

EaPGREEN

Partnership for Environment and Growth



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Greening economies
in the EU Eastern Partnership countries

ARMENIA

RECENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES





The EaP GREEN programme

How can the EU Eastern Partnership countries progress faster on their path to green economy? Which environmental policies and management approaches are available to support a coherent national green economy framework? How do local stakeholders benefit from the long-standing expertise of EaP GREEN's implementing partners?

The “Greening Economies in the European Union’s Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN) programme supports the six the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries to move towards green economy by decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and resource depletion. These countries are: **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.**

The programme is structured around three components:

- **Governance and financing tools** for sustainable production and consumption (SCP) and green economy;
- **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** accompanying SCP policy implementation; and
- **Demonstration projects.** Governments and the private sector are the key target groups of EaP GREEN.

The EaP GREEN programme has two focal points in each participating country: one from a national ministry of environmental affairs, and another one nominated by the national ministry of economy related matters.

The Programme’s Steering Committee (SC) oversees the programme implementation. Its members include the National Focal Points, the European Union and representatives of the four implementing partners. The SC meets annually. Such meetings are open to the NGO community and donors, as well as other international organisations.

The programme is financially supported by the European Union and other donors. It is jointly implemented by four international organisations - the OECD, UNECE, UNEP, and UNIDO.

More information: www.green-economies-eap.org



The **European Union** is the world’s largest donor of official development assistance. The European Commission’s Directorate General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) manages the majority of the Union’s financial and technical assistance to the neighbourhood and enlargement countries. By implementing assistance actions in Europe’s eastern and southern neighbourhood, DG NEAR supports reform and democratic consolidation, and strengthens the prosperity, stability and security around Europe. DG NEAR helps to promote EU values, policies and interests in this region, and to contribute to developing the special relationship of the EU with its neighbouring countries.

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/about/directorate-general/index_en.htm

Governance and financing tools



Key topics:

Strategic policy setting • Promoting sustainable public procurement practices • Green growth indicators • Reforming environmentally harmful subsidies • Creating market incentives for greener product • Access to green finance and investment • Greening SMEs

MILESTONES

- The project report recommendations and country specific in-depth analysis were discussed during the final stakeholder

workshop on “Promoting better performance of small and medium-sized enterprises

(SMEs) in Armenia”

held in Yerevan on 9 April 2015.

The SME National Development Centre expressed interest in

implementing the project’s recommendations for simplified Environmental Management Systems for SMEs. Key report findings and results of the in-depth activity will be integrated in the second edition of the regional SMEs Greening Toolkit.

(OECD)



- The report “Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies and Initiatives in Eastern Europe and Caucasus” was published by UNEP in 2015. It takes a holistic approach to reviewing existing SCP-related policies, which contributes to the shift towards green economy in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; allowing for the identification of policies that address the economy as a whole, and that are aimed at specific stages of the production-consumption lifecycle, or that are related to the three key consumption sectors of food, housing and transport. (UNEP) <http://bit.ly/1Qo3OUe>

- The regional meeting on Greening SMEs was held in Kiev, Ukraine on 12 February 2015. Participants discussed the draft SMEs Greening Toolkit for the six European Union’s Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries prepared by the OECD. The SMEs Greening Toolkit aims to help EaP countries design and implement key instruments to promote environmental compliance and green business practices among SMEs. Stakeholders from Armenia presented the key issues and draft policy recommendations on Greening SMEs in the country. (OECD) Report: <http://bit.ly/1PrbuqJ>

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- The first Regional Workshop on Green Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) was organised on 6 May 2014 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The workshop objectives were to raise awareness on Green Economy and SCP approaches, review the overall SCP status progress in the Eastern Neighbourhood sub-region, exchange experiences and share success stories. During the workshop, the participants discussed topics such as: the status of the SCP patterns in six countries, organic agriculture opportunities, sustainable lifestyle and education, eco-innovations, waste management and green jobs, sustainable public procurement and other measures for the green economy and sustainable consumption and production. (UNEP)



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Key topics:

Revision of existing national regulatory and legislative frameworks • Capacity building on SEA and EIA procedures • Strengthening administrative capacities of national authorities

MILESTONES

- UNECE held a **seminar on the application of strategic environmental assessment on 22-24 March 2015 in Yerevan, Armenia**. The event aimed to assist policy-makers with the implementation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in compliance with the provisions of the SEA Protocol to the Espoo Convention and relevant EU Directives. The seminar raised awareness about the recent development of the national legislation related to SEA in Armenia; clarified roles of various stakeholders in the process; facilitated debate about the practical steps of SEA application; discussed the scope and possible approaches to SEA screening; identified further development needs of SEA-relevant legislation; and pointed out opportunities for conducting a pilot SEA in Armenia. (UNECE)
- **On 24 March 2015 a working meeting was organized to discuss the preparation process to amend the Republic of Armenia's law on "Environmental impact assessment and expertise"** in order to ensure its compliance with the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and relevant EU legislation. In order to guide the drafting process, the event gathered 7-10 experts from the legal department, strategic planning department and environmental expertise department of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia as well as legal experts and representatives from civil society. The meeting was organised back-to-back with a two-day seminar (23-24 march) that aimed to assist the Republic of Armenia with the implementation of the SEA in compliance with the provisions of the SEA Protocol to the Espoo Convention and relevant EU Directives. (UNECE) <http://bit.ly/1LaHDj4>

