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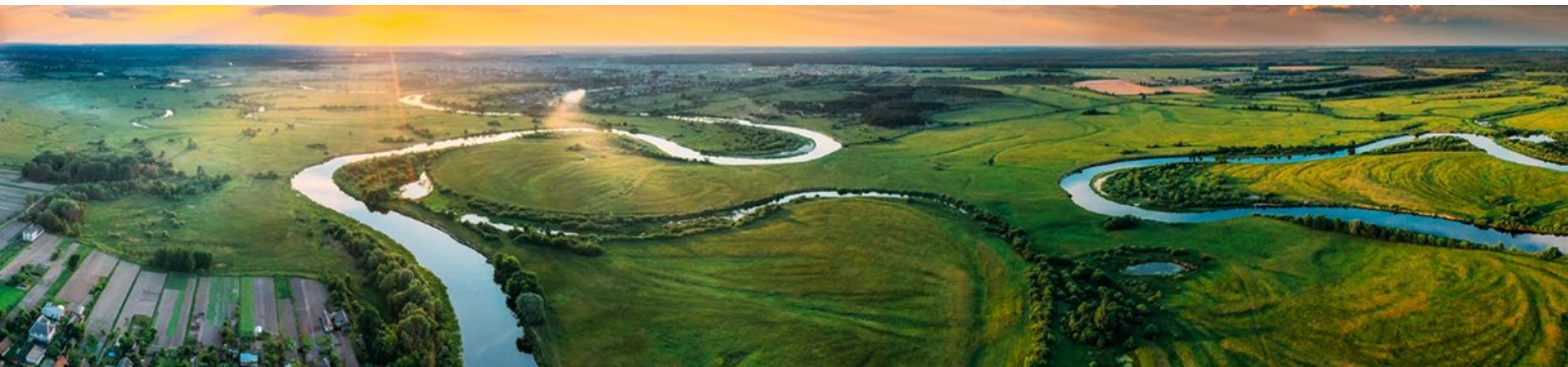
EU4Environment

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

EU4Environment work plan for 2019-2023:

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

(Final version, February 2022)



This document presents a consolidated revised regional Work Plan for Results 1-5 of the EU4Environment Programme for the period till end of December 2023. It was prepared following the ROM recommendation and a decision at the third EU4Environment Regional Assembly meeting (21 September 2021) to extend the European Union for Environment (EU4Environment) Programme for another year, from the anticipated end in December 2022 to 31 December 2023.

The Plan takes into account adjustments that occurred in the first two years of implementation, including the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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 **regional Work Plan for 2019-2023** of the European Union for Environment (EU4Environment) Programme (as of February 2022).

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 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), as well as the final comments received by 6 September 2019.

The work plan is revised annually, in relation to the annual reporting to the European Commission, and annual EU4Environment Regional Assemblies, to take into account the possible adjustments, and to be better aligned with the Government priorities. It takes also into account the key outcomes of the country consultations in 2020.

The revised Work Plan presented in this document reflects the decision adopted at the third EU4Environment Regional Assembly (21 September 2021) to extend the EU4Environment Programme implementation until 31 December 2023. The extension decision was made to take account of the impacts of the unprecedented challenge brought in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic and the results of the Result-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) evaluation carried out by independent evaluators in 2021 for the European Commission.

Table 1 below maps all activities agreed for implementation at the regional level. The following tables present more detailed planning under each Result, expected output targets and indicative timeline for the 2019-23 implementing period. A detailed description of each activity is available from the DoA.

The Work Plan continues to be flexible for further adjustments of the timeline and activities, especially in light of the uncertainties related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

