



Action funded by
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EU4Environment

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

Final EU4Environment work plan for 2019-2022:

ARMENIA

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 Armenia (19 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 Armenia 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 Armenia (29 April 2019, Yerevan), 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 Armenia (19 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 Armenia 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 Armenia with respect to the proposals specified in the Description of the Action (DoA) for **Results 1-3 and 5**. The regional activities, involving Armenia, 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 (29 April 2019, Yerevan) 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 Armenia. 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 Armenia (19 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 Armenia

To support the Programme implementation, the Ministries of Environment and of Economic Development and Investments 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 Environment

Ministry of Economy

Irina GHAPLANYAN

Deputy Minister

Avetis HOVHANNISYAN

Adviser to the Minister

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

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

Activities	Armenia
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	V
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	X
1.2: Sectoral investment planning and comparative analysis of costs and benefits (UNEP)	
Activity 1.2.1: Investment needs assessment in priority sectors	V
Activity 1.2.2: Development of investment strategy proposals or action plans	V
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	X
Activity 2.1.3: Promoting Circular Economy – Waste mapping in municipalities	X
Activity 2.1.4: Training national experts	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
Activity 2.3.2: Capacity development of business sectors to respond to public tenders/eco-labelling	X
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)	X
Activity 2.4.2: Initiating/assisting the establishment of Extended Producers Responsibility schemes	X
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	X
Activity 2.5.2: Support introduction/adjustment of enabling policies and policy tools in priority sectors	X
2.6: Ecological value-chain and product innovation (UNEP)	
Activity 2.6.1: National trainings on sustainable production/eco-innovation for companies and governments	X
Activity 2.6.2: Market assessment and policy analysis of eco-innovation potential in selected sectors	X
Activity 2.6.3: Assess SMEs/companies' potential for eco-innovation & provide advisory services for business strategy review/development	X
Activity 2.6.4: Awareness raising activity among business sector and government	X
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	V
Activity 3.1.2: Greening Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)	X
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 ¹	O
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	X
Activity 3.3.3: Reforming energy subsidies	X
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.

¹ The overall scope of Activity 3.2.3 (country-specific, sub-regional or regional training) will be decided after conducting the necessary preparatory work and having the fact-finding missions in all EaP countries. Taking into account the importance of this work for Armenia, this Activity will be considered for possible implementation in a later stage of the project to address the country's need on strengthening of the Environmental protection and mining inspection body – subject to feasibility and funds availability. More details will be discussed during the fact-finding mission as part of Activities 3.2.1 and 3.2.2.

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

Selected activities in ARMENIA	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 1.1.1: Survey and large-scale training of public sector employees											
– General training courses on Green Economy (GE)										Online course, translated into the national language, delivered on a regular basis to government officials via a national academic/public training institute	Development, translation and delivery of an introductory GE course, in close collaboration with the Academy of Public Administration or another nominated agency
– Training civil servants from line ministries to apply GE concepts										Tailored webinar delivered to nominated public servants from line ministries, with regular assignments and supervision by an international expert	Capacity-building trainings for civil servants to improve GE knowledge, establish necessary pre-requisites for GE introduction, and be able to carry out GE policy fitness tests (activity 1.1.2)
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										Analysis of at least 2 sectoral policies by trained civil servants	May involve hiring experts to develop/refine the national GE concept/strategy, subject to funding availability.
1.2: Sectoral investment planning and comparative analysis of costs and benefits (UNEP)											
Activity 1.2.1: Investment needs assessment in priority sectors										At least 1 assessment in a selected sector	Further discussion to be organised to identify topics of investment study required
Activity 1.2.2: Development of investment strategy proposals or action plans										At least 1 investment proposal/action plan for a selected sector	Focus sector to be the same as under Activity 1.2.1, to be determined via further consultations with the government and international experts
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											

Selected activities in ARMENIA	Time line								Expected output target	Comments
	2019			2020				2021-22		
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
– Support in the development of effective institutional structure for SEA and EIA in line with updated national legislation									1 report with a set of recommendations to support optimization of institutional structure in line with requirements of revised legislation	
Activity 1.3.2: Comprehensive capacity and institutional building										
– Pilot project on SEA for Draft Green Economy Strategy								2021	1 pilot project including training and awareness raising events with a focus on a broad range of authorities and organizations	
– Methodological recommendations/Guidelines on transboundary EIA									1 set of methodological recommendations/guidelines	
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	Possibly in collaboration with the national advertising agency, or other partners put forward by the government

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

Selected activities in ARMENIA	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										
– Analysis on the existing approaches		Fact-finding mission				Draft report	Final report		Analytical report	<i>Country need:</i> Approximation of the national legislation on Environmental Responsibilities with the 2004/35/EC; long-term consultancy.
– Developing/updating road maps for the reform								Roadmap	Roadmap	
– Training (<i>country-specific, sub-regional or regional - subject to confirmation</i>)								Training	10-20 government officials trained	
3.2: Environmental compliance assurance and environmental liability regimes										
Activity 3.2.1: Strengthening of Compliance Assurance Systems, Instruments, and Tools										
– Screening the compliance assurance system (CAS)		Fact-finding mission				Draft review	Final CAS review		CAS review	<i>Country need:</i> Feasibility study for the introduction of the environmental insurance.
– In-depth review (based on CAS analysis)								Review	1 review (possibly combined with CAS)	
– Support to coordinated inspection campaign (<i>a multi-country campaign - subject to confirmation</i>)								Campaign	Campaign	
Activity 3.2.2: Reform of high impact enforcement and compliance promotion instruments, including environmental liability (<i>no in-depth country activity planned</i>) ²										
– Support to reform of the systems of administrative sanctions, monetary payments and penalties for non-compliance		Fact-finding mission				Draft report	Final report		Short assessment report	Close link to CAS review (possibly one report with two parts) - subject to confirmation

² “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 Armenia, it was decided to 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 ARMENIA	Time line							Expected output target	Comments	
	2019			2020						2021-22
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
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								Analysis and reports	Analytical report	<i>Country need:</i> Local communities capacity building for environmental projects development.
– Training for government officials								Analysis and reports	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	Fact-finding mission			Major findings from in-depth interviews	
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.
Activity 3.4.2: Provision of Expert Support to the Ministries of Environment and or Economy										
– Plans for administrative strengthening					Analysis	Draft Plan	Final Plan		1 plan	<i>Country need:</i> Long term consultancy.
– Possibly, development of sustainable and targeted training mechanism								Training		The plan will be prepared on the basis of the analysis (3.4.1); possibly one report with two parts (overview and plan) - subject to confirmation.
– Provision of on-going/ad hoc expert support to the Ministry of Environment or the Economy									On as needed basis	

* 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 Armenia for Result 5

Selected activities in ARMENIA	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 Armenia (19 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.

- Continue to implement the activities as envisaged in the Work Plan, using alternative modes of operation (virtual communications/meetings and engaging local consultants);
- Not to delay or postpone activities and/or timeline of the Programme;
- Follow up on bilateral basis on questions related to individual activities, in particular:
 - UNIDO – RECP, support companies working with plastics,
 - OECD - on compliance,
- Continue sharing the new project documentation as available, including UNIDO – new leaflet, OECD – materials on subsidies work;
- See for further details the Summary Record of the meeting.

