

Environmental Performance Review Programme

An environmental performance review (EPR) is an external assessment of the progress a country has made in reconciling its environmental and economic targets and in meeting its international environmental commitments.

Since 1991 the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has been implementing the EPR Programme for its members. Following a decision by the Ministers of the Environment of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), at their Second Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Lucerne, Switzerland, 1993), ECE has been carrying out EPRs in interested countries.

The **main objectives** of the EPR Programme are:

- To assist countries to improve their management of the environment and associated environmental performance by making concrete recommendations for better policy design and implementation;
- To promote the exchange of information among countries about policies and experiences;
- To help integrating environmental policies into sector-specific economic policies, such as agricultural, energy, transport and health policies;
- To promote greater accountability to the public;
- To strengthen cooperation with the international community;
- To contribute to the achievement and monitoring of the relevant SDGs.

As a voluntary exercise, EPR is undertaken at the request of the country under review. The assessment team, made up of international experts, meets with national experts and representatives of civil society and international community in the country under review to discuss issues covered by the review.

EPR contains recommendations for further improvement, taking into consideration the country's progress since the previous review. ECE Expert Group on EPRs peer reviews the EPR. Subsequently, the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy peer reviews the EPR recommendations and adopts them.

First-cycle EPRs established baseline conditions regarding trends, policy commitments, institutional arrangements and routine capabilities for carrying out national evaluations.

From 1996, the first cycle of reviews was performed in the following countries of the ECE region: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia.

Second-cycle EPRs assessed progress and helped to stimulate greater accountability. Emphasis was placed on implementation and financing of environment policy, the integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors and the promotion of sustainable development.

Since 2000, ECE has carried out second EPRs in Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia,

Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, North Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

At Seventh Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Astana, 2011), Ministers reaffirmed their support to the ECE EPR Programme. They invited ECE to pursue a third cycle.

At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 2016), Ministers highlighted the role of EPRs in supporting the **achievement and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Third-cycle EPRs focus on environmental governance and financing in a green economy context, countries' cooperation with the international community and environmental mainstreaming in priority sectors. Since 2017, EPRs address relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since 2012, ECE has carried out third EPRs in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the EPR methodology have attracted the attention of countries outside ECE region, leading to requests for a transfer of know-how from ECE to other United Nations regional commissions. Morocco was the first country outside the ECE region for which a review was carried out by ECE in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, followed by Mongolia in cooperation with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Review mission: 3–11 December 2019

Outline of the Review

I. Environmental governance and financing

1. Legal, policy and institutional framework (Olivera Kujundzic, UNECE consultant, ohoo29@gmail.com)
2. Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms (Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE, Nicholas.Bonvoisin@un.org)
3. Greening the economy (Saraly Andrade De Sa, UNECE consultant, Saraly.AndradeDeSa@unige.ch)
4. Environmental monitoring and information (Irina Davis, UNECE consultant, irinadvs1@yahoo.co.uk)
5. Environmental democracy and education for sustainable development (Angela Sochirca, UNECE, Angela.Sochirca@un.org)

II. Domestic – international interface

6. Implementation of international agreements and commitments (Elisabete Quintas da Silva, Portugal, Elisabete.Quintas@adcoesao.pt and Virginia Fuse, UNECE, Virginia.Fuse@un.org)
7. Climate change (Cornelis Braams, UNECE consultant, ctbraams@chello.nl)

III. Media and pollution management

8. Air protection (Olivera Kujundzic, UNECE consultant, ohoo29@gmail.com)
9. Water management (Miklos Marton, Hungary, Miklos.Marton@am.gov.hu)
10. Waste and chemicals management (Boris Urbanek, UNECE consultant, Boris.Urbanek@dekonta.cz)
11. Biodiversity and protected areas (Sarango Radnaaragchaa, UNECE, Sarango.Radnaaragchaa@un.org)

Annexes

1. Implementation of recommendations in the second review
2. Participation in international agreements
3. Selected environmental, economic and social indicators
4. SDGs indicators
5. List of major environment-related legislation

EPR-relevant SDGs will be addressed in respective chapters

Period covered by the 3rd EPR: **2012–2019**

For more information

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Romania

Third review



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