

EaPGREEN

Partnership for Environment and Growth



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COUNTRY UPDATES SERIES • SPRING 2015



**Greening economies
in the EU Eastern Partnership countries**

GEORGIA

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

ACHIEVEMENTS

- A **regional workshop on the introduction of the Green Economy (GE) and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) framework** was held in Tbilisi in May 2014. The event raised awareness and contributed to capacity-building on GE and SCP policies, and encouraged a rich exchange of knowledge and experiences among relevant stakeholders. (UNEP)

- **Two side events** included the launch of the report “**Resource Efficiency: Economics and Outlook for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia**” in Russian translation, and an exhibition of **SCP initiatives in Georgia** with the participation of 13 NGOs and business representatives, who presented their innovative on-the-ground practices that contribute to SCP processes. (UNEP)

- Potential benefits of **Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)** as well as the challenges and opportunities of SPP implementation were discussed at another **regional awareness raising workshop** on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) which also took place Tbilisi in May 2014. (UNEP)

- A **regional expert meeting on “Access to private finance for green investments in EU Eastern Partnership countries”** was held on 5-6 June 2014 in Paris to discuss environmental credit lines supported by international finance institutions and disbursed by local commercial banks. The report “**Environmental lending in EU Eastern Partnership countries**” was published in October 2014. (OECD)

<http://bit.ly/1t5JASC>

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- A **regional expert meeting on “Promoting better environmental performance of SMEs”** took place on 12 February 2015 in Kiev.

Country-level stakeholder consultations followed, including a **meeting in Georgia** on 25 March 2015 with around 40 participants. The event was featured on the Georgian TV’s news programme and included an interview with Mr. Teimuraz Murgulia, Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. (OECD) <http://bit.ly/1JTOw8T> (Video in Georgian only)

- A **rollout workshop on economic instruments** for managing environmentally harmful products was held on 26 March 2015 in Tbilisi. The discussion focused on excise taxes on motor fuel and vehicles, and on extended producer responsibility schemes. (OECD)

- A regional expert meeting titled “**Shared environmental information system and green growth**” was held in Paris on 10-11 March 2015 with the participation of three delegates from Georgia. Assisting EaP countries in developing effective national approaches towards measuring green growth remains a priority. (OECD) <http://bit.ly/1erNRQ0>

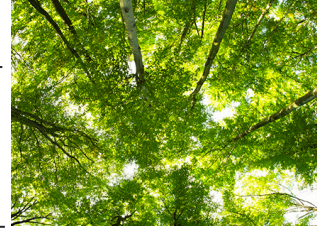
- An **implementing organisation** for the national SME survey in Georgia was selected and the survey will be carried out shortly. The regional **Environmental Policy Toolkit on Greening SMEs in EU Eastern Partnership countries** was released in May 2015. (OECD)

English version: <http://bit.ly/1HDPpR8>

Russian version: <http://bit.ly/1Ke1353>

- A **survey of energy subsidies in the EU Eastern Partnership countries** will be launched in 2015. A stakeholder meeting will discuss the preliminary results towards the end of this year. (OECD)

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

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The first phase of the project implementation (September 2013-August 2014) included **reviews of legislative and institutional frameworks for the application of EIA and SEA procedures**. These were presented to national stakeholders in two meetings held on 4 November 2013 and on 26 August 2014, respectively. (UNECE)
Reports: <http://bit.ly/1LCE4kt> and <http://bit.ly/1F89Gtm>
Meetings: <http://bit.ly/1AvyEad> and <http://bit.ly/1LF7Bux>
- A **start-up workshop for the development of a new law on EIA and SEA** - as recommended by the legislative reviews above - was held on 25-26 November 2014 in Tbilisi. (UNECE)
<http://bit.ly/1LF7Bux>
- The **study tour in the Czech Republic on the application of SEA** at national level in the urban planning, waste management, and energy sectors took place on 1-5 December 2014. National experts learned about the Czech SEA system and discussed challenges and success factors. (UNECE) <http://bit.ly/1t5IoyJ>
- A **national round-table discussion** meeting and a **public hearing** on the **first draft law** on EIA and SEA in Georgia took place on 19-20 May 2015. The aim of the meetings was to review the new draft law on EIA, and prepare relevant recommendations for further improvements. <http://bit.ly/1EuY6rF>
<http://bit.ly/1KklD3u>
- Drafting work is currently carried out by the Ministry of Environment and the UNECE's international consultants. **The new draft laws will be submitted to the Parliament in November 2015.** (UNECE)

