

SCP and EG in Eastern Europe and Caucasus: an overview of the progress, challenges and the way ahead

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MAMA-86 - our approach

- Policy analysis and advocacy (environmental policy, SCP, participatory governance and related issues)
- Establishing long-lasting partnerships with counterparts
- Using different NGO cooperation platforms (national, regional, international) and channels to communicate our findings to Governments and other stakeholders (including EU institutions)
- Preparing comparative assessments of reform progress
- Quantitative representation of findings
- Recommendations promoted at different opportunities



6 countries in transition



Eastern Partnership:

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Georgia
- Moldova
- Ukraine



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
Civil Society Forum



Transition from...

Before 1990

Largely unsustainable production

- Inefficient economy structure due to command economy (e.g., long production and supply chains)
- Large share of military production and small share of consumers' goods production
- Low pollution control
- Heavy reliance on fossil fuels

Largely sustainable consumption

- Low levels of consumption due to low income and consumer goods unavailability
- Insignificant car fleet
- Widespread reuse of goods
- State-control system of waste collection and reprocessing

but what about happiness and well-being?



Transition to...

Now

Largely unsustainable production

- More efficiency in the economic structure due to economy liberalization but still little priority of sustainability concerns
- Production facilities remain to be outdated (i.e. polluting and resource-intensive) in many industries
- Inefficient pollution control
- Reliance on fossil fuels remains, although some growth of energy efficiency/renewables is taking place

Largely unsustainable consumption

- Higher levels of consumption and increased environmental footprint (but still lower than in developed countries)
- An ever-growing car fleet (but lower than in developed countries)
- Sustainable consumption practices are not spread
- Low level of waste reuse/reprocessing



The countries' common features

- Aspiration to join the EU and, therefore (some) readiness to harmonize legislation, including on SCP
- Parties to most relevant MEAs, yet have to ensure their enforcement
- Great potential for energy and resource efficiency improvement
- Intellectual potential to develop eco-technologies though R&D underfunded

But

- Low awareness of SD/SCP among the population and lack of understanding of green economy advantages among stakeholders
- Lack of political will to promote SD/SCP
- Lack of SD/SCP strategic documents/principles integrated at each policy level
- Weak administrative mechanisms for ensuring SD/SCP
- Where legislation is in place, implementation still insufficient
- SCP policy documents not developed/adopted (Ukraine envisaged adoption of 10-year FP, strategy and action plan this year, but failed to do so; plans to develop SCP framework in Moldova and Armenia)



The countries' peculiarities

- Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Belarus – industry dominated
- Armenia, Georgia and Moldova – large agricultural share
- Belarus is less involved into EU integration process and retains state control over economy
- Azerbaijan is the only country with sufficient oil and gas deposits resulting in higher GDP per capita and more opportunities for green economy investments
- Coal is an important source of energy only in Ukraine (around 30% of total energy production)
- Georgia is the only country in the region with the high renewable energy share due to hydropower(84,8%)
- Nuclear power stations operate in Ukraine and Armenia (Belarus considers construction)



The countries' successes

- Environmental policy integration in Moldova
- NSDS development and establishment of SD council in Armenia
- Introduction of green tariff on renewable energy in Ukraine
- Raising energy efficiency in Azerbaijan
- First steps towards green procurement in Georgia
- Promoting waste recycling in Belarus (12%)



2011 EaP Environmental Governance Study conclusions

- Progress in environmental policy reforms is slow and uneven
- External influence (EU integration) is the biggest reform driver
- The rights to public participation and access to information (Aarhus Convention) are not adequately enforced
- Environmental impact assessment is often sacrificed during administrative reforms/deregulation
- Environmental policy integration is weak





