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EU4Environment

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

Final EU4Environment work plan for 2019-2022:

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

This document presents, in a consolidated manner, the final regional plan of work for Results 1-3 and 5 as part of the European Union for Environment Action (EU4Environment).

It was prepared based on the discussions at the National launch events in six EaP countries, the Inaugural EU4Environment Regional Assembly meeting (27-28 June 2019, Brussels) and takes into account the final comments received by 6 September 2019.

Action required: For information.

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List of acronyms

| | |
|----------------|--|
| CAS | Compliance assurance system |
| CE | Circular Economy |
| DoA | Description of the Action |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EPR | Extended Producers Responsibility |
| EU | European Union |
| EU4Environment | European Union for Environment Programme |
| EUR | Euros |
| GBR | General Binding Rules |
| GE | Green Economy |
| GGI | Green growth indicators |
| NFPs | National Focal Points |
| NIP | National implementation partner |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| PEF | Product environmental footprint |
| RA | Regional Assembly |
| RECP | Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production |
| SDG | Sustainable development goals |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| SMEs | Small and Medium Sized Enterprises |
| SMGP | Single Market for Green Products |
| SPP | Sustainable public procurement |
| UN Environment | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNECE | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| WB | World Bank |

Introduction

This document is the final **regional Plan of Work for 2019-2022** of the European Union for Environment programme (EU4Environment). It consolidates the activities identified for implementation at the regional level with respect to the proposals specified in the Description of the Action (DoA) for **Results 1-3 and 5**.

The document does not include the work plan for **Result 4**, led by the World Bank, due to administrative procedures around the signatory contract between the European Commission and the World Bank, which made it difficult to conduct all the necessary country consultations and preparatory technical work. The work plan for Result 4 will be added after the completion of the contractual procedure.

It builds on initial commitments discussed at the EU4Environment national launch events in six EaP countries (March-April 2019) and the follow-up consultations, including mapping exercise, and discussions at the EaP Panel on Environment and Climate Change (27 May 2019, Vienna) and at the EU4Environment Inaugural Regional Assembly meeting (27-28 June 2019, Brussels). It also takes into account the final comments received by 6 September 2019.

It accommodates, to the extent possible, the country requests taking into account feasibility and the resources available.

Table 1 below maps all activities agreed for implementation at the regional level. Tables 2-4 present more detailed planning under each Result, expected output targets and indicative timeline for the 2019-20 implementing period. A detailed description of each activity is available from the DoA. This work plan is kept flexible, to adjust, if necessary, in the course of implementation the timeline and activities, in case of any issues beyond Partners control.

About EU4Environment

The **general objective of EU4Environment** is to help the partner countries 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 EU4Environment programme is structured around **five Results**:

- **Result 1.** Greener decision-making (implemented by UN Environment and UNECE, with coordination by UNIDO);
- **Result 2.** Circular economy and new growth opportunities (implemented by UN Environment and UNIDO, with coordination by UNIDO);
- **Result 3.** An environmental level playing field (implemented by OECD);
- **Result 4.** Ecosystem services and livelihoods (implemented by the World Bank);
- **Result 5.** Knowledge sharing and coordination (implemented by OECD, with input from all implementing Partners).

The total EU4Environment budget for four years (2019-2022) is about EUR 20 million, of which EUR 19 million were provided by the European Union.

The Programme implementation started in January 2019. During the first half of 2019, so called “mobilisation and inception phase”, the Partners formalized and operationalized Programme implementation in all six countries and started selected activities.