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
2.3: Green Public Procurement and complementary tools (UNEP)	
Activity 2.3.1: Assessments/advisory services to establish SPP and eco-labelling policies	V
Activity 2.3.2: Capacity development of business sectors to respond to public tenders/eco-labelling	V
2.4: Use of strategic approaches on waste management (UNEP)	
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
2.5: Reforms in priority green economy sectors (UNEP)	
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
2.6: Ecological value-chain and product innovation (UNEP)	
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
RESULT 3. An environmental level playing field	
3.1: "Smart" regulation of environmental impacts (OECD)	
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
3.2: Environmental compliance assurance and environmental liability regimes (OECD)	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
3.3: Domestic public finance, subsidy reforms, public-private partnerships and private finance for green investment (OECD)	
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
3.4 Administrative capacity for environmental management (OECD)	
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
RESULT 4. Ecosystem services and livelihoods	
4.1: Support to protect biodiversity and natural ecosystems (Emerald Network) (World Bank)	
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
4.2: Promoting sustainable natural resources management, economic development and participation at local community level (World Bank)	
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
4.3: Support to the promotion of legal trade and preventing illegal trade in wood products (World Bank)	
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
4.4: Enhancing strategic financing to the forest and natural resources management sectors (World Bank)	
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
RESULT 5. Regional knowledge sharing and coordination	
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																		Progress (as of Dec 2021)	Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020				2021				2022				2023						
	Q 2	Q3	Q 4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3				Q4
RESULT 1. Greener decision-making																						
1.1 .Green economy ownership, policy coherence and cross-sectorial coordination (UNEP)																						
Activity 1.1.1: Survey and large-scale training of public sector employees																						
Training civil servants from line ministries to apply GE concepts																				Regional training with 40 participants	1 regional training	
1.3: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (UNECE)																						
Activity 1.3.2: Comprehensive capacity and institutional building																						
Two sub-regional events to facilitate information exchange and experience sharing																				1 out of 2 sub-regional events completed; 2 nd planned for June-July 2022	2 sub-regional events	
1.4: Awareness, education and public acceptance of the Green Economy transition (UNEP)																						
Activity 1.4.1: Implementation of educational courses																						
Educational courses																					Translation and delivery of introductory GE courses by national academic institutions (universities, management schools etc.)	
Activity 1.4.2: Awareness raising campaigns for general public																						
Awareness media campaigns																					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																			Progress (as of Dec 2021)	Expected output target	Comments
	2019			2020				2021				2022				2023						
	Q 2	Q3	Q 4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
RESULT 2. Circular economy and new growth opportunities																						
2.1: Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production and eco-innovation among SMEs (UNIDO)																						
Activity 2.1.1: Eco-industrial parks feasibility																						
A set of recommendations to "green" existing parks presented at the regional meeting																					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*	Events with focus on waste maps piloting in AZ, GE, UA
Activity 2.1.4: Training national experts																						
Advanced RECP training modules identified and implemented																						Online trainings with broadcasting to the region
Activity 2.1.6: Raising awareness and sharing knowledge																						
Regional expert meetings																					Regional meetings for key experts	Participation/exposure to specialized events (WCEF etc.)
2.2: Concept and tools of the EU Single Market for Green Products initiative (UNIDO)																						
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 PEF application	Regional meeting to discuss SMGP (with focus on PEF application in BY, and UA)
2.3: Green Public Procurement and complementary tools (UNEP)																						
Activity 2.3.1: Assessments/advisory services to establish SPP and eco-labelling policies																						
																					1 regional workshop and 1 infographic	

Regional activities	Time line																Progress (as of Dec 2021)	Expected output target	Comments			
	2019			2020				2021				2022				2023						
	Q 2	Q3	Q 4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1				Q2	Q3	Q4
Activity 2.3.2: Capacity development of business sectors to respond to public tenders/eco-labelling																						
Regional eco-labelling training to enhance basic knowledge about the eco-labelling systems, learn from EU examples and exchange experience and information																					Regional eco-labelling training	
2.4: Use of strategic approaches on waste management (UNEP)																						
Activity 2.4.2: Initiating/assisting the establishment of Extended Producers Responsibility schemes																						
Regional event																				3 regional webinars held in 2021	Regional capacity building activities for e-waste management through EPR: webinar and analytical study on e-waste management practices and circularity in the EaP countries.	
2.6: Ecological value-chain and product innovation (UNEP)																						
Activity 2.6.1: National trainings on sustainable production/eco-innovation for companies and governments																						
2 regional events																				Regional workshop	Regional events	
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																Progress	Expected output target	Comments			
	2019			2020				2021				2022				2023						
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1				Q2	Q3	Q4
RESULT 3. An environmental level playing field																						
3.1: "Smart" regulation of environmental impacts																						
Activity 3.1.1: Reforming regulatory regimes for large emission sources, including State Owned Enterprises ¹																						
– Regional seminars on specific aspects of environmental regulation of large emission sources		BAT meeting					BAT meeting									BAT meeting			BAT meeting	On track	2 regional seminars	Activity covers all six countries and includes BAT meeting in South Korea in October 2019 and virtual workshop on 16 November 2020
Activity 3.1.2: Greening Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)																						
– Analysis of existing instruments for financing SME greening		Fact-funding mission ²											Launch of analysis		Draft report	Final report				To be done	A regional report	A regional report on existing financial instruments for SME greening covers all six countries
– Regional seminars on greening SMEs (launching and concluding)								SME seminar						SME seminar			SME seminar			More than initially planned	2 regional seminars	
3.2: Environmental compliance assurance and environmental liability regimes																						
Activity 3.2.3: Networking and capacity building																						
– Regional meetings on compliance assurance (CA)							CA seminar				CA seminar				CA seminar				On track	3 regional meetings	All six EaP countries are invited to the regional meetings, which include an exchange of best practices among OECD and EaP officials on environmental compliance assurance.	

