



Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN)

4th Meeting of the EaP GREEN Steering Committee

Thursday, 18 June 2015
Chisinau, Moldova

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

The meeting will be held in the Hotel Codru, Chisinau, Moldova, starting at 9:00 on Thursday, 18 June, 2015. The working languages at the meeting will be English and Russian.

The meeting of the EaP GREEN Steering Committee will be preceded by the UNECE meeting on Strategic Environmental Assessment as a tool for greening economy and on the role of the sectoral authorities in SEA, organised on 17 June 2015 in Hotel Codru. The EaP GREEN Steering Committee members are invited to take part in this meeting.

Contacts:

- Mr. Krzysztof Michalak (e-mail: krzysztof.michalak@oecd.org) and Ms. Irina Massovets at OECD (e-mail: irina.massovets@oecd.org) for further information about the EaP GREEN Steering Committee meeting.
- Ms. Elena Santer (elena.santer@unece.org) for further information about the SEA/EIA high-level meeting.

EaP GREEN project

The Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN) project aims to support the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries to move towards green economy by decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and resource depletion. The EaP countries are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

The EaP GREEN aims to:

- mainstream sustainable consumption and production (SCP) into national development plans, legislation and regulatory framework with a view to provide a sound legal basis for future policy development, in line with the regional and international agreements and processes and consistently with existing EU acquis in the relevant policy areas;
- promote the use of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as essential planning tools for an environmentally sustainable economic development; and
- achieve a shift to green economy through the adaptation and adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices and techniques in selected economic sectors (manufacturing, agriculture, food production and processing, construction).

Accordingly, the EaP GREEN is structured around three components:

- i. governance and financing tools;
- ii. SEA and EIA accompanying SCP policy implementation; and
- iii. demonstration projects.

The project is funded by the European Union and other donors, and involves joint implementation by four international organisations – OECD, UNECE, UNEP and UNIDO.

EaP GREEN Steering Committee meeting

Steering Committee meetings bring together the designated National Focal Points from the EaP country Ministries of the Environment and Ministries of the Economy, the representatives of the European Commission and of the four EaP GREEN implementing partners.

The key objective of the 4th Steering Committee meeting is to review progress with the implementation of the components of the project since the last meeting on 8 October 2014 (Minsk, Belarus), discuss achievements and challenges in project implementation and agree on a work plan until the end of 2015 and the outlook for activities to be carried out in 2016 towards project completion by 31st December 2016.

The Steering Committee members agreed that each meeting would feature a substantive discussion on a selected theme implemented as part of the EaP GREEN. The 2015 meeting will focus on organic agriculture, a component led by UNEP, which was identified as providing a significant opportunity to stimulate green economic growth, given the relatively low levels of pesticide and fertilizer use in the region since 1994, the significant share of small farms, the availability of agricultural labour and growing EU market for organic produce and hence export potential. The session will discuss policies and instruments for the promotion of organic agriculture, including strengthening the organic agri-food supply chains by developing traceability systems, certification schemes, investment mechanisms and research, as well as building the capacity of the private sector (farms and companies) to access growing international and European markets for organic products.

DRAFT AGENDA

4TH MEETING OF THE EAP GREEN STEERING COMMITTEE (open to the Steering Committee members only)	
9:00 – 9:20	Item 1. Opening remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sergiu Palihovici, Minister of the Environment, Moldova • Mr. Vassilis Maragos, Head of Unit, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood East, DG Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission
9:20 – 9:30	Item 2. Approval of the Agenda and Draft Summary Record of the Third Steering Committee Meeting
	<p><i>Chair: Vassilis Maragos, Head of Unit, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood East</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OECD will be invited to present the draft agenda and meeting materials.
	<p><u>Background documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Annotated Agenda • Draft Summary Record of the Third Steering Committee (Minsk, 8 October 2014) [ENV/EPOC/EAP/M(2014)4]
9:30 – 10:45	Item 3. Progress in the project implementation since the last Steering Committee (October 2014 - May 2015): outputs and results achieved
	<p><i>Chair: Kumi Kitamori, Head of Division OECD</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>EaP GREEN partners</u> will be invited to present progress on activities carried out at the regional and national level since the last meeting of the Steering Committee in October 2014: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Component 1: Governance and financing tools for promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (UNEP, OECD)</i> ○ <i>Component 2: SEA and EIA: Accompanying Sustainable Consumption and Production policy implementation (UNECE);</i> ○ <i>Component 3: Demonstration projects (UNIDO, UNEP).</i> ○ <i>Synergies and communication (OECD)</i> • The <u>EaP countries</u> will be invited to comment on progress in implementing the EaP GREEN activities and provide information on relevant national level actions by their Governments to promote transition to green economy.
	<p><u>Background documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Report on Progress in the Implementation of the EaP GREEN Project – October 2014 – May 2015 [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2015)10].
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break

