

## ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is a unique forum where the governments of 34 market democracies work together to address the economic, social and governance challenges of globalisation as well as to exploit its opportunities ([www.oecd.org/about](http://www.oecd.org/about)).

The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and co-ordinate domestic and international policies. It is a forum where peer pressure can act as a powerful incentive to improve policy and which produces internationally-agreed instruments, decisions and recommendations in areas where multilateral agreement is necessary for individual countries to make progress in a globalised economy. Non-members are invited to subscribe to these agreements and treaties.

Exchanges between OECD governments flow from information and analysis provided by a secretariat in Paris. The secretariat collects data, monitors trends, and analyses and forecasts economic developments. It also researches social changes or evolving patterns in trade, environment, agriculture, technology, taxation and more.

The OECD helps governments to foster prosperity and fight poverty through economic growth, financial stability, trade and investment, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and development co-operation. It is helping to ensure that the environmental implications of economic and social development are taken into account. Other aims include creating jobs for everyone, social equity and achieving clean and effective governance.

### OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat

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ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A large background image of a sunset over a horizon, with the sun low and glowing, transitioning from yellow to orange and red. The image is framed by blue decorative borders on the left and right sides.

**EAP TASK FORCE:  
Working at the interface of  
economic, environmental,  
and governance policies**

## EAP TASK FORCE: ORIGINS, MISSION, AND ORGANISATION



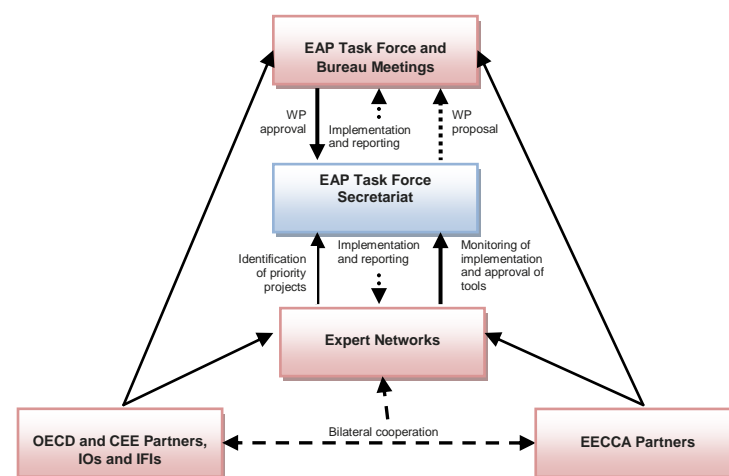
The members of the Task Force comprise the governments of Western, Central and Eastern Europe, North America, the Caucasus and Central Asia. International organisations and financial institutions, business and civil society representatives actively participate in the work of the Task Force.

The annual budget of the Task Force is about 1.5-2 million EUR. The major donors are: the European Commission, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland. Other donors include Austria and the Czech Republic.

Activities are carried out in close cooperation with the European Union's Water Initiative, UNECE, the Regional Environmental Centres (RECs), the European NGOs' ECO-Forum and other partners.

The Environmental Action Programme (EAP) was adopted in 1993 by Environment Ministers in Lucerne, Switzerland as part of the "Environment for Europe" process. It emphasized the need to: (i) set clear priorities; (ii) develop the best mix of policy, institutional and investment actions to solve environmental problems; (iii) use cost-effectiveness as a key criterion in allocating scarce resources; and, (iv) develop policies and strategies that build on and reinforce the market economy and democratic reforms.

In Lucerne, Ministers established an inter-governmental Task Force to implement the EAP. Since the 1998 Arhus Ministerial Conference, the main mission of the EAP Task Force is to guide reforms of environmental policies in the transition economies of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA) by promoting the integration of environmental considerations into the processes of economic, social and political reform; and by upgrading institutional and human capacities for environmental management.



The **EAP Task Force secretariat** is located at the OECD. This location enables the Secretariat to draw upon the policy analysis and recommendations prepared within OECD directorates and committees dealing not only with environmental matters but also financial and enterprise affairs, public management, economics, regulatory reform and others.

### Value added of the EAP Task Force

- ▶ Builds local ownership and consensus on policy principles and good practices through analytical work and dialogue within regional networks
- ▶ Facilitates access to best practices and tools for effective environmental management
- ▶ Implements in-country pilot projects to demonstrate how policies and tools can be applied in practice
- ▶ Facilitates dialogue and co-operation between donor and partner countries

## PROGRAMME AREAS

Since 2007, the EAP Task Force work has been organised in two programme areas:

### Water Programme

Under this programme area, OECD facilitates the reform of water policies and the water sector in EECCA, and helps to mobilise finance for achieving the water-related Millennium Development Goals. Besides analytical work, policy advice and regional knowledge sharing, a series of **national policy dialogues** are being facilitated as part of this programme.

### Policy Programme

This programme area focuses on issues of a cross-cutting character, with a high potential to simultaneously contribute to environmental improvements, economic development, and the rule of law. As of 2011, the programme is oriented on **green growth promotion** in EECCA.



## KEY TOOLS, DEVELOPED BY THE EAP TASK FORCE

### Environmental Finance

- A computer-based tool (FEASIBLE) that allows the identification of realistic water and environmental infrastructure development objectives
- Toolkit for aligning environmental expenditure information systems with OECD/Eurostat standards
- Good practices for public environmental expenditure management
- Handbook for appraisal of environmental projects financed from public funds
- Analytical framework to assess debt-for-environment swap opportunities in poorer EECCA countries
- Multi-year investment planning tool for municipalities
- Training on medium-term expenditure planning for environmental ministries

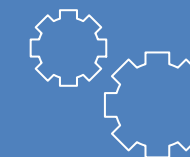
### Water Supply and Sanitation

- Financial planning tool for water utilities
- Toolkit for benchmarking water utility performance
- Guidelines for the development of performance based contracts between municipalities and water utilities
- Recommendations for consumer protection
- Recommendations for overcoming fragmentation of water supply and sanitation services

### Environmental Policy and Compliance Assurance

- Guiding principles for reform of environmental enforcement authorities in transition economies
- Guiding principles of effective environmental permitting
- A toolkit for building better environmental inspectorates
- Guidelines on integrated environmental permitting
- Guide on environmental self-monitoring by industrial operators
- Performance assessment guidance for environmental enforcement authorities
- CD-ROM "Training on integrated environmental permitting"
- CD-ROM "Training on environmental compliance assurance"
- Guidance document on administrative fines calculation

Find more at [www.oecd.org/env/eap](http://www.oecd.org/env/eap)



## OVERALL CONTEXT

The countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) are home to ecosystems of global importance, including the Caucasus region, the Black Sea wetlands complex and the Central Asian mountains.

Back in the early 1990s, the environmental challenges facing these countries and transition economies more generally were many and often daunting. Water supply and sanitation systems were crumbling and outbreaks of water-related diseases were increasing. Urban air quality was damaged, and waste and chemicals management was largely deficient. Across the region, legislation was largely inconsistent and poorly enforced.

Environmental policies were neither effective nor efficient in stimulating significant environmental improvements, and policy instruments presented serious shortcomings.

These concerns led to the development of an Environmental Action Programme following a meeting of environment ministers at Dobris Castle, in the former Czechoslovakia, in 1991. Its aim was to establish a planning and co-ordination framework for both national actions and international assistance intended to address urgent environmental issues in the pan-European region and assist the environmental reconstructions in transition economies.

