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EU4Environment

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

EU4ENVIRONMENT THIRD REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Tuesday, 21 September 2021
10h00 - 14h00 Brussels/Paris time
VIRTUAL FORMAT

Final Summary Record

This document is the final Summary Record of the third EU4Environment Regional Assembly. It was prepared by the Implementing Partners of EU4Environment. The participants were invited to provide comments on the Summary. The received comments have been incorporated in the final document.

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Action implemented by:



Final Summary Record

Key Conclusions and Decisions

The third meeting of the EU4Environment Regional Assembly took place on 21 September 2021 in a virtual format. It gathered about 110 participants, among those the government representatives from the Ministries of Environment and of Economy of the EaP countries, including high-level representatives/National Focal Points and National Action Coordinators, the representatives of the European Commission (DG NEAR, DG Environment, the EU Delegations), Implementing Partners as well as the representatives of the business community and Civil Society Organisations, international organisations and other stakeholders.

The participants discussed progress on the EU4Environment implementation at the country and regional level and the priorities for the remaining period of the Programme implementation, findings of the Result Evaluation Monitoring (ROM) of EU4Environment, plans for activities under the recently started Result 4, as well as progress on cross-cutting issues and communication.

During the discussions the participants:

- Took note of progress made in the Eastern Partner countries on developing and implementing environmental policies and efforts to mainstream them into the economic and social development despite challenges brought by Covid-19 and the dynamic political situation in the region;
- Expressed appreciation for the overall support provided by the European Union for strengthening environmental policies and institutions and welcomed the continued co-operation in the framework of the Eastern Partnership, including in conjunction with the new Economic and Investment Plan;
- Agreed that good progress was made in implementing country-specific and regional activities at mid-term of EU4Environment implementation;
- Expressed strong commitments to continue the implementation of the EU4Environment Programme and continue linking them with the post-Covid recovery policies. Commitments also contribute to the implementation of the Association Agreements, where relevant, and the external dimension of the European Green Deal;
- Recognised the efforts to engage the private sector and agreed to reinforce its participation in the Programme;
- Acknowledged the recommendations of the Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM), in particular:
 - The need for improved monitoring of the Programme implementation at country level;
 - The proposal of a non-cost extension of EU4Environment till the end of 2023;
- Invited the Implementing Partners to follow up with the European Commission on the development of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the ROM recommendations;
- Requested the Implementing Partners to follow up bilaterally with individual countries to adjust the Work Plans for Results 1,2,3 and 5 and proceed with the extension procedure;
- Expressed appreciation for launching the work under Result 4 by the World Bank in January 2021;
- Took note of the draft work plans under Result 4 and requested the World bank to finalise them by 30 September 2021;
- Acknowledged good progress on the co-operation with other projects of the “EU4” family, the incorporation of the gender considerations in EU4Environment and communication activities;
- Agreed to hold the next Regional Assembly on 22-23 September 2022, possibly in person.

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, including Result 4 implementation, is 2019-2024. More on www.eu4environment.org.

Item 1. Welcome, opening and adoption of the agenda

Ms. Michaela HAUF, Team Leader for Green and Connectivity, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), chaired the meeting on behalf of the European Commission. She expressed her pleasure of chairing the meeting for the first time in her new position. Ms. HAUF pointed out good progress on the EU4Environment implementation, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, encouraging to focus on delivering tangible results and contributing to the overall co-operation within the Eastern Partnership.

The participants took note of:

