

PROGRESS IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL (MAY 2016 - APRIL 2017)

Component 1: Mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production into national development plans, legislation and regulatory frameworks

- Efforts under the Project allowed the completion of the National Green Economy Road Map in Moldova and its adoption by the Inter-Ministerial Working Group and the adoption of the National Green Economy Action Plan (2016-2020) by the government in Belarus.
- Progress was also made on background analysis for green economy strategies in Georgia and Ukraine and setting up inter-ministerial coordination working groups on green economy with the participation of key ministries.
- Regionally, following the requests from the EaP countries the Project provided support to the development and endorsement of the pan-European Strategic Framework on Greening Economies and the launch of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) at the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, 8-10 June, 2016, Batumi, Georgia. The Project supported the development and the submission of individual commitments on greening the economies by all EaP countries.
- Further progress was also made on completing indicator-based reports on greening the economies. The reports on Armenia and Ukraine were published and drafts prepared for Azerbaijan and Moldova. Institutional working groups for green measurement framework were set up in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova and continued in Ukraine.
- In the area of environmental harmful subsidies the reviews were completed and validated by officials from all countries. In the area of sustainable public procurement the institutional framework was strengthened, as well as the market capacity assessed for the supply of prioritized sustainable product groups in Belarus.

Component 2: *Promoting the use of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)*

- Following earlier in-depth reviews of the legislative and institutional frameworks for the application of SEA and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), four important pieces of legislation were adopted during the review period: a new Law on State Ecological Expertise, SEA and EIA in Belarus, a new Environmental Assessment Code in Georgia, a new Law on SEA in Moldova and a Law on SEA and the Law on EIA in Ukraine. All these developments provided much improved legal framework and brought it into compliance with the UNECE Espoo Convention and its Protocols and the provisions of respective Association Agreements with the EU.
- With regard to pilot projects, a report summarizing the findings and conclusions of the pilot SEA of the National Strategy of Azerbaijan on the Use of Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources 2015-2020 was completed during the review period and work advanced on the pilot SEAs in Armenia and Moldova. Further training was provided on the practical application of SEA and five national level guidance documents were drafted.
- At the regional level, the "Good Practice Recommendations on the Application of the Convention to Nuclear Energy-related Activities" were finalized and revised during the review period by the Working Group on EIA and the Bureau to the Espoo Convention, respectively.

Component 3: Achieving a sector-level shift to green economy

- Substantial progress was made in implementing quick RECP solutions/options identified through 78 RECP assessments and engaging 80 new companies in all six countries. It was combined with extensive training and coaching programmes for national experts in all EaP countries to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills for conducting RECP assessments in SMEs.
- In parallel, acquisition of RECP support monitoring equipment, such as analysers and meters that allow the visualisation of heat losses, light needs, gas and water volumes used at different production lines, was completed in Armenia, Belarus and Georgia and hands-on trainings provided to around 50 representatives of universities, companies and experts on its use in the dairy, chemicals and construction materials sectors.
- Second round of 12 RECP clubs was completed in each country culminating with awarding of around 100 certificates upon submission of RECP plans. RECP Clubs bring together up to a dozen small businesses from the same region and take them jointly through an intensive training and coaching programme over a period of four months, leading to a customized RECP action plan for each participating companies.
- New 8 municipalities in the EaP region become actively engaged in fostering RECP in local SMEs, with some additional 70 SMEs bringing the total number of RECP clubs members' and/or associates up to 200 SMEs in 20 regions of EaP countries in the years 2015-17.
- Final National RECP Conferences, that brought together more than 500 participants from governmental sector, businesses, NGOs, private sector associations, academia and civil society in all EaP countries, showed significant economic and environmental savings resulting, from the RECP assessment. The savings were in order of EUR 2 000 - 20 000 per enterprise on average, reaching up to EUR 100 000 in some cases. Overall, only the first set of feasible and low cost RECP measures supported as part of the EaP GREEN project helped the enterprises from food processing, chemicals and construction materials sectors in Moldova to save EUR 1.45 million per year.
- To maintain the sustainability of the Project results, service units were selected in each country on the basis of open tenders to take over human, intellectual and technical capacities accumulated during the four years of project implementation to widen their own portfolio of services. Upon demand from the national teams in Armenia and Ukraine training for RECP Clubs Facilitator and a specialized RECP Learning courses were developed for universities to enable continuous provision of learning possibilities via specialised curricula.
- In the area of sustainable public procurement practical trainings were provided to about 130 public procurers and economic operators affected by the newly introduced sustainability criteria for public tenders to ensure and advance the application of SPP in EaP countries and prepare the launch of pilot tenders. Moldova and Ukraine further advanced the development of Sustainable Public Procurement communication tools. These included the completion of the SPP guidelines in Moldova and a dedicated website, presentations, and a draft SPP Handbook in Ukraine.
- In the area of organic farming the last deliverables of this component were completed including a report that compiled eight success stories of organic exporters in Moldova, Ukraine, and Armenia that analyse enabling factors for exports of organic products to international markets.
- In 2016, 11 Ukrainian companies participated as exhibitors at BioFach 2016 in Nuremberg (Germany), which led to contracts with a total value of over USD 10 million. In the same year, four Moldovan and five Armenian exhibitors participated in the Natural and Organic Products Expo Europe in London, where they met with 15-20 companies on average, helping them to better understand market demands and build up a business network. One Moldovan producer reported 2% of his sales resulted from contracts following his participation in the trade show.