¹ No country activity planned.

² To Armenia, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova; in Q1 2020 to Azerbaijan.

Regional activities	Time line																		Progress	Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020				2021				2022				2023						
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3				Q4
– Strengthening capacity building (CB) ³										CB seminar			CB seminar							More than initially planned	3 countries	These include a virtual seminar on information systems, participation in IMPEL/EUFJE events, and a virtual seminar on inspections, including joint inspections(all 6 countries). Possibly linked to Activity 3.4.2, Development of sustainable and targeted training mechanisms.
3.3: Domestic public finance, subsidy reforms, public-private partnerships and private finance for green investment																						
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)										Preparatory work			Developing the analysis			Draft report	Updated review	To be done	Regional report	A regional review of approaches to blending public and private resources in a national context and leveraging private sector capital in a cost-effective way. It covers all six countries
Activity 3.3.3: Reforming energy subsidies																						
Analysis of fossil fuel subsidies in the EU's Eastern Partner Countries - Estimates and Recent Policy Developments					Development of analysis			Draft report	Finalisation	Final report	Policy Highlights for 2020									More than initially envisaged / work completed	Regional report and Policy Highlights for 2020	The report was not initially envisaged in DoA. Due to developments in this field and raising significance of fossil fuel subsidies, the need for regional work in this field became compelling.
Preparation of the project on Energy-related tax expenditure measuring and reporting															Developing the analysis & Expert meeting		Draft report	Final report		More than initially envisaged / to be done	Regional report	The report was not initially envisaged in DoA. Due to developments in this field and raising significance of fossil fuel subsidies, the need for regional work in this field became compelling.

³ All capacity-building activities envisaged under 3.2.1 and 3.2.3 are combined into one item, except for national-level activities (reflected in the national work plans).

Regional activities	Time line																		Progress	Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020				2021				2022				2023						
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3				Q4
Activity 3.3.4: National and regional policy dialogues on green finance and investment																					No regional report envisaged in DoA	
- Regional analytical report "Greening debt capital markets in the EaP region: The role for green bonds"								Launch of information collection			Draft reports		Final report							More than initially envisaged	Report	This work was not initially envisaged in DoA but due to the increased interest in green bonds in the EaP countries this work was demanded by countries.
Regional conferences under 3.3 Activities																						
- Regional conferences			Session on env. funds at Task Force				OECD FGFI		Special session on Green Bonds at the Sustainable Finance Forum, April 2021		Special session green bonds at the GREEN Task Force		Expert meeting on greening debt capital	Conference on green finance, end of June 2022	OECD FGFI			Conference on reforming env funds	OECD FGFI	On track	2-3 regional conferences	Covers all six countries. The EaP countries are invited annually to the OECD Forum on Green Finance and Investments (FGFI). Conference on greening debt capital markers preliminary planned in Q3/4 2022.

Table 5. Regional activities under Result 5

Regional activities	Time line																Progress	Expected output target	Comments																															
	2019			2020				2021				2022				2023																																		
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1				Q2	Q3	Q4																												
5.3: Monitoring of progress at the economy-environment nexus (OECD)																																																		
- Mid-term and final reports on progress with integration of economic and env goals in EaP countries																				Draft mid-term report									Final report (GGI online platform)			To be done	2 reports (mid-term and final)																	
- GGIs video																				GGIs video (ENG)									GGIs video in national languages									GGIs video in national languages										More than initially envisaged	Not in DoA	
- Regional conference (optional)																																				Regional conference on GGIs										More than initially envisaged		No regional event was envisaged in DoA, but a discussion between OECD, UNECE, EEA concluded a need for a regional conference on the green growth measurement		