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**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

**EASTERN PARTNERSHIP REGIONAL WORKSHOP  
ON SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND ECO-LABELLING**

**AGENDA**

**Tuesday, 14 November 2023  
9:00 – 11:00 (Paris time, UTC +2)  
on-line**

**Please kindly register for the event here:**

**<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqdu6rqz0oEtE-uO4onhj-ewNSSuiSeACc>**

Action implemented by:



## Background

Public procurement, which accounts for up to 20 percent of GDP in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, offers a largely untapped opportunity to drive business and domestic markets to innovate and increase sustainability. By purchasing more sustainable goods, works and services, governments can improve our environment and quality of life.

Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is about spending public funds on products/services/projects that promote sustainable development and a green economy transition. International, European, national and other standards can encourage manufacturers to implement sustainable management and production systems.

Ecological labels or “eco-labels” can support SPP by providing information on the environmental performance of products and services throughout their lifecycle. 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.

Since 2019, as part of the EU-funded EU4Environment programme, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has helped to assess and improve the policy and legal frameworks on SPP and eco-labelling in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as to prepare sustainability criteria for numerous product categories that are annually procured by governmental entities. Further assessments are currently ongoing in Armenia and Azerbaijan, while training and awareness-raising activities continue to be organised at national and regional levels.

UNEP is organising this regional workshop to highlight key achievements on SPP and eco-labelling in the EU4Environment beneficiary countries, discuss challenges and main lessons learnt, as well as to ensure national ownership and continuity of this work beyond the programme. The regional workshop will help to exchange knowledge and experiences among Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries on SPP, eco-labelling and other tools that promote a transition to a Green Economy.

## Objectives of the regional workshop

- Highlight key achievements on SPP and eco-labelling in the EU4Environment project countries in the period 2019-2023;
- Present case studies on SPP and eco-labelling from EU member states and from the EaP region;
- Discuss challenges and lessons learned in promoting SPP and eco-labelling in the EaP region; and
- Identify national and regional stakeholders, networks and/or mechanisms for continued promotion of SPP and eco-labelling in EaP countries beyond EU4Environment.

## Participants

Representatives from EaP countries’ government institutions, academia, business associations, non-profit organizations and civil society, as well as EU4Environment implementing agencies.

## Practical information

The Eastern Partnership Regional Workshop will be held on 14 November 2023 (9:00-11:00) on-line.

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Participants are kindly invited to register for the regional workshop via following Zoom link:  
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqdu6rqz0oEtE-uO4onhj-ewNSSuiSeACc>

The workshop will be held in English.

**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, with a budget of approximately EUR 20 million.

For more information, please visit [www.eu4environment.org](http://www.eu4environment.org)

**Eastern Partnership Regional Workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-labelling  
14 November 2023, 9:00 - 11:00 (Geneva/Brussels time, UTC +2)**

Time	Item
<b>Moderator: Ms. Lesya NIKOLAYEVA, International Expert, UNEP Europe Office</b>	
9:00 - 9:20	<b>Welcome remarks</b> <b>Ms. Angela BULARGA</b> , Programme Manager, DG NEAR, European Commission <b>Mr. Mahir ALIYEV</b> , Regional Coordinator, UNEP Europe Office
9:20-9:35	<b>Sustainable Public Procurement and eco-labelling practices in the European Union</b> <b>Mr. Eriks MEZALIS</b> , Legal and Sustainable Public Procurement Expert
9:35 - 10:05	<b>Case studies on SPP and eco-labelling in the EaP countries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Georgia: Ms. Tamar ALADASHVILI</b>, Director of the Environmental Information and Education Centre, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia</li> <li>• <b>Moldova: Ms. Irina PUNGA</b>, Legal Expert PA EcoContact</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine: Ms. Svitlana PERMINOVA</b>, Director of the Center for Environmental Certification and Labelling, NGO Living Planet</li> </ul>
<b>Panel discussion</b>	
10:05 - 10:55	<b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Gayane GABRIELIAN</b>, Deputy Minister of Environment of the Republic of Armenia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ruslan MALAI</b>, Director of Public Procurement Agency of the Republic of Moldova</li> <li>• <b>Prof.-Dr. Kakha DEMETRASHVILI</b>, Deputy Chairperson, State Procurement Agency of Georgia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. David ADVADZE</b>, Head of Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Faig MUTALLIMOV</b>, Head of Environmental Policy Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Tetyana TEVKUN</b>, Manager of the Waste Reform, Reform Support Team, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine</li> </ul> <b>Questions to the Panelists:</b> <b>Q1:</b> What are the main challenges and lessons learnt in practicing SPP and eco-labelling? What remains to be done in the EaP countries and region? <b>Q2:</b> Way forward: how can we ensure national ownership and sustainability of SPP and eco-labelling activities beyond EU4Environment? What possible synergies with existing/planned national- and donor-led processes could be used to take this work further?
10:55 - 11:00	<b>Final remarks and closure</b>