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**EU4Environment**

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

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

Webinar

### Designing and implementing green public investment programmes – experience on water supply and wastewater treatment in rural and remote areas

Draft agenda

Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 14:00 – 16:00 (Baku) / 11:00 – 13:00 (CET)

Please register for the webinar [here](#)

Action implemented by:



## Background

### ***Objectives of the Project***

The EU-funded EU4Environment Action supports countries in the EaP region, including Azerbaijan, to improve national governance and regulatory mechanisms that support transition to a greener and more sustainable development path. Efficient and effective public expenditure is important in meeting environmental and climate-related objectives.

The main objective of the project “Designing Green Public Investment Programme and Conducting Training in Azerbaijan” is to equip the government officials and experts in Azerbaijan with know-how and practical skills on designing a public environmental expenditure programme. Such programmes help to obtain adequate resources from the public budget and leverage international co-financing for its implementation. The project is implemented by the OECD in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan.

The project provides technical assistance to increase the capacity of government authorities to better manage public environmental expenditure with a special focus on achieving the national objectives in the water supply sector. The proposed investment measures of the public support programme will aim to address a decline in supply of quality water. The programme will focus on enabling a more widespread use of non-standard water resources – in particular, the groundwater extraction and surface water catchment.

The project aims to direct programme development toward four main activity areas:

1. Increase water abstraction/catchment volumes
2. Increase available water storage capacities
3. Ensure groundwater level recovery/increase
4. Ensure efficient water supply.

The designed green public investment programme will contribute to the overall objective of diversifying water supply sources by using an increased mix of surface water and groundwater to ensure that water supply does not fall below water demand in future (taking into account the predictions of climate change impacts on the water resources).

The programme will also contribute to improving water availability for regions vulnerable to climate change (areas with low groundwater levels or combined with frequent floods). The rationale behind this programme is based on premise that public environmental expenditure – direct or indirect – is a key instrument to address some of the fundamental problems related to future water supply reliability and security.

### ***Policy Context***

Azerbaijan has developed a National Water Strategy and Action Plan, the latter of which was approved by Presidential Decree no. 2178 in 2020. The Action Plan is to be implemented in the short-term and mainly is focused on improving the institutional capacity and legal framework. Investments will take place in particular in the medium and long-term. Water resource inventories and integrated river basin management planning will be introduced. Efficient water use will be promoted based on cost recovery tariffs.

The Action Plan also contains activities such as 15.7.4 to “Expand the supply of quality drinking water to the population in accordance with SDGs,” as well as activities to rehabilitate irrigation infrastructure, to programmes to reduce water losses.

To facilitate achievement of the selected objectives of the Water Strategy and the Action Plan, a green public expenditure programme is under development to focus and leverage investment in expanding and security water supply in areas that are expected to be most acutely affected by climate change. A component of this programme is the definition of project pipelines that include investment in small-scale measures to increase water supply resiliency in underserved and vulnerable areas.

**Box: Selected examples of green public investment programmes**

Since 2012, the OECD has provided technical assistance and capacity building to public authorities from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in designing and costing green public investment programmes, as well as in supporting complementary activities and requirements that need to be in place for the programmes’ actual implementation. The green public investment programmes were prepared for energy efficiency of the housing sector ([Kazakhstan](#)), as well as clean urban public transport ([Kazakhstan](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#), and [Moldova](#)). Beyond the primary technical assistance, also capacity development activities on the programmes’ implementation are being currently conducted under the EU4Environment Action ([Moldova](#)). During the current phase, 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](#)). The programmes have been designed in line with international good practices and can serve as a model for preparing other low-carbon public investment programmes within national medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEFs).

### Objectives of the Webinar

- to facilitate knowledge transfer and experience-sharing between the EU and EaP countries concerning approaches on water supply and sanitation in remote areas
- to facilitate knowledge transfer and experience-sharing between the EU and EaP countries concerning greening public expenditure
- to support Azerbaijan and other EaP countries in leveraging private (non-state) investments into equipment and technologies that divert environmental and climate-related problems connected with the water supply

### Participants – Speakers and Target Audience

Speakers at this webinar will come from academic institutions and private consulting sector from the EU countries:

- Prof. Ing. **Igor Bodík**, PhD., professor at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia, and president of the Association of Wastewater Treatment Experts

of the Slovak Republic and focuses mainly on the technology of urban and industrial wastewater treatment

- Dr. **Adriana Pienaru** from the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, Romania, has over 35 years of professional experience in municipal infrastructure and holds a Ph.D. in rural water infrastructure
- **Alexander Somer** from Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH, Austria, specialises on the technical appraisal and evaluation of municipal projects in Austria on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism (water supply projects, sanitation projects, ecological river construction projects, issues related to the EU water framework directive, EU-subsidies and EU rules/procedures with connection to subsidies and grants)

The OECD is supported in organising this webinar by Kommunalkredit Public Consulting from Austria.

### **Practical Information**

English-Russian simultaneous 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](mailto:EU4Environment@oecd.org)

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

## DRAFT AGENDA

<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Welcoming remarks</b>
14:00 – 14:10 (10 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objectives of the webinar, background of the project and introduction of presenters</li> </ul> <p><b>Krzysztof Michalak</b> OECD Environment Directorate</p>
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Setting up the scene</b>
14:10-14:20 (10 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of the market study prepared for the green public investment programme in Azerbaijan that identifies directions for investment pipelines in the water sector to facilitate implementation of the Water Strategy</li> </ul> <p><b>David Toft</b> Kommunalkredit Public Consulting</p>
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Review of specific approaches for water supply and wastewater treatment in remote areas in Europe</b>
14:20 – 14:50 (30 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Romanian experience regarding the water and wastewater systems in rural areas</li> </ul> <p><b>Adriana Pienaru</b> University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest</p>
14:50 – 15:20 (30 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small wastewater treatment facilities: Experience from Central Europe and Slovakia</li> </ul> <p><b>Igor Bodík</b> Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava</p>
15:20 – 15:40 (20 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Austrian experience regarding the water and wastewater systems in rural and remote areas</li> </ul> <p><b>Alexander Somer</b> Kommunalkredit Public Consulting</p>
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Questions and answers, discussion</b>
15:40 – 15:55 (15 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questions and answers, discussion</li> </ul> <p><b>Christian Oberleitner</b> (facilitator), Kommunalkredit Public Consulting <b>Rafal Stanek</b> (facilitator), Kommunalkredit Public Consulting</p>

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<b>Session 5</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b>
15:55 – 16:00 (5 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wrap up of the event and key takeaways <b>Krzysztof Michalak and David Simek</b> OECD Environment Directorate</li></ul>
	<i>Related documents:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentations (English)</li></ul>

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