

## **Mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production policies and circular models: Best practices and recommendations**

**Online consultation with Member States in the pan-European region, 24 September 2020**  
**[UNEA-4 Resolution 1](#): Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production**

### **I. Agenda**

The agenda of the online consultation with member states was structured as follows. First, UNEP provided an introduction of the mandate of the UNEA-4 Resolution on sustainable consumption and production, followed by a presentation of the objectives of the consultation and the key questions to be answered.

A status overview was then given by CEPS (Centre for European Policy Studies), showing the progress achieved in creating an inventory of product policies. This was complemented by a presentation on Germany's national product policy framework, given by Ulf D. Jaeckel, Head of Division at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. This section was concluded with an overview of collected examples of innovative design practices in the pan-European region. A case study from the textile sector was presented in more detail.

The final part of the online consultation was participatory discussion. The following questions were put forward to all participants:

#### **1. Product policies**

How have product policies in your country been instrumental in preserving the environment?

What are the enabling conditions for higher impact of product policies?

How to create further coherence among product policies?

#### **2. Innovative design practices**

How is your country performing in identifying and taking up innovative design practices of products/services, which minimize harmful environmental impacts?

What are the requirements to implement, replicate and scale up such design practices?

#### **3. Role of the international community**

What role should UNEP, the UN system and the wider international community play in addressing gaps and challenges highlighted during the above discussions?

Detailed agenda is found in Annex 1.

## II. Participants

Representatives from the following member states and institutions participated:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Netherlands, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom;

Representatives from the following institutions also participated in the consultation:

CEPS, Chamber of Commerce Serbia, Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption (CSPC), national action coordinators under the EU4Environment Initiative, Flanders Environment Agency, European Commission – DG Environment, the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Centre in Ukraine, Organisation for SME sector development in Moldova (ODIMM), and UNEP.



The list of participants is found in Annex 2.

## III. Proceedings

The online consultation was held in English using the Zoom platform. The recording is available through the link at the end of the page.

### 3.1 Welcome

Welcome and presentation of the objectives and methodology of the consultation was given by Claire Thiebault, Associate Programme Officer, UNEP Economy Division. This session was moderated by Alex Leshchynskyy, Technical Officer, UNEP Europe Office.

### 3.2 Inventory of product policies in the pan-European region

Vasileios Rizos, Head of Sustainable Resources and Circular Economy at CEPS presented the inventory of existing coherent product policies, the summary of which is shown in the graph below.

Country	Policy framework	Product policies
Flanders (Belgium)	Circular Flanders	Circular purchasing, financing instruments for circular projects, development of circular toolkit for entrepreneurs, circular city applications
Netherlands	Circular Economy Programme for the Netherlands, 2050 (priority sector plastics)	Use of recycled content in design, reducing production and consumption, and recycling of waste
Netherlands	Circular Economy Programme for the Netherlands, 2050 (priority sector construction)	Circular procurement, strengthening of transparency and information exchange
Finland	More from less – wisely	Eco-labels, pilot-projects on sustainable housing and eating, green public procurement, economic incentives for material efficiency audits
France	Circular Economy Roadmap	Legislation on extended producer responsibility, single use of plastics
Sweden	Strategy for sustainable consumption	Lowering VAT for certain repair, consumer campaigns, phasing out harmful chemical
Scotland	Making Things Last - A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland	Focus on avoiding waste, design, reuse, repair, remanufacturing, and recycling
Germany	National Programme on Sustainable Consumption (NPNK)	Sustainable public procurement, strengthening of environmental and social labelling, promotion of sustainable ICT products, ambitious eco-design
Georgia	Waste Management Code	Extended producer responsibility scheme gradually introduces in packaging, tires, vehicles, batteries and accumulators, WEEE, used oils
Albania	National Strategy and National Plan on Waste Management 2010-2025	Objectives to develop markets for recycled materials and provide waste minimization advice to businesses

Regarding the good design practices, Vasileios Rizos presented the preliminary inventory of collected cases and listed the countries they originate from: United Kingdom, Denmark, United States, Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Spain, Slovenia, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Austria. The cases were found within the following sectors: electrical and electronic equipment, construction, furniture, textiles, packaging and plastics. In addition, the case of the *Teemill* enterprise was presented as an example of sustainable design practice.

### 3.3 Results

In Annex 3, a transcript of the comments raised by the participants can be found. The results are summarized below. This session was moderated by Jorge Nunez, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS and Alex Leshchynsky, Technical Officer, UNEP Europe Office.

