



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის

Project funded by the European Union

EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



High-level Dialogue on Sustainable Public Procurement in Georgia

DRAFT AGENDA

Tuesday, 25 October, 2022
10:30-13:00 (Tbilisi time, GMT+4)

Action implemented by:



Background

In 2014, Georgia signed an Association Agreement with the European Union (EU) demonstrating its commitment and readiness to reform and harmonise different sectors' policies aligned with the EU approaches. Several Agreements' articles foresee the transformation towards Green Economy principles, where the Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is considered as an efficient way in shifting to Green Economy.

Public procurement makes up around 25-30% of GDP of the countries with economies in transition. Over 5.75 billion GEL were expended by contracting authorities in 2019 in Georgia for the procurement of goods, services and infrastructure construction works. Shifting that spending towards more sustainable goods and services can generate positive social, environmental and economic results such as poverty reduction, improved equity, reduced GHG emissions and increased energy and resource efficiency. It also offers a largely untapped opportunity to drive businesses and domestic markets towards innovation and increased sustainability. SPP is thus emerging as a key policy instrument to support sustainable development and leverage an inclusive green economy transition.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is one of the five partner agencies implementing the EU-funded EU4 Environment (2019-2022) Action. This regional programme supports 6 countries, including Georgia, in making policy planning and investment greener, stimulating the uptake of innovative products and technologies, and raising awareness about the benefits of environmental action. More specifically, within EU4Environment's component on "circular economy and new growth opportunities", UNEP supports Georgia to promote activities related to SPP issues and its complementary tools.

UNEP in close cooperation with the Environmental Information and Education Centre (EIEC) and the State Procurement Agency of Georgia (SPA) implements a set of activities on promotion and application of SPP. It includes improvement of the legislation to introduce the SPP provisions, elaboration of complementary tools (by-laws, guidelines, training materials), identification of priority goods and services for SPP pilot tenders accompanied by elaboration of the sustainability criteria per prioritised products. Raising awareness of governmental authorities, as well as the business sector, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and business associations on the SPP benefits is envisaged in order to build capacity of business to respond to public tenders.

Objectives of the high-level dialogue on SPP

- Leverage the discussion on SPP high in the governmental agenda to support the legal steps done towards SPP implementation in Georgia;
- Raise awareness of the Georgian authority, business associations, national stakeholders on SPP approach and economic, environmental, and social benefits; Encourage line ministries and contracting authorities for enlargement of GPP;
- Promote newly developed SPP policy documents in Georgia; Ensure synergy between other policy developments in the country towards sustainable development (including achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)), Green Economy shift, promotion of Sustainable Consumption and Production pattern and SPP;

- Ensure awareness and full support of SPP practices in Georgia as an efficient way to meet commitments of Georgia under the EU Association Agreement and numerous environmental multilateral agreements.

Participants

The high-level representatives of the Georgian governmental institutions, business associations, national stakeholders, as well as the EU Delegation, UNEP, World Bank, GIZ, USAIAD, UNOPS.

Practical information

The high-level dialogue will be held on 25 October (11:00-13:00) at [venue tbc] (Tbilisi, Georgia).

English and Georgian are the languages of the dialogue. English-Georgian simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Format and questions to the panellists

The dialogue will be organised as the panel discussion with the moderation of the questions.

The panellists will contribute to the discussion by answering the following questions:

Q1: What are the policy prerequisites in Georgia to create a favourable environment and conditions to promote and practice SPP?

Q2: How would you evaluate the level of understanding and knowledge of SPP among national stakeholders? What challenges of SPP implementation in Georgia do you see?

Q3: In your opinion, the actions on SPP (improved legislation, elaborated complementary tools, training and communication campaign etc.) supported by the EU4Environment project are sufficient to implement SPP in Georgia?

Q4: How do you see the role of international partners (for instance, UN Agencies) in promoting SPP at national level?

Q5: What approaches could be suggested by the government (procurers) to motivate businesses to participate in SPP, thus contributing to eco-innovation and new technologies transformation of the market?

Q5: How can SPP be better promoted at the highest national level so that to ensure support of Georgia on its way towards SDGs achievement, commitments under different agreements, including the EU Association Agreement are met?

Panellists of the dialogue

The panellists will be invited as followed (tbc):

- Chair of the Committee of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Parliament of Georgia;
- Minister/Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development (MESD);
- Minister/Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA);
- Chair/Deputy Chair of State Procurement Agency (SPA);
- Representative of Business Association;
- Representative of the EU Delegation to Georgia;
- Director / Acting Director of the UNEP Europe Office;
- SPP Lead UNEP.

Moderator of the dialogue: Ms. Tamar Aladashvili, Director, EIEC of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

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.

For more information please visit our website: www.eu4environment.org.
