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# EU4Environment

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

*Revised EU4Environment work plan for 2019-2022:*

*REGIONAL ACTIVITIES*

*(September 2021)*



This document presents a consolidated manner, the revised Regional Work Plan for Results 1-5 as part of the European Union for Environment Action (EU4Environment). The Work Plan contains Result 4, led by the World Bank, that was added following the completion of the contractual procedure at the end of 2020. The Plan takes into account adjustments that occurred in the first two years of implementation, including the revision of the timeline to reflect the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic (as of Dec 2020 for Results 1 -3, 5, as of Sept 2021 for Result 4). The work plan will be further revised after the Regional Assembly, taking account its decisions.

This documents is prepared for the third Regional Assembly meeting, to be held on 21 September 2021, to support the discussion on the progress in the EU4Environment implementation and review the activities and timeline for the remaining period.

*Action required:* For information and written comments by 30 September 2021.

Action implemented by:



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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
UNEP	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 revised final **regional Work Plan 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 1-5**. The work plan for **Result 4**, led by the World Bank, was added following the completion of the contractual procedure in December 2020.

The Work Plan 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 2-6 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.

It takes into account any adjustments occurred in the first two years of implementation, including revision of the timeline to reflect the consequences of the unprecedented challenge brought in 2020 by the Covid-19. Despite vaccination campaigns, the situation related to Covid-19 still remains uncertain due appearance of new variants, and will continue impacting the Programme implementation.

The Work Plan continues to be flexible for further adjustments of the timeline and activities, if necessary.

## 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 UNEP and UNECE, with coordination by UNIDO);
- **Result 2.** Circular economy and new growth opportunities (implemented by UNEP 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. Progress on its implementation is reported to the European Commission in the annual narrative reports, and to the countries at the annual Regional Assembly meetings.

*Revised final consolidated regional plan of work for Results 1-5*

**Table 1. Consolidated list of the regional activities for Results 1-5.**

Activities	Region
<b>RESULT 1. Greener decision-making</b>	
<b>1.1: Green economy ownership, policy coherence and cross-sectorial coordination (UNEP)</b>	
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
<b>1.2: Sectoral investment planning and comparative analysis of costs and benefits (UNEP)</b>	
Activity 1.2.1: Investment needs assessment in priority sectors	X
Activity 1.2.2: Development of investment strategy proposals or action plans	X
<b>1.3: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (UNECE)</b>	
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
<b>1.4: Awareness, education and public acceptance of the Green Economy transition (UNEP)</b>	
Activity 1.4.1: Implementation of educational courses	V
Activity 1.4.2: Awareness raising campaigns for general public	V
<b>RESULT 2. Circular economy and new growth opportunities</b>	
<b>2.1: Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production and eco-innovation among SMEs (UNIDO)</b>	
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
<b>2.2: Concept and tools of the EU Single Market for Green Products initiative (UNIDO)</b>	

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
<b>2.3: Green Public Procurement and complementary tools (UNEP)</b>	
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
<b>2.4: Use of strategic approaches on waste management (UNEP)</b>	
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
<b>2.5: Reforms in priority green economy sectors (UNEP)</b>	
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
<b>2.6: Ecological value-chain and product innovation (UNEP)</b>	
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
<b>RESULT 3. An environmental level playing field</b>	
<b>3.1: "Smart" regulation of environmental impacts (OECD)</b>	
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
<b>3.2: Environmental compliance assurance and environmental liability regimes (OECD)</b>	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 (*)	V
<b>3.3: Domestic public finance, subsidy reforms, public-private partnerships and private finance for green investment (OECD)</b>	
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
<b>3.4 Administrative capacity for environmental management (OECD)</b>	
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
<b>RESULT 4. Ecosystem services and livelihoods (tentative)</b>	
<b>4.1: Support to protect biodiversity and natural ecosystems (Emerald Network) (World Bank)</b>	
Activity 4.1.1 Preparing draft action plans in selected sites to advance the establishment of the Emerald Network and management of existing sites	X
Activity 4.1.2 Regional collaboration and exchange with EU member states; communication and awareness raising	V
<b>4.2 : Promoting sustainable natural resources management, economic development and participation at local community level (World Bank)</b>	
Activity 4.2.1: Baseline mapping for community engagement on forests and other natural resources management	X
Activity 4.2.2: Supporting targeted communities with gaining practical knowledge on natural resource management (NRM)	V
Activity 4.2.3: Supporting the EaP countries in the development of lessons learnt reports	V
<b>4.3: Support to the promotion of legal trade and preventing illegal trade in wood products (World Bank)</b>	
Activity 4.3.1: Strengthening timber/wood trade control systems in the EaP countries	V
Activity 4.3.2: Promoting innovation and technology to strengthen export and trade controls over timber/wood	V
Activity 4.3.3: Awareness raising, communication, trade events	V
<b>4.4: Enhancing strategic financing to the forest and natural resources management sectors (World Bank)</b>	
Activity 4.4.1: Developing country investment and financing plans for natural capital conservation and sustainable utilization	X
Activity 4.4.2: Promoting regional and international collaboration	V
<b>RESULT 5. Regional knowledge sharing and coordination</b>	
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. Regional activities under Results 1: timeline and expected output targets

Regional activities	Time line												Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020				2021				2022			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
<b>RESULT 1. Greener decision-making</b>															
<b>1.1: Green economy ownership, policy coherence and cross-sectorial coordination (UNEP)</b>															
Activity 1.1.1: Survey and large-scale training of public sector employees															
Training civil servants from line ministries to apply GE concepts															
Activity 1.1.2: Fitness tests of relevant policy documents and policy proposals															
<b>1.3: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (UNECE)</b>															
Activity 1.3.2: Comprehensive capacity and institutional building															
Two sub-regional events to facilitate information exchange and experience sharing														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
<b>1.4: Awareness, education and public acceptance of the Green Economy transition (UNEP)</b>															
Activity 1.4.1: Implementation of educational courses														Translation and delivery of introductory GE	