- Opening remarks by Ms. Diana JABLONSKA, Head of Unit NEAR C1: Georgia, Moldova, Economic and Investment Plan, European Commission, in which she warmly welcomed the participants. Ms. JABLONSKA highlighted the particular importance of the 2021 State of the Union address¹ by the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, which put focus, among other things, on the green transition and the need to work together on this. Ms. JABLONSKA also referred to the importance of co-operation within the Eastern Partnership along the three pillars of the EaP's post-2020 agenda²: Recovery, Reform and Resilience. She stressed that green and digital transition are among the five priorities of the EaP. She highlighted that the post-2020 agenda is underpinned by an Economic and Investment Plan. In conjunction with the Plan, the EU will mobilise EUR 2.3 billion of funding that would crowd in up to 17 billion euro of potential public and private investment. The Plan includes country flagships for all Eastern Partners, including support for a future democratic Belarus. Ms. JABLONSKA stressed the importance of EU4Environment in this context, especially as concerns support for designing and implementing robust policy reforms. Ms. JABLONSKA also expressed her great interest to work with the countries of the region in her new capacity of Head of Unit.
- Opening remarks by Ms. Carolina GONZALEZ MUELLER, UNIDO and Mr. Krzysztof MICHALAK, OECD, on behalf of the Implementing Partners, in which they noted that all elements of the Programme are in place, with several concrete results achieved on the ground, despite the challenging year of the Covid-19 pandemic impacts, conflicts and unstable political situation in several countries. They welcomed the World Bank joining the Programme under Result 4. They also highlighted the selected achievements, in particular:
 - establishment of an effective mechanism for inter-ministerial co-operation on greening the economy in Moldova;
 - good progress on designing policies and regulation for sustainable public procurement (SPP) in Ukraine;
 - capacity building activities including the pressing need for countries' proposals for pilot projects on SEA/transboundary EIA;
 - engagement of about 30 companies in each country through different activities, such as direct Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) assessments, eco-industrial parks and industrial waste maps;
 - development of self-assessment tools and the provision of direct advice to small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on strengthening their environmental performance;
 - analysis of, and dialogues with high level officials on, environmental compliance and enforcement systems in Armenia and Moldova;
 - several analysis on the mobilisation of green finance, which included the development to public investment programmes in Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan; strengthening environmental funds in Moldova and Ukraine; analysis of fossil-fuel subsidies in all countries and the launch of work on green bonds;
 - development and application of green growth measurement through the use of green growth indicators in Moldova and Ukraine;
 - active co-operation with other projects (e.g. with other EU-funded regional projects in the Eastern Partner countries and co-operation with GIZ in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia.

They also underlined good progress at the regional level and reaching out a wide range of stakeholders via communication and dissemination channels, which include the monthly dissemination of the Newsletter, the www.eu4environment.org web-site, organisation of the promotional event at the EU Green Week and cooperation with the EU Delegations.

Finally, they welcomed the ROM exercise for providing directions and recommendations, with a focus on two points in particular: how to better monitor the programme implementation on the ground and to closer connect with NFPs, and to consider programme extension for one more year, till end 2023.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/strategic-planning/state-union-addresses/state-union-2021_en

² https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/101173/joint-staff-working-document-recovery-resilience-and-reform-post-2020-eastern-partnership_en

Item 2. Country-level activities: progress on the Action implementation under Results 1-3 and 5, its impact and priorities for 2021-22 in the Eastern Partner countries

Mr. Krzysztof MICHALAK pointed out the good progress on the different Programme activities. He referred that detailed presentations of the full range of activities in individual countries under EU4Environment's Results 1, 2, 3 and 5 are available in the pre-recorded presentations on [the meeting web site](#). On behalf of the Implementing Partners, he introduced the selected achievements under each country discussion, and invited the respective Implementing Partners to take the floor for short presentation of the 2-3 selected activities.

After each presentation, the Chair invited the representatives of each of the EaP country from the Ministries of the Environment and of the Economy to provide feedback on progress and identify key priorities for the remaining period.

Georgia

The participants took note of:

