

EaP GREEN

Partnership for Environment and Growth



Programme carried out with the financial assistance of the European Union

COUNTRY UPDATES SERIES • WINTER 2014 / 2015

Greening economies
in the EU Eastern Partnership countries

MOLDOVA

RECENT AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The UNECE Secretariat to the Convention on Environment Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) cooperates closely with the Ministry of Environment and UNDP's local office to prepare the country for **accession to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**.
- A **review of legislative and institutional frameworks for the application of SEA** was conducted in 2014. The draft SEA law was prepared during January-July 2014. A **national stakeholder consultation** was held on 29 July 2014.
 -  Review: <http://bit.ly/1Ghzp5M>
Meeting: <http://bit.ly/1qAO1JI>
Draft law (in Russian): <http://bit.ly/1wD7snT>
- The second phase of the project (from July 2014 to date) aims to build national capacity in the practical application of the SEA procedure. The **pilot project** on SEA for the **Orhei Town Master Plan** was initiated at a start-by seminar held in July in Chisinau. In the second half of 2014, the UNECE organised **two SEA training workshops** to support the national team in **implementing the pilot and assessing the environmental impacts** of the Master Plan.

-  Workshop: <http://bit.ly/1DQuyuy>
Public consultation event: <http://bit.ly/1z1gp5y>

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- The **study tour** in the Czech Republic on the application of Strategic Environmental Assessment at 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 by discussing challenges and success factors.
 -  <http://bit.ly/1t5IoyJ>
- Internal consultations on the SEA draft law will be completed in early 2015. Subsequently, the law will be submitted to the Parliament for approval.
- The pilot project of SEA application to the Orhei Town Master Plan will be completed in spring 2015.
- Priority activities for 2015-16 include: developing by-laws to support the implementation of the SEA law; preparing national guidelines on the practical application of SEA; and roll-out of pilot projects at the national level. The roles and responsibilities of national authorities will be incorporated into the national guidelines on the application of EIA.

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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 through local commercial banks which are the main source of financing for such investments.

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

- Two stakeholder workshops on **promoting a better environmental performance of SMEs** were held on 13 February and 15 October 2014. In the period of May-August 2014, an **SME survey** was conducted. The main findings were presented in a second meeting where participants assessed necessary policy changes and pilot project priorities. A regional SME greening toolkit is planned for release in the second quarter of 2015.

- The second workshop on economic instruments for managing environmentally harmful products took place on 13 June 2014. The policy manual “**Creating market incentives for greener products**” provided the basis for discussing possible directions of reform.

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

- The development of indicators for evaluating **progress towards green economy** was discussed at a stakeholder meeting on 26 June 2014 in Chisinau.

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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

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

- The OECD is launching a **survey of energy subsidies** in the EaP countries, including in Moldova. This will involve a consistent description of subsidy schemes and robust estimates of their volumes.

- A report on “**Energy subsidies and climate change in Moldova**” is forthcoming in early 2015.

- The completion of the project on **green growth indicators** (GGIs) in the EU Eastern Partnership countries remains a priority. A publication on “**Measuring green growth in Moldova**” will be released in 2015. **Registration is open to the regional GGIs workshop on 11-12 March 2015** in Paris.

 <http://bit.ly/1EC8PIS>

- A national capacity building workshop on **extended producer responsibility** (EPR) will assist experts in making better use of product-related economic instruments. A report with relevant **policy recommendations for Moldova** is forthcoming.

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UNEP

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

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- A **sustainable public procurement (SPP) prioritisation workshop** was held on 6 October 2014 in Chisinau. The objective was to prioritise groups of products and services for the Market Readiness Analysis Activity of the UNEP Approach to SPP. The project is carried out jointly with the Agency of Public Procurement of Moldova.
- UNEP supports Moldova in enhancing **organic agriculture production and access to markets**. Complete guidance documents on marketing, packaging and branding of organic products are being prepared. A market assessment for the main export products is being carried out by UNEP.
- A second round of workshops prepares country representatives for participation in the Biofach trade fairs in 2015 and 2016.
- A demonstration activity for promoting organic products in schools includes an inventory of available and future supplies of organic foods which could be procured for school lunches.

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- A **sustainable public procurement (SPP) national policy and action plan workshop** took place on 16 December 2014 in Chisinau. UNEP presented its approach to SPP with subsequent discussion and agreement on a policy action plan for the country. The demonstration component will be launched in 2015.
- Moldovan, Armenian and Ukrainian 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 training** was held on 8 November 2014 in Chisinau to present tools, publications and web resources which can support a follow-up of RECP assessments.
- The **National Executive Board of the National Cleaner Production Programme (NCP)** met on 6 November 2014. Achievements of the NCP during the first three quarters of 2014 were reviewed with a focus on the activities and implementation work by regional RECP Clubs. The Executive Board agreed to extend the project, and discussed future coordination options for RECP.
- **RECP Club meetings** have taken place on a monthly basis in Ungheni, Causeni and Chisinau. They focused on selected topics, e.g. resource efficiency and water minimisation, practical RECP implementation at companies, safe management of chemicals and hazardous materials. Participants reviewed progress and discussed future action plans.

 <http://bit.ly/1szump7>

- The **RECP stand at the EU Sustainable Energy Week** on 23-29 June 2014 in Chisinau, Balti and Orhei familiarised visitors with the RECP concept and its roll-out at Moldovan companies / organisations. Information materials were available for takeaway in all three locations of the event.

RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- The **preliminary scoping of technology support activities** will be started as of the first half of 2015.
- A **bilingual English/Romanian RECP website** is available online to disseminate information regularly on RECP assessments, project activities and planned events to the larger public.

 <http://www.recp.md>

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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>
- **UNECE: Review of Legislation of the Republic of Moldova with regard to Implementation of the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/EaP_GREEN/1_Homepage/Report_EL_final_eng_280314_rev_clean.pdf (Available in English)
- **UNECE: Draft Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment in Moldova** (Available in Russian)
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/EaP_GREEN/Moldova_roundtable_29072014/RUS_proiectul_Legii_ESM_mai_15.05.14.pdf
- **UNEP: Regional Report - Resource Efficiency Economic Outlook** (Available in English and Russian)
http://www.grid.unep.ch/products/3_Reports/REEO_for_EECCA.pdf
- **OECD: Policy Manual - SME Greening Guide in EU Eastern Partnership Countries** (Forthcoming in 2015)
- **OECD: Measuring the Green Transformation of Economy: Guide for Eurasia Transition Economies** (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)

Recent events

- OECD: 12 February 2015 - **Promoting Better Environmental Performance of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)** - Regional Expert Meeting (Kiev)
- UNEP: 16 December 2014 - Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) National Policy and Action Plan Workshop (Chisinau)
- UNECE: 16-17 December 2014 - Practical Application of the Draft Law of the Republic of Moldova on Strategic Environmental Assessment to Urban Plans and Programmes: Impact Training Workshop

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 Moldova 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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