength and resources are steadily diminishing.

In 2025, we not only continued our projects and initiatives, but also devoted significant time to strengthening the very foundations of the network's existence. We adopted four key documents: the Code of Ethics, the Regulation on Membership and Elections, the "CAN EECCA Friends" policy, and the Crisis Management Guidelines (all available are on website).

These are not formal documents created for reporting purposes, but the result of long, and at times challenging, conversations about rules, responsibility, boundaries, protection, and how we support one another in crisis situations. At its core, this was a conversation about what kind of network we want to be going forward, and how to avoid losing ourselves under conditions of pressure and uncertainty.

We continued to approach climate policy in the countries of the region not as a set of figures and technical language, but as a matter of justice and real-life consequences for people. We spoke about national climate commitments, a just transition, and the rights of vulnerable groups, and we supported initiatives by network members where expertise was translated into concrete action and local work into tangible impact.

Despite limited resources and internal changes, we maintained an international presence. The voice of CAN EECCA was heard at COP30 in Belém at a time that was far from convenient for the network, but we were not there simply to tick a box. It mattered to us that the EECCA region did not disappear from the climate map and that the voice of civil society remained heard.

2025 was not an easy or comfortable year, but it was an honest one. It was a year in which the network did not fall apart, fall silent, or retreat into the shadows, but continued to live and work under changed conditions—with a different rhythm, greater vulnerability, and at the same time stronger internal grounding.

New challenges lie ahead, and most likely even more uncertainty. But we have what matters most: a community of people who choose to stay, support one another, and continue to act—even when it is difficult.

On behalf of the CAN EECCA Board, I would like to thank all network members, partners, donors, and allies. Thank you for your patience, honesty, mutual support, and for staying close in moments when things do not go according to plan. For me, as Head of the Board, this year was a reminder that CAN EECCA is sustained not by documents or projects, but by people—and it is this that gives a sense that the network has a future.

**Head of the CAN EECCA Board**  
**Maria Kolesnikova**



## 2. WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE WORK FOR

**CAN EECCA is an independent, informal network of organizations and activists operating in 11 countries across Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.** We are not legally registered, but our voice is heard, our actions are visible, and our influence continues to grow each year.

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

We are united by **shared values**:

- climate justice,
- horizontal leadership,
- solidarity and mutual aid,
- nonviolence,
- protection of climate activists.

In 2025, CAN EECCA included 57 NGOs from 11 countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Unfortunately, due to the persecution faced by many NGOs in our region, not all member organizations can be publicly named, as doing so could put them at risk.

Coordination within CAN EECCA is carried out through the work of the Board and the Secretariat. The General Assembly of members is the organization’s main decision-making body.

**In 2025, the CAN EECCA Board consisted of:**

- Nugzar Kokhreidze, RICDOG, Georgia
- Anisa Abibbuloeva, Little Earth, Tajikistan
- Maria Kolesnikova, MoveGreen, Kyrgyzstan
- Iryna Ponedelnik, Green Network, Belarus
- Natalia Kravchuk, Gutta-Club, Moldova



The CAN EECCA Secretariat also gratefully notes that in 2025, together with network members, we adopted key documents that strengthen the transparency and sustainability of our work:

- Code of Ethics
- Regulation on Membership and Elections
- “Friends of the CAN EECCA Network” policy
- Crisis Management Guidelines