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- A series of **working group meetings with public participation** are scheduled for 10-15 July 2015. The **final consultation meeting on the draft law on SEA and EIA** will take place in September 2015.
- A **pilot project on the application of the SEA procedure to the National Waste Management Strategy** will be implemented in the period of June-December 2015 to support further the development of the national SEA legislation. The project will start with a **workshop scheduled for 22 June 2015**.
- A sub-regional conference for exchanging **experiences on drafting SEA and EIA legislation and bylaws** is planned for 19 October 2015 in Georgia. (UNECE)
- A **train-the-trainers workshop on the practical application of SEA** will be held in Georgia on 20-23 October 2015. (UNECE)
- A **regional conference on the lessons learned** from the practical application of SEA in EaP GREEN countries will be held in Ukraine in early 2016. Georgian stakeholders will also be invited to present their experiences. (UNECE)

Study tour in the Czech Republic on the application of SEA at national level (Photo: ©UNECE)



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

ACHIEVEMENTS

● Trained national experts **completed RECP assessments for 10 selected demonstration enterprises** in December 2014. They reviewed technological processes and the companies' performances against several RECP indicators such as resource use, environmental pollution, product output, resource- and pollution intensity. Intervention opportunities to increase efficiency as well as workers' safety were identified.

(UNIDO)

● In January-February 2015, national experts and UNIDO's National Project Coordinator **provided assistance to eight demonstration sites**. Experts presented the **key findings of their RECP assessments** to the companies' management, and discussed opportunities to address suggested improvements for greening the enterprise. (UNIDO)

● A specialised **round-table consultation with the financial sector** took place on **24 March 2015** in Tbilisi. The discussions focused on leveraging financing for RECP projects at small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). (UNIDO)

<http://recp.ge/?p=23142>

● The **national conference “Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) for Better Enterprises, Cleaner Environment and Green Economy”** was held on **26 March 2015** in Tbilisi. Ten Georgian enterprises shared their experiences in applying RECP principles, and 10 national experts received an UNIDO RECP award.

The event was covered in the evening news on Georgia's Public Broadcasting First Channel and Maestro-Sakmiani Dila. (UNIDO)

<http://recp.ge/?p=23145>

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

National experts at the second RECP training in Georgia in August 2014 (Photo: ©UNIDO)



● A **publication on the results of RECP assessments** undertaken in ten Georgian demonstration companies will be available for dissemination shortly. (UNIDO)

● A **follow-up consultative dialogue** on RECP in Georgia took place on 4 June 2015. (UNIDO)

● **Ongoing RECP projects add value to Georgian enterprises in priority industry sectors** by increasing human and institutional capacities and facilitating further practical demonstration, dissemination and replication of RECP principles. Demonstration activities have helped to save costs, reduce the consumption of materials and energy, and/or minimise the generation of waste and emissions. (UNIDO)

● A **bilingual English/Georgian RECP website** is available to disseminate information regularly on latest news and events to the larger public. (UNIDO) www.recp.ge

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

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The RECP conference and national consultation in Tbilisi were part of a **series of regional learning and coordination activities** which were attended by three experts from each country from the EaP region. (UNIDO)
- On 23-24 March 2015, a **training on project financing for RECP** explained how companies could use different funding tools such as equity, loans, grants, special funds. (UNIDO)
- A **training on RECP technologies and advanced management practices** in the three target sectors - food processing, chemicals, and construction materials - was held on 25-26 March 2015. (UNIDO)
- A **review, coordination and planning meeting** with the participation of the national coordinators and administrators of the RECP demonstration component in EaP countries took place on 27-28 March 2015. It reflected on the achievements of the first cycle of expert trainings, demonstration activities, and plans for upcoming activities till the end of project. (UNIDO)

