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# EU4Environment

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

## European Week for Waste Reduction

# Towards Waste Reduction: Progress and Lessons Learned within the EU4Environment Programme

25 November 2021

10:00 – 12:00 Paris/Brussels time

### *Agenda*

#### Logistical details:

The event is organized as a virtual webinar, using Zoom platform. All participants are invited to register through this link:

[https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_OZ\\_n7ioYSiGF-hNsf8ZplQ](https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OZ_n7ioYSiGF-hNsf8ZplQ)

Panellists will be registered by the organizers.

The webinar will be broadcasted on EU4Environment Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EU4Environment-100539842031096>

Action implemented by:



## Background

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) have made efforts to strengthen waste management, including better collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of waste, supported by the monitoring and regulation of the waste management processes (see Box 1 below). The EaP countries started to harmonise their waste legislation with that in the European Union, and part of this transformation is the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for various waste streams. Waste management practices are increasingly supported by the promotion of circular economy, i.e. a new way of creating value, and ultimately prosperity, through extending product lifespan and relocating waste from the end of the supply chain to the beginning - in effect, using resources more efficiently by using them more than once.

### Box 1: Selected examples of EaP Governments' Efforts

In **Armenia**, the Ministry of Environment recently submitted a legislative package to ban the use of plastic bags as of 2023. The legislation will ban the provision of free polyethylene bags from January 1, 2022 and introduced a special tax for plastic bags from January 1, 2020.

The adoption of the "National Strategy for the Improvement of Solid Waste Management in the Republic of **Azerbaijan** for 2018-2022" and "The Action Plan on reducing negative environmental impacts of plastic packaging waste in the Republic of Azerbaijan: 2019-2020" led to the amendment of the "Law on the Environment Protection" in November 2020. As a result, the import, manufacturing, and trade of plastic bags, as well as single use plastic are now prohibited nationwide as of 01 January 2021.

In **Belarus**, new measures to gradually reduce the use of polymer packaging and encourage recycling were introduced. Starting from January 1, 2021, the use and sale of disposable plastic tableware in catering facilities is banned.

The National Waste Management Strategy for 2016-2030 and the National Action Plan for 2016-2020 provide a target timeline for recycling certain materials at the national level in **Georgia**. The National Waste Strategy states that by 2020, the country should be recycling 30% of plastic, by 2025, 50%, and by 2030, 80%, respectively. According to the Strategy, companies should also be urged to take preventive measures against the production of waste by 2020; by 2025, there should be establishments for generating energy from the waste materials that have not been reused or recycled. This aims to make the Georgian waste management industry fully self-sufficient by 2030 by initiating a system in which both the population and the private sector can fully cover their own expenses. Additionally, as part of the provisions of the Article 9 of the Waste management Code of Georgia (entered into force on December 1, 2019), the Extended Producer Responsibility obliges now all manufacturers who place a product into the Georgian market, to reduce the negative environmental impact that may follow its production, use, waste, recovery, or disposal.

As for the Republic of **Moldova**, to respond to waste management challenges, the authorities have gradually introduced restrictions on the use of plastic bags, starting from January 1, 2019. The National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030" Strategy calls for an inclusive, sustainable, and digital economic development. Regulations on waste from Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), batteries and packaging, among others, have been introduced in Moldova under the Law on Waste. By 2027, the authorities aim to create waste collection services, reduce the amount of waste from landfills, and promote recycling in accordance with European Union requirements.

The alarming growth of waste generation also accelerated the decision-making by the **Ukrainian** authorities. The Verkhovna Rada is considering amendments to the existing laws on waste management, prevention, reduction, and control over pollution resulting from industries. At the same time, possible restrictions on the circulation of plastic bags are discussed. The proposed amendments also concern the key principles on the waste management system, creating the necessary ground to extend the responsibility boundaries of product manufacturers and the prerequisites needed to attract investments in the recycling industry.

Despite the governments' efforts waste management still remains a challenge. The key issues include: overly general and not ambitious waste management policies, under-developed legal frameworks; inadequate monitoring and insufficient data, low-priced, and in many cases uncontrolled, landfilling; insufficient economic instruments to stimulate waste reduction and better management (including recycling), and lack of investments in waste and recycling infrastructure.

The "European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment) Programme contributes to the development of comprehensive sustainable waste management policies and policy instruments in the EaP countries, which also include waste prevention and circular economy practices. EU4Environment provides technical assistance to partner countries in the establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for the packaging waste streams, promotion and implementation of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) methodology for individual enterprises and their groups (through RECP Clubs, Eco-Industrial Parks and Industrial Waste Mapping), as part of Circular Economy. This is done through the provision of advisory services and capacity development and trainings to policy makers, manufacturing SMEs, procurement practitioners, businesses, as well as Environmental Citizen's Organisations (ECOs) and other stakeholders.

### Meeting objectives

The European Week for Waste Reduction creates an opportunity to engage stakeholders and citizens into common action. This year it is dedicated to the 'circular economy', which is at the core of the European Green Deal, the new growth strategy of the European Union.

The EU4Environment event aims to show how the Programme contributes to the ambition for a waste reduction by different actors in the Eastern Partner countries. It will:

- Review progress in tackling waste issues in the EaP countries;
- Demonstrate the success stories and best practices to decrease waste; and
- Provide better understanding of improved waste prevention and management focusing on business benefits.

### Participants

The event will gather the representatives of the Ministries of Environment and of Economies in the Eastern Partner countries, relevant stakeholders, representatives of the civil society, academic community and business. The representatives of the European Commission, EU Delegations will also join the meeting.

The event is prepared by the following EU4Environment Implementing Partners: UNEP, UNIDO and OECD.

### Practical information

- Virtual platform: Zoom
- Moderated interactive panel discussion
- Opportunities for asking questions to the panellists
- English/Russian interpretation

### About EU4Environment

Since 2019, the EU4Environment Programme funded by the European Union has been supporting the Eastern Partner (EaP) countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - in pursuing their path of green transformation. The European Union and the Implementing Partners (OECD, UNECE, UNIDO, UNEP and the World Bank) help the partner countries preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being. This is done by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

- For further information contact: [EU4Environment@oecd.org](mailto:EU4Environment@oecd.org)
- Visit our website: <https://www.eu4environment.org/>
- Follow us on [Facebook](#).

## AGENDA

Time	Item
<b>9h50 – 10h00</b>	<i>Connection by the participants</i>
<b>10:00 – 10:15</b> <i>(15 min)</i>	<b>Item 1. Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome by the European Commission – Andrzej JANUSZEWSKI, Policy Officer (DG ENV) and Angela BULARGA, External Aid/Cooperation Officer (DG NEAR)</li> <li>• Setting the scene on behalf of EU4Environment – Rie TSUTSUMI (UNEP)</li> </ul>
<b>10h15 – 10h35</b> <i>(20 min)</i>	<b>Item 2. Developing policy framework for sustainable waste management, session moderated by Irina DAVIS, UNEP:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National waste management action plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Republic of Moldova - Tatiana TUGUI, Project Manager, Environmental Pollution Prevention Office</li> <li>○ Georgia - Irma GURGULIANI, Deputy Head Waste and Chemicals Management Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Questions and answers from the floor/chat</i></p>
<b>10h35 – 10h55</b> <i>(20 min)</i>	<b>Item 3. Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP), a stepping stone in the implementation of circular economy practices, session moderated by Tatiana CHERNYAVSKAYA, UNIDO:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success stories on waste-related RECP measures in selected Eastern Partner countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Armenia – Nune HARUTYUNYAN, National Coordinator of RECP activities, REC Caucasus</li> <li>○ Azerbaijan – Yashar KARIMOV, National Coordinator of RECP activities, UNIDO Result 2 of EU4Environment Program</li> <li>○ Belarus – Prof. Siarhei DAROZHKA, Belarus RECP Center</li> <li>○ Georgia - Konstantine BARJADZE, Energy Auditor, Energy Efficiency Center, Georgia</li> <li>○ Ukraine - Valeriy PAVSHUK, Ukraine RECP Center</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Questions and answers from the floor/chat</i></p>
<b>10:55 – 11:00</b>	<i>Interlude: Launch of video on Circular Economy in Ukraine</i>
<b>11h00 – 11h20</b> <i>(20 min)</i>	<b>Item 4. Enhancing synergies to improve sustainability of resource use in groups of industries, session moderated by Tatiana CHERNYAVSKAYA, UNIDO:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piloting Industrial Waste Mapping: Preliminary findings and first results from Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine - Alastair CARRUTH, UNIDO expert on IWM, SWECO Severige AB</li> <li>• Lessons from International Eco-Industrial Parks Framework promotion in Belarus and Moldova - Ankit KAPASI, UNIDO expert on EIPs, Sofies Group</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions and answers from the floor/chat</i></p>

<p><b>11h20 – 11h40</b> (20 min)</p>	<p><b>Item 5. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for packaging waste</b>, session moderated by Irina DAVIS, UNEP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional knowledge sharing of EPR system - Tatiana TUGUI, Project Manager, Environmental Pollution Prevention Office, Republic of Moldova and Irma GURGULIANI, Deputy Head Waste and Chemicals Management Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia</li> <li>Choosing best options for Deposit Refund System in Armenia - Meri HARUTYUNYAN, Chief Specialist of the Strategic Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions and answers from the floor/chat</i></p>
<p><b>11:40 – 11:50</b> (10 min)</p>	<p><b>Item 6. Role of green public investments in biodegradable waste</b>, session moderated by David SIMEK, OECD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness about the biodegradable waste sector in Georgia – David SIMEK, Policy Analyst, OECD, and Irma GURGULIANI, Deputy Head Waste and Chemicals Management Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions and answers from the floor/chat</i></p>
<p><b>11h50 – 12h00</b> (10 min)</p>	<p><b>Item 7. Wrap up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrzej JANUSZEWSKI, Policy Officer (DG ENV)</li> <li>Tatiana CHERNYAVSKAYA (UNIDO) on behalf of EU4Environment Implementing Partners</li> </ul>