- Presentation by the EU4Environment Implementing Partners (see [slide](#)) of selected achievements on 1) Sustainable Public Procurement: legal provisions, guidelines, training, preparation of pilot tenders; 2) RECP is being introduced in four regions of the country: RECP Clubs in Mtskheta municipality and Kakheti region, and Industrial Waste Maps in Rustavi and Zestaponi.
- Feedback by Ms. Nino TANDILASHVILI, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, in which she:
 - thanked the European Union and the Implementing Partners for support and underlined the challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular a dramatic impacts on the economy;
 - stressed that the Georgian government considers the introduction of the Green Economy as a way to help better manage public expenditure, promote competitiveness of the economy, increase employment and open new directions in business;
 - highlighted that the ecologically clean production, sustainable transport and tourism are the priorities of the Georgian government;
 - pointed out to new legislative frameworks that have been developed in line with the provisions of the EU Association Agreement, such as the environmental liability legislation that was recently adopted by the Georgia Parliament. In this context, she stressed a need for training and capacity development as new units will be created within MEPA for the new environmental liability system in Georgia;
 - Signalled the issuance of the first green bond in the country.
- Indication from Ms. TANDILASHVILI of good progress under the different EU4Environment activities, including:
 - the preparation of the General Binding Rules for the poultry sector which reflected the main environmental challenges of the sector and helped to involve the private sector;
 - updating and/or elaboration of several guidelines, including an update two guidelines on EIA/SEA in line with the Environmental Assessment Code. Further, she thanked for the preparation of the EIA guidelines for hydropower plants and the preparation of the SEA pilot project that is planned in the sector of spatial planning, together with the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure and Gurjaani municipality;
 - developing the best practices in the environmental governance sphere;
 - the introduction of the sustainable public procurement (SPP) procedures and principles, including the development of the guidelines, involving different stakeholders (Agency, Environmental Information Centre), which made this work a very good example of engagement of relevant stakeholders and helping a better understanding of the SPP concepts and how to include them into the legislative framework;
 - work on eco-labelling and eco-innovation to better understand these concepts and to fill the gaps in this regard in Georgia;
 - awareness raising on green economy in Georgia, in particular the course adaptation from English to the Georgian language and the engagement of relevant stakeholders.
 - assessment of the implementation of the National Waste Management plan 2016-22, with a particular focus on municipal waste management.
- Indication of the priorities for Georgia for the remaining period, including:
 - Elaboration of a new waste management action plan and waste management strategy, in line with the provisions of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement;
 - Further revisions of the General Binding Rules document for the poultry sector, and also for other sectors, such as production of the construction materials, petrol stations and food processing;
 - Finalisation of the green public investment programme and conducting the training on the medium term investment for the government authorities;
 - Preparation of the ecotourism development plans for selected forest areas, create forest investment facilities and promote sustainable management of forest as part of the 2021 Forest Code;

- Introduction of best practices of the Emerald Network sites management and the development of guidelines as well as development of methodologies for green areas (without status of forests) as part of the sustainable management of forest at the municipal level;
- Participation of the private sector, in particular SMEs, to help them to better understand and apply green economy tools;
- Ensuring sustainability of activities and pilot projects on resource efficiency, product innovation and green economy.

Republic of Moldova

The participants took note of:

- Presentation by the EU4Environment Implementing Partners (see [slide](#)) of selected achievements on 1) Eco-labelling system assessment, draft regulations on eco-labelling; 2) Draft amended Law on EIA and Law on SEA aligned with relevant EU Directives, Espoo Convention, and its Protocol on SEA; 3) Continued support to help reform the National Ecological Fund.
- Feedback by Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV, State Secretary of Environment, and Mr. Silviu NEGHINA, Head of Department, Ministry of Economy, who highlighted the very recent appointment of the new government, its commitment to the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, and drafting a Government Plan of Actions for 2021-2022. They also highlighted the importance of re-establishment of the Ministry of the Environment as a separate government institution. They expressed their gratitude to the European Union for support and highlighted the timely work under EU4Environment, including:
 - legal support for the development of the amendments to the EIA and SEA legislation;
 - development of a regulation on eco-labelling and carrying out an online green economy course;
 - support to the improvement of the National Ecological Fund and the development of its operational manual;
 - practical steps on biodiversity and forest management, and the preparation of the draft work plan for Result 4.

The Ministry of Economy highlighted in particular the continued inter-ministerial dialogue on green economy through the Inter-ministerial Working group which celebrated this year its 6 years of activities, and the ongoing support to SMEs, including self-assessment tool, work on RECP, eco-industrial parks and promotion of eco-innovation.

