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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

**Introductory workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-labelling
in the Republic of Azerbaijan**

DRAFT AGENDA

**Tuesday, 20 December 2022
14:00 – 16:00 (Baku, UTC + 4)**

Action implemented by:



Background

In 2021, contracting authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan expended roughly 6 billion manat for the procurement of public goods and services¹. Shifting that spending towards more sustainable goods and services can generate positive social, environmental, and economic results while also driving businesses and domestic markets towards innovation and increased socio-environmental awareness. With public procurement making up 25-30% of the GDP of transition economies, Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) can be an important instrument for leveraging sustainable development and a transition to a green economy.

Ecological labels or “eco-labels” provide information on the environmental attributes and/or performance of products/services. Eco-labels can take many forms (written claims or declarations, tables or matrices, and labels or logos), helping the ever-growing environmentally conscious consumer base to easily identify products that meet certain environmental criteria. For businesses, eco-labels are a means of measuring, communicating and marketing their environmental credentials. Obtaining an eco-label may incur higher costs and require comprehensive certification/licensing procedures, however it also offers businesses long-term gains in credibility, income, and customer loyalty, while encouraging continuous improvement of the company’s products/services and the overall value chain.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is one of the five partner agencies implementing the EU-funded EU4Environment regional programme that supports Eastern Partnership countries in making policy planning and investment greener, stimulating the uptake of innovative products and technologies, and raising awareness about the benefits of environmental action. Under EU4Environment’s component on “circular economy and new growth opportunities”, UNEP, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, will implement a set of activities to promote SPP and eco-labelling. More specifically, this work will be aimed at (i) raising awareness of governmental authorities and the business sector (including small and medium enterprises and business associations) on the benefits of SPP, and (ii) building capacity of businesses to respond to public procurement tenders with sustainability criteria.

Upon request of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, UNEP, with the support of the EU4Environment programme, is organizing an introductory training workshop to present its methodology on SPP and eco-labelling, as well as to share best practices in applying these tools in different countries, including in the Caucasus region. The training workshop will be followed by preparation of two assessments on SPP and eco-labelling, and development of recommendations for further promotion of these concepts in Azerbaijan.

¹ The Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2021). Opinion on the implementation of the 2021 state budget. Available at: https://sai.gov.az/files/budce_xulasesi/xulase_2021_en.pdf

Key objectives of the training workshop

- Present UNEP's approach on SPP and eco-labelling, including key achievements/lessons learned as part of EU4Environment work in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine;
- Present the current status of public procurement in Azerbaijan and existing frameworks to introduce/promote SPP principals;
- Share international experiences on eco-labelling schemes and inform participants about existing/potential eco-labelling mechanisms in Azerbaijan; and
- Discuss the process of preparing a status assessment and a legal review of SPP and eco-labelling schemes in Azerbaijan.

Participants

Representatives of the relevant governmental institutions and business associations in Azerbaijan, as well as other key national stakeholders, the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan, and UNEP representatives.

Practical information

The training workshop will be held on 20 December (14:00-16:00) via the on-line Zoom platform: The meeting can be accessed at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89727243823?pwd=eWNnWE42WGxmMndXeWplSy9wS25UUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 2724 3823

Passcode: 192551

English and Azerbaijani simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

The training workshop will be moderated by representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

About EU4Environment

The "European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment) programme is helping Eastern partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) to 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 programme 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.

For more information, please visit www.eu4environment.org or contact alex.leshchynskyy@un.org.

Introductory training workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-labelling in the Republic of Azerbaijan, 20 December 2022, 14:00 - 16:00 (Baku time)

Time	Item
14:00 - 14:15	<p>Welcome remarks <i>Mr. Faig Mutallimov, Head of Environmental Policy Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan</i> <i>EU Delegation to Azerbaijan (tbc)</i> Mr. Mahir Aliyev, Regional Coordinator, UNEP Europe Office</p>
14:15 - 14:30	<p>Public procurement in Azerbaijan Current status of public procurement in Azerbaijan and existing frameworks to introduce/promote SPP principals <i>Mr. Elshan Hasanov, Deputy Head of State Procurement Control Department, State Service of Antimonopoly and Consumer Markets, Ministry of Economy</i></p>
14:30 - 14:45	<p>EU4Environment achievements on SPP and eco-labelling in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine <i>Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva, UNEP</i></p>
Session on SPP	
14:45 - 15:00	<p>UNEP's approach/methodology on SPP The link between SPP and Sustainable Development Goal 12 (target 12.7) <i>Mr. Farid Yaker, UNEP</i></p>
15:00 - 15:20	<p>SPP best practices and challenges Examples of SPP implementation in European and Asian countries <i>Mr. Farid Yaker, UNEP</i></p> <p>Lessons learned from other EU4Environment project countries <i>Mr. Kakha Demetrashvili, State Procurement Agency of Georgia</i> <i>Ms. Olena Maslyukivska, EU4Environment National Action Coordinator, Ukraine</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
Session on eco-labelling	
15:20 - 15:35	<p>UNEP's approach to eco-labelling and examples of national support <i>Ms. Laetitia Montero Catusse, UNEP</i></p>
15:35 - 15:50	<p>Key opportunities and challenges for eco-labelling in Azerbaijan <i>Mr. Samir Isayev, Lawyer at the "Legal and Business Consulting" LLC</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
15:50 - 16:00	Final remarks, next steps, and closure of the workshop