

EaPGREEN

Partnership for Environment and Growth



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COUNTRY UPDATES SERIES • WINTER 2014 / 2015



Greening economies
in the EU Eastern Partnership countries

ARMENIA

RECENT AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- **Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)**
- **Environmental impact assessment (EIA)**

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Armenia is a **Party to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** of the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) since 2011. It was one of the first countries in the Eastern European and the Caucasus region to join. SEA elements are now gradually introduced into the national planning system under the leadership of the Ministry of Nature Protection.
- A review of the **national legislative and institutional framework of the SEA** was conducted between May - October 2014. Results were discussed at a national round-table meeting on 26 September.
 <http://bit.ly/1tRkivS>
- The **national law on environmental impact assessment and ecological expertise (EIA)** was reviewed in the light of full compliance with the Espoo Convention.
 <http://bit.ly/1IYrITn>
- With EaP GREEN's support, Armenia will use the recommendations from both reviews to **amend the existing law on EIA and expertise**, and **ensure full compliance** with the international standards.
- **Capacity-building** activities (local trainings and workshops) will continue to support the roll-out of the SEA procedure during 2015. **Awareness-raising** on the benefits of SEA among various national stakeholders remains a priority.

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- The **study tour** in the Czech Republic on the application of Strategic Environmental Assessment at the 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.
 <http://bit.ly/1t5IoyJ>
- The Ministry of Nature Protection selected the master plan for the town of Dilijan as a candidate for a pilot project on SEA. However, due to changes in the Government in spring 2014, the state financing of the project got suspended. **EaP GREEN is now looking for a governmental strategy document under development to undergo a pilot SEA.** Suggestions should be sent to the UNECE (contact details below).
 <http://bit.ly/1vnbkM>

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- Access to private finance
- Economic instruments
- Green growth indicators
- Greening SMEs

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- In June 2014, a regional expert meeting on “**Access to private finance for green investments in EU EaP countries**” was held in Paris to discuss environmental credit lines supported by IFIs and disbursed by local commercial banks which are the main source of financing for such investments.

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

- A national policy dialogue meeting on **creating market incentives for greener products** was held on 4 June 2014 to disseminate the policy manual and discuss possible directions of policy reform. This work aims to expand the use of economic instruments for better management of environmentally harmful products.

 <http://bit.ly/1uxzD3q>

- The results of the **survey of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** which was conducted in spring 2014 were presented and discussed at the second stakeholder workshop on 4 June 2014. Participants identified priorities for the subsequent stages of the greening SMEs project in Armenia.

- The conference “**Towards a Green Economy**”, co-organised by the Republican Union of Employers of Armenia and UNIDO, featured a **half-day session on greening SMEs** on 7 November 2014 in Yerevan. The event also served as the third stakeholder workshop of the Armenian pilot project on SMEs.

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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

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

- A pilot project report on “**Promoting better environmental performance of SMEs in Armenia**” is planned for the second quarter of 2015.

- The OECD is launching a **survey of energy subsidies** in the EaP countries, including Armenia. This will involve reviewing and developing a consistent and comprehensive description of such subsidy schemes and providing robust estimates of their volumes by using an internationally recognised methodology.

- The completion of the project on **green growth indicators (GGIs)** remains a priority. **Registration is now open to the workshop on GGIs in the EU Eastern Partnership countries** which will be held on **11-12 March 2015** in Paris.

 <http://bit.ly/1EC8PLS>

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UNEP

- Sustainable consumption and production (SCP)
- Sustainable public procurement (SPP) • Organic agriculture

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- UNEP supports Armenia in enhancing **organic agriculture production and access to markets**. Complete guidance documents on marketing, packaging and branding of organic products is being prepared.
- A market assessment for the main export products is conducted by UNEP.
- A second round of workshops conducted by UNEP prepares country representatives for participation in the Biofach trade fairs in 2015 and 2016.

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Armenian, Ukrainian and Moldovan producers participated in the **organic trade fair “Biofach”** on 11-14 February 2015 in Nürnberg, Germany.



<https://www.biofach.de/en/>

- The new **web portal on the Information Clearing House on SCP** - which serves the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10YFP)- will be updated with information on the achievements of the EaP GREEN programme.



