



Greening economies
in the EU Eastern Partnership countries

MOLDOVA

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

- On 18 June 2015 in Chisinau UNEP launched the report on “Green Economy Scoping Study for the Republic of Moldova”.

It recommends several policy interventions to help the country achieve the examined benefits, such as designing the right network of economic incentives across policy tools and developing a green economy policy package to balance government expenditure and revenues. (UNEP) <http://bit.ly/1RHEIX0>

- 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>

- Third national stakeholder workshop on of the country pilot project on “Promoting better environmental performance of SMEs” was held on 16 March in Chisinau, followed by fourth and final workshop on 2 June. During the first meeting participants discussed draft project recommendations, including key provisions of the country in-depth activity – Information Scheme on Green Practices for SMEs.

The country pilot project report and the possibility of integrating the project’s recommendations into the existing strategic documents, including Moldova’s SME Sector Development Strategy for 2012-2020 were discussed at the final meeting.

Final project report in English: <http://bit.ly/1MzRCkd>

Final project report in Russian: <http://bit.ly/1X3oc0T> (OECD)

- On 29 September 2015, the inter-ministerial Working Group on Green Economy convened to re-launch its activities and **discuss the road map and next steps for the development of the Green Economy Action Plan 2016-2020**. It was agreed that the process will be coordinated jointly by the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Environment, while the Working Group will examine and approve priorities, measures and indicators and develop short- and medium term actions for greening the economy taking into account recommendations and assessments developed under the EaP-GREEN Project. (UNEP)

- The **final stakeholder workshop of the country pilot project on “Economic instruments for managing environmentally harmful products”, organised on 17 March in Chisinau**. Recommendations on reforming environmental product taxes and introducing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Moldova and relevant EU experiences were presented. Final project report: <http://bit.ly/1LtTw5g> (OECD)

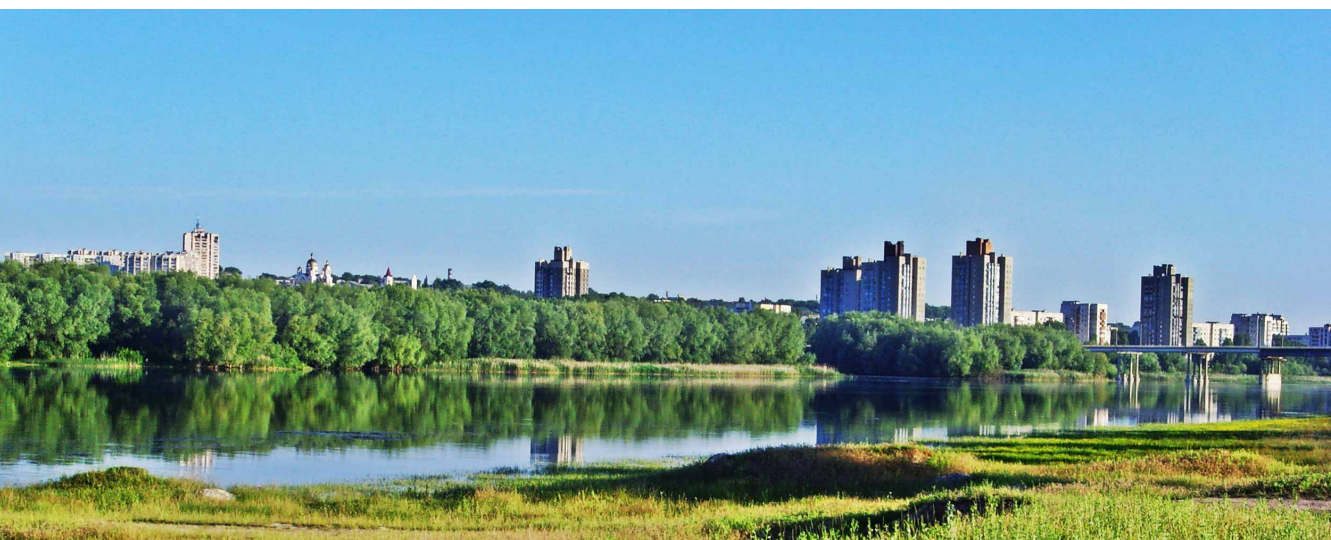
Governance and financing tools - Continued

