

## **Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) Actions by Germany**

**Country: Germany**

**Title:**

**German National Program for Sustainable Consumption**

*Focus area 4: Shift consumer behaviors towards sustainable consumption patterns*

**Description of the action:** The German National Programme for Sustainable Consumption is intended to help consumers to better understand the environmental and social impacts of their consumption. It aims to identify alternative consumption patterns and strengthen sustainable alternatives, without removing consumers' right to make their own decisions. Furthermore, it intends to strengthen incentives for innovative approaches that are in keeping with the market and facilitate sustainable consumption. At the same time, it will seek to stimulate a broader national discussion about lifestyles and a change in values that also takes regulatory and economic aspects into account.

The programme addresses not only consumers but all relevant stakeholders such as the business community, commerce, civil society, the scientific community and academia, the media, local authorities and also the public sector in its cvcccccrole of demonstrating good practice. It is not possible to assign the entire responsibility for sustainable consumption to any single group. On the contrary, the starting point must be the principle of shared responsibility.

**Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate:** In the programme several concrete measures to various topics are listed, whose time frame varies as some are already running or in the process of being implemented, while others are yet in the stage of planning or are rather ideas, which need to be concretized.

**Type of action:** All three types of actions are relevant within the programme, whereby a main focus lies on "type (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments" as sustainable consumption should not be dictated by the governments but rather facilitates and supported by it.

**Economic sectors:**

All economic sectors are relevant ("a – economy-wide"), whereby there is a specific focus of the programme on the following sectors: mobility/transport; agriculture/food; housing; workplace; textiles; tourism ("c")

**Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:**

<http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/topics/economy-products-resources/products-and-environment/general-information/?cHash=708635c8a9f766bc5d0c165b53867c44>

**Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:**

- Promotion of sustainable product choices and lifestyle
- Promotion of awareness of impacts of sustainable consumption
- Synergy potential among different stakeholders identified and used.
- Role model of public actor in sustainable procurement
- Reduction of food waste

**SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** SDG 12 – especially 12.1, 12.3, 12.5, 12.7, 12. 8  
But also 2.4, 7.3, 8.4

**Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate: -----**

**Partners:** Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection; Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

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**Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)  
Actions by Germany**

**Country:** Germany, Federal Environment Agency (UBA)

**Title:**

**Methodological Convention 3.0 for Estimates of Environmental Costs**

*Focus area 1, 2:* Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital, Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital.

**Description of the action:** Establishment of methods for the economic valuation of environmental damage and provision of a wide range of best-practice cost rates for drivers and impacts of environmental damage.

**Action's time frame/milestones, as appropriate:** In the programme several concrete measures to various topics are listed, whose time frame varies as some are already running or in the process of being implemented, while others are yet in the stage of planning or are rather ideas, which need to be concretized.

**Type of action:** Information, decision support in national and local policy making and planning

**Economic sectors:** Economy-wide

**Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:** -----

Methodological Convention 2.0 (previous version)

**Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:**

- State-of-the art decision support tool to estimate the economic benefit of environmental policy measures and to call attention to the costs of failure to protect the environment.
- Informing policy making makers on the national, regional and local level about the environmental damage costs of policy alternatives
- Introduction of cost rates for environmental damage into legislative impact assessments
- Progress towards the further internalization of environmental costs into all kinds of decision making

**SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** Action contributes to SDG target 15.9, 12.7, 12.8, 13.2, 15.1, 15.2

**Partners:** Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Several Research Institutions

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**Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)  
Actions by Germany**

**Country: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety/ Federal Environment Agency (UBA)**

***Title:***

**Establishment of an International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)**

*Focus area 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9:* Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns; Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production pattern; Promote green and fair trade; Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital; Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being; Promote public participation and education for sustainable development

***Description of the action:*** The ISC<sub>3</sub> wants to support the global breakthrough of Sustainable Chemistry. The project for the establishment of ISC<sub>3</sub> was launched in March, 2015, by the German Environment Agency. In the first instance, the ISC<sub>3</sub> will work to ensure that:

- Existing expertise (science and politics) is networked and bundled
- The further development of Sustainable Chemistry from its basic principles to methods and applications to business models is fostered at international level
- Fundamental Sustainable Chemistry principles and strategies are further pushed and penetrate the economies in industrialized, emerging and developing countries

In this way, an effective contribution will be made in the long term to establish Sustainable Chemistry worldwide as a key component of sustainable development. Chemical enterprises with the right innovations, products and services will be in a position to assert themselves in global markets.