- Priorities for the future:
 - improving the administrative capacity in the environmental sector, especially the newly established Ministry of Environment and increasing capacity of the Environment Agency and Forest Agency (which are under efficiency evaluation);
 - improving administration of the National Ecological Fund, not only elaborating the manual and regulations, but correctly passing the responsibilities to implement the procedures;
 - transposing the Directive on environmental liability, but also modifying the current legislation, making it relevant for environmental liability, functional and applicable by the Inspectorates;
 - capacity building in the system of environmental compliance and insurance, research and analytical assessment of the current environmental legislation;
 - support to implement the industrial emission law (under final stage before going to the Parliament for approval) and the development of related regulations for the implementation;

The Ministry of Economy highlighted in particular such priorities as advancing practical activities on RECP (trainings, RECP clubs), the introduction of eco-industrial parks in free economic zones and strong involvement of the Organisation on the Development of the SMEs (ODIMM) into those activities.

Ukraine

The participants took note of:

- Presentation by the EU4Environment Implementing Partners (see [slide](#)) of selected achievements on 1) Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) is being introduced in four regions of the country: RECP clubs in Poltava and Khmelnytskyi; Industrial Waste Mapping in Davydiv and Slavuta; 60+ SMEs engaged; 2) Sustainable Public Procurement: legal provisions, inter-ministerial coordination body; 3) Update of the national set of green growth indicators.
- Feedback by Ms. Iryna STAVCHUK, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, and Ms. Viktoria KOVALENKO, State Expert on Smart Specialization and Resource Efficiency, Ministry of Economy, in which they congratulated the Implementing Partners with the successful implementation, welcomed the achievements and briefly highlighted the priorities for the remaining period. They also called for smaller sessions with the respective coordinators

on specific activities, and invited the communication team to connect with the communication team of the Ministries to exchange information about progress to wider audience in order to communicate results and achievements.

- *Achievements*: the Ministry of Environment underlined that all activities are important and that it happy with the results. The Ministry of Economy highlighted in particular:
 - work on RECP (business cases, trainings, RECP clubs and network of experts, knowledge sharing among SMEs)
 - Circular Economy which is considered as a crucial topic in light of the currently developed Action Plan to implement the Circular Economy principles in Ukraine. In this context, the activities explaining of and raising awareness on a potential of green economy activities are of particular importance.
 - Sustainable Public Procurement promotion;
 - analytical reviews and information on green economy and green growth measurement.
- *Priorities*: the Ministry of Environment invited the Implementing Partners to follow up with the deeper discussion bilaterally on the specific components. The priorities would include:
 - Reform of environmental taxation, environmental fund and energy subsidies as well as all issues related to decarbonisation of the economy,
 - overall and practical work on SEA/EIA components, practical work with Romania in coordinating transboundary impact assessment,
 - Sustainable Public Procurement (introduction of methodology and system, putting in practice, work with stakeholders to make it effective), and other activities in the work plan.
 - On biodiversity, the Ministry looks forward to launching the activities under Result 4, including additional activities which were discussed, but not yet incorporated into the work plan.
- The Ministry of Economy put a particular emphasis on:
 - continuing developing national RECP network and awareness raising activities (RECP/CE based online platforms);
 - capacity building and awareness raising on green economy;
 - mainstreaming RECP components in green economic strategy;
 - incorporating sustainability criteria into procurement system;
 - green growth measurement.

Armenia

The participants took note of:

Presentation by the EU4Environment Implementing Partners (see [slide](#)) of selected achievements on 1) Economic analysis on deposit and refund system of packaging waste; 2) Draft environmental compliance assurance system review of Armenia in English and in Armenian, online discussion of the findings.

- Feedback by Ms. Meri HARUTYUNYAN, Chief specialist, Ministry of Environment, in which she expressed her appreciation to the European Union and the Implementing Partners for the effective cooperation and highlighted the selected achievements, including:
 - introduction of green economy course as an important tool for raising awareness of civil servants;
 - development of guideline on the EIA application, as a useful tool for promoting environmental impact assessment procedures;
 - implementation of the RECP project (14 SMEs in plastics, fishery and manufacturing at large are involved in the activities);
 - assessment of the investment needs for the climate action which underlines the urgency to source the financial needs and allocate them in a way to reach the Armenian targets;
 - economic analysis of deposit-refund system for the packaging waste. Armenia is currently assessing the investment needs and the Armenian–Latvian bilateral cooperation provides support to a project on packaging waste management;
 - environmental compliance assurance work with cooperation with the Mining Inspectorate.
 - draft action plan to advance establishing for Emerald Network under Result 4.
- Expression of appreciation on behalf of the Ministry for the EU4Environment support and assurance of its readiness to provide support for priority activities, including:
 - greener decision making (Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4);
 - Circular economy (result 2 and activities 2.1.5 and 2.1.6 in particular);
 - Environmental playing field (Activities 3.2 and 3.4);
 - Result 4 (Activity 4.1.1).

