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EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
Civil Society Forum

#EaPYouth4Environment

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EUROPEAN UNION

EaP Eastern Partnership

EU2020

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG

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

Andrei Isac, National Action Coordinator, EU4Environment, Moldova,
25 September 2020

Action implemented by:





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EU4Environment: Objectives

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.



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EU4Environment: Key facts

- EU-funded action: **20.5 million EUR** for **six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries**
- **4 year programme**, started in January 2019 (September 2019 - at countries level)
- 5 implementing organisations: **OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNECE and World Bank**
- Legal basis: **Commission Implementing Decision C(2017)7963**, and the EU “**20 Deliverables for 2020**”
- Emphasis on **environmental action that benefits citizens and is visible**
- Building on **past successes and continued support to reforms** (e.g. under EU-funded EaP GREEN and FLEG programmes)
- **Co-ordination with other EU4... programmes** (EU4Business, EU4Energy, EU4Climate, EU4Moldova, EU4Youth etc)
- Current status: **implementation phase** (national and regional level)



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EU4Environment: Results and activities

Result 1. Greener decision-making (UNEP and UNECE)

Green economy ownership,
policy coherence and cross-
sectorial coordination

Sectoral investment planning

Strategic Environmental
Assessment and Environmental
Impact Assessment

Awareness, education and public
acceptance of the Green
Economy transition

Result 2. Circular economy and new growth opportunities (UNIDO and UNEP)

Resource Efficient and Cleaner
Production for SMEs

Concept and tools of the EU
Single Market for Green Products
initiative

Green Public Procurement and
tools

Use of strategic approaches on
waste management

Reforms in priority green
economy sectors

Ecological value-chain and
product innovation

Result 3. An environmental level playing field (OECD)

“Smart” regulation of
environmental impacts for large
enterprises and SMEs

Environmental compliance
assurance and environmental
liability regimes

Domestic public finance, subsidy
reforms and private finance for
green investment

Strengthening administrative
capacity for environmental
management

Result 4. Ecosystem services and livelihoods (World Bank)

Shared network of protected
areas involving EU and
neighbouring countries

Community action on ecosystem
services

Illegal logging in a national and
related cross-border trade
perspective limited and legal
trade

Effective strategies for funding
natural capital conservation



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EU4Environment Regional Assembly, 22 September 2020

Meeting objectives and outcomes

The EU4Environment Regional Assembly:

- updated on progress on the Action implementation in the 6 EaP Countries;
- presented governance arrangements and communication issues, including impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and country specific measures for green economic recovery;
- discussed adjusted regional and country work plans for 2020-21;

<https://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/second-eu4environment-regional-assembly.htm>



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EU4Environment: Highlight of the Achievements in Moldova

- Continuous **inter-ministerial dialogue on Green Economy and overall oversight of EU4Environment;**
- **Ongoing support** for the implementation of the **Program on Greening SMEs**, provided to **ODIMM by OECD, UNEP and UNIDO** (including self-assessment of SMEs, eco-labelling and eco-innovations);
- Preparation for launching **RECP and EIP activities;**
- Legal support for **amendment of SEA and EIA legislation;**
- Development/transposition of the **Regulation on eco-labelling;**
- Preparation of on-line course and **training on Green Economy;**
- Support for the improvement of the **management of the National Ecological Fund;**
- **Update and extend** the list of the **Green Growth Indicators.**



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20 Deliverables for 2020: environment

Within this framework, all **partners have committed** to demonstrate and deliver tangible benefits to the daily lives of citizens across the region by focusing on achieving **20 deliverables for 2020** in four key priority areas.

Stronger connectivity:

15 - Enhance **energy efficiency** and the use of renewable energy; reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions;

16 - Support the **environment and adaptation to climate change.**



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EaP Ministerial: 22 October 2020

Sustainable infrastructure and financing a green and carbon-neutral transition at the 3rd EaP Ministerial on Environment and Climate.

Key topics:

- **Green finance;**
- **Sustainable infrastructure** - building green infrastructure in all sectors (energy, transport, water, waste, industry, constructions etc).



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Environmental Problems/Challenges of the EaP countries

Water resources: protection of stocks and pollution prevention

- **Pressures on freshwater resources** are exerted by overexploitation, environmental degradation and impact of climate change;
- Water quality is closely linked to water quantity and level of pollution (untreated **industrial and municipal waste waters** discharge);
- Relation between freshwater abstraction and the renewal of stocks is a central issue in ensuring **sustainable freshwater resource management** (conflict between water supply, irrigation and recreation).



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Environmental Problems/Challenges of the EaP countries

Water resources: protection of stocks





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Environmental Problems/Challenges of the EaP countries

Air: pollution from transport, waste and industry

- Increase of number of transport units and of the **pollution from transport (old cars (average age 15-20 years), diesel);**
- Limited infrastructure/potential for **urban mobility;**
- **Weak enforcement** of the legislation on air quality and protection and of the **polluter pays principle;**
- Limited capacities for **air quality monitoring** and reporting;
- Limited application of **PRTR** tools;
- Degradation of **green zones** in the cities.



