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EU4Environment

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

Final EU4Environment work plan for 2019-2022: GEORGIA

This document is prepared for the second Regional Assembly meeting, to be held in a virtual format on 22 September 2020, to reflect the discussion during the country consultations with Georgia (29 May 2020), in regard to the implementation of the current work plan.

The Tables 1-4 present, in a consolidated manner, the final plan of work in Georgia for Results 1-3 and 5 as part of the European Union for Environment Action (EU4Environment), as it was agreed in September 2019. It was prepared based on the discussions at the National launch event in Georgia (24 April 2019, Tbilisi), the Inaugural EU4Environment Regional Assembly meeting (27-28 June 2019, Brussels) and takes into account the final comments received by 6 September 2019.

Annex 1 to the work plan presents key outcomes of the discussion during the country consultations with Georgia (29 May 2020), in regard to the implementation of the current work plan and proposals, if any, to adjust it. The Implementing Partners agreed to follow up bilaterally on the respective activities.

Given still highly uncertain situation with covid-19 pandemic, the current work plan, in particular its timeline, may be revised towards end 2020 – beginning 2021.

Action required: For information.

Action implemented by:



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List of acronyms

CAS	Compliance assurance system
CE	Circular Economy
DoA	Description of the Action
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPR	Extended Producers Responsibility
EU	European Union
EU4Environment	European Union for Environment Programme
EUR	Euros
GBR	General Binding Rules
GE	Green Economy
GGI	Green growth indicators
NFPs	National Focal Points
NIP	National implementation partner
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PEF	Product environmental footprint
RA	Regional Assembly
RECP	Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production
SDG	Sustainable development goals
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SMEs	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
SMGP	Single Market for Green Products
SPP	Sustainable public procurement
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WB	World Bank

Introduction

This document is the final country-specific **Plan of Work in Georgia for 2019-2022** of the European Union for Environment programme (EU4Environment), as it was agreed in September 2019. It consolidates the activities identified for implementation in Georgia with respect to the proposals specified in the Description of the Action (DoA) for **Results 1-3 and 5**. The regional activities, involving Georgia, are covered separately by the regional work plan.

The document does not include the work plan for **Result 4**, led by the World Bank, due to administrative procedures around the signatory contract between the European Commission and the World Bank, which made it difficult to conduct all the necessary country consultations and preparatory technical work. The work plan for Result 4 will be added after the completion of the contractual procedure.

It builds on initial commitments discussed at the EU4Environment national launch event (24 April 2019, Tbilisi) and the follow-up consultations, including mapping exercise, and discussions at the EaP Panel on Environment and Climate Change (27 May 2019, Vienna) and at the EU4Environment Inaugural Regional Assembly meeting (27-28 June 2019, Brussels). It also takes into account the final comments received by 6 September 2019.

It accommodates, to the extent possible, the country requests taking into account feasibility and the resources available.

Table 1 below maps all activities agreed for implementation in Georgia. Tables 2-4 present more detailed planning under each Result, expected output targets and indicative timeline for the 2019-20 implementing period. A detailed description of each activity is available from the DoA. This work plan is kept flexible, to adjust, if necessary, in the course of implementation the timeline and activities, in case of any issues beyond Partners control.

The Annex 1, added to this document, presents the key outcomes of the discussion during the country consultations with Georgia (29 May 2020), in regard to the implementation of the current work plan and proposals, if any, to adjust it.

Given the unprecedented challenge brought in 2020 by the covid-19 pandemic, and still highly uncertain situation, the current work plan, in particular its timeline, may be revised towards end 2020 – beginning 2021.

About EU4Environment

The **general objective of EU4Environment** is to help the partner countries 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 EU4Environment programme is structured around **five Results**:

- **Result 1.** Greener decision-making (implemented by UNEP and UNECE, with coordination by UNIDO);
- **Result 2.** Circular economy and new growth opportunities (implemented by UNEP and UNIDO, with coordination by UNIDO);
- **Result 3.** An environmental level playing field (implemented by OECD);
- **Result 4.** Ecosystem services and livelihoods (implemented by the World Bank);

- **Result 5.** Knowledge sharing and coordination (implemented by OECD, with input from all implementing Partners).

