



Sounding the Alarm: SDG Progress in the UNECE Programme Countries and UNECE's Initiative to Reverse the Trend Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet in the ECE region

Supporting the 17 UNECE programme countries in achieving the SDGs

An approach to plan targeted assistance under UNECE's Environmental Instruments



Implementing multilateral environmental agreements in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Note by the secretariat

Summary

At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), ministers recognized the need to strengthen the participation of civil society and the private sector in the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe multilateral environmental agreements and recognized the opportunities

CEP 24 session, January 2019

Figure 1: Progress made by the 17 UNECE programme countries in attaining sustainable development goals and contribution of UNECE Environmental Instruments

Source: Sustainable Development Report 2030



Note: The full title of each SDG is available here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING		4 QUALITY EDUCATION		5 GENDER EQUALITY		6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION		9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE		11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES		12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION		13 CLIMATE ACTION		14 LIFE BELOW WATER		15 LIFE ON LAND		16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS		17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	
Balkans	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Yellow	Orange	White	Orange	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Orange	White	White	White	Red	White	Red	White	Red	White	Orange	White
Albania 54	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Green	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	White	Green	Yellow	Red	Orange	Red	White	Red	White	Orange	Orange
Bosnia and Herzegovina 47	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Grey	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Red	Orange	Orange	White	Orange	Yellow	Orange	White	Orange	White	Orange	White	Yellow	Yellow
Montenegro 67	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	White	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	White
North Macedonia 60	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Green	Orange	Yellow	Red	Orange	Orange	White	Yellow	Orange	Grey	Grey	Orange	White	Orange	White	Yellow	Yellow
Serbia 36	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Green	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Yellow	Orange	White	Orange	White	Grey	Grey	Red	White	Red	White	Yellow	Yellow

	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Central Asia	Red	Orange	Orange	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Red	Grey	Red	Red	Orange
Kazakhstan <small>УДМУРТАСЫН</small> <small>66</small> <small>УДМУРТАСЫН</small> <small>66</small>	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Red	Grey	Red	Red	Orange
Kyrgyzstan <small>УДМУРТАСЫН</small> <small>45</small> <small>УДМУРТАСЫН</small> <small>45</small>	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Red	Red	Yellow
Tajikistan <small>УДМУРТАСЫН</small> <small>85</small> <small>УДМУРТАСЫН</small> <small>85</small>	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Red	Orange	Green	Green	Grey	Red	Red	Orange
Turkmenistan <small>УДМУРТАСЫН</small> <small>91</small> <small>УДМУРТАСЫН</small> <small>91</small>	Red	Grey	Yellow	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Grey	Red	Red	Red
Uzbekistan <small>УДМУРТАСЫН</small> <small>69</small> <small>УДМУРТАСЫН</small> <small>69</small>	Red	Orange	Yellow	Red	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Red	Red	Orange

Figure SDG targets and relevant instruments at the UNECE Environment Division














Table 1. Progress of the UNECE program countries in achieving SGD targets 3.9.1,12.4 and 11.6 and technical assistance provided by the Air Convention

Green – SDG achieved	Yellow – challenges remain	Orange – significant challenges	Red - Major challenges		
<p>3.9.1. Mortality rate attributed ambient air pollution ((deaths per 100,000 population), 2019) Trend data is not available *</p> <p>12.4. Production-based SO₂ emissions (kg/capita), 2018 Trend data is not available *</p> <p>12.4. Production-based nitrogen emissions (kg/capita), 2018 Trend - stagnating in majority of the countries</p> <p>11.6.2. Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}) (µg/m3), 2019 Trend – moderate but requiring accelerated action in majority of the countries</p> <p>Support provided or planned/ may be make a map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening National Air Quality Legislation & Policies Developing emission reduction commitments Support in Emission Inventories Promoting Best Available Technologies Holistic Air Policy Promotion – national dialogues Promoting good Agricultural Practices Subregional workshops and consultations on the Air Convention and its protocols 					
Balkans					
				2016,2018,2019, 2024	
Albania	59	3.9	14.3	17.5	n/a
Bosnia and Herzegovina	55	49.0	40.4	26.8	n/a 2025
Montenegro	60	NA	NA	19.6	n/a 2024 2025
North Macedonia	62	27.1	24.0	29.2	n/a 2025
Serbia	45	4.0	11.5	23.8	n/a
The Caucasus					
					2016,2018,2019, 2024
Armenia	70	2.6	25.2	32.2	2019 2016,2018,2019/ 2024 2025-2026
Azerbaijan	114	5.0	9.1	19.2	2019 2014, 2017, 2019, 2023 2025 2025-2026

