



Virtual café: Session 2: Environment

Environmental challenges and opportunities of the EaP Region: solutions and potential for youth involvement

Based on the provisions of the **"20 Deliverables for 2020"** and the **Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020** - towards environmental and climate resilience, of the **European Green Deal**, on the documents and outcomes of the **EaP CSF WG3 on environment, climate change and energy security**, of the **EaP Panel on Environment and Climate Change** (8th meeting, 24 June 2020), on the results of the **ENI SEIS II East**, on the **EU4Environment Regional Assembly** (22 September 2020) and current **EU4Environment Action** implementation at the regional and national levels, the **Session 2 on Environment** will focus on the state of play in the existing environmental policies and their shortcomings for the moment, related to the European Green Deal, as well as potential actions and steps that could be applied or need to be introduced in the EaP countries, giving a special attention to youth vision, participation and involvement.

The **EU will work together with the partner countries** to transform the region into fair and prosperous societies, **with modern, resource-efficient, clean, circular and competitive economies**, while increasing their environmental and climate resilience, including through more sustainable use of natural resources. The prominence of the environmental and climate agenda is increasing in the region. Public demands are growing to: (i) **improve air and water quality**; (ii) **manage effectively waste, land, and water resources**; and (iii) **respond to extreme weather events and illegal logging and deforestation**. **Green infrastructure and finance** to be promoted.

This is in line with **current EaP countries priorities**, which need to bring environmental and climate resilience higher in policy agenda, further **strengthen the capacities of the environmental institutions**, face higher **exposure to air pollution**, pollution of surface water and **scarcity of water resources** as an impact of climate change, weak **forest and protected areas management**, degradation of **soil resources** and inefficient **waste management and recycling**.

Policy instruments, such as **Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment, Extended Producer Responsibility, Sustainable Public Procurement, Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, eco-labelling** have to be further applied. **EE and ESD** have to be further integrated into the educational process at all levels.

The Session will address the following main questions:

1. What are the key **environmental problems and priorities in the EaP Region/country** specific?
2. Would **promotion of the European Green Deal and of the green economic development policies** be a solution to mainstreaming environment provisions into economic sectors?

Action implemented by:



3. What **opportunities/tools for youth participation** in decision making and access to information could be applied to facilitate youth involvement and prevent the impact on the environment?

The contribution of the **EU4Environment Regional Action** to promote a greener and circular economy in the EaP countries as part of the **implementation of European Green Deal** will be presented.

About EU4Environment: The “**European Union for Environment**” (EU4Environment) Action aims to help the six partner countries: **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine** preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking **opportunities for greener growth**, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts. The Action is **funded by the European Union** and implemented by five **Partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank**. The Action implementation period is 2019-2022. <https://www.oecd.org/site/eu4environment/>



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