- Intervention by Mr. Tigran SEKOYAN, EU4Environment National Action Coordinator, in which he underlined the very good cooperation, expectations for the remaining activities, including launch of the green growth measurement component.

Azerbaijan

The participants took note of:

- Presentation by the EU4Environment Implementing Partners (see [slide](#)) of selected achievements on 1) Development of secondary implementing legislation on EIA and SEA aligned with international standards; 2) Support to greening SMEs: a) Information (kick-off) Meeting on RECP in Azerbaijan (August 2021); b) Work with SME Development Agency on an online self-assessment tool for greening SMEs in Azerbaijan; c) Assessing progress on greening SMEs in the SME Policy Index (with EU4Business).
- Feedback by Mr. Faig MUTALLIMOV, Head of Subdivision of Water Resources Management Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and Ms. Aytekin GULUZADE, Deputy Head of Department on Co-operation with International Organizations, Ministry of Economy, in which they indicated progress and priorities, including:
 - Capacity buildings trainings on green economy for the civil servants which was very successful. This general training course in the national language was disseminated to the partner organisations, universities and stakeholders. There is an expectation for the speedy identification of the national implementing partner to coordinate this work, and negotiation with UNEP are underway;
 - Alignment of draft by-laws with the international requirements of SEA and transboundary EIA including the Espoo Convention. For the future, the plans include training workshops, awareness raising materials, and a pilot on SEA which is being discussed with UNECE (master plans for some regions to apply SEA are proposed) and is subject to an approval by the EU;
 - Identification and contracting out an RECP national implementing partner, launching a call for SMEs trainees (a number of SMEs are interested to participate) and the selection of relevant enterprises;
 - Work on the RECP clubs, with one of them being established in the region of Gandja and second one in Baku, with support of the University of Economy;
 - Launch of a pilot project on waste management. Since 2018, Azerbaijan has developed a number of strategic documents (Solid Waste Management Strategy, Plastic Waste Action Plan). Since the start of this year, the use of plastic bags from 0 to up to 15 microns are prohibited. Single-use plastics are also prohibited since July 2021. Under EU4Environment, the activity 2.4 focuses on developing a draft law on packaging waste, including EPR. Development of a roadmap for establishing an EPR mechanism will be important.
 - Under Activities 3.1. and 3.2 there is a wish to develop a study on the existing approaches to air quality regulation and permitting system in the country.
 - There is also a wish to explore a possibility of implementing activities in Azerbaijan on compliance assurance;
 - The development of green public investment programme with focus on water sector, a priority sector for Azerbaijan, was launched. This work is important in light of the recent water scarcity faced by Azerbaijan and several action plans adopted, including with EUWI+ support. A water strategy is being drafted, which is expected to be adopted by the end of 2021;
 - Work on administrative capacity needs to move to the next stage of administrative strengthening. The Ministry of Ecology has already passed some improvements in the structure, but having such plans within the project will be very beneficial;
 - Initial work planning is now completed under Result 4, led by the World bank. The focus will be on the ecosystem service improvement and forest management (Azerbaijan does not use forest for trade purpose).
 - Need for integrate more information on Azerbaijan in the communication activities, and providing support to raising awareness on circular and green economy in the context of the dynamic development of the SMEs development agencies/centres. New generation of SMEs will pay more attention to this aspect, also in line with Azerbaijan 2030.
 - Further need to support sectoral investment planning which could focus on air quality management or the water sector.
 - Creation of an inter-ministerial working group on green economy should be one of the key priorities. The experience of other countries having such groups should be used.
- Intervention by Mr. Elmar ISAYEV, Head of Secretary, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency, in which he thanked the participants for a productive meeting and expressed his pleasure to hearing the Agency being mentioned several times. He recalled that the Agency was established in 2018 and has been working closely with the EU4Environment Partners. He underlined the importance of a new online self-assessment tool for greening SMEs and looks for further guidance on green practice. Relevant guiding material was translated into the national language. As the next stage, the SMEs will be encouraged to participate in the assessment process. The Agency is in close contract with the RECP project, led by UNIDO. Within the project, assistance on greening & increasing production efficiency will be delivered to the pilot RECP clubs made of the selected SMEs. Currently, preparations to establish these clubs are