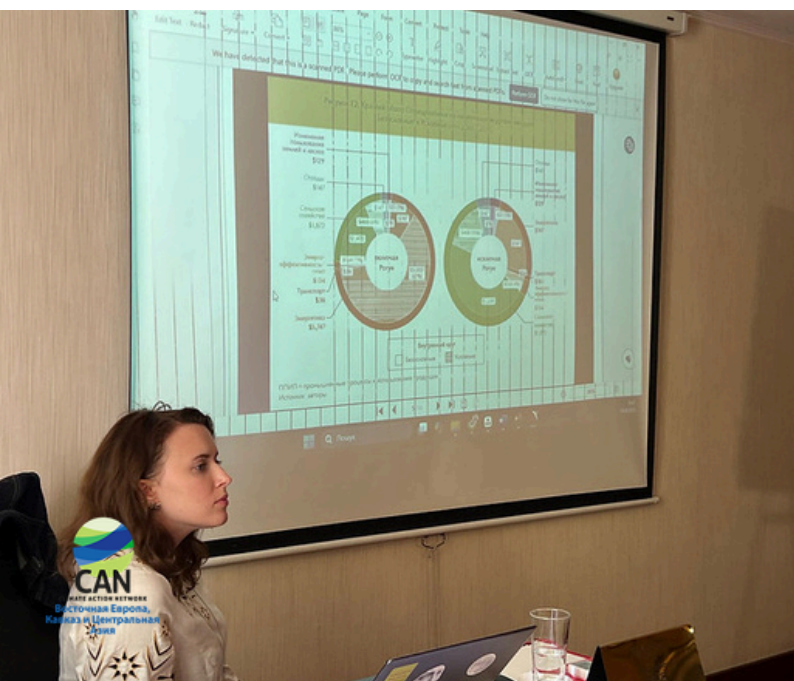
### 3. NETWORK IN ACTION 2025

For the network, 2025 became a year of adaptation and maintaining resilience under both internal and external pressure. In 2025, the network went through a managed transition period following the departure of the coordinator, who had held this role for six years. The temporary redistribution of coordination functions among Board members over a six-month period helped ensure institutional resilience, maintain decision-making processes, and minimize the impact of the transition on the network's activities.

#### CAN EECCA in numbers:

- **1 regional meeting in Almaty**
- **5 online meetings of network members**
- **3 supported mini-grant initiatives**
- **35 joint publications with network members**
- **1.5 million people reached through communication campaigns**

In 2025, the network operated amid internal changes, which affected the nature of interaction within the community and shifted greater responsibility for maintaining resilience to the governance level.



# OVERVIEW OF NDCs IN EECCA COUNTRIES: CLIMATE AMBITION, RIGHTS, AND A JUST TRANSITION

In 2025, the Climate Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (CAN EECCA), together with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), prepared an analytical review of the current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Moldova.

The publication contributed to strengthening the region's climate agenda and served as a tool to assess how well existing climate targets correspond to the scale of the crisis and to societal expectations.



## ОБНОВЛЕНИЕ ОНУВ В РЕГИОНЕ ВЕКЦА: ВЫВОДЫ ПО ОТДЕЛЬНЫМ СТРАНАМ



Ahead of COP30—the 30th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change—civil society in the region expected countries to present updated climate plans and strengthen their commitments. In response to this demand, CAN EECCA also developed recommendations for countries in the region, which are included in the publication and aimed at increasing the ambition and quality of climate policy.

The review examines not only quantitative emission reduction targets and strategic approaches in the energy sector, but also the broader context of climate governance, including:

- social justice and a just transition;
- the protection of human rights and public participation in decision-making;
- gender equality and consideration of the needs of vulnerable groups;
- institutional and governance barriers to sustainable change.

## Key Findings and Recommendations of the Study

**The analysis identified systemic vulnerabilities across the region.** The economies of many countries remain heavily dependent on fossil fuels, increasing risks both for the climate and for socio-economic stability. In addition, agriculture and water resources remain particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, while weak institutional frameworks and limited public participation reduce countries' capacity to respond effectively to crises.

**Among the priority steps, the authors of the review highlight the need to increase ambition in the new NDCs,** including the establishment of interim targets for 2030 and 2035. Key recommendations also include phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, accelerating the transition to renewable energy sources, and advancing energy efficiency as a core element of climate policy.

**A particular emphasis is placed on a just transition as a necessary condition for sustainable reforms.** This includes protecting employment and incomes for workers in vulnerable sectors, supporting women, youth, and local communities, and ensuring open, transparent, and inclusive decision-making processes in which people's voices become an integral part of climate policy rather than remaining outside it.

**The review was prepared with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES).**



## SUPPORT FOR INITIATIVES OF CAN EECCA NETWORK MEMBERS IN 2025

In June 2025, CAN EECCA announced an open call for mini-grants aimed at expanding the capacity of network members to influence the climate agenda in their countries and to promote practical solutions to climate challenges.

**Following the results of the call, three organizations were selected:**

- “Green Alliance KG”, Kyrgyzstan
- “Water Partnership of Kazakhstan” and “Climate for Us”, Kazakhstan
- NGO “Khazer”, Armenia

Each organization received funding in the amount of €2,000. These projects became vivid examples of how local action can contribute to and influence global processes.

