

**Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)  
Actions by European ECO Forum**

**Organization:** European ECO Forum

**Title:**

**Mapping and Monitoring Initiatives and Progress in the Pan-European Region Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles, Livelihoods and Transitions to Sustainable Production/Consumption Systems in the Green Economy**

*Focus area: Overarching actions, 4,5,9:* Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns; Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns; Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

**Description of the action:** ECO Forum will engage with members of civil society in countries of the region to map and monitor green economy-focused activities and progress of BIG-E and other actions in their respective countries. This activity will include those initiatives conducted by civil society (although not registered within the official BIG-E process). The project also pay special attention to SCP and the targets of SDG-12, working in collaboration with UNEP and organizations involved in the 10YFP as well as research, academia and other institutions (e.g., universities, EEA, OECD, UNEP, GRF) to help ensure access to relevant data and information to effectively engage in this civic monitoring activity.

One of the underlying objectives of this project is also to inform and educate citizens in their respective countries about BIG-E actions, as well as efforts to “green the economy”; special attention will be paid to those efforts highlighting SCP issues and SDG-12 targets. Rather than an academic research exercise, the project aims to engage citizens as well as focus public attention on the implementation of country and organizational commitments and overall progress towards green economy aims. The initiative will report to the UNECE as a contribution to the review process of the implementation of the BIG-E and green economy objectives, providing an important civil society perspective alongside those of governments and international agencies

**Action’s timeframe/milestones, as appropriate:** With the launch of this action at the Environment for Europe (EfE) Batumi Conference on 8 to 10 June 2016, the project will then engage team members and partners determining their specific commitments, convening and reporting on progress next June, 2017 at the 3rd international conference of the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption, in Brighton, UK, then providing a mid-term report to UNECE in 2018 in conjunction with the BIG-E review process. The project will then continue to map, monitor and engage with initiatives in the region in the following period leading to the next EfE Conference, reporting on results as a contribution to the 30th anniversary of the process.

The Project Team will organize a series of regular conference calls to note their own progress in this activity, reporting on the status of meetings and interviews with relevant BIG-E participants as well as other research organizations and agencies.

**Type of action:** information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

**Economic sectors:** Economy wide; also specific sectors depending on the initiative.

**Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:** The Project will draw upon the data and research in collaboration with parallel monitoring organizations and activities, such as EEA, UNEP (e.g., GEO and 10YFP), OECD, relevant SEA evaluations and organizations, as well as universities and research institutes, including those of the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF).

**Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** Inclusiveness, transparency and accountability. Greater public awareness and quality participation of civil society in both the Greening the Economy process as well as the Environment for Europe one. Addition of a civil society perspective and lens to the broader monitoring and review process. Also the important value-added integration of SCP, the 10YFP, and SDG-12 into the Pan-European Green Economy process.

**SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** SDG-12 and SCP-related SDGs. Some initiatives will clearly focus on specific SDGs, which will be noted.

**Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:** N/A, although EPRs will be included as resources for in-country monitoring and reporting.

**Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** These are still in development, and will also be adapted in response to the nature and indicators used in the BIG-E and other projects.

Initiative-focused indicators: For example, countries with BIG-E projects. Inclusion of public participation mechanisms and number of civil society participants involved. How “sustainability criteria” is defined and integrated into projects. Openness of initiative leaders to be interviewed or share information on project.

Country-focused indicators (i.e., context): Existence of National Sustainable Development Plan or Strategy. Country policies in areas of concern. Status of indicators of country environmental performance. Indicators of public participation and access to information (e.g., existence of legislation, compliance with Aarhus Convention.)

**Partners:** Aside from the broader membership of European ECO Forum, there are at least 110 civil society organizations that are members of the Green Economy and Sustainable Production and Consumption Issue Group, who are expected to participate.

**Contact points:** Janis Brizga (janis@zalabriviba.lv, Green liberty, Latvia) and Jeffrey Barber (jeffreysisforum@gmail.com , Integrative Strategies Forum, USA) on behalf of the European ECO Forum’s Green economy and SCP Issue group.