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Environmental Problems/Challenges of the EaP countries

Air: pollution from transport, waste and industry





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Environmental Problems/Challenges of the EaP countries

Biodiversity: degradation of forests and ecosystems

- **Overexploitation, fragmentation, environmental degradation and conversion into other types of land use threaten many forest resources;**
- **Low share of forest areas in EaP countries (Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan);**
- **Limited capacities and lack of proper management of the state protected areas;**
- **Biodiversity loss due to impact of climate change and human activities (recreation, agriculture, hunting etc).**



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Environmental Problems/Challenges of the EaP countries

Biodiversity: degradation of forests and ecosystems





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Environmental Problems/Challenges of the EaP countries

Waste: municipal waste generation and recycling

- **Continuous increase** of volumes of **waste generated** per capita;
- **Pollution of soil, ground waters and soils at landfills;**
- **Air pollution due illegal waste incineration (home, landfills);**
- **Significant loss of resources due to limited capacities for separate waste collection, transportation and recycling;**
- Concepts of **circular economy** and **extended producer responsibility** – at initial stages;
- **Low awareness** and involvement of population.



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Environmental Problems/Challenges of the EaP countries

Waste: municipal waste generation and recycling





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Environmental Problems/Challenges of the EaP countries

Environmental management: institutional capacities

- ***Political instability and lack of political will;***
- **Weak capacities of national authorities/institutions;**
- **Need of continuity and sustainability;**
- **Limited capacities of Local Public Authorities;**
- **Weak potential for inspection and monitoring;**
- **Modest interest of private sector;**
- **Limited capacities for awareness and involvement of population – low awareness and participation;**
- **Limited and improper management of financial resources.**



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Opportunities: example of Moldova

Republic of Moldova: National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”: Priority 10: healthy environment

- Improvement of the **surface water quality** and reduction of pollution sources;
- Improvement of **waste management system**;
- **Extension of forest areas** and improvement of the protected areas management;
- and reduction of GHG emissions; **Climate change adaptation measures**
- **Promotion of green economy, of circular economy** and green investments in all sectors;
- Improved/**strengthened environmental governance** and public participation.



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Opportunities: EaP Countries priorities

EaP Environmental Policies – support of EU4Environment:

- **Green Development Strategies, Green Economy Programmes and Action Plans;**
- **Greening SMEs, RECP and eco-innovations for SMEs;**
- **Promotion of Strategic Environmental Assessment and transboundary EIA;**
- **Promotion of Extended Producer Responsibility;**
- **Application of Sustainable Public Procurement and transposition of EU Eco-labelling;**
- **Promoting green investments in sustainable infrastructure;**



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Opportunities: national level

EaP Policy beyond 2020: Policies and governance in support of greener growth:

- environmental governance;
- sound planning of policies and investments;
- administrative capacity to implement and enforce legislation;
- enhanced public access to information, awareness, environmental education and participation; and
- more effective green financing mechanisms.



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Opportunities: EaP Policy

EaP Policy beyond 2020: Policies and governance in support of greener growth:

- improve air and water quality;
- manage effectively waste, land, water, forest resources and protected areas;
- respond to extreme weather events and illegal logging and deforestation;
- strengthen the environmental governance;
- attract green investments.



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Opportunities: EaP Policy

EaP Policy beyond 2020: Policies and governance in support of greener growth:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment and EIA;
- Extended Producer Responsibility;
- Sustainable Public Procurement;
- Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, eco-labelling;
- Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development;
- Public participation and awareness.



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Opportunities: Youth4Environment

Be the Messengers of change:

- Young European Ambassadors/EU4Youth;
- European Youth Parliament;
- Active-eco;
- Environmental leaders;
- Mobilize civil society, networking (environmental and not only);
- Promote public-private partnership;
- Pilot projects and know-how;
- Let's do it!





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Opportunities : Youth4Environment

Green Office / Green Jobs/ EMAS:

- Apply **green office** and **green meeting** approaches in daily life/office/service;
- Promote **eco-production** and **eco-services**, eco-labeling and eco-innovations;
- **Eco and social entrepreneurship;**
- RRR and more;
- Apply Eco-Management and Audit Schemes (**EMAS**) for your organisation/your business;
- Measure and improve your **eco-footprint**.



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Opportunities : Youth4Environment

Urban mobility:

- Walk!
- Bike!
- Use public transport;
- Promote car sharing;
- Go electric!
- Smart and green city;
- Apply street art;
- Promote best practices.





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Opportunities : Youth4Environment

Plant/grow your forest!

- Seed it forward!
- One tree planet;
- City gardens;
- Protection belts for rivers and agricultural lands;
- Extend natural and private forests;
- Plant on degraded lands;
- **Prevent forest fires and degradation!**





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Opportunities : Youth4Environment

Sustainable procurement and consumption:

- Farm to Fork;
- Bio/organic;
- Eco-design;
- A+++;
- No plastic bags, thank you!;
- Alternatives for toxic chemicals;
- RES – apply renewables;
- Produce for yourself;
- Energy efficiency of buildings.





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Opportunities : Youth4Environment

Eco-life style:

- Environmentally friendly behavior;
- #Zero waste;
- #Zero pollution;
- Green city;
- Eco-village;
- Reduce carbon footprint;
- Go vegetarian!





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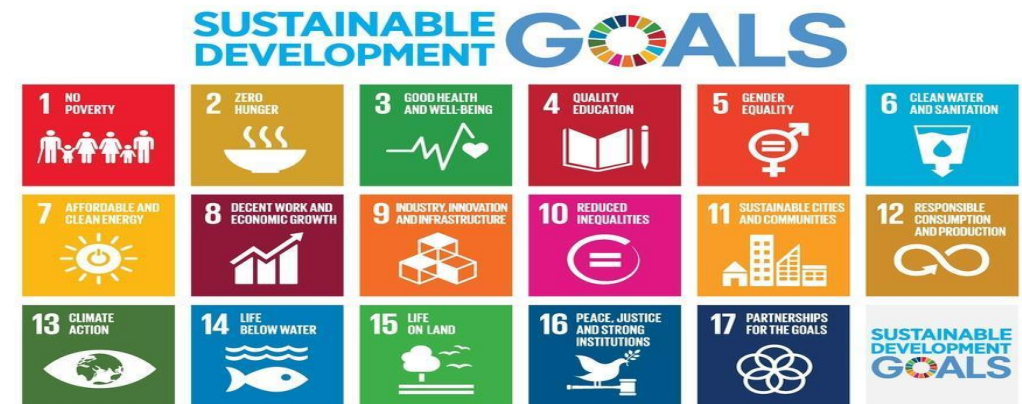
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Opportunities : Youth4Environment

EE and ESD promotion:

- Promote EE and ESD at all levels;
- Promote courses on Green Economy and SEA;
- Promote eco-schools and green universities;
- Greening TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training);
- Green box;
- Climate box;
- Environmental R&D.





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Opportunities : Youth4Environment

Active participation in Decision making:

- Use Strategic Environmental Assessment and EIA tools;
- Consultations, consultancy and expertise;
- Lobby and advocacy;
- Open dialogue with central and local authorities, politicians;
- Drafting and promoting amendments to legislation or regulation;
- **Monitor the implementation and reporting.**



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Opportunities : Youth4Environment

Awareness and information

- Ask a question!;
- Report a problem!;
- Make your expectations visible;
- Share news and events;
- Raise a problem in mass-media or social media;
- Eco-games with kids and young people;
- Participate in alternative monitoring and reporting;
- Organize and attend environmental campaigns.





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Opportunities : Youth4Environment

Fridays for Future – globally 25.09.2020

Second Social Good Summit in Moldova, 01.10.20





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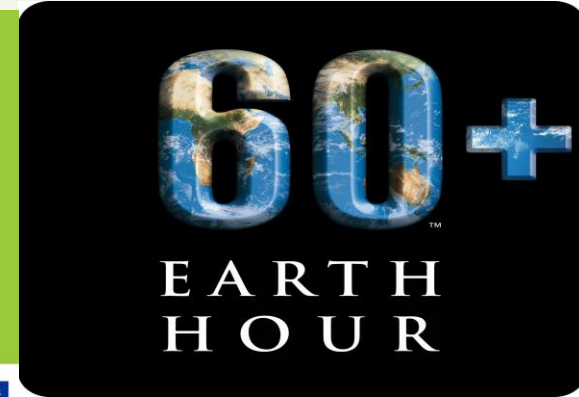
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Opportunities : Youth4Environment

Actively Celebrate!

- **World Environment Day** (5 June);
- **Earth Day** (22 April);
- **Europe Day** (9 May);
- **Earth Hour** (last Saturday of March:
<https://www.earthhour.org/>);
- **EU Beach Cleanup** (https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/eu-beach-cleanup-2020_en) ;
- **European Mobility Week** (<https://mobilityweek.eu/home/>);
- **European Sustainable Energy Week** (<https://eusew.eu/>)
- **European Green Week** (<https://www.eugreenweek.eu/en>)





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Opportunities: EU level and partners

European Green Week 2020: A new beginning for people and nature!

The EU Green Week is an annual opportunity to debate and discuss European environmental policy at the national level. Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment, this key event in the environment policy calendar attracts policymakers, leading environmentalists, stakeholders, and other interested parties from across Europe and the globe.

EU Green Week 2020 will take place from 19-23 October 2020 with the theme of **nature and biodiversity**. It will highlight the contribution of biodiversity to our economy and society, including the essential role it plays in stimulating sustainable recovery from the crisis.

EU Green Week will examine how a range of EU policies such as the **European Green Deal** can help protect, restore and sustainably manage nature, leaving it room to recover and thrive.

Partner events – 14.09 – 23.10.2020 (<https://www.eugreenweek.eu/en/>)

**A NEW BEGINNING
FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE**

#EUGreenWeek
19–22 OCTOBER 2020





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