***Action's time frame/milestones, for the action, as appropriate:*** The ISC<sub>3</sub> is planned to open early 2017.

***Type of action:*** Information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instrument

***Economic sectors:*** Economy-wide

***Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:***

- Development of “quality criteria” for processes, materials and resource demand in order to assess different Sustainable Chemistry approaches
- Review of main interfaces to resource and health protection as well as product and plant safety
- Analysis and dissemination of business models which promise economic success on the basis of Sustainable Chemistry
- Support for emerging and developing countries in the safe handling of chemicals and disposal of waste from hazardous substances produced or used earlier
- Guidance for emerging and developing countries in the implementation of international regulations in the field of Sustainable Chemistry
- Exchange of good practice (e.g. advanced synthesis strategies, sustainable material flow management, product design) at global level

- Advancement of good professional standards in the manufacture, processing and use of chemicals as well as their utilization and disposal

**SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** Action contributes to SDG targets 3.9, 3d, 4.4, 4.7, 5.1, (5.5), 6.1, 6.3, 6b, 11b, 12.1, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 13, 14.1

**Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: -----**

**Partners:**

(a) The “Bundling of Expertise in the area of Sustainable Chemistry” project was launched by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and the German Federal Environment Agency (Environment Research Plan, Project ID 3715 65 499 0). A consortium, comprising N<sup>3</sup> Nachhaltigkeitsberatung Dr. Frieger & Partner, DECHEMA Gesellschaft für Chemische Technik und Biotechnologie e.V. and BZL Kommunikation und Projektsteuerung GmbH, has been commissioned to implement the project. The project commenced on 15.3.2015 and should be completed in the spring of 2017.

(b) Stakeholder worldwide contribute to the project to via an advisory council within the project to establish the ISC<sub>3</sub>. The advisory council will initiate a global network (ISC-net) of experts and invite them to contribute.

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**Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)  
Actions by Germany**

**Country: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety/ Federal Environment Agency (UBA)**

***Title:***

**German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRess) – Programme for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources**

*Focus area 2, 4, 5, and 9:* Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns; Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production pattern; Promote public participation and education for sustainable development

***Description of the action:***

- The German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRess) is a dedicated strategy for material resource efficiency adopted in February 2012 by the German government (ProgRess I) and updated in February 2016 (ProgRess II).
- The goal of the ProgRess is to structure the extraction and use of natural resources in a sustainable way and to reduce associated environmental pollution as far as possible. It covers the entire value chain.
- ProgRess is shaped by a total of four guiding principles: 1) joining ecological necessities with economic opportunities, innovation support and social responsibility; 2) viewing global responsibility as a key focus of our national resource policy; 3) gradually making economic and production practices in Germany less dependent on primary resources, developing and expanding closed-cycle management; and 4) securing sustainable resource use for the long term by guiding society towards quality growth.
- Both programmes attach particular importance to market incentives, information, expert advice, education, research and innovation, and to strengthening voluntary measures and initiatives on the part of industry and society.

***Action's time frame/milestones, as appropriate:*** When the German government adopted ProgRess it decided to report on the development of resource efficiency in Germany every four years, assess progress and continue and update the Resource Efficiency Programme accordingly. The German Bundestag passed a resolution on ProgRess on 8 March 2012 to support the work, asking for a report every four years.

***Type of action:***

- (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments
- (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments

***Economic sectors:*** Economy-wide

***Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:*** ProgRess is seen as the beginning of a process in policymaking, science and society. Implementing ProgRess will require a high level of initiative and activities by many social actors and close cooperation between politics, industry, science and civil society. It will also need civic commitment. The programmes aims to provide sound and long-term orientation for all stakeholders.

***SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:*** SDG 8 (sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, productive employment and decent work) und SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production patterns)

***Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:*** The main indicators to currently measure improvements in resource efficiency are already defined in the National Sustainable Development Strategy (2002):

- raw material productivity – gross domestic product (GDP)/abiotic domestic material intensity (DMI);
- energy productivity – GDP/total primary energy use;
- proportion of renewable energy in total energy consumption.

In addition, raw material consumption per person (RMC/person) is described as an indicator in ProgRes. ProgRes II further implement a newly developed indicator “total raw material productivity” (GDP + value of imported goods / RMI (Raw material input)).

***Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:***

***Partners:***

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