Georgia	68	4.8	25.0	21.7	2018 2014, 2017, 2021, 2022 2024 2025 2025-2026
Eastern Europe					2016, 2018, 2019, 2024
Belarus	68	1.7	73.0	18.3	n/a
Moldova	58	1.1	34.6	15.8	2014, 2018, 2020, 2021 2023 2025-2026
Ukraine	66	16.9	42.2	19.0	2018 2015, 2018 2025-2026
Central Asia					2016, 2018, 2019, 2024
Kazakhstan	68	68.2	57.9	13.6	2021 2017, 2020, 2021 2024
Kyrgyzstan	88	7.5	23.3	19.8	2016, 2018, 2020, 2023
Tajikistan	159	1.2	15.9	44.6	2017, 2018
Turkmenistan	87	5.7	55.3	19.9	n/a
Uzbekistan	118	2.4	29.4	26.9	2015, 2018 2022 2025
<p>With mortality rates due to air pollution significantly higher in the 17 Programme countries than in Western Europe (SDG target 3.6.1), in particular in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan, the Convention and Health Protocols target such health risks</p> <p>While most Programme countries maintain production-based SO₂ emissions within pan-European averages (15.3 kg/capita), Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kazakhstan fall short. They need further support, including the application of best available technologies (BATs) promoted by the Air Convention and its Protocols.</p> <p>In most of the 17 Programme countries, nitrogen emissions exceed recommended levels. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan have emissions surpassing twice the threshold of 17 kg/capita. These countries require assistance in implementing national agricultural practices to curb nitrogen pollution as a priority.</p> <p>PM_{2.5} levels in Programme countries are very high and significantly exceed the Western European average of 11 µg/m³. Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, North Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina show the highest concentrations. These countries urgently require technical assistance to address and mitigate their PM_{2.5} levels effectively.</p>					<p>Selected example of impact of the assistance and further needs:</p> <p>Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine identified gaps in their air related legislative framework and are better equipped with concrete guidance for legislative changes aligning their laws with the Air Convention and its Protocols.</p> <p>Improving national air quality management legislation and policies will enable countries to effectively implement the Convention and its latest three amended protocols to reduce air pollution. In particular, implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol which sets emission reduction targets (for SO₂, NO_x, VOC, PM_{2.5} and NH₃) and contains measures relating to various economic sectors (energy, industry, transport, agriculture) will be an important step to reduce the world's largest environmental health risk for non-communicable diseases (SDG targets 3.4 and 3.9); tracing progress towards improving urban air quality (SDG target 11.6); and ensuring the environmentally sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and to reduce their release to air (SDG target 12.4).</p> <p>Going forward, the countries that completed gap analysis need additional legislative assistance to draft amendments to their existing laws. Other countries would also</p>

Example: priority actions by country

Priorities and instruments will be further verified in the course of the assessment

Central Asia		
Kazakhstan	  	Air Convention Water Convention Water and Health Protocol
Kyrgyzstan		
Tajikistan	  	Air Convention Water Convention Water and Health Protocol
Turkmenistan	 	Air Convention Water Convention Water and Health Protocol
Uzbekistan	  	Air Convention Water Convention Water and Health Protocol