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **Two back-to-back EaP GREEN regional events were organised in Georgia in the beginning of November 2015**. A conference on developing legislative frameworks SEA in provided an opportunity to exchange experience in drafting SEA / EIA legislation and barriers on adoption of the legislation (November 2, 2015). The conference will be followed by a **"Training of Trainers"** workshop on the design and delivery of training events on SEA (November 3 – 6, 2015). Participants from Armenia were invited to attend the events. (UNECE) <http://bit.ly/1G5cUoM>
- **The SEA on "Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste Management Sector in Armenia" will be launched in December 2015**. The SEA pilot shall result in recommendations for environmental optimisation and modifications of the strategic initiatives in the field of waste management. It will also provide an opportunity to test the SEA procedure as stipulated by the national legal framework. The first training for a national SEA team will be organised in January 2016, followed by preparation of the scoping report, which should be presented and discussed at the public scoping consultation workshop (tentatively in March 2016). The final SEA report will be prepared by October 2016. Further information on the pilot project and the schedule of the events interdpt@yahoo.com. (UNECE)
- **Amendments to the law 'On environmental impact assessment and expertise'** to ensure its compliance with the Protocol on SEA and the Espoo Convention will be elaborated from January – September 2016. It will be based on the outcomes of a comprehensive review of the existing environmental assessment legislation and the procedures of the Protocol on SEA, the opinion paper on the Armenia EIA system developed by the UNECE consultants for the Espoo Convention Implementation Committee as well as the results of the above mentioned SEA pilot application. (UNECE) Review: <http://bit.ly/1SLQk5y>
Opinion paper: <http://bit.ly/1IYrITn>

Demonstration projects

Key topics:

Capacity development for resource efficient and cleaner production (RECP) • RECP implementation, dissemination and replication • RECP technology support • Sustainable public procurement • Promotion of organic agriculture: trade and access to markets

MILESTONES

- The **Status Report on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Business Cases** was developed by the Project and national RECP experts as a result of their assessments implemented within the framework of the project for local SMEs focusing on food and beverage production, as well as chemical and construction material processing. The Report contains information on functions and agendas on Green economy within the EU, UNIDO and REC Caucasus, which include implemented project activities from 2014 – 2015, business cases from SMEs which were screened and developed jointly with the management of the demonstration organizations. (UNIDO) <http://bit.ly/208HIvz>
 - The **Results of RECP project in Armenia focusing on Technologies for Green Economy** were presented at the **Digitech Business Forum** in Yerevan in June, 2015. (UNIDO) <http://bit.ly/1RzCx1m>
 - A **RECP Primer for local SMEs**, an introductory guide for SMEs, has been developed by National RECP experts and a project team for easy reference and understanding of RECP benefits for local businesses and companies in terms of resource efficiency, energy use/energy efficiency, cleaner production, improved environmental compliance, enhanced economic opportunities and housekeeping, advancement of management and development of innovative production. The Primer will serve as a practical guide and example for replication of RECP experiences in the country. (UNIDO)
- In the framework of the RECP demonstration component a **four-day training for preliminary selected national experts was organised on 20-24 July in Yerevan**. The project objectives and outputs, basic and advanced RECP methods and applications and supportive entrepreneurship topics were presented to participants. Recommendations raised by participants included targeting project continuity as well as essentials key factors to create stable knowledge-based background to expand the scope of project opportunities. **12 national experts** were identified, trained and coached in the application of **RECP methods and techniques** in selected demonstration enterprises during the training programme that took place in June 2015. (UNIDO)
 - The **Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) National Conference was held on 28 April in Yerevan**, and presented the first results and experiences from the demonstration project implemented by UNIDO. The event was highlighted on several national and local TV channels (Armenia TV, Ar TV, Ararat TV. (UNIDO) <http://bit.ly/1k4F5KA>
 - A **consultative stakeholder dialogue “RECP for manufacturing sector in Armenia” was held on 27 April**. It called to further explore the relevance and benefits of RECP in Armenia in the context of national development objectives and business interests, with a view to further foster inclusive and sustainable industrial development of the country. (UNIDO)



Demonstration projects - Continued

Key topics:

Capacity development for resource efficient and cleaner production (RECP) • RECP implementation, dissemination and replication • RECP technology support • Sustainable public procurement • Promotion of organic agriculture: trade and access to markets