underway. The Agency would like to engage the SME development centres and SMEs houses in the different regions of the country to strengthen the project. The results may lay ground for the government to design a comprehensive methodology to support SMEs.

Item 4. Presentation of the Findings and Recommendations of the Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) evaluation

The participants took note of:

- Presentation by Ms. Melanie INNIS, independent ROM Evaluator (see [presentation here](#)), in which she pointed out an important progress since the ROM was conducted in the period 31 May - 2 July 2021, and summarized some of the findings and recommendations:
 - She stressed the importance of effectiveness and achievement of outcomes, pointing out a great potential for outcomes, though different among countries, despite challenges related to Covid-19 pandemic, political instability, high turnover of civil servants and weak administrative capacity.
 - She pointed out to the main findings which included progress towards greener economy in all countries, to a different extend and effective modalities of work which allow countries to move forward, in line with the priorities expressed in the work plans. One of the EU4Environment strengths is that it is built on the EaP GREEN Project.
 - She also pointed out the key recommendations which included:
 - Better use of National Action Co-ordinator (NACs) and National Implementation Committees (NICs) for reporting and monitor progress, including on the achievement of outcomes. The Republic of Moldova provides a good example with regard to the establishing NICs in other countries;
 - Need to update the Work Plans;
 - Develop standardised reporting requirements by NACs;
 - Focus on analysis of access to finance for greening SMEs and consider exit strategy for the RECP clubs;
 - Emphasise the operationalisation of legislation developed under the Programme, e.g. by preparing operational manuals and guidelines;
 - Strengthen the participation of Civil Society Organisations in implementation of activities;
 - Including technical experts to support line Ministries;
 - Consider no-cost extension of the Programme and put in place the exit strategy.
- Intervention by Ms. Angela BULARGA, Programme Manager, DG NEAR, European Commission, in which she thanked the ROM team for their effective work and stressed the independence of the ROM exercise conducted by independent experts. Ms. BULARGA highlighted:
 - the need for the European Commission to work together with the Implementing Partners on a ROM follow up Action Plan, which would put in practice the ROM recommendations;
 - the commitment of the European Commission to work with the Implementing Partners on the cost-neutral contract extensions by another year until end of 2023;
 - the fact that the European Commission has carried out regular monitoring of outcomes in relation to the “20 Deliverables for 2020”³ and the reporting on the progress under the Programme is also aligned with regular reporting on EU’s external action⁴.
- Intervention by Mr. Krzysztof MICHALAK, in which he thanked for the balanced, objective, and useful ROM report which provides a “mirror” for looking at the work under EU4Environment and good recommendations. He stressed the room for improvement and the need to better communicate, adjust and adapt activities. He committed to follow up the recommendations, including coming back to the EaP countries on the bilateral basis to adjusting activities in light of the priorities expressed during the meeting.

Item 5. Progress on the implementation of regional activities

The participants took note of:

- A joint presentation by the Implementing Partners (available on the [meeting web page](#)), including:
 - Ms. Rie TSUTSUMI, Project Manager, UNEP, who summarized the results on UNEP-led activities under Results 1 and 2;
 - Mr. Leonid KALASHNYK, Project Manager, UNECE, who summarized the results on SEA/EIA component of Result 1;
 - Ms. Tatiana CHERNYAVSKAYA, UNIDO, who summarized the results on UNIDO-led activities under Results 2;

³ See Annex 3 https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/swd_2021_186_f1_joint_staff_working_paper_en_v2_p1_1356457_0.pdf

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/2020-annual-report-implementation-eus-external-action-instruments-2019_en

- Mr. Krzysztof MICHALAK, Senior Programme Manager, OECD, who summarized the OECD-led results on Results 3 and 5.
- Intervention by Mr. Andrzej JANUSZEWSKI, DG Environment, European Commission, who expressed his appreciation and highlighted the importance of the regional approach. He also expressed his appreciation to the country level work, pointing out that EU4Environment started being a point of reference in the Eastern Neighbourhood. He stressed that this type of work, combining many actions and angles, is particularly important in the light of the implementation of the external dimension of the European Green Deal and should be continued.

