

The Progress in Green and Net-Zero Transition and Environmental Degradation Issues Across the EaP Region from Civil Society Perspective



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Financing the Green and Net-Zero Transition in EaP Countries

Common challenges

- mining industry
- air pollution
- community-based approaches
- inefficient use of natural and capital resources
- legislation reforms



- ✓ Statements on the Issues (clear methods and mechanisms)
- ✓ Recommendations for the improvement of EIA & SEA procedures
- ✓ Awareness campaigns at the local level
- ✓ Public legal education/ Public literacy

The role of NGOs in Promotion of Green Economy and Net Zero Transition in the Region

- **Advocacy and Awareness:** raising awareness about the importance of transitioning to a green economy and achieving net-zero emissions by educating the public and policymakers about the environmental and social consequences of climate change and unsustainable practices.
- **Policy Analysis and Development:** NGOs conduct research and provide policy recommendations to governments and international bodies. They often contribute to the development of policies, regulations, and legislation that promote clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and other green economy initiatives.
- **Community Engagement:** NGOs work at the grassroots level, engaging with local communities to promote sustainable practices. They may facilitate community-based projects, such as tree planting, renewable energy adoption, and waste management initiatives.
- **Capacity Building:** NGOs often provide training and capacity-building programs for individuals, communities, and businesses to help them transition to more sustainable practices
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** NGOs collaborate with governments, businesses, and other organizations to develop and implement green initiatives.
- **Funding and Grants:** NGOs often provide grants and funding opportunities to support local and global projects that align with green economy and net-zero transition goals.
- **Research and Data Collection:** NGOs conduct research on environmental issues, collecting valuable data on climate change impacts, biodiversity loss, and pollution. This research informs policy decisions and helps identify areas that need urgent attention.
- **Legal Action:** In some cases, NGOs use legal avenues to hold governments and corporations accountable for environmental violations. They may file lawsuits to enforce environmental laws and regulations.
- **Public Mobilization:** NGOs mobilize public support for green initiatives through campaigns, petitions, and public demonstrations. They can harness the collective power of concerned citizens to push for change.

Public Policy Responses to Environment-Related Risks Can Impact the Financial System and Stability of Local Communities



e.g.

Armenian NP WG3 member NGO “Khazer” suggested to COP high rank delegation members to pay attention to financial mechanisms for grassroot communities to facilitate their participation in procedures. “Khazar” turned to the Prime Minister with the request of mandatory involvement of NGOs in the climate-related committees functioning under government.

Green Finance Initiatives

- Armenia is trying to develop financial mechanisms and incentives to encourage green investments. This might include tax incentives for green projects, green bonds issuance, and partnerships with international financial institutions to fund sustainable development projects.
- EaP countries may have developed financial mechanisms to encourage green investments. This could again include the issuance of green bonds, establishing green investment funds, and providing subsidies or tax incentives for green projects.

The Main Affected Sectors

a. Energy (including the Energy Production and Use)

b. Industrial Processes and Product Use (Mining Industry and F-gases)

c. Agriculture (Enteric Fermentation, Direct and Indirect N₂O Emissions from managed soils)

d. Waste (Solid Waste management, Wastewater)

e. Forestry (afforestation, forest protection) and other Land Use.

Circular Economy and New Growth Opportunities: progress and plans

Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-Labeling ([Armenia](#), [Moldova](#))

National waste management strategy (Azerbaijan, Georgia)

SEA Guidelines (Armenia, Georgia)

RECP (Moldova, Armenia)

Awareness Raising (EaP Region)

- National waste management programme (Moldova)
- Eco-Industrial Parks (Georgia, Moldova)
- RECP (Moldova, Armenia)
- SEA (Moldova)
- Monitoring progress at environment-economy nexus
- Awareness Raising



Climate Adaptation and Resilience Projects

Governments' Commitments

Given the region's vulnerability to climate change, some countries have invested in climate adaptation and resilience projects, such as improving water resource management, disaster preparedness, and sustainable agriculture practices.

EaP countries have ratified international agreements like the Paris Agreement, committing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to global climate goals.

Initiatives to promote green transportation, such as electric vehicles and improved public transportation systems have been launched in several EaP countries.

Investing in research and innovation in clean technologies and sustainable practices can drive economic growth while reducing emissions. These countries could have supported research and development in relevant sectors.

Climate and Energy Problems in Local Level

Armenia (EcoLur Informational NGO) is implementing a project within EU4Climate studying and enhancing climate-energy-related issues in 4 communities:

- Dilijan (National Park) - Biodiversity
- Pambak - Mining Industry
- Yeghegis - HPP
- Talin - Solar Energy



Evaluation and analysis have been made based on community-based data retrieval related to the current issues of the 4 communities and on this background a recommendation package is being compiled to be still discussed with the community municipality, meanwhile the national energy and climate policies are being investigated with the aim of including socio-ecological culture herein.

Feasibility of “Green” Programs

The Nationally
Determined
Contributions to Paris
Agreement

- A number of climate adaptation programs, actions, investments in various fields are implemented, information about which is often not provided to the public in advance and in a publicly accessible form, that is, the public does not know about its possible benefits and losses.
- The civil society is not engaged in the process of all these activities as proper
- There isn't any robust monitoring toolkit and accountability for the project efficiency

Due to the engagement of irrelevant stakeholders, non-professional experts can be unintentionally involved as a result of which the projects fail to serve to the purpose and the planned outcomes are not factually realized; this gap is not usually identified and presented to the relevant bodies, thus leading to the risk of pointless expenses under the light of climate change and adaptation, as well as green solution pursuance. Therefore, e.g., it would be expedient to provide an opportunity to monitor the programs in cooperation or simply put a responsibility on the engaged teams' members or experts to share the information or expertise at least among 5 colleagues.

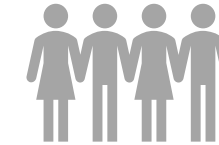


“Greenwashing”

Scenario for the Future from the point of view of the EaP region Civil Society



the role of civil society institutions should be increased



public groups in the region must consolidate their forces to protect the human natural rights



local social groups/local communities should have more power and financial resources

Thank you for your kind attention!



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