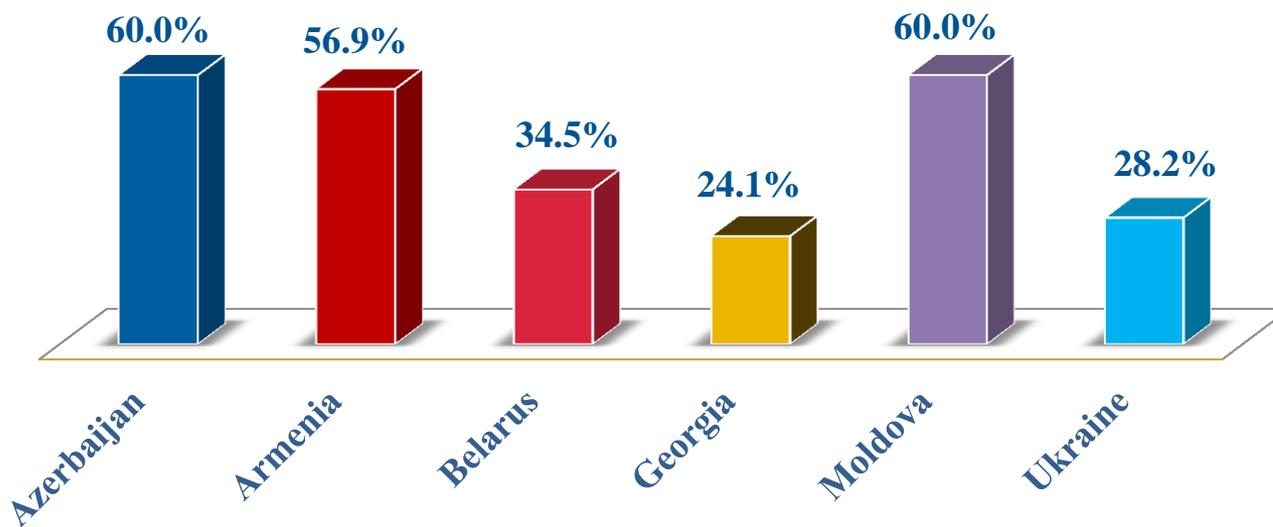
EaP Environmental Governance Study Ranking

Rank	Country	Scores
1	Armenia	58,4%
2	Moldova	56,4%
3	Ukraine	50,5%
4	Azerbaijan	48,8%
5	Belarus	35,4%
6	Georgia	21,3%



2011 EaP Environmental Governance Study

Access to Information and Public Participation





2012 European Integration Index conclusions: Environment and SD

Both policy and the state of environment analyzed:

- **Moldova** – the most efficient environmental policy, followed by **Belarus** and **Georgia**
- **Belarus** has the best state of environment
- **Ukraine**: the biggest gap between a modern environmental policy and the poor state of implementation





What do we want (as a Rio+20 follow-up)

On the national level:

- ❑ Development of SD strategies with measurable SD targets and appropriate means of implementation
- ❑ Establishment of SD coordinating bodies and institutional mechanisms for stakeholders consultations, in the spirit of the Aarhus Convention
- ❑ Development of relevant SCP strategic and policy documents, with proper public consultation
- ❑ Wide awareness-raising activities to promote sustainable lifestyles in partnership with NGOs and business
- ❑ Promotion of green procurement and environmental labeling systems, incentives for environmentally responsible businesses



What we want (as a Rio+20 follow-up)

On the international level:

- ❑ Obligations rather than declarations (SDG, 10-year SCP FPs, etc.)
- ❑ Reiterating the “must-have” for SD strategic and policy documents on the national/local levels
- ❑ Enhancement of the institutional framework for SD (with integration of the national-level dimension)

Role for international organizations, including UNEP:

- ❑ More commitment on behalf of relevant IGOs to support SCP policy development in the regional countries (technical assistance, expertise)
- ❑ When assisting in policy development, fully engage existing international, regional and national civil society networks and platforms
- ❑ Ensuring better access to SCP technologies for the region
- ❑ Promoting SD/SCP principles in international/regional economic cooperation



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