#### a) Coherent product policies

*How have product policies in your country been instrumental in preserving the environment?*

*What are the enabling conditions for higher impact of product policies?*

*How to create further coherence among product policies?*

- There is a need to develop a **common methodology for assessing the positive impacts of product policies on environmental protection**, and it was suggested that such a method could be developed as part of this initiative. Suggestions also included open access to life-cycle assessment data, as well as strengthening the coherence of policies.
- **Participation and acceptability** were identified as key enabling conditions for higher impact of product policies. These can also support general acceptability of policies and avoid conflicts with environmental policies – as was recently experienced in France, with the *Gilets Jaunes* movement. It was also noted that some particular product policies, such as those related to eco-design or eco-labels, can be more popular and be met with less resistance compared to others. To achieve acceptability for product policies it is necessary to **gather all relevant stakeholders in a participatory process** and also to build consensus around the measures.
- In the case of Sweden, participants saw the **need for more transformative steps towards more coherent product policies** and innovative approaches. As an example, Sweden organises “Innovation Games” where stakeholders are gathered from various sectors and areas to develop local sustainable solutions.
- **Using behavioural insights systematically when developing environmental product policies** was raised as a suggestion to influence consumer behaviour, for example to reduce the use of single use plastics.
- Representatives from the European Commission presented a **proposal for a Global Circular Economy Alliance** as a part of the Circular Economy Action Plan. The objective is to create an alliance of international actors to advance the circular economy transition by promoting international partnerships and support efforts on circular economy in multilateral fora.
- In the United Kingdom, the **voluntary participation/engagement of sectoral stakeholders to achieve SCP targets beyond minimum regulatory requirements** has been a positive experience. This has been enabled by government direction and robust evidence for the actions and benefits of setting and reaching targets. A key challenge mentioned was achieving better policy alignment and implementation beyond the voluntary agreements. In addition, many green policies are variants of sustainable consumption and production policies; however they often end up competing with each other.

- In the case of the Netherlands, there are efforts to further align policies; both among areas such as eco-design, labelling, procurement and finance, but also at national and international levels. **A combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches was also raised, meaning more direct involvement of the relevant actors in practice to observe what works and what are the concrete needs on the ground.**
- In the case of the Republic of Moldova, a tax on packaging was mentioned as a product policy instrument that has lowered environmental impact. The promotion of eco-labels was also raised as a tool to achieve higher impact of product policies. In terms of **creating further coherence among product policies, inter-ministerial dialogue was underlined as a strong enabler.**
- **Roadmaps and action plans can be useful tools for improving synergies and coherence among policies** related to sustainable consumption and production. Participants also mentioned that common and transparent standards and definitions are important enablers, for example in the area of refurbished products.

#### **b) Innovative design practices**

*How is your country performing in identifying and taking up innovative design practices of products/services which minimize harmful environmental impacts?*

*What are the requirements to implement, replicate and scale up such design practices?*

- In Switzerland, good design practices and environmental technologies are promoted through a financial tool that helps SMEs receive funding to support the development of technologies and products with a lower environmental impact.
- Policies banning toxic chemicals were raised as another important tool to minimize environmental impact of products.
- In the case of Sweden, the Swedish Life Cycle centre at Chalmers University provides a multi-stakeholder collaborative platform to promote resource efficient value chains using applied life cycle thinking. The participation by SMEs is supported by an annual grant from the Swedish Energy Agency. In the context of the "Innovation Games", innovation teams are invited by the SEPA to tackle key barriers for sustainable development. The SEPA also facilitate a national textile dialogue including supporting sustainable business models.
- In Moldova, support for eco-innovation in SMEs is currently provided by UNEP in the context of the EU-funded EU4Environment initiative.
- In the case of Georgia, the adoption of innovative eco-design practices within the apparel sector is increasing. It is important that SMEs applying innovative design practices have more visibility in the media and are financially supported through government programmes.
- The EU Eco-design Directive and the European Ecolabel were mentioned as important instruments for minimizing harmful environmental impacts of

products. Still, it is necessary to provide funding at national level for businesses, in particular SMEs, through eco-design projects.

### c) Role of the international community

What role should UNEP, the UN system and the wider international community play in addressing gaps and challenges highlighted during the above discussions?