The total EU4Environment budget for four years (2019-2022) is about EUR 20 million, of which EUR 19 million were provided by the European Union.

The Programme implementation started in January 2019. During the first half of 2019, so called “mobilisation and inception phase”, the Partners formalized and operationalized Programme implementation in all six countries and started selected activities.

National Focal Points in Georgia

To support the Programme implementation, the Ministries of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and of Economy and Sustainable Development appointed **National Focal Points** (NFPs) of the EU4Environment. The NFPs aims to serve the coordination role and represent their respective countries during and between the annual Regional Assembly meetings.

Ministry of Environmental Protection
and Agriculture

Nino TANDILASHVILI
Deputy Minister

Ministry of Economy
and Sustainable Development

Ekaterine MIKABADZE
Deputy Minister

Final consolidated plan of work in Georgia for Results 1-3 and 5

Table 1. Mapping of selected activities in Georgia for Results 1-3 and 5.

Activities	Georgia
RESULT 1. Greener decision-making	
1.1: Green economy ownership, policy coherence and cross-sectorial coordination (UNEP)	
Activity 1.1.1: Survey and large-scale training of public sector employees	X
Activity 1.1.2: Fitness tests of relevant policy documents and policy proposals	V
Activity 1.1.3: Facilitation of National Policy Dialogues on Green Economy	V
1.2: Sectoral investment planning and comparative analysis of costs and benefits (UNEP)	
Activity 1.2.1: Investment needs assessment in priority sectors	X
Activity 1.2.2: Development of investment strategy proposals or action plans	X
1.3: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (UNECE)	
Activity 1.3.1: Assistance for finalizing the legal reforms on SEA and on transboundary EIA	V
Activity 1.3.2: Comprehensive capacity and institutional building	V
1.4: Awareness, education and public acceptance of the Green Economy transition (UNEP)	
Activity 1.4.1: Implementation of educational courses	X
Activity 1.4.2: Awareness raising campaigns for general public	V
RESULT 2. Circular economy and new growth opportunities	
2.1: Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production and eco-innovation among SMEs (UNIDO)	
Activity 2.1.1: Eco-industrial parks feasibility	X
Activity 2.1.2: Supporting RECP Clubs	V
Activity 2.1.3: Promoting Circular Economy – Waste mapping in municipalities	V
Activity 2.1.4: Training national experts	V
Activity 2.1.5: Additional RECP Assessments	V
Activity 2.1.6: Raising awareness and sharing knowledge	V
Activity 2.1.7: Further institutionalising RECP	V
2.2: Concept and tools of the EU Single Market for Green Products initiative (UNIDO)	

Activity 2.2.1: Mapping of existing practices and barriers for existing labelling schemes	X
Activity 2.2.2: Awareness and understanding of SMPG opportunities and benefits	V
Activity 2.2.3: Piloting product environmental footprint (PEF) in selected industries	X
2.3: Green Public Procurement and complementary tools (UNEP)	
Activity 2.3.1: Assessments/advisory services to establish SPP and eco-labelling policies	V
Activity 2.3.2: Capacity development of business sectors to respond to public tenders/eco-labelling	V
2.4: Use of strategic approaches on waste management (UNEP)	
Activity 2.4.1: Developing draft action plan for waste management (national or municipal level)	V
Activity 2.4.2: Initiating/assisting the establishment of Extended Producers Responsibility schemes	V
2.5: Reforms in priority green economy sectors (UNEP)	
Activity 2.5.1: Identify priority sectors for policy reform, suitable policy instruments and support needs	V
Activity 2.5.2: Support introduction/adjustment of enabling policies and policy tools in priority sectors	V
2.6: Ecological value-chain and product innovation (UNEP)	
Activity 2.6.1: National trainings on sustainable production/eco-innovation for companies and governments	V
Activity 2.6.2: Market assessment and policy analysis of eco-innovation potential in selected sectors	V
Activity 2.6.3: Assess SMEs/companies' potential for eco-innovation & provide advisory services for business strategy review/development	V
Activity 2.6.4: Awareness raising activity among business sector and government	V
RESULT 3. An environmental level playing field	
3.1: "Smart" regulation of environmental impacts (OECD)	
Activity 3.1.1: Reforming regulatory regimes for large emission sources, including State Owned Enterprises	O
Activity 3.1.2: Greening Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)	V
3.2: Environmental compliance assurance and environmental liability regimes (OECD)	
Activity 3.2.1: Strengthening of Compliance Assurance Systems, Instruments, and Tools	V
Activity 3.2.2: Reform of high impact enforcement and compliance promotion instruments, including environmental liability	V
Activity 3.2.3: Networking and capacity building	V
3.3: Domestic public finance, subsidy reforms, public-private partnerships and private finance for green investment (OECD)	
Activity 3.3.1: Greening public expenditure	V