Final consolidated regional plan of work for Results 1-3 and 5

Table 1. Mapping of regional activities for Results 1-3 and 5.

| Activities | Region |
|--|--------|
| RESULT 1. Greener decision-making | |
| 1.1: Green economy ownership, policy coherence and cross-sectorial coordination (UNEP) | |
| Activity 1.1.1: Survey and large-scale training of public sector employees | V |
| Activity 1.1.2: Fitness tests of relevant policy documents and policy proposals | V |
| Activity 1.1.3: Facilitation of National Policy Dialogues on Green Economy | X |
| 1.2: Sectoral investment planning and comparative analysis of costs and benefits (UNEP) | |
| Activity 1.2.1: Investment needs assessment in priority sectors | X |
| Activity 1.2.2: Development of investment strategy proposals or action plans | X |
| 1.3: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (UNECE) | |
| Activity 1.3.1: Assistance for finalizing the legal reforms on SEA and on transboundary EIA | X |
| Activity 1.3.2: Comprehensive capacity and institutional building | V |
| 1.4: Awareness, education and public acceptance of the Green Economy transition (UNEP) | |
| Activity 1.4.1: Implementation of educational courses | V |
| Activity 1.4.2: Awareness raising campaigns for general public | V |
| RESULT 2. Circular economy and new growth opportunities | |
| 2.1: Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production and eco-innovation among SMEs (UNIDO) | |
| Activity 2.1.1: Eco-industrial parks feasibility | V |
| Activity 2.1.2: Supporting RECP Clubs | X |
| Activity 2.1.3: Promoting Circular Economy – Waste mapping in municipalities | V |
| Activity 2.1.4: Training national experts | V |
| Activity 2.1.5: Additional RECP Assessments | X |
| Activity 2.1.6: Raising awareness and sharing knowledge | V |
| Activity 2.1.7: Further institutionalising RECP | X |
| 2.2: Concept and tools of the EU Single Market for Green Products initiative (UNIDO) | |

| | |
|--|---|
| Activity 2.2.1: Mapping of existing practices and barriers for existing labelling schemes | V |
| Activity 2.2.2: Awareness and understanding of SMGP opportunities and benefits | X |
| Activity 2.2.3: Piloting product environmental footprint (PEF) in selected industries | X |
| 2.3: Green Public Procurement and complementary tools (UNEP) | |
| Activity 2.3.1: Assessments/advisory services to establish SPP and eco-labelling policies | X |
| Activity 2.3.2: Capacity development of business sectors to respond to public tenders/eco-labelling | X |
| 2.4: Use of strategic approaches on waste management (UNEP) | |
| Activity 2.4.1: Developing draft action plan for waste management (national or municipal level) | X |
| Activity 2.4.2: Initiating/assisting the establishment of Extended Producers Responsibility schemes | V |
| 2.5: Reforms in priority green economy sectors (UNEP) | |
| Activity 2.5.1: Identify priority sectors for policy reform, suitable policy instruments and support needs | X |
| Activity 2.5.2: Support introduction/adjustment of enabling policies and policy tools in priority sectors | X |
| 2.6: Ecological value-chain and product innovation (UNEP) | |
| Activity 2.6.1: National trainings on sustainable production/eco-innovation for companies and governments | V |
| Activity 2.6.2: Market assessment and policy analysis of eco-innovation potential in selected sectors | X |
| Activity 2.6.3: Assess SMEs/companies' potential for eco-innovation & provide advisory services for business strategy review/development | X |
| Activity 2.6.4: Awareness raising activity among business sector and government | V |
| RESULT 3. An environmental level playing field | |
| 3.1: "Smart" regulation of environmental impacts (OECD) | |
| Activity 3.1.1: Reforming regulatory regimes for large emission sources, including State Owned Enterprises | V |
| Activity 3.1.2: Greening Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) | V |
| 3.2: Environmental compliance assurance and environmental liability regimes (OECD) | V |
| Activity 3.2.1: Strengthening of Compliance Assurance Systems, Instruments, and Tools | X |
| Activity 3.2.2: Reform of high impact enforcement and compliance promotion instruments, including environmental liability | X |
| Activity 3.2.3: Networking and capacity building (*) | X |
| 3.3: Domestic public finance, subsidy reforms, public-private partnerships and private finance for green investment (OECD) | |
| Activity 3.3.1: Greening public expenditure | X |

| | |
|---|---|
| Activity 3.3.2: Review of selected national funding entities | V |
| Activity 3.3.3: Reforming energy subsidies | X |
| Activity 3.3.4: National and regional policy dialogues on green finance and investment | V |
| 3.4 Administrative capacity for environmental management (OECD) | |
| Activity 3.4.1: Assessment of existing and required administrative capacity in the environmental sector | X |
| Activity 3.4.2: Provision of Expert Support to the Ministries of Environment and or Economy (*) | X |
| RESULT 5. Regional knowledge sharing and coordination | |
| Activity 5.3: Monitoring of progress at the economy-environment nexus | V |

Notes: V – selected; O – for possible implementation at a later stage – subject to funds availability; X – not selected.

