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Key Takeaways

Day 1

WTS

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Regional Workshop on Wood Tracking Systems (WTS) and EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) Compliance:
Strengthening Forest Governance in Eastern Partnership countries

Yerevan, Armenia, 23-24 October 2025

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Reminder of main subjects covered

Introduction to WTS: Definitions, trends, and the Eastern Partnership context

System design, technologies and tools for wood tracking

Introduction to Romania's WTS "SUMAL 2"

Demonstration of a pilot wood tracking digital software platform developed for the Republic of Moldova

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General country comparison

- Illegal logging still a common issue for all countries
- Different levels of development and implementation in terms of WTS, Ukraine most advanced with fully integrated system in place, other three countries at different levels of development
- Strong governmental and sectoral support across all countries for system acquisition
- Financial and human resources lacking in the forestry sector
- Sector contribution to GDP low in all countries
- Ukraine important timber exporter (10-12% of EU market) other three countries much less significant

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- Need to comply with EUDR currently much higher for Ukraine
- Opportunity to be bigger players through resource valorization and targeting higher end markets
- Fuelwood use high in all countries – major part of annual harvesting volumes
- Low to non-existent private forest ownership in all countries – barrier to development and innovation

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Situation concerning implementation of NWTs

Country	Full NWTs in place	Timber tracking initiatives in place	Timeframe for implementation
Armenia	No	National Forest Monitoring Information System	2014 – ?
Georgia	No	Certificate of origin in place. Digitalisation on going	2013 – 2030
Moldova	No	GIS based Forest Management Information System	2015- 2027 (launch), 2029 in place
Ukraine	Yes	Electronic Timber Management System (ETMS)	2010-2012 2027(v2.0)

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SWOT : Strengths	Armenia	Georgia	Moldova	Ukraine
Provision for wood tracking aligned with forest law				
Electronic system in place that verifies source and tracks product throughout supply chain.				
Framework in place for recording harvesting operations				
Centralized digital database of forest users in place				
NFI in place				
Timber marking and transportation control				
Strong government support				



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SWOT : Weaknesses	Armenia	Georgia	Moldova	Ukraine
Capacity gaps: Low technical and human capacities				
Enforcement weaknesses: Poor implementation of existing regulations				
Awareness deficit: Limited stakeholder understanding of mechanism				
Need to update regulatory framework				
Limited marketing capacity				
No certification system in place				
Financial constraints: No dedicated funding for system acquisition and maintenance				
Current forestry systems overloaded				



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SWOT : Opportunities	Armenia	Georgia	Moldova	Ukraine
Policy momentum: Adaptive regulatory framework accelerating uptake and implementation of WTS.	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
Market incentive : Growing demand for legal timber	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
Unified forestry sector	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
Synchronisation with EUDR requirements	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green
Increasing forest cover and potential for greater forest ecosystem services	Green	Green	Green	Green
Scaling-up: Potential to use example of WTS to trace additional products	Red	Red	Red	Green



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SWOT : Threats	Armenia	Georgia	Moldova	Ukraine
Social pressure on forest resources				
Illegal logging and corruption				
Resistance from forest stakeholders	?			
Cyber threats and information security	NA	NA	NA	
Forest fires and pest/diseases				
Occurrence of unexpected costs involved with developing/ implementing a WTS				
Changes in international regulatory requirements (EUDR)				

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Recommendations for next steps

- Undertake Cost/Benefit analysis of WTS development/implementation
- Implement capacity building programmes (technical + stakeholder awareness)
- Ensure regional knowledge sharing and build on existing NWTs and experiences (Ukraine / Romania Sumal 2)
- Secure dedicated financing mechanisms
- Strengthen law enforcement before expanding to digital systems

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