- UNEP and the UN system can play an important role in disseminating good examples and best practices on sustainable consumption and production.
- The UN bodies can promote and contribute to regional capacity building and country-specific support through trainings, monitoring and access to experiences of other countries.
- International organizations and UN entities can contribute to consensus-building by developing guidelines, common definitions and methods. A suggestion was raised for the UN bodies to develop a methodology for life-cycle assessment of products.
- International organisations should also work on strengthening access to open life-cycle data.
- The EU and UN agencies should further support Eastern neighbourhood countries in implementing policies, legislation and practices related to sustainable consumption and production through capacity building and experience sharing.
- The UN bodies should focus on using existing knowledge to avoid duplication and to strengthen implementation.
- Switzerland believes that UNEP and the UN system does play a vital role in advancing the discussions on these elements by means of providing a framework for implementation. An example stems from the 10YFP on SCP – adopted at the Rio+20 in 2012 - where the UN, through UNEP as the Secretariat, provides such a framework for specifically implementing 6 thematic programmes on various aspects of SCP. With this framework ending in 2022, we will be losing our “hook” in the UN. Switzerland hence advocates for a post-2022 framework that will guarantee a point of reference in the UN to further guide the implementation of SCP at the global, regional and national levels. A decision on a post-2022 framework can be taken at the anticipated Stockholm+50 conference in 2022, while relying on a supportive message coming out of UNEA-5 next year.

### Closure and next steps

Alex Leshchynskyy, Technical Officer, UNEP Europe Office thanked the participants for their contribution to the consultation and indicated that it was still possible to send in contributions and information. To do this, he asked the participants to consider the following:

- Sending in contributions for the preparation of the recommendations considering the key questions of the consultation until October 9<sup>th</sup> to: Alex Leshchynskyy, UNEP

Europe Regional Office, [alex.leshchynskyy@un.org](mailto:alex.leshchynskyy@un.org) or Claire Thiebault, UNEP Economy Division, [Claire.Thiebault@un.org](mailto:Claire.Thiebault@un.org).

- Sharing inputs on national product policies and good examples of design practices will be possible until October 30<sup>th</sup> to: Vasileios Rizos, CEPS, [Vasileios.Rizos@ceps.eu](mailto:Vasileios.Rizos@ceps.eu)

## Annex 1 Agenda

**10 am – 10.05 am: Introduction on the mandate of the UNEA-4 Resolution on SCP, and on the key components of the follow-up.**

*Claire Thiebault, Associate Programme Officer, UNEP Economy Division*

**10.05 am – 10.10 am: Presentation of the consultation objectives and key questions**

*Claire Thiebault, Associate Programme Officer, UNEP Economy Division*

**10.10 am – 10.20 am: Status overview of the inventory of product policies in the pan-European region**

*Vasileios Rizos, Head of Sustainable Resources & Circular Economy, CEPS*

**10.20 am – 10.30 am: Deep dive: product policies in Germany**

*Ulf D. Jaeckel, Head of Division, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety*

**10.30 am – 10.35 am: Status overview of the collection of examples of innovative design practices in the pan-European region**

*Vasileios Rizos, Head of Sustainable Resources & Circular Economy, CEPS*

**10.35 am – 11.25 am: Interactive discussion**

*Moderation by Alex Leshchynskyy, Technical Officer, UNEP Europe Office & Jorge Nunez, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS*

