



Third environmental performance review of Montenegro to focus climate change, water and waste

From 3 February 2014, experts from UNECE member States and the secretariat will visit Montenegro for a field mission in the framework of the third environmental performance review. The team will meet government officials, NGOs, business representatives, academics and international organizations active in Montenegro to assess the country's progress in environmental protection and sustainable development since the second review carried out in 2007. On the basis of their assessment, the team will develop recommendations for future action. The third review of Montenegro will focus on the management of surface and ground waters and protection of water ecosystems, efforts to reduce and recycle waste, as well as impacts of and measures to address climate change.

The Montenegrin Constitution of 2007 defines the country as an ecological State, symbolising the high-level commitment to the preservation of the natural environment and to a balanced development. To achieve this ambitious agenda, the Government works to integrate environmental concerns into development planning, including tourism, transport, spatial planning, energy and other sectors, as well as to improve policy frameworks for public participation and partnerships among stakeholders. The review will identify gaps and make suggestions for strengthening efforts towards a comprehensive and systemic response to sustainable development challenges.

The outcomes of the third review of Montenegro, including draft recommendations to the country, will be discussed by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its meeting in Geneva in October 2014, with the participation of high-level officials from the Government of Montenegro.

Since 1993, the UNECE environmental performance review programme assesses progress made by individual countries in reconciling their environmental and economic targets and in meeting international environmental commitments. These reviews assist countries improving their management of the environment by making concrete recommendations for better policy design and implementation. The current third cycle of reviews focuses on the economic instruments promoting green production and consumption, as well as behavioural changes and investments in environmental protection and green projects. □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/epr/welcome.html>
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Water Convention



UNECE to help Azerbaijan finalize its water sector strategy

On 23 January 2014 at a meeting in Baku, key stakeholders of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) Steering Committee of Azerbaijan agreed to finalize the State water strategy within the next few months. The development of the strategy has been supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The long-debated strategy, once finalized, will lay the ground for the adoption of the key principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and initiate the process of relevant changes in national legislation, aligning it with the European Union Water Framework Directive.

Main challenges faced by Azerbaijan in water sector are the scarcity of resources and water pollution. As some 70 per cent of Azerbaijan's surface water is transboundary, the principles of the UNECE [Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes](#) (Water Convention) have been used as basis for drafting the national water strategy.

Around 30 representatives of different stakeholders and donors attended the meeting in Baku. Participants welcomed the proposal to initiate the process of target setting under the UNECE-World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) Protocol on Water and Health. Azerbaijan is a party to the Protocol, but so far has not defined its national targets, required by the Protocol.

According to 2012 data, 92 per cent of the urban population in Azerbaijan and 74 per cent of rural dwellers have access to improved water sources. Even though there are large ongoing investment projects to increase drinking water supply and wastewater treatment, the national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health could help to guide the process.

In order to meet the priorities set in the 2014 workplan, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan will establish three working groups under the NPD process. The working groups on economic aspects will look at economic models that could help to achieve financial sustainability of the water management. A legal working group will first finalize the State water strategy, starting than to analyse further legislative changes needed. The third

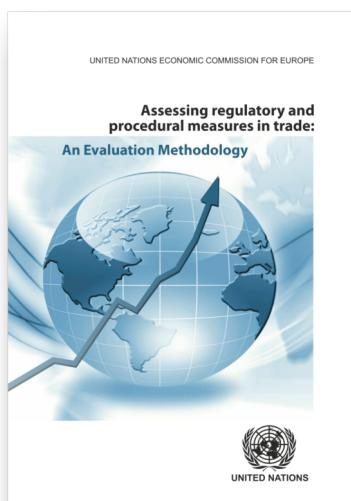
working group will be dealing with water quality monitoring issues with special attention to the state of transboundary rivers.

NPDs on IWRM and Water Supply and Sanitation are the main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) Component for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. UNECE is the strategic partner for support to the policy dialogue processes on IWRM.

NPDs are under way in the following countries of the region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/npd>
or contact Peep Mardiste at: peep.mardiste@unece.org.

Off the Press



Assessing regulatory and procedural measures in trade: An Evaluation Methodology

This document presents the evaluation methodology used by the secretariat to assess needs in countries with economies in transition to help them address non-tariff barriers to cross-border trade. It draws on UNECE assessment models and incorporates the lessons learnt from the needs assessment studies on Belarus and Kazakhstan, carried out by the secretariat in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

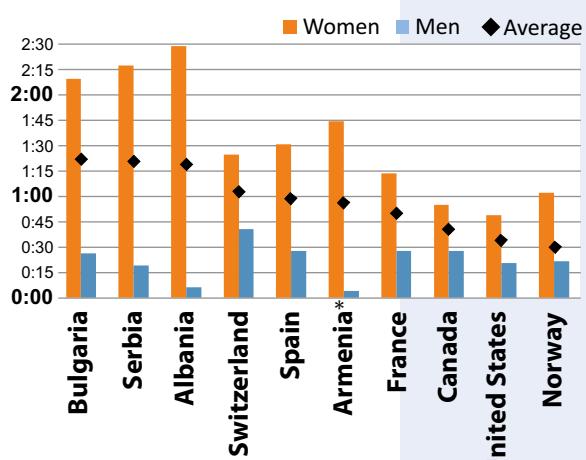
The methodology is meant to bring to the fore:

- A common understanding of key regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. While actors may have a broadly shared intuitive view of such obstacles, they may differ at the technical level when it comes to attributing causes to each obstacle and to estimating the magnitude of its impact.
- A common approach to addressing the identified barriers in a manner that is responsive to the specific needs of each country and every actor in the international trade supply chain.
- Conflicting policy objectives related to trade development and trade facilitation.
- Procedures and regulations that could be improved through systematic:
- Simplification - the elimination of all unnecessary elements and duplication in formalities, processes and procedures;
- Harmonization - the alignment of national formalities, procedures, documents, information, and operations with acceptable international commercial norms, practices and recommendations;
- Standardization - the implementation of internationally recognized formats for procedures, as well as documentary and information requirements;
- Capacity shortfalls in the existing trade support institutional framework (understood as comprising infrastructure, trade support organizations and state agencies, including those involved in supporting quality control), which could be improved through targeted investment;
- Shortcomings in existing public-private sector consultative mechanisms related to the development and implementation of regulatory policies. □

The publication is available in English and Russian at:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=34506>.

Facts and Figures

Time spent by women and men in food preparation and dish washing in 2010, (hours and minutes per day)



Source: UNECE Statistical database.
*Armenia: data refer to 2008.

Every day, on average, people in the UNECE region spend between half an hour and an hour and a half preparing food and washing dishes, according to data from time use surveys from around 2010. Bulgarians spend the greatest amount of time in the kitchen (1 hour 22 minutes) and Norwegians the least (30 minutes).

Among the 10 countries displayed, variations exist both in the national average amount of time spent in these activities, and between the time spent on these activities by women and men.

In Armenia, for instance, women spend 26 times longer than men in food preparation and dish washing. Canada has the lowest gender difference, but women still spend twice as much time on kitchen activities.

Albania is the country where the most time is spent on these activities amongst women, at two and a half hours per day, whilst women in the United States spend the least time, at 49 minutes per day.

Men in Switzerland spend the most time on these activities, at 41 minutes a day. Men in Armenia, on the other hand, spend the least time, at 4 minutes per day.

There are many factors affecting time spent in the kitchen, such as household income, availability of time to cook, cultural traditions and habits, kitchen appliances, the number of people sharing kitchen duties, availability of ready-made meals or easy-to-prepare food, and employment situation. □

Not an official record - For information only