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

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- On 2 October 2015, sixteen Moldovan producers and farmers, cultivating around 320 ha of agriculture land and 716 beehives, were trained in a second series of the workshop on “Principles of and Conversion to Organic Agriculture”. In addition to organic farming methods and organic certification procedures, they learned about the increasing domestic market opportunities for organic agriculture products through planned pilot tenders on organic products by the public procurement agency. (UNEP)
- On 24 June 2015, nineteen Moldovan producers and farmers, cultivating around 850 ha of agriculture land, were trained on the "Principles of and Conversion to Organic Agriculture", including sessions on organic agriculture practices, crop rotation methods, plant protection measures, as well as organic certification procedures. (UNEP)
- In an effort to demonstrate the value of Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in advancing green growth and green economy, the OECD, UNECE, UNEP and the EEA joined forces during the regional expert meeting held in Paris on 10-11 March 2015. The workshop aimed to recognise the importance of effective data and information sharing beyond environmental protection, while supporting green growth and green economy developments through various synergies. (OECD)
- 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. (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

- On **June 17**, UNECE organised a **high level round table discussion** with focus on the role of the sectoral and local authorities in the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) system, as well as key challenges for establishing national SEA systems in the Republic of Moldova and other EaP countries. Participants learned about the experience gained by EU countries on the practical application of the UNECE Protocol on SEA and the EU SEA Directive in various economic sectors. Moldova presented its experience in drafting and promoting the SEA legislation, and the implementation of the first pilot SEA for the Master Plan of the Orhei Town. (UNECE) <http://bit.ly/1NH1la7>

- From **July 2014 to June 2015** Moldova carried out the **first ever pilot project on application of SEA to a Governmental Plan and Programme**. In the framework of the SEA pilot, the national SEA team - guided by UNECE experts - evaluated individual components of the draft Master Plan of the Orhei Town in order to identify potential negative environmental impacts of the planned developments as well as potential conflicts with environmental policy goals established in other strategic documents. A number of measures to prevent, reduce or mitigate negative consequences of the planned developments on public health and the environment were formulated in agreement with planners. Many SEA recommendations were incorporated into the final version of the Master plan and should become priority in the context of its implementation. (UNECE) <http://bit.ly/1jg1L9w>

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- The **second pilot SEA for the ‘Green Economy Strategy’** will be initiated in **early December 2015 at the first expert workshop on identification of the scope of the assessment**. The project will be implemented by Environment and Economy Ministries – with the support from the national and international consultants - during the course of 2016. It will involve several training events and public consultation meetings that will aim to follow and clarify SEA procedure as envisioned in the draft law on SEA developed in 2014 with the support of the EaP GREEN. SEA pilot will facilitate building national capacities in application of SEA, further clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the national authorities in SEA, and improving the quality of the Green Economy Strategy by ensuring that the environmental and health consideration related to the developing options are identified and properly taken into account. For further information on the project and the schedule of the events, contact r.iordanov@vox.md. (UNECE)
- **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 provided an opportunity to exchange experience in drafting SEA / EIA legislation and barriers on adoption of the legislation (November 2, 2015). The conference was followed by a **“Training of Trainers”** workshop on the design and delivery of training events on SEA (November 3 – 6, 2015). Five participants from Moldova took an active part in the events and are now better quipped to conduct awareness raising and capacity building activities to support Moldova in further development of the national SEA system. (UNECE) <http://bit.ly/1G5cUoM>

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



Key topics:

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

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES - Continued

- On 13 May the SEA Team organised a public participation workshop on the draft SEA report to consult the findings of the pilot application of SEA to the Orhei Master Plan with the local representatives of civil society. (UNECE)
- On 12-13 February UNECE organised an advisory mission to support national SEA team in the implementation of the SEA pilot, during the first day of the mission the national SEA team and the international consultants reviewed in detail the draft Orhei Master Plan and maps and draft SEA scoping report; following day was dedicated to the discussion of the next steps, meetings, deadlines for reports, final consultations and planning of the final dissemination event. (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

MILESTONES

- On 31 July awareness raising and dissemination seminar on regional replication programme was rolled out as part of the RECP Clubs in Orhei. The progress and achievements of National Cleaner Production Programme (NCPP) Moldova were presented to the participants, including testimonials from representatives of Causeni and Ungheni on the RECP benefits for their regions. (UNIDO)

- RECP Consultative Dialogue was organized on June 17 with the aim of sharing experience and expertise among the stakeholders representing government, business and civil society to adapt and customize RECP to the national context. The participants were invited to reflect on RECP concept and terminology, to introduce improvements for easier comprehension and adoption of RECP in Moldova, especially at the level of industrial enterprises and related sectors. (UNIDO)