<http://www.spclearinghouse.org>

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• Resource efficient and cleaner production (RECP)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- An **RECP project meeting**, which took place on 8 July 2014, discussed the suggested terms of reference and a future working schedule for a roll-out of demonstration activities in selected companies.
- **Visits to two demonstration sites of an RECP assessment** took place on 1 and 8 August 2014. RECP experts identified intervention opportunities to increase resource efficiency, achieve cleaner production and develop green businesses.

 <http://bit.ly/12MB5Fk>

- **Two awareness-raising seminars** - in Ararat city and in Dilijan city (Tavush region) - were organised during summer 2014. These events **promoted RECP project ideas and goals** among local businesses, SMEs, civil society and local government representatives, and highlighted the benefits of resource efficient, environmentally friendly business processes.
- **A second training on RECP including instruments, application and evaluation methodology** was held for a pool of local experts on 11 September 2014 in Yerevan. Ten RECP assessments were finalised and presented for the development of green business cases in co-operation with the project team and international RECP experts.

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **Ongoing RECP projects add value to Armenian 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.
- The **preliminary scoping of technology support activities** will be undertaken as of the first half of 2015.
- **Ten final RECP assessments will be presented** during a national conference in spring 2015. These studies identify RECP opportunities which diminish costs, optimise resource use, present new products and identify business development opportunities.
- A **bilingual English/Armenian RECP website** is available online to disseminate information regularly on RECP assessments, project activities and planned events to the larger public.

 <http://www.recp.am>

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New and forthcoming publications

- OECD: Policy Manual - **Creating Market Incentives for Greener Products** (Available in English and Russian)
<http://www.oecd.org/env/outreach/economic-instruments.htm>
- OECD: Project Report - **Environmental Lending in EU Eastern Partnership Countries** (Available in English and Russian)
<http://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/regionalmeeting-june-2014.htm>
- UNEP: Regional Report - **Resource Efficiency Economic Outlook** (Available in English and Russian)
http://www.grid.unep.ch/products/3_Reports/REEO_for_EECCA.pdf
- UNECE: **Assessment of the Draft Law of the Republic of Armenia on the Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise** (Available in English)
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/EaP_GREEN/2_results_comp_3/Summary_opinion_Arm_EIALaw_ENG_30052014_AS_clean.pdf
- UNECE: **Review of the National Legislative and Institutional Framework of SEA in Armenia** (Available in Russian)
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/meetings/Report_Laevskaya_July_2014_v2_12092014.pdf
- OECD: Policy Manual - **SME Greening Guide in the EU Eastern Partnership Countries** (Forthcoming in 2015)
- OECD: **Measuring the Green Transformation of Economy: Guide for Eurasia Transition Economies** (Forthcoming in 2015)
- OECD: **Inventory of Energy Subsidies in EU Eastern Partnership Countries** (Forthcoming in 2015)

On the calendars

Save the Date

- OECD: 10-11 March 2015 - Workshop on **Green Growth Indicators** in the EU Eastern Partnership countries (Paris). Registration is open.
- UNECE: October 2015 - **Regional conference to exchange experience in drafting SEA / EIA legislation and bylaws and barriers on adoption of the legislation** (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
- EaP GREEN Partners: **Steering Committee Meeting** - 18 June 2015
- OECD: **Environmental Action Programme (EAP) Task Force meeting** - 7-8 October 2015 (tbc)
- EaP GREEN Partners: Participation in the **8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference** - June 2016

DID YOU KNOW?

UNEP recently established the **GLOBAL SCP CLEARINGHOUSE** which is an online platform dedicated to sustainable consumption and production. The website aims at advancing SCP principles worldwide through information, knowledge sharing and cooperation. UNEP is updating the platform with information on EaP GREEN activities.

www.scpclearinghouse.org

The EaP GREEN programme aims to help the Government of Armenia establish an integrated policy framework for the transition to a green economy through: reforming policy instruments, adopting new analytical tools, improving access to finance, supporting capacity development, and rolling out pilot projects in the public and private sectors.

EaP GREEN is jointly implemented by the OECD, UNECE, UNEP and UNIDO. The programme is financially supported by the European Union and other donors.



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