



Action funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

EU4ENVIRONMENT VIRTUAL COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS

BELARUS

Thursday, 25 June 2020

Start: 16h Brussels/Paris time - 17h Minsk time

End: 17h30 Brussels/Paris time - 18h30 Minsk time

Technical equipment: web-based video conferencing (Zoom)

Language: English (Russian interpretation)

Action implemented by:



Introduction

The start of 2020 brought about an unprecedented global challenge: the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), classed by the WHO as a global pandemic. As a result, strict confinement measures, including travel bans, have been introduced around the world since early March.

Despite the restrictions, the EU4Environment Action is being implemented. All formal and informal meetings and discussions are now being substituted by teleconferencing.

It is difficult at this point to assess how long travel restrictions will be maintained and whether it will be possible to organise the EU4Environment Regional Assembly that would review progress on EU4Environment implementation - initially planned as a face-to-face meeting in September 2020. To anticipate the possible postponement of the Regional Assembly meeting towards the end of 2020, it is proposed to organise virtual EU4Environment consultations with each of the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries and the implementing organisations.

Purpose of virtual country consultations

- Review the in-country situation in light of COVID-19, post COVID-19 recovery plans and their potential impacts on greening the economy;
- Present progress with EU4Environment implementation in each EaP country;
- Discuss plans for the rest of the year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Discuss options for organising the Regional Assembly meeting in the second half of 2020 and other administrative matters.

Participants

- EU4Environment National Focal Points (NFPs) from the Ministries of Environment and of Economy of each EaP country;
- Selected participants invited by NFPs (e.g. national focal points under the UNECE Espoo Convention);
- European Commission: representatives of DG NEAR (DG ENV and DG CLIMA may also join) and respective EU Delegations;
- Implementing Partners (representatives of OECD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNECE);
- National Action Coordinators;
- Implementing Partners' co-ordinators could be invited on individual basis (e.g. UN Resident Coordinators of support to the country's post COVID-19 recovery plan, UNIDO Resident Coordinators).

Background documentation

- Agenda;
- PowerPoint presentation with country updates prepared by Implementing Partners;
- Country-specific and regional work plans;
- Logistical note.

Draft Agenda

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|---------------------------|---|---|
| 16:00-16:05
(5 min) | 1 | Welcome by the Chair of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Mr. Michael Rupp, EC/DG NEAR |
| 16:05 - 16:15
(10 min) | 2 | Update on in-country situation <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Short presentations on the current situation by the Country representatives, the post COVID-19 recovery plans and their potential impacts on greening the economy<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, TBC● Ministry of Economy (TBC) |
| 16:15 - 16:55
(40 min) | 3 | Update on past and on-going EU4Environment activities and plans for the rest of the year <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Presentations by Implementing Partners (see a PPT presentation)<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Result 1 (UNEP and UNECE)● Result 2 (UNIDO)● Result 3 and 5.3 (OECD)○ Reactions from the country representatives after each result: feasibility of using alternative modes of operation (ex. virtual meetings, web-based trainings, use of local consultants), and maintaining/postponing/advancing activities. More in-depth discussions could be carried out on a bilateral basis after the consultation. |
| 16:55 - 17:05
(10 min) | 4 | Preparation for the EU4Environment Regional Assembly meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Presentation of the proposed options by OECD (see a PPT presentation)<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Maintaining the planned date for the Regional Assembly in the week of 21 September 2020 (suggested 22-23 September) as a virtual meeting by Zoom (e.g. 3 hour morning sessions over two days)● an in-person meeting after travel restrictions are lifted, possibly November-December in Kyiv, Ukraine○ Reactions from the country |
| 17:05 - 17:15
(10 min) | 5 | Communication (Result 5.2) and coordination with other projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Presentation by OECD (see a PPT presentation)○ Reactions from the country |
| 17:15 - 17:25
(10 min) | 6 | Progress on administrative issues (Result 5.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Presentation by OECD on the Action Registration, National Action Coordinator and the National Implementing Committee○ Reactions from the country |
| 17:25 - 17:30
(5 min) | 7 | Other issues and closure <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Mr. Michael Rupp, EC/DG NEAR |