Item 6. Draft Work Plans for Result 4. Ecosystem services and livelihoods

The participants took note of an intervention by:

- Ms. Madhavi M. PILLAI, the World Bank, in which she presented the draft work plans under Result 4 (available from the [meeting web page](#)).

During the discussion the participants took note of:

- Intervention by Mr. Ruslan HAVRYLIUK, National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, in which he underlined that preservation of fresh water eco-system is crucial for the EaP countries. This has been a major focus for the Civil society forum. He called for the World Bank work to cover the activities on water protection and restoration in the region, pointing out that rivers conservation is in context of climate change is a major issue for many Partner countries.
- Intervention by Ms. Angela BULARGA, DG NEAR, European Commission, in which she called for a coordination with other initiatives, but also for building on the work done previously, including by the European Environment Agency and the Council of Europe. She stressed the importance of water protection, and in this regard informed the participants that the EC is in the process of launching a follow-up action after EU Water Initiative Plus completion in July 2021. The new Programme will start soon, possibly in conjunction with a Team Europe Initiative.
- Intervention by Mr. Johannes MAYER, Environment Agency Austria, in which he pointed that it is always interesting to see innovative ideas. This idea of offset schemes in Ukraine deserves the regional attention. He invited the World Bank colleagues to remain in contact on this specific issue.

Item 7. Action governance, cross-cutting issues, coordination with other programmes

The participants took note of interventions (see: the [meeting web page](#)) by:

- Mr. Krzysztof MICHALAK, OECD, who highlighted the Implementing Partners' appreciation for valuable support by the National Action Co-ordinators and stressed good co-operation with other EU-funded programmes, such as EU4Business, EU4Climate, and EUWI+.
- Tatiana CHERNYAVSKAYA, UNIDO, who highlighted the importance of incorporating gender dimension throughout activities of the Programme to make sure that the visibility of input, and participation of, women is ensured. She also recalled carrying out assessments of options for gender mainstreaming in greening of national industries, through a series of trainings in Armenia, Georgia, Belarus and Ukraine, as part of RECP.
- Ms. Maria DUBOIS, OECD, who highlighted the good progress on communication, in particular: the revamped EU4Environment web site (www.eu4environment.org), which has already attracted 130 000 impressions, monthly newsletters with more than 550 subscribers, the country profiles, a new EU4Environment Brochure with the Programme achievements at mid-term, videos, e-cards, as well as wide outreach through social media, communication campaigns and mass media.

Item 8. Closure

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Michaela HAUF, European Commission and Chair of the meeting, briefly summarised the key outcomes of the meeting which demonstrated the achievements made by the EU4Environment programme. She announced that the next meeting would be held on 22 and 23 September 2022. Finally, Ms. HAUF, thanked all the members of the Regional Assembly for the preparation for the meeting and their active participation and closed the meeting.