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 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 and experiences with regard to organic agriculture** was facilitated at regional level among government agencies, farms, companies and business associations of all six EaP GREEN countries in the course of 2014. (UNEP)
- **Success stories illustrating the access of regional producers to the international organic market** will be compiled in the course of 2015. (UNEP)

Ten national experts in Georgia received an UNIDO RECP award after training (Photo: ©UNIDO)



Recent and upcoming publications

- **OECD: Creating Market Incentives for Greener Products** (Available in English and Russian)
<http://www.oecd.org/env/outreach/economic-instruments.htm>
- **OECD: Environmental Lending in EU Eastern Partnership Countries** (Available in English and Russian) <http://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/regionalmeeting-june-2014.htm>
- **OECD: Environmental Policy Toolkit for Greening SMEs in EU Eastern Partnership countries** (Available in English and Russian)
<http://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/Greening-SMEs-policy-manual-eng.pdf>
- **UNEP: Resource Efficiency Economic Outlook** (Available in English and Russian)
http://www.grid.unep.ch/products/3_Reports/REEO_for_EECCA.pdf
- **UNECE: Review of legislation on environmental impact assessment of Georgia with regard to implementation of the Espoo Convention**
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/EaP_GREEN/Start-up_workshop_Tbilisi_25-08-2014/Espoo_Review_Georgia_FINAL_January2014.pdf
- **UNECE: Report on analysis of the existing elements and gaps in the national legislation of Georgia related to implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention**
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/EaP_GREEN/Start-up_workshop_Tbilisi_25-08-2014/Report_Georgia_1st_draft_consultations_20082014.pdf
- **OECD: Inventory of Energy Subsidies in EU Eastern Partnership Countries** (Forthcoming in 2015)
- **UNIDO: Publication on the results of RECP assessments undertaken in ten Georgian demonstration companies** (Forthcoming in the first half of 2015)
- **UNECE: Benefits and myths about strategic environmental assessment** (brochure, forthcoming at the end of 2015)

On the calendars

Save the Date

- EaP GREEN Partners: 18 June 2015 - **EaP GREEN Annual Steering Committee Meeting** (Chisinau, Moldova)
- UNECE: 22 June 2015 - **Start-up workshop to initiate a pilot application of strategic environmental assessments to the National Waste Management Strategy** (Georgia)
- UNECE: 19 October 2015 - **Sub-regional conference to exchange experience in drafting SEA / EIA legislation and bylaws and barriers on adoption of the legislation** (Georgia)
- UNECE: 20-23 October 2015 - **Train the trainers workshop for practical application of SEA in EaP countries** (Georgia)

Planned international meetings in 2015 - 2016

- UNEP: **Second Eastern Europe Regional Meeting on the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP)** - Second quarter of 2015
- OECD: **Environmental Action Programme (EAP) Task Force meeting** - 7-8 October 2015 (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)
- UNIDO: **Global RECP Networking Conference** - 12-15 October 2015 (tbc), Switzerland
- EaP GREEN Partners: Participation in the **8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference** - 8-10 June 2016 (Batumi, Georgia)

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Visit the new EaP GREEN website:

www.green-economies-eap.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the EaP GREEN website. At the top, there is a search bar on the left and social media icons (email, RSS, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube) on the right, along with language options for English and Russian. The main header features the EaP GREEN logo, a stylized tree icon, and the text "Partnership for Environment and Growth". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Partner Contribution, Topics, Countries, and Resource Library. The main content area features a large image of a river with a city skyline in the background. A text box on the left provides information about the EaP GREEN programme, stating it assists six countries in progressing towards a green economy framework. A photo credit on the right reads "Nistru River in Rezina, Moldova by Alexei Suleac". At the bottom, there are circular icons representing the flags of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. A vertical social media sidebar is visible on the right side of the page.

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