11:00 – 12:15	Item 4. Work plan for 2015 and outlook for 2016
	<p>Chair: Mr. Andrzej Januszewski, DG Environment, European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>EaP GREEN partners</u> will be invited to present adjusted plan of work for the period June – December 2015 and indicate major activities planned for 2016. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Component 1: Governance and financing tools for promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (UNEP, OECD)</i> ○ <i>Component 2: SEA and EIA: Accompanying Sustainable Consumption and Production policy implementation (UNECE);</i> ○ <i>Component 3: Demonstration projects (UNIDO, UNEP).</i> ○ <i>Synergies and communication (OECD)</i> • The <u>EaP Countries</u> will be invited to comment on the proposed work plan and identify opportunities for EaP GREEN to facilitate, support and/or leverage planned national-level initiatives and actions to promote transition to green economy.
	<p><u>Background documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Plan of Work of the EaP GREEN Project for 2015-16 [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2015)9].
12:15 – 12:30	Item 5. Conclusions and next steps, including dates of the next meeting
	<p>Chair: Mr. Vassilis Maragos, DG NEAR, European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>participants</u> will be invited to raise any other points and agree on the dates and the venue of the next Steering Committee meeting. It is suggested to hold the meeting in the week of the 25 January 2016, possibly in Kiev. • The <u>Chair</u> will make the concluding remarks, close the Steering Committee meeting and invite the participants to the special afternoon session on organic agriculture.
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
SPECIAL SESSION ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (publicly open meeting)	
14:00 – 14:30	Welcome and keynote address: Green Economy and Organic Agriculture
	<p>Chair of the Special Session: Ms. Rie Tsutsumi, UNEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Lazar Chirica, Deputy Minister of Environment, Moldova ○ Ms. Lilia Palii, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy, Moldova ○ Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Moldova (TBC) • Key note address on Green Economy and Organic Agriculture - <i>Mr. Fulai Sheng and Ms. Claudia Assmann, UNEP</i>
14:30 – 15:20	Organic agriculture in Moldova: policies and instruments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulating organic agriculture through public procurement – <i>Mr. Viorel Mosneaga, Director of the Public Procurement Agency, Moldova</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the framework for the promotion of organic agriculture: policies and instruments – <i>Mr. Viorel Gherciu, ProRuralInvest, Moldova</i> • Questions and discussion
15:20 – 16:00	<p><i>Coffee break: Taste of Organic Moldova!</i></p> <p><i>Launch of the Reports:</i> <i>"Green Economy Scoping Study for the Republic of Moldova"</i> <i>"Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies and Initiatives in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus"</i></p> <p><i>Introduction to "Taste of Organic Moldova!"</i></p>
16:00 – 17:45	Round table presentations by the EaP countries on the promotion of organic farming
	<p><i>Moderator: Mr. Fulai Sheng, UNEP</i></p> <p>Participants to the round table:</p> <p>Ms. Mariam Jorjadze, Director, Elkana (Georgia)</p> <p>Mr. Filip Ashikyan, Deputy Director, Ecoglobe LLC (Armenia)</p> <p>Mr. Viorel Gherciu, President, ProRuralInvest (Moldova)</p> <p>Ms. Natalie Prokopchuk, Project Manager, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Organic Market Development Project in Ukraine</p> <p>Mr. Habib A. Abbasov, Department Manager, Ganja Agribusiness Association (Azerbaijan)</p> <p>Mr. Dzmitry Matusevich, Head of Main Department of Agriculture and Forestry Systems, Environment, Ministry of Economy of Belarus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success stories on organic agriculture from round table participants • Main challenges encountered related to organic agriculture • Needs for the development of the organic sector and way forward
17:45 – 18:00	Closing remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Moldova • UNEP • European Commission
18:00 – 19:30	<i>Cocktail: Taste of Organic Moldova!</i>