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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

TRAINING WORKSHOP ON PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND ECO-LABELLING IN ARMENIA

AGENDA

Wednesday – 26 July 2023
10:30-13:00 (Yerevan time, GMT+4)
Kick-off meeting

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Action implemented by:



Background

Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is considered as the process by which public authorities seek to achieve the appropriate balance between three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social, and environmental - when procuring goods, services, or works to meet their daily needs.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is one of the five partner agencies implementing EU-funded “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) Action in 2019-2024. This regional programme supports 5 countries, including Armenia, 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 Armenia in promoting Sustainable Public Procurement and Complementary tools (i.e. eco-labelling).

Public procurement wields enormous purchasing power, accounting for an average of 12 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in OECD countries, and up to 30 percent of GDP in many developing countries. Shifting public 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 progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and leverage an inclusive green economy transition.

UNEP, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, and with support from the Regional Environmental Centre for Caucasus in Armenia and Green Transition NGO (as well as other stakeholders), implements a set of activities on promotion and application of SPP and eco-labelling. It includes the review of the legislative frameworks to prepare recommendations on how SPP and eco-labelling provisions can be introduced into legislative acts; prioritisation of products for SPP pilot tenders followed by elaboration of the sustainability criteria for selected product categories; preparation of awareness raising and training materials on the SPP benefits and organization of communication events for different target audiences on SPP and eco-labelling.

The training workshop on Promoting Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-labelling is organized to introduce the UNEP’s methodology on SPP to national stakeholders and to discuss the role of SPP and eco-labelling principles in the context of shifting to a green economy. For the successful implementation of the SPP and eco-labelling activities in Armenia, collaboration between key national stakeholders is very important - thus a large component of UNEP’s activities will be focused on strengthening knowledge of procurers (governmental entities) and of suppliers (businesses) on SPP and eco-labelling.

Objectives of the training workshop

- Present UNEP’s methodology on SPP and approaches on eco-labelling;
- Present main activities and expected results on SPP and eco-labelling in Armenia, including review of policy and legislation frameworks, methodological recommendations on prioritisation of products for SPP, and tools for SPP criteria application;
- Raise awareness of Armenian stakeholders on SPP and eco-labelling principles and opportunities for stakeholder’s involvement;
- Introduce benefits of SPP and eco-labelling to Armenian procurers, suppliers and customers;

- Strengthen capacities of businesses to respond to public tenders with inclusive sustainability criteria.

Participants

The representatives of the Government of Armenia, Ministries of Environment, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, civil society, business, relevant stakeholder groups. The representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia and UNEP will attend the workshop.

Practical Information

The training workshop will be held in a hybrid format (in person and online via the Zoom platform). The participants of the workshop who will attend in person are invited to the conference room of the Opera Suit hotel, Marshall Baghramyan street 1, Yerevan.

The training workshop / kick off meeting can be accessed at the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87243436185?pwd=WnRLNXBIWHRZSGNoUjVEMzk1MHREZz09>

Meeting ID: 872 4343 6185

Passcode: 452459

English and Armenian are the languages of the Workshop. English-Armenian simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the five partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, 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 2019-2024.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org.

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

AGENDA

| Time | Item | |
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| 10:30-11:00 | Welcome coffee and registration | |
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| 11:00- 11:20 | Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Gayane Gabrielyan, Deputy Minister of Environment ● European Union Delegation to Armenia, TBD ● Mr. Alex Leshchynskyy, UNEP Europe Office ● Mrs. Nune Harutyunyan, Director of REC Caucasus ● Mr. Gor Chatinyan, Green Transition NGO Director | |
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| 11:20-11:35 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview of the EU4Environment component on SPP and eco-labelling, objectives and expected results in Armenia Mrs. Nune Harutyunyan, Director of REC Caucasus | |
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| 11:35-12:05 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UNEP’s methodology on SPP and key economic, social and environmental benefits of SPP Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva, UNEP Europe Office ● Nexus of SPP and eco-labelling: how eco-labelling can contribute to SPP? Ms. Maëlys Nizan, UNEP Industry and Economy Division | |
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| 12:05-12:25 | Q&A session | |
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| 12:25-12:40 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public procurement practices in Armenia. Methodology and planning on promotion and application of SPP in Armenia Mr. Harutyun Tunyan, Green Transition NGO | |
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| 12:40-12:55 | Q&A session and joint discussion | |
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| 12:55-13:00 | Final remarks and closure session | |