- From 27 to 30 April UNIDO provided advanced guidance and coaching of national trainees on RECP promotion and implementation at demonstration companies, with particular focus on the chemical sector. (UNIDO) www.ncpp.md

- In Moldova, both the SPP Task Force (former Steering Committee) and the Implementation Unit were established in September 2015. The Task Force is composed of the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture and Food Industry, as well as of the Agencies of Public Procurement, Energy Efficiency and National Food Safety. The National SPP Action Plan was also finalized in September 2015. The Implementation Unit is in charge of implementing the core activities of the SPP Action Plan. (UNEP) <http://goo.gl/fbrLFH>

- 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>

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- On 13 October, 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>

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 - Continued

- In the framework of RECP Clubs meetings industrial enterprises and other organisations – **members to RECP Club Balti met on 2 October** to improve their energy management skills and practices, and find energy efficiency solutions for their companies. (UNIDO) www.ncpp.md
- **The high level EU Commission company site visit was organised on 19 June** at print shop BONS OFFICES – a RECP assessed company. The management of the company guided the delegation through the production departments and explained the benefits of RECP options implementation. (UNIDO)
- **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)
- 6 Moldovan 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 Armenia and were matched with potential buyers from the European Union (UNEP)
- The NCPP Moldova team participated **to the Coordination meeting on a regional RECP demonstration component of the EaP GREEN Programme held on 27-28 March in Tbilisi, Georgia**. The meeting aimed to reflect achievements made during first cycle of the expert training and demonstrations and outlined further project activities. A **regional training on RECP Techniques in Target Sectors** was also held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 25-26 March, with focus on key advance technical and management options for RECP. The training was attended by RECP teams from 6 beneficiary countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. During the same meeting, on 23-24 March, the NCPP Moldova **participated in the regional training on Project Financing for RECP** under various funding channels. (UNIDO)
- In preparation of a **thematic week on the benefits and opportunities of organic agriculture in educational institutions**, on 7 October 2015 a seminar was held for teachers from ten schools from five regions (Chisinau, Stefan Voda rayon, Riscani rayon, Drochia and Edine) in Moldova. Special material and school kits on organic agriculture were developed and disseminated to assist teachers in their preparation and organization of the educational event in their schools. The seminar was broadcast on national TV. (UNEP)
- During the months of September/October organic farmers and producers are supported with stands, banners and presentation material to exhibit their organic products in the high-frequented annual **Honey Festival, Pumpkin Festival and Farmer exhibition**. (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: Green Economy Scoping Study for the Republic of Moldova**
English: <http://www.unep.org/roe/Portals/139/documents/Green%20Economy%20scoping%20study%20Republic%20of%20Moldova.pdf>
Romanian: <http://www.unep.org/roe/Portals/139/documents/EaPGreen/Green%20Economy%20scoping%20study%20Moldovan.pdf>
- **UNEP: National SPP Action Plan of Moldova**
<http://goo.gl/fbrLFH>
- **UNEP: Market Study of Moldova - Executive Summary**
<http://goo.gl/IJtLtq>
- **UNEP: Analysis of the legal public procurement framework in Moldova**
http://www.green-economies-eap.org/resources/Legal%20Review_Moldova%20%28eng%29_final.pdf
- **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: Review of legislation of the republic of Moldova with regard to implementation of the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/EaP_GREEN/Roundtable_Moldova_030913/Report_EL_final_eng_280314_rev_clean.pdf
- **UNECE: Draft Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment in Moldova** (Available in Russian only)
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/EaP_GREEN/Moldova_roundtable_29072014/RUS_proiectul_Legii_ESM_mai_15.05.14.pdf
- **UNECE: Application of SEA to the Orhei Town Master Plan: outline of activities** (Available in English)
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/EaP_GREEN/Moldova_roundtable_29072014/Moldova_SEA_Pilot_FINAL_for_web.pdf
- **OECD: Promoting better environmental performance of SMEs in Moldova**
<http://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/Binder%20English.pdf>
- **OECD: Economic instruments for managing environmentally harmful products in Moldova**
<http://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/EI-country-pilot-Moldova-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

- UNIDO: **5th Coordination meeting and Workshop on RECP promotion tools** – 14-15 October (Davos, Switzerland)
- EaP GREEN Partners: Participation in the **8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference** - 8-10 June 2016 (Batumi, Georgia)

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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pg. 6 - Dniester River, Moldova*