(*) no regional activities envisaged; but a regional or sub-regional training may be considered – subject to confirmation.

Table 2. Presentation of regional activities for Results 1

| Regional activities | Time line | | | | | | | | Expected output target | Comments |
|---|-----------|----|----|------|----|----|----|----------|---|---|
| | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | | 2021-22 | | |
| | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | |
| RESULT 1. Greener decision-making | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1: Green economy ownership, policy coherence and cross-sectorial coordination (UNEP) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 1.1.1: Survey and large-scale training of public sector employees | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 1.1.2: Fitness tests of relevant policy documents and policy proposals | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (UNECE) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 1.3.2: Comprehensive capacity and institutional building | | | | | | | | | | |
| Two sub-regional events to facilitate information exchange and experience sharing | | | | | X | X | X | X (2022) | 2 sub-regional events (one in 2020 and the other in 2022) | The two sub-regional events will facilitate information exchange and experience sharing among the beneficiary countries and with the EU/UNECE countries. Including training of trainers workshops and/or study tours as forms for conducting these events. First event - in 2020 and second event - in 2022 |

| Regional activities | Time line | | | | | | | | Expected output target | Comments |
|---|-----------|----|----|------|----|----|----|---------|---|----------|
| | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | | 2021-22 | | |
| | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | |
| 1.4: Awareness, education and public acceptance of the Green Economy transition (UNEP) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 1.4.1: Implementation of educational courses | | | | | | | | | Translation and delivery of introductory GE courses by national academic institutions (universities, management schools etc.) | |
| Activity 1.4.2: Awareness raising campaigns for general public | | | | | | | | | Translation, adaptation and delivery of media campaigns in national contexts | |

Table 3. Presentation of regional activities for Results 2

| Regional activities | Time line | | | | | | | | Expected output target | Comments | |
|---|-----------|----|----|------|----|----|----|---------|------------------------|--|---|
| | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | | 2021-22 | | | |
| | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | | |
| RESULT 2. Circular economy and new growth opportunities | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1: Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production and eco-innovation among SMEs (UNIDO) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 2.1.1: Eco-industrial parks feasibility | | | | | | | | | | | |
| – A set of recommendations to “green” existing parks | | | | | | | | | | Report on a region-specific set of recommendations | Targeting experience of BY and MD and extrapolating to other countries |
| Activity 2.1.3: Promoting Circular Economy – Waste mapping in municipalities | | | | | | | | | | | |
| – Awareness events on CE concepts and approaches | | | | | | | | | | | Report on a region-specific analysis on CE application* (with focus on waste maps implementation in AZ, GE, UA) |
| Activity 2.1.4: Training national experts | | | | | | | | | | | |
| – Advanced RECP training modules identified and implemented | | | | | | | | | | | online broadcasting to the region |
| Activity 2.1.6: Raising awareness and sharing knowledge | | | | | | | | | | | |
| – Regional expert meetings | | | | | | | | | | | Regional meetings for key experts @ specialized events (WCEF etc.) |
| 2.2: Concept and tools of the EU Single Market for Green Products initiative (UNIDO) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 2.2.1: Mapping of existing practices and barriers for existing labelling schemes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| – Mapping of barriers in pilot countries in view of SMPG application | | | | | | | | | | | Report on a region-specific analysis on CE application* (with focus on waste maps implementation in BY, GE, UA) |
| 2.4: Use of strategic approaches on waste management (UNEP) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 2.4.2: Initiating/assisting the establishment of Extended Producers Responsibility schemes | | | | | | | | | | Regional event | Suggested regional EPR event for all 6 countries. To be confirmed by countries and relevant partners. |