Regional activities	Time line											Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020				2021						2022
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
													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. Regional activities under Results 2: timeline and expected output targets**

Regional activities	Time line												Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020				2021				2022			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
<b>RESULT 2. Circular economy and new growth opportunities</b>															
<b>2.1: Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production and eco-innovation among SMEs (UNIDO)</b>															
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.)
<b>2.2: Concept and tools of the EU Single Market for Green Products initiative (UNIDO)</b>															
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)

Regional activities	Time line												Expected output target	Comments
	2019			2020				2021				2022		
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
<b>2.4: Use of strategic approaches on waste management (UNEP)</b>														
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.
<b>2.6: Ecological value-chain and product innovation (UNEP)</b>														
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. Regional activities under Results 3: timeline and expected output targets

Regional activities	Time line												Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020				2021				2022			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
<b>RESULT 3. An environmental level playing field</b>															
<b>3.1: “Smart” regulation of environmental impacts</b>															
Activity 3.1.1: Reforming regulatory regimes for large emission sources, including State Owned Enterprises <sup>1</sup>															
– Regional seminars on specific aspects of environmental regulation of large emission sources		BAT meeting					BAT meeting					BAT meeting	BAT meeting	<b>2 regional seminars</b>	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											Report	<b>A regional report</b> on existing financial instruments for SME greening.	Covers all six countries
– Regional seminars on greening SMEs (launching and concluding)									SME seminar				SME seminar	<b>2 regional seminars</b>	
<b>3.2: Environmental compliance assurance and environmental liability regimes</b>															
Activity 3.2.3: Networking and capacity building															No regional activities envisaged (though regional or sub-regional training may be considered - subject to confirmation)
– Regional meetings on compliance assurance							Compliance seminar			Capacity building seminar	Compliance seminar	Compliance seminar	<b>3 regional meetings</b>	All six countries to be invited to the regional meetings	

<sup>1</sup> No country activity planned.

Regional activities	Time line												Expected output target	Comments					
	2019			2020				2021				2022							
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4								
										ar									
<b>3.3: Domestic public finance, subsidy reforms, public-private partnerships and private finance for green investment</b>																			
Activity 3.3.2: Review of selected national funding entities																			
– Review of approaches to blending public and private resources in a national context		Discussion paper (review of funds)										Updated review	<b>A regional review</b> 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 Initial deliverable - discussion paper presented at the GREEN Action Task Force meeting.  Report, based on the discussion paper, will be prepared in 2022.					
Activity 3.3.3: Energy subsidy report																			
					Development of analysis	Development of analysis	Development of analysis	Draft report	Finalisation	Final report		X	<b>Regional report</b>						
Activity 3.3.4: National and regional policy dialogues on green finance and investment																	X		No regional report envisaged in DoA; a regional analytical report

Regional activities	Time line												Expected output target	Comments
	2019			2020				2021				2022		
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
– Regional conferences							OECD Forum on Green Finance and Investment				OECD Forum on Green Finance and Investment	X	<b>2-3 regional conferences</b>	Covers all six countries. The EaP countries will be invited to the OECD Forum on Green Finance and Investment (2021). Conference on greening debt capital markets preliminary planned in Q3/4 2022.
- Regional analytical report												X	Analytical report on “Greening debt capital markets in the EaP region: The role for green bonds”	

\* 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





Regional activities ( <i>tentative</i> )	Timeline							Expected output target	Comments
	2021		2022				2023-24		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
<b>RESULT 4. Ecosystem services and livelihoods of the European Union for Environment Action</b>									
Study trip to an EU country with effective management of Natura 2000 sites with community participation									
Activity 4.2.3: Supporting the EaP countries in the development of lessons learnt reports									
<b>4.3: Support to the promotion of legal trade and preventing illegal trade in wood products (World Bank)</b>									
Activity 4.3.1: Strengthening timber/wood trade control systems in the EaP countries									
Best practices exchange, including study visits to EU Member State Competent Authorities, customs, and other relevant institutions								TBD	
Training course on legal timber trade and EUTR requirements for exporters in EaP countries								Online course or video lectures (TBD)	
Activity 4.3.2: Promoting innovation and technology to strengthen export and trade controls over timber/wood									
Support with developing software (mobile apps and online tools) to strengthen timber export and trade controls (innovation challenge)									
Workshop on e-timber trade platforms and other innovative technologies								1 regional event	
Activity 4.3.3: Awareness raising, communication, trade events									
<b>4.4: Enhancing strategic financing to the forest and natural resource management sectors (World Bank)</b>									
Activity 4.4.1: Developing country investment and financing plans for natural capital conservation and sustainable utilization									
									Country action, no regional activity
Activity 4.4.2: Promoting regional and international collaboration									
Workshop to share experience on payment for ecosystem services provided by biodiversity								1 conference	
Regional conference/workshop to share international experiences on green financing and promote regional/international collaboration								1 conference/workshop	

\* 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 6. Regional activities under Result 5

Regional activities	Time line											Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020				2021						2022
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
<b>5.3: Monitoring of progress at the economy-environment nexus (OECD)</b>													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									GGIs video (English)		Draft mid-term report (possibly e-version)  GGIs video in national languages	Final report (possible, e-version)	2 reports (mid-term and final)	Covers all six countries; draft of mid-term. Mid-term report moved from Q3 2020 to Q3 2021 (draft to be tentatively presented at 3d in-person RA meeting in September 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