**10.20 am – 11.30 am: Closure and next steps**

## Annex 2 List of participants

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Name Org	Department
Malkhaz	Adeishvili	National Action Coordinator	EU4Environment Initiative	
David	Advadze	Acting head of department	Ministry of economy and sustainable development	Sustainable development
Eva	Ahlner	Senior Advisor	Swedish EPA	Department
Monica	Alessi	Programme Manager	CEPS	Energy Climate House
Josephine	Andersen	Intern	CEPS	ECH
Javier	Arribas quintana	senior expert	European Commission	DG ENVIRONMENT
Olzhas	Atymtayev	Programme Officer	UNEP	Central Asia office
Elvira	Bocos	Environmental Technician	Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge	International Affairs Office
Dora	Boldizsar	government official	Ministry for Innovation and Technology	Awareness-raising
Julie	Bryhn	Researcher	CEPS	Climate Change
Sylvain	Chevassus	Policy officer	French environment ministry	sustainable development
Maya	de Souza	Head, Circular Economy Policy	UK Government	Defra
Zita	Geller	chief strategic coordinator	Ministry of Agriculture	Development and
Silvia	Giulietti	policy advisor	Ministry for the environment	
Irma	Gurguliani	Deputy Head	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Management Department
Meri	Harutyunyan	Senior specialist	Ministry of Environment of Armenia	Strategic policy
Orkhan	Huseynov	Project manager	Tamiz Shaha JSC	Project management
Andrei	Isac	National Action Coordinator	EU4Environment Moldova	
Ulf D.	Jaeckel	Head of Division	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	
Margareta	Karadza	Senior Expert Advisor	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	International Affairs
Mihkel	Krusberg	Adviser	Ministry of the Environment of Estonia	Management
Mirza	Lachinov	Deputy Head of Department	"Tamiz Shaha" OJSC	Legal Department
Zigmars	Legzdins	Senior expert	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia	
Alex	Leshchynsky	Technical Officer	UNEP Europe Office	
Maryna	Mykhailovska	Senior Specialist	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine	International Affairs
Jorge	Nunez Ferrer	Senior Research Fellow	CEPS	Policy
Tatiana	Pirgari	Senior Consultant	Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure	Business Environment
Laura	Platchkov	policy advisor	FOEN	
Tom	Pye	Head of resources, waste and plastics strategy	UK Government	
Vasileios	Rizos	Head of Sustainable Resources and Circular Economy	CEPS	Energy, Resources and Climate Change
Barbora	Ruzickova	Officer	Ministry of the Environment	International relations
Kamran	Rzayev	consultant	UNEP	
Taru	Savolainen	Senior specialist	Ministry of the Environment, Finland	and EU affairs
Tigran	Sekoyan	National Action Coordinator	EU4Environment	
Cristian	Stroia	Researcher	Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)	Climate Change
Igor	Struyf	Research associate	Flanders Environment Agency	Environment &
Ingo	Stürmer	Senior Officer	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany	
Claire	Thiebault	Associate Programme Officer	UNEP	
Elisa	Tonda	Head of Unit, Consumption and Production Unit	UNEP	
Rie	Tsutsumi	Regional Coordinator	UNEP	
Constantin	Turcanu	Head of department	Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development (ODIMM)	entrepreneurial training department
Amelia	Turtorean	Senior adviser	Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests	development unit
Andrii	Vorfolomeiev	Director	Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Centre	
Nebojsa	Vranes	adviser	Chamber of Commerce of Serbia	circular economy
Aleksandra	Vucinic	Head of Group	Ministry of Environmental Protection	Green economy
Zulfira	Zikrina	President	CSPC	

### Annex 3 Transcript of interventions

**First question:** (1) *How product policies in your country have been instrumental to preserve the environment?* (2) *What are the enabling conditions for higher impact of product policies?*  
(2) *How to create further coherence among product policies?*

1. Sylvain Chevassus: Answering the first question, he said that it is difficult to know how product policies have been instrumental in preserving the environment, as in the case of France, they have not done such an evaluation. There needs to be a common method for assessing the positive impacts of product policies on environmental protection and suggests that such a method could be developed as a part of this initiative.

Regarding the second question on enabling conditions for higher impact of product policies, participation and acceptability are seen as key factors, and he points to the presentation made by Ulf D. Jaeckel. They are reaching a tension in environmental policies which is strongly felt in France with citizens currently asking for more environmental policies and product policies. On the other hand, some measures are difficult to implement, as experienced in France in 2016 with the social movement, *Gilets Jaunes*, against the carbon tax. He raised the point that some product policies such as those related to eco-design and eco-labels and so on can be more popular and meet less resistance. France is currently discussing air travel and a possible new tax on cars based on the weight, as cars are increasing in weight. This is however facing strong resistance from lobbies and car drivers.

On the third question regarding coherence, Sylvain again raises participation as a key enabler. In the case of the French Roadmap for Circular Economy, they managed to gather all stakeholders in a participatory process, which was a positive experience and contributed to the consensus building and acceptability around the measures that were discussed and eventually included. He found it very interesting the current practice of the inter-ministerial working group on sustainable consumption and production in Germany as raised in the presentation by Ulf D. Jaeckel.

2. Eva Ahlner: She raised the work done by the Nordic Council in the form of a recent discussion paper on product policies. She also shared the work done in Sweden on promoting innovative policies. Even though there have been many incremental initiatives done in the recent years, there is a need to take more transformative steps. In the case of Sweden, they implemented an initiative – Innovation Games – where they put together different stakeholders with the objective of solving a specific issue related to sustainability. With stakeholders from universities, industries and other stakeholders, they together find local solutions as an example of innovative policy approaches. She also raised the concept of systematically using behavioural insights in relation to product policies and customer behaviour for example to reduce the use of single-use plastics. Finally, she raised the 10YFP Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme which is co-led by Sweden and Japan together with UNEP.
3. Javier