Annex 1. Agenda

Time	Item
09:50 – 10:00	<i>Connection by the participants</i>
	Chair of the meeting: Michaela HAUF, Team Leader for Environmental and Climate Resilience and Connectivity, DG NEAR, European Commission
10:00 – 10:20	<p>Item 1. Welcome, opening and adoption of the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome by the Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michaela HAUF, Team Leader for Environmental and Climate Resilience and Connectivity, DG NEAR, European Commission • Opening speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diana JABLONSKA, Head of Unit C.1, Georgia, Moldova, Economic Investment Plan, DG NEAR, European Commission • Key messages and lessons learned from the Action implementation by the lead Implementing Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carolina GONZALEZ MUELLER, UNIDO ○ Krzysztof MICHALAK, OECD
10:20 – 10:25	<i>Online poll on the EU4Environment achievements</i>
10:25 – 11:10	<p>Item 2. Country-level activities: progress on the Action implementation under Results 1-3 and 5, its impact and priorities for 2021-22 in the Eastern Partner countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia • Republic of Moldova • Ukraine <p>Each country segment will start with a short presentation on key activities and selected achievements by the Implementing Partners.</p> <p>The National Focal Points from the respective country will be asked to provide feedback by answering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is your assessment of progress in the implementation of the EU4Environment in your country and of selected achievements? ○ What should be the priority areas of activities for the remaining period of the Programme?
11:10 – 11:15	<i>Online poll on communications</i>
11:15 – 12:00	<p>Item 3. Country-level activities: progress on the Action implementation under Results 1-3 and 5, its impact and priorities for 2021-22 in the Eastern Partner countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armenia • Azerbaijan <p>Each country segment will start with a short presentation on key activities and selected achievements by Implementing Partners.</p> <p>The National Focal Points from the respective country will be asked to provide feedback by answering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is your assessment of progress in the implementation of the EU4Environment in your country and of selected achievements?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What should be the priority areas of activities for the remaining period of the Programme?
12:00 – 12:15	<i>Break: EU4Environment videos</i>
12:15 – 12:45	<p>Item 4. Presentation of the Findings and Recommendations of the Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation of the ROM results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Melanie INNISS, ROM Evaluator ● Comments from the European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Angela BULARGA, Programme Manager, DG NEAR, European Commission ● Reactions from the floor on the key findings and recommendations, including on the strengthening of in-country monitoring of the Programme Implementation and the possibility of the extension of the EU4Environment for 2023
12:45 – 13:15 (30 min)	<p>Item 5. Progress on the implementation of regional activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation of selected regional activities from Results 1-5 by the Implementing Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rie TSUTSUMI, UNEP ○ Leonid KALASHNYK, UNECE ○ Tatiana CHERNYAVSKAYA, UNIDO ○ Krzysztof MICHALAK, OECD ● Reactions from the floor
13:15 – 13:45	<p>Item 6. Draft Work Plans for Result 4. Ecosystem services and livelihoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation of the planned activities under Result 4 by the World Bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Madhavi M. PILLAI, the World Bank ● Reactions from the floor
13:45 – 13:55	<p>Item 7. Action governance, cross-cutting issues, coordination with other programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update on coordination with other programmes and cross cutting issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Krzysztof MICHALAK, OECD ○ Tatiana CHERNYAVSKAYA, UNIDO ● Update on communication activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maria DUBOIS, OECD
13:55 – 14:00	<p>Item 8. Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dates of the next Regional Assembly meeting (Thursday, 22 Sept 2022 and/or Friday, 23 Sept 2022, TBC) ● Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michaela HAUF, Team Leader for Environmental and Climate Resilience and Connectivity, DG NEAR, European Commission
14:00	<i>Meeting closure: EU4Environment Video</i>

Annex 2. Polls

Poll 1:

- How many people in total participated in the two regional capacity development webinars on Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging waste?

Correct answer: 150 (UNEP)

- Which EaP countries have been developing guidelines on the EIA application, incl. in a transboundary context?

Correct answer: Armenia, Georgia and Moldova (UNECE)

- How many experts were trained on RECP?

Correct answer: over 250 (UNIDO)

- Which countries' information on fossil fuel subsidies has been incorporated into the OECD/IEA database on fossil fuel subsidies?

Correct answer: all six (OECD)

Poll 2:

- What was the outreach of the EU4Environment campaign "Towards zero pollution in the EaP countries" during the 2021 EU Green Week?

Correct answer: About 7000 persons

- How many impressions (views) EU4Environment web site counted in 2021?

Correct answer: More than 130 000

Annex 3. List of participants

I agree to my name and function and/or to my image/voice being video/audio recorded and being used by European Commission for publications, both off and on-line, in accordance with the applicable European data protection regulations.

I consent to my contact details (First and Last Name, Organisation, Function, Country represented and e-mail) being included in the list of participants and circulated amongst the meeting participants.

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