| Regional activities | Time line | | | | | | | | Expected output target | Comments |
|---|-----------|----|----|------|----|----|----|---------|--|--|
| | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | | 2021-22 | | |
| | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | |
| 2.6: Ecological value-chain and product innovation UNEP) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 2.6.1: National trainings on sustainable production/eco-innovation for companies and governments | | | | | | | | | 2 regional events | Suggested 2 sets of regional eco-innovation introductory trainings (1 for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, another for Georgia and Azerbaijan). To be confirmed with countries. |
| Activity 2.6.4: Awareness raising activity among business sector and government | | | | | | | | | Participation of SMEs across the region in international technical fairs | |

Table 4. Presentation of regional activities for Results 3

| Regional activities | Time line | | | | | | | | Expected output target | Comments | |
|---|-----------|----------------------|----|------|----|----|----|---------|------------------------|---|--|
| | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | | 2021-22 | | | |
| | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | | |
| RESULT 3. An environmental level playing field | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1: "Smart" regulation of environmental impacts | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 3.1.1: Reforming regulatory regimes for large emission sources, including State Owned Enterprises ¹ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| – Regional seminars on specific aspects of environmental regulation of large emission sources | | BAT meeting | | | | | | | X | 2 regional seminars | Covers all six countries BAT meeting in South Korea in October 2019 |
| Activity 3.1.2: Greening Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| – Analysis of existing instruments for financing SME greening | | Fact-funding mission | | | | | | | X | A regional report on existing financial instruments for SME greening. | Covers all six countries |
| – Regional seminars on greening SMEs (launching and concluding) | | | | | X | | | | X | 2 regional seminars | |
| 3.2: Environmental compliance assurance and environmental liability regimes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 3.2.3: Networking and capacity building | | | | | | | | | | | |
| – Regional meetings on compliance assurance | | | | | | X | | | XX | 3 regional meetings | All six countries to be invited to the regional meetings |

¹ No country activity planned.

| Regional activities | Time line | | | | | | | Expected output target | Comments | |
|--|-----------|--|----|------|----|----|----|------------------------|---|--|
| | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | | | | 2021-22 |
| | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | |
| 3.3: Domestic public finance, subsidy reforms, public-private partnerships and private finance for green investment | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 3.3.2: Review of selected national funding entities | | | | | | | | | | |
| – Review of approaches to blending public and private resources in a national context | | | | X | | | | | A regional review of approaches to blending public and private resources in a national context and leveraging private sector capital in a cost-effective way | Covers all six countries |
| Activity 3.3.4: National and regional policy dialogues on green finance and investment | | | | | | | | X | | No regional report envisaged in DoA; but regional report can be considered - subject to confirmation |
| – Regional conferences | | OECD Forum on Green Finance and Investment | | | | | | XX | 2-3 regional conferences | Covers all six countries. The EaP countries will be invited to Forum on Green Finance and Investment, 29-30 October 2019, Paris; possibly a side event may be envisaged - subject to confirmation. Conference on bonds preliminary planned in Q2 2021. |

* Note: The country-specific needs, if any, identified in this Table will be accommodated, to the extent possible, taking into account feasibility and the resources available; subject to further discussion and confirmation

Table 5. Presentation of regional activities for Result 5

| Regional activities | Time line | | | | | | | Expected output target | Comments | |
|--|-----------|----|----|------|----|----|----|------------------------|---|---------|
| | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | | | | 2021-22 |
| | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | |
| 5.3: Monitoring of progress at the economy-environment nexus (OECD) | | | | | | | | | No regional events envisaged in DoA, but a joint OECD/UNECE/EEA conference may be considered in 2d phase of the Programme | |
| – Mid-term and final reports on progress with integration of economic and env goals in EaP countries | | | | | | X | | X | 2 reports (mid-term and final) Covers all six countries; draft of mid-term report tentatively may be presented at the 2d RA meeting. | |

* Note: The country-specific needs, if any, identified in this Table will be accommodated, to the extent possible, taking into account feasibility and the resources available; subject to further discussion and confirmation