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- The **first RECP Stakeholder forum on Energy Efficiency** within the context of RECP application for Small and Medium Businesses in Armenia was planned for 30 October 2015. (UNIDO)
- On **October 13, 2015, the EaP GREEN Demonstration Component was presented at the World Resources Forum 2015 Workshop on Circular Economy in Action - Experiences of RECPnet around the World organised in Davos, Switzerland, in conjunction with the Global Network Conference on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)**. Experience from RECP Clubs implementation in all six countries of the EaP GREEN Demonstration component was discussed at the Parallel Session on Capacity Development for RECP Solutions - Methods and Tools for RECP. (UNIDO) <http://bit.ly/1KMhYx5>
- On **8 October RECP team has launched the first round of the local RECP Green Clubs in the city of Ararat**, in close cooperation with local municipality, as well as local SMEs representatives and local business organisations. (UNIDO)
- On **28 April a "Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production" (RECP) National Steering Committee Meeting** was organised at UN conference hall, with participation of three deputy ministers from the Ministries of Nature Protection, Energy and Natural Resources, and Economy of the Republic of Armenia. The participants discussed the results of RECP project and its future implications for Armenia, with focus on co-operation opportunities between RECP and future pilot assistance projects to SMEs. (UNIDO) <http://bit.ly/1NChkoP>
- EaP-GREEN was one of the main sponsors of the **5th International Conference on Organic Sector Development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asian countries** held on 16-17 April 2015. A **break-out session** dedicated to organic agriculture and green economy featured speakers from Armenia, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Ukraine. The session discussed strategies for organic market development, organic agriculture as a tool for greening the economy, and organic legislation development in the region. (UNEP) <http://bit.ly/1PRWkdu>
- An **exchange of knowledge, experiences success stories and challenges** among NGOs, government agencies, and business associations of all six participating countries was facilitated at the **special session on organic agriculture** held within the **Fourth EaP GREEN Steering Committee meeting** on 18 June 2015 in Chisinau, Moldova. (UNEP)
- 2 Armenian organic producers were supported to participate in the **Biofach trade fair in February 2015**, during which they presented their products at a joint stand with Moldova and were matched with potential buyers from the European Union. (UNEP)

Recent and upcoming publications

- **OECD: Creating Market Incentives for Greener Products - A Policy Manual for Eastern Partnership Countries** (Forthcoming in Russian)
<http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/creating-incentives-for-greener-products-9789264244542-en.htm>
- **OECD: Environmental Lending in EU Eastern Partnership Countries**
http://www.oecd.org/env/outreach/Binder_final%20report_environmental%20lending_update%20Oct2014.pdf
- **OECD: Environmental Policy Toolkit for Greening SMEs in EU Eastern Partnership countries**
<http://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/Greening-SMEs-policy-manual-eng.pdf>
- **UNEP: Sustainable production and consumption policies and initiatives in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus: Review of progress and way forward**
<http://www.unep.org/roe/Publications/tabid/54616/Default.aspx>
- **UNEP: Resource Efficiency Economic Outlook**
http://www.grid.unep.ch/products/3_Reports/REEO_for_EECCA.pdf
- **OECD: Inventory of Energy Subsidies in EU Eastern Partnership Countries** (Forthcoming 2016)
- **UNECE: Assessment of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the environmental impact assessment and expertise”** (Available in English only)
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/EaP_GREEN/2_results_comp_3/Summary_opinion_Arm_EIALaw_ENG_30052014_final.pdf
- **UNECE: Review of the national Legislative and Institutional Framework of SEA in Armenia** (Available in Russian only)
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/meetings/Report_Laevskaya_July_2014_v2_12092014.pdf
- **OECD: Promoting better environmental performance of SMEs in Armenia**
<http://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/SME-greening-country-pilot-report-Armenia-en.pdf>
- **UNECE: Benefits and myths about strategic environmental assessment** (Forthcoming 2015)

On the calendars

Save the Date

- UNECE: 2 November 2015 - **Sub-regional conference on developing legislative frameworks for the strategic environmental assessment in conformity with the Protocol on SEA** (Georgia)
- UNECE: 3-6 November 2015 - **“Training of Trainers” workshop on the design and delivery of training events on strategic environmental assessment** (Georgia)
- All Partners : beginning of February 2016 - **5th EaP GREEN Steering Committee Meeting** (Ukraine)

Planned international meetings in 2015 - 2016

- EaP GREEN Partners: Participation in the **8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference** - 8-10 June 2016 (Batumi, Georgia)



Contacts and further information

Krzysztof Michalak

Senior Programme Manager
OECD

E-mail: krzysztof.michalak@oecd.org

Elena Santer

Environmental Affairs Officer
UNECE

E-mail: elena.santer@unece.org

Rie Tsutsumi

Programme Officer
UNEP

E-mail: rie.tsutsumi@unep.org

Carolina Gonzalez-Mueller

Industrial Development Officer
Industrial Resource Efficiency Unit
UNIDO

E-mail: c.gonzalez-mueller@unido.org

Website : www.green-economies-eap.org

Photos on Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/eapgreen

Queries by e-mail: eap.contact@oecd.org



Visit the new EaP GREEN website: www.green-economies-eap.org



Key features include: information on recent and upcoming events, topics pages with updates from all implementing partners, and a searchable resource library.



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