**The small grants programme is implemented within the project “Commitment to Climate Protection in Kyrgyzstan and the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region,” funded by the international agency Bread for the World.**



## Kyrgyzstan: Discussion and Alignment of the Action Plan for the Implementation of NDC 3.0

The Public Association “Green Alliance KG” implemented a project aimed at supporting the implementation of Kyrgyzstan’s updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and strengthening civil society participation in the country’s climate policy.

From July to November 2025, the project brought together representatives of NGOs, the expert community, academia, business, and government institutions to analyze the measures outlined in NDC 3.0, develop proposals to strengthen them, and align priorities for civil society engagement.

As part of the project, an expert assessment of climate measures was conducted, along with working sessions and stakeholder consultations. Civil society proposals were developed across eight climate policy sectors, and a roadmap for the Green Alliance’s engagement in the implementation of NDC 3.0 for 2025–2026 was prepared.

The project contributed to strengthening cross-sectoral dialogue, increasing transparency, and integrating the principles of a just transition, gender inclusion, and the interests of vulnerable groups. As a result, the efforts of Alliance members were consolidated, and a sustainable expert capacity for public monitoring of Kyrgyzstan’s climate commitments was established.



## Kazakhstan: POST-LCOY — Youth Roundtables with Stakeholders

The Public Foundation “Water Partnership of Kazakhstan,” together with the youth climate organization “Climate for Us,” implemented a project aimed at strengthening dialogue between young people and key stakeholders in the fields of climate policy and sustainable development in Kazakhstan.

From July to November 2025, youth roundtables were held in four cities across the country, bringing together more than 100 participants. The programme included interactive workshops and simulations designed to build practical understanding of climate challenges.

As part of the project, cooperation was established with local and national authorities, including youth policy departments, natural resource departments, and the Republican State Enterprise “Kazhydromet.” Based on the outcomes of the roundtables, participants’ recommendations were collected to inform further initiatives and practical proposals.

A particular emphasis was placed on regional cooperation: partnerships were established with organizations from Pavlodar and Karaganda that are part of the CAN EECCA network.



## Armenia and Georgia: The Evolution of NDCs and Environmental Synergy

The NGO “Khazer,” with the support of CAN EECCA, implemented a project in Armenia and Georgia aimed at analyzing the evolution of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and promoting an integrated approach to climate policy.

One of the project’s key focus areas was promoting synergy between the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Participants emphasized the need for an integrated approach to climate, biodiversity, and land degradation issues, particularly at the local and transboundary levels.

As part of the project, seminars and working meetings were held in Yerevan, Gyumri, and Gavar, and cooperation was established with the academic community, Aarhus Centres, civil society organizations, and partners from Georgia.

The project concluded with a joint conference in Gyumri involving Armenian and Georgian NGOs, where the results were presented and the role of civil society and mechanisms for public participation in climate policy were discussed.



## OUR VOICE AT COP30 IN BELÉM

In 2025, CAN EECCA's participation in the UN climate negotiations at COP30 in Belém (Brazil) became a continuation of the **network's systematic work** to ensure the presence and visibility of civil society from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia at the global level, amid organizational changes and limited resources.

**Despite the challenging context, CAN EECCA ensured coordination of the network's participation at all stages of the preparation for and implementation of COP30.**

Participation in COP30 in 2025 confirmed CAN EECCA's ability to maintain functionality, coordination, and an international presence even during a period of transition and institutional change. The network's work in Belém made it possible to ensure regional representation, support the participation of network members, and preserve CAN EECCA's influence within the global climate movement.



### Key elements of the work in 2025:

- On 7 November, an introductory online briefing was held for network members, focusing on COP30 priorities, the negotiation structure, and organizational aspects of participation.
- Throughout the entire COP30 period, **continuous coordination** was ensured, including logistical and security support, as well as the preparation of daily internal briefings.
- **12 representatives of NGOs from the CAN EECCA network participated in COP30 in Belém.**
- Network participants were actively engaged in both formal and informal processes, including side events, ACG actions, PCG meetings, daily CAN briefings, panel discussions, and regional meetings.
- During COP30, **CAN EECCA strengthened its presence**, expanded participation in working groups, and increased the network's regional visibility at the international level.
- Following COP30, a final analytical overview was prepared, summarizing key outcomes and lessons learned.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CAN EECCA sincerely thanks:**

- **network members and our community** — for your courage, professionalism, and belief in change;
- **partners** — for joint projects, support for initiatives, and solidarity;
- **donors** — for your contribution to the development of a resilient civil society in the region;
- **international colleagues** — for helping our voice be heard louder and farther.

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



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