Activity 3.3.2: Review of selected national funding entities	O
Activity 3.3.3: Reforming energy subsidies	O
Activity 3.3.4: National and regional policy dialogues on green finance and investment	V
3.4 Administrative capacity for environmental management (OECD)	
Activity 3.4.1: Assessment of existing and required administrative capacity in the environmental sector	V
Activity 3.4.2: Provision of Expert Support to the Ministries of Environment and or Economy	V
RESULT 5. Regional knowledge sharing and coordination	
Activity 5.3: Monitoring of progress at the economy-environment nexus	V

Notes: V – selected; O – for possible implementation at a later stage – subject to funds availability; X – not selected.

Table 2. Presentation of selected activities in Georgia for Results 1

Selected activities in GEORGIA	Time line								Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020				2021-22			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
RESULT 1. Greener decision-making											
1.1: Green economy ownership, policy coherence and cross-sectorial coordination (UNEP)											
Activity 1.1.2: Fitness tests/analytical documents of relevant policy documents and policy proposals											
– Fitness tests/analytical documents of relevant policy documents and policy proposals										Targeted output is a finalized Green Growth Strategy and Action Plan for Georgia, with consideration of sectors of economy defined for "green intervention".	Requested assistance in developing a new green growth strategy and a national GE action plan or a sectoral strategy (construction, industry, tourism) from 2020. Also asked for elaboration of Georgian National Green Economy Action Programmes for Forestry and Waste Sectors for the period of 2021-2030.
Activity 1.1.3: Facilitation of National Policy Dialogues on Green Economy											
– Support for interministerial and cross-sectoral policy coordination meetings										At least 4 meetings conducted/supported	Possibly in collaboration with the newly opened Ombudsman office, which coordinates multi-level dialogue.
– Establishment of a functional green planning and decision-making system											
1.3: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (UNECE)											
Activity 1.3.1: Assistance for finalizing the legal reforms on SEA and on transboundary EIA											
– One national awareness raising event to promote elaboration of secondary legislation on SEA										1 event	timing subject to the confirmation by the country
Activity 1.3.2: Comprehensive capacity and institutional building											
– Pilot project on SEA										1 pilot project	sector subject to the confirmation by the country
– Handbook/manual on transboundary EIA in hydropower sector;										1 handbook	

Selected activities in GEORGIA	Time line								Expected output target	Comments
	2019			2020				2021-22		
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
handbook/manual on SEA in municipal spatial planning										
– Updated SEA and transboundary EIA Guidelines (incl. adding chapters on monitoring, post-project analysis and quality control, scoping matrix etc.)									1 set of updated Guidelines on SEA and EIA	
– Training workshops on SEA and transboundary EIA (National Training Schemes)									3 training events	
1.4: Awareness, education and public acceptance of the Green Economy transition (UNEP)										
Activity 1.4.2: Awareness raising campaigns for general public										
– Awareness raising campaigns for general public									Public media campaign on GE with widest possible outreach	Requested preparation/development of courses on sustainable development (SD), sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and GE for different target groups and support introduction in universities. Possibly in collaboration with the new environmental Ombudsman

Table 3. Presentation of selected activities in Georgia for Results 2

Selected activities in GEORGIA	Time line								Expected output target	Comments
	2019			2020				2021-22		
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
RESULT 2. Circular economy and new growth opportunities										
2.1: Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production and eco-innovation among SMEs (UNIDO)										
Activity 2.1.2: Supporting RECP Clubs										
– Identifying and recruiting Clubs Facilitator										1 facilitator
– Recruiting municipalities for RECP Clubs										2 municipalities
– Identifying and recruiting companies-members of RECP clubs										around 20 SMEs
– Delivery of replication programmes										2 programs
– Evaluation of replication programme										1 report
– Monitoring of RECP measures implementation and companies' support										2-3 reports
Activity 2.1.3: Promoting Circular Economy – Waste mapping in municipalities										
– Awareness events on CE concepts and approaches										1-2 events
– Identification and assessment of waste sources from production activities										1 report
– Identification of recycling options for identified waste sources										1 report
– Preparation of waste maps in 2-3 municipalities										1 report
Activity 2.1.4: Training national experts										
– Trainee experts identified and recruited										around 15 experts
– Training program conducted										around 10 experts
– Advanced RECP training modules identified and implemented										2-3 modules
Activity 2.1.5: Additional RECP Assessments										

Selected activities in GEORGIA	Time line								Expected output target	Comments
	2019			2020				2021-22		
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Activity 2.3.2: Capacity development of SPA to successfully introduce SPP principles										
– Trainings for SPA staff and contracting authorities on SPP										
– Launch of pilot tenders according to the new legislation										
2.4: Use of strategic approaches on waste management (UNEP)										
Activity 2.4.1: Developing draft action plan for waste management (national or municipal level)										
– Development of national action plans										
– Development of municipal action plans/policies										
Activity 2.4.2: Initiating/assisting the establishment of Extended Producers Responsibility schemes										
– Initiating/assisting the establishment of Extended Producers Responsibility schemes										
2.5: Reforms in priority green economy sectors (UNEP)										
Activity 2.5.1: Identify priority sectors for policy reform, suitable policy instruments and support needs										
Activity 2.5.2: Support introduction/adjustment of enabling policies and policy tools in priority sectors										
2.6: Ecological value-chain and product innovation (UNEP)										

Selected activities in GEORGIA	Time line							Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020						2021-22
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Activity 2.6.1: National trainings on sustainable production/eco-innovation for companies and governments								1 training		
Activity 2.6.2: Market assessment and policy analysis of eco-innovation potential in selected sectors								1 assessment		
Activity 2.6.3: Assess SMEs/companies' potential for eco-innovation & provide advisory services for business strategy review/development								5-10 SMEs advised		
Activity 2.6.4: Awareness raising activity among business sector and government								1 event		

Table 3. Presentation of selected activities in Georgia for Results 3

Selected activities in GEORGIA	Time line							Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020						2021-22
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
RESULT 3. An environmental level playing field										
3.1: "Smart" regulation of environmental impacts										
Activity 3.1.1: Reforming regulatory regimes for large emission sources, including State Owned Enterprises ¹										
– Training (<i>country-specific, sub-regional or regional - subject to confirmation</i>)									Training (optional): 10-20 government officials	Optional – subject to confirmation
Activity 3.1.2: Greening Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)										
– Expert support to on the application of General Binding Rules		Fact-finding mission						Report on GBRs and legislative proposals	Develop GBRs for a specific economic sector	Country need: 1) Trainings on BAT and Best Practices for SMEs - Raising awareness of SMEs in field of energy efficiency, material consumption etc., which are connected to the tangible results and benefits (2020-2021). 2) Development of General Binding Rules (GBR) - The development of installation- or sector-specific regulatory scope fully based on the BAT approaches. The continuation of process of spreading BAT principles on the whole industry (approx. 3000 small and medium enterprises exist in country). (2021-2022) Adjustments can be made following fact-finding mission
– Analysis of existing instruments for financing SME greening ²										
– Operationalising support to SME Development Strategy		Fact-finding mission				Draft report	In-country discussion	Guidelines finalisation	Develop new guidelines for integrating "green" components into Enterprise Georgia's work.	

¹ No country activity planned.

² See regional activities.

Selected activities in GEORGIA	Time line							Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020						2021-22
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
3.2: Environmental compliance assurance and environmental liability regimes										
Activity 3.2.1: Strengthening of Compliance Assurance Systems, Instruments, and Tools (<i>No in-depth country activity planned</i>) ³										
– Screening the compliance assurance system (CAS)		Fact-finding mission				Draft review	Final CAS review		Short CAS review	
Activity 3.2.2: Reform of high impact enforcement and compliance promotion instruments, including environmental liability										
– Support to reform of the systems of administrative sanctions, monetary payments and penalties for non-compliance		Fact-finding mission				Draft report	Final review & support to the drafting of legislative proposal		Assessment report (review) and legislative proposal (based on the needs expressed by the country)	<i>Country need:</i> Trainings on Environmental Liability Law (Developing and conducting restoration projects) for consulting companies, enterprises, business sector and for other stakeholders (2021-2022).
– Development of legislation regulating damage compensation								Review	Review	
Activity 3.2.3: Networking and capacity building										
– Update/develop one training module and the provision of two cross-agency trainings (<i>country-specific, sub-regional or regional - subject to confirmation</i>)									1-2 trainings	
3.3: Domestic public finance, subsidy reforms, public-private partnerships and private finance for green investment										
Activity 3.3.1: Greening public expenditure										
– Project on the costing of priority green economy-related public investment programmes and development of competence profiles for civil servants in the area of green financing						Preparatory work	Analysis		Analytical report	

³ “No in-depth country activity” means that due to its limited resources the OECD is not able to accommodate this Activity to its full extent. But taking into account the importance of this work for Georgia, it was decided to conduct a light CAS review and prepare a short assessment report as a background for possible implementation in a later stage of the project - subject to funds availability. Under this Activity, the OECD will address to the extent possible the country needs within the limit of its available human and financial resources. More details will be discussed during the fact-finding mission.

Selected activities in GEORGIA	Time line								Expected output target	Comments
	2019			2020				2021-22		
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
– Training for government officials							Training		Training for 20 government officials	
Activity 3.3.4: National and regional policy dialogues on green finance and investment										
– National-level analysis to support green investment (green bonds), identification of key challenges/ways forward to align financial mechanisms with policy reforms				Preparatory work	Preparatory work	Preparatory work	Preparatory work	Fact-finding mission, analytical work and in-depth analysis	Analytical report	
3.4 Administrative capacity for environmental management										
Activity 3.4.1: Assessment of existing and required administrative capacity in the environmental sector										
– Analytical report on existing/required administrative capacity in the environmental sector and development of recommendations		Preparatory work	Preparatory work	Country mission (tbc)	Draft report	Present findings at 2d RA meeting	Final report		Analytical report	Key findings of a draft report tentatively are aimed to be presented at the 2d RA meeting.

* Note: The country-specific needs, if any, identified in this Table will be accommodated, to the extent possible, taking into account feasibility and the resources available; subject to further discussion and confirmation

Table 4. Presentation of selected activities in Georgia for Result 5

Selected activities in GEORGIA	Time line							Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020						2021-22
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
5.3: Monitoring of progress at the economy-environment nexus (OECD)										
– Preparation /update of country profiles using indicators			country profile			country profile		2 country profiles	4 profiles (1 per year)	Preparatory work on GGI report may already start in 2019-20 (in link to preparation of a regional mid-term report), but in-depth analysis is envisaged in the second phase of the Programme.
– Preparation of GGI report								Preparatory work, mission and report	1 report	
– Development of a policy brief, organising policy debates around key messages from GGI analysis								Policy brief	1 policy brief	

* Note: The country-specific needs, if any, identified in this Table will be accommodated, to the extent possible, taking into account feasibility and the resources available; subject to further discussion and confirmation.

Annex 1. Key outcomes of the discussion during the EU4Environment country consultations with Georgia (29 May 2020) in regard to the current work plan implementation and proposals, if any, to adjust the work plan

The Implementing Partners agreed to follow up bilaterally on the respective activities. All proposals will be considered by the Partners and incorporated to the extend possible, subject to resource availability and additional bilateral discussions. The current work plan, in particular its timeline and activities, if applicable, may be revised towards end 2020 – beginning 2021.

- To continue to implement the activities as envisaged in the Work Plan, using alternative modes of operation (virtual communications/meetings and engaging local consultants);
- No major revisions of the work plan is needed at this stage, noting that minor adjustments (such as timeframes) may take place as the situation evolves;
- To follow up on bilateral basis on individual activities, as needed, after the meeting;
- See for further details the Summary Record of the meeting.

