



Action funded by
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EU4Environment

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

Greening Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Eastern Partnership countries – A Regional Event

Draft Agenda

Two-day virtual event on the Zoom platform

Tuesday 29 June 2021 | 12:00 – 14:30 (CEST)

Wednesday 30 June 2021 | 12:00 – 15:00 (CEST)

Registration link:

<https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/j/95284070286?pwd=T2h1NElrRXROMzhoTzRJYUlnb0VBZz09>

Event web page:

<https://www.eu4environment.org/events/greening-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-in-the-eastern-partnership-countries/>

Disclaimer

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Action implemented by:



Greening Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries – A regional event

29 - 30 June 2021

Background

Although the individual environmental footprint of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) may be low, they constitute the vast majority of businesses and their aggregate impact is considerable.

In the European Union's Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, efforts have been ongoing to support the "greening" of SMEs, i.e. reducing their environmental impacts while improving productivity growth. These efforts have continued during the COVID-19 pandemic bringing meaningful results. There is a growing number of examples of reforming the regulatory frameworks that promote better environmental management by SMEs and adopting more sustainable business models and practices by individual companies.

The EU4Environment Programme, funded by the European Union, has supported improvements in environmental performance of SMEs and the integration of eco-innovative business approaches in the EaP countries through three key areas of work:

- Result 2.1: **Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production and eco-innovation amongst SMEs**, implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO);
- Result 2.6: **Ecological value-chains and product innovation**, implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and
- Result 3.1.2: **Greening SMEs**, implemented by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Meeting participants, objectives and expected outcomes

This meeting, organised under the EU4Environment programme, brings together officials and experts from the six Eastern Partnership countries as well as representatives from the private sector and the international community to review progress in greening SMEs and to discuss opportunities for strengthening the competitiveness of these businesses, with benefits for the broader environment. During the meeting:

- **Government representatives** from the Eastern Partnership countries will share ongoing work on supporting the greening of SMEs, including new plans and policies, as well as examples of projects supported by the EU4Environment programme;
- **Representatives from the manufacturing sector** and business support organizations in the EaP region will provide insights on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) in manufacturing processes, including challenges and lessons learned. Business perspectives of SMEs, industrial parks and territorial authorities with regards to introducing Circular Economy practices and principles will also be presented; and
- **SMEs from the EaP region and from EU member states** will share experiences, lessons learned and best practices in reviewing their value chains and business strategies to improve their socio-environmental performance and overall competitiveness. Government stakeholders will also discuss the challenges and opportunities for promoting eco-innovation among SMEs in their respective countries, as well as how these can inform/guide the activities of the EU4Environment programme.

Practical Information

This 2-day meeting will be held on 29-30 June 2021 via the Zoom platform. Participants can register for the meeting using the following link:

<https://meetoe.cd1.zoom.us/j/95284070286?pwd=T2h1NElrRXROMzhoTzRJYUlnb0VBZz09>

Simultaneous English-Russian interpretation will be provided during the entire event.

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 programme 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 programme implementation period is 2019-2022.

For further information on the programme, please visit: www.EU4Environment.org

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1: How are EaP governments and the EU4Environment programme supporting green SMEs?

Time	Item
12:00 - 12:10	<p>Welcome</p> <p><i>Ms. Angela Bularga, Programme Manager, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission (tbc)</i></p>
12:10 - 12:25	<p>Session 1: Progress on policies to green SMEs in EaP countries Moderation by <i>Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, OECD</i></p> <p>Results from the greening SMEs dimension of the 2020 SME Policy Index <i>Mr. Guy Halpern, Policy Analyst, Environment Directorate, OECD</i> <i>Mr. Daniel Quadbeck, EU4Business Programme Co-ordinator, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD</i></p>
12:25 - 13:00	<p>Session 2: A holistic approach to supporting Green SMEs Moderation by <i>Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, OECD</i></p> <p>Experience from Moldova and Azerbaijan <i>Mr. Ion Lica, Head of Implementing Unit of the National SMEs Greening Programme, ODIMM, Republic of Moldova</i> <i>Mr. Yashar Karimov, UNIDO national coordinator on RECP and Representative from the SMBDA, Azerbaijan</i></p>
13:00 - 13:30	<p>Session 3: Regulatory approaches to support SMEs Moderation by <i>Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, OECD</i></p> <p>Experiences from Georgia and Ireland <i>Ms. Nino Obolashvili, Head of the Integrated Management Division, MEPA, Georgia</i> <i>Ms. Eileen O'Leary, Cork Clean Technology Centre, Ireland</i></p>
13:30 - 14:15	<p>Session 4: Introduction to the eco-innovation and Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) approaches – theory, practice and perspectives under the EU4Environment programme Moderation by <i>Mr. Alex Leshchynskyy, Technical Officer, UNEP</i></p> <p>What is eco-innovation? What is its relevance for SMEs in global crises? <i>Mr. Vardan Melikyan, International eco-innovation expert, EU4Environment</i> RECP: A tool for sustainable industrial development <i>Ms. Carolina Gonzalez Mueller, Industrial Development Officer, UNIDO</i> Differences and complementarities of RECP and eco-innovation approaches <i>Ms. Bettina Heller, Programme Officer, UNEP</i></p>
14:15 - 14:30	<p>Summary of the day</p> <p><i>Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, OECD</i></p>

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 2: Greening SMEs - Progress and enterprise perspectives

Time	Item
12:00 - 12:10	<p>Welcome and objectives of the day <i>Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, EU4Environment Programme Coordinator, UNIDO</i> <i>Mr. Alex Leshchynskyy, Technical Officer, UNEP</i></p>
12:10 - 13:20	<p>Session 5: Eco-innovation in SMEs, best practices and lessons learned <i>Moderation by Ms. Salome Zurabishvili, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Georgia, and Mr. Vardan Melikyan, International eco-innovation expert, EU4Environment</i></p> <p>Experience from EaP and the EU countries <i>Representatives from SMEs in EaP and EU states (tbc)</i> <u>Moderated interactive discussion</u></p>
13:20 - 13:50	<p>Session 6. Progress in implementing RECP in EaP countries – from EaP GREEN to EU4Environment <i>Moderation by Mr. Johannes Fresner, RECP Senior Technical Advisor, UNIDO</i></p> <p>Experience from Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine <i>Ms. Nune Harutyunyan, REC Caucasus, Armenia</i> <i>Mr. George Abulashvili, Energy Efficiency Centre, Georgia</i> <i>Mr. Andrii Vorfolomeiev, RECP Centre, Ukraine</i></p>
13:50 - 14:35	<p>Session 7. From RECP to Circular Economy: introducing principles and practices <i>Moderation by Ms. Ankit Kapasi, Eco-Industrial Parks Expert, UNIDO</i></p> <p>Promoting Eco-Industrial Parks <i>Prof. Siarhei Darozhka, RECP Center, Belarus</i> <i>Representative of Minsk FEZ Administration (tbc)</i> <i>Representative of a resident SME (tbc)</i></p> <p>Developing Industrial Waste Maps <i>A case from the EU</i> <i>Ms. Kateryna Savchuk, Director, Regional Development Agency of Khmelnytskyi oblast, Ukraine</i> <u>Moderated interactive discussion</u></p>
14:35 - 15:00	<p>Session 8: SME development in the region, and next steps to support their greening</p> <p>EU plans to support EaP SMEs under the EU Green Deal <i>Representative from the European Commission (tbc)</i></p> <p>Summary of key points from the 2-days' discussion <i>Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, OECD</i></p>