



Action funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment

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

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC FINANCE CAPACITY FOR GREEN INVESTMENTS IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (EaP) COUNTRIES

Webinar

Designing and implementing green public investment programmes – experience from Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands

Draft agenda

Tuesday, 22nd June 2021, 9:00 – 11:00 (CEST)

Please register for the webinar [here](#)

Action implemented by:



Background

Targeted and efficient public support is an important tool in meeting domestic and international environmental and climate-related objectives. The governments are now more aware of the need to move away from the financing of individual projects on an ad-hoc basis towards applying a programmatic approach, i.e. preparing programmes to reach the given environmental targets in a given, often multi-year, timeframe and with an allocated budget. Green public investment programmes can also leverage non-state investments into projects with environmental, climate-related or social objectives that would not have been implemented without public funding.

The EU-funded EU4Environment Action supports countries in the EaP region to improve national governance and regulatory mechanisms that support transition to a greener and more sustainable development path. Since efficient and effective public expenditure is important in meeting environmental and climate-related objectives, Activity Area 3.3 of EU4Environment provides technical assistance to increase the capacity of government authorities to better manage public environmental expenditure.

More specifically, EU4Environment supports strengthening public expenditure management in two EU's Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries and two new environmental sub-sectors: the water supply ([Azerbaijan](#)) and biodegradable waste stream ([Georgia](#)). This work builds on the previous OECD projects that supported countries from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in energy efficiency of the housing sector ([Kazakhstan](#)), as well as clean urban public transport ([Kazakhstan](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#), and [Moldova](#)).

As part of the current work under EU4Environment, a webinar was organised in [February 2021](#) that presented the experience from managing public expenditure in Poland and the Czech Republic using the national environmental funds as implementing bodies.

This ([June 2021](#)) webinar is the second in series and will present another way to manage public finances for environmental investments. It will focus on the examples of outsourcing part of the administration of the funds to the non-governmental entities while leaving the ministry with the responsibility for the overall control of the process, setting the environmental programme and its priorities and also having the final word in selecting particular projects to be supported by public money.

In this context, the specialised organisation that can be private (consulting company, commercial bank) or public (agency) entity, or an NGO that organises the entire process, from searching for projects, scanning potential projects against eligibility criteria, collecting applications, as well as monitoring, verifying, and reporting on investment implementation.

During the webinar, three examples from European countries will be presented:

- Austria, where the state environmental grant scheme for public water supply and sanitation projects on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism is outsourced to a private company.
- Switzerland, where management of the Technology Fund's loan guarantees programme to Swiss companies is outsourced to a private company.
- The Netherlands, where an NGO issues certificates for the CO₂ performance ladder that is used for the public procurement.

Objectives of the Webinar

- to facilitate knowledge transfer and experience-sharing between the EU and EaP countries concerning greening public expenditure;
- to support Moldova in efforts to launching the designed green public investment programme targeted at more environment-friendly urban public transport based on the previous work;
- to support the initial stages of OECD co-operation with the governments of Azerbaijan and Georgia concerning designing and costing green public expenditure programmes, in particular, in identifying and narrowing down a focus (sub-)sector where public support would be legitimate and cost-effective.

Participants – Speakers and Target Audience

Speakers at this webinar will come from implementing bodies of green public expenditure programmes in three European countries.

- Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC), Austria (www.publicconsulting.at): **Dr. Johannes Laber**, Head of Water and Contaminated Sites Department
- Emerald Technology Ventures AG, Switzerland (www.emerald-ventures.com): **Ms. Simone Riedel Riley**, General Manager, Technology Fund (www.technologyfund.ch)
- Foundation for Climate Friendly Procurement and Business (in Dutch: SKAO), the Netherlands (www.skao.nl): **Ms. Annemiek Lauwerijssen**, Manager SKAO Foundation, and **Ms. Maud Vastbinder**, Program Manager CO₂ Performance Ladder Europe

The invited audience is local public authorities (national, regional or local level), environmental NGOs and environmental experts from the EaP countries.

Practical Information

Simultaneous English-Russian interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) 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 based on a budget of some EUR 20 million. The Action implementation period is 2019-2022.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org

Project website: <https://www.eu4environment.org>

AGENDA

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Session 1 | Welcoming remarks |
| 09:00 – 09:10 (10 min) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives of the webinar, background of the project and introduction of presenters <p>Krzysztof Michalak OECD Environment Directorate</p> |
| 09:10 – 09:20 (10 min) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief introduction to programmatic approach in public environmental expenditure and OECD activities (support) in this area <p>David Simek OECD Environment Directorate</p> |
| Session 2 | Review of specific public green investment programmes implemented in three selected European countries – Austria, Switzerland, Netherlands |
| 09:20 – 09:45 (25 min) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water management in Austria – implementation of state environmental grant scheme on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism <p>Johannes Laber Kommunalkredit Public Consulting</p> |
| 09:45 – 10:10 (25 min) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Technology Fund – loan guarantees programme to Swiss entrepreneurs <p>Simone Riedel Riley Emerald Technology Ventures</p> |
| 10:10 – 10:35 (25 min) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CO₂ Performance Ladder in the Netherlands – certification scheme for private companies <p>Annemiek Lauwerijssen, Maud Vastbinder Foundation for Climate Friendly Procurement and Business</p> |
| Session 3 | Questions and answers, discussion |
| 10:35 – 10:50 (15 min) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions and answers, discussion <p>Rafal Stanek (facilitator) Kommunalkredit Public Consulting</p> |
| Session 4 | Closing remarks |

10:50 – 11:00

(10 min)

- Wrap up of the event and key takeaways

Krzysztof Michalak

OECD Environment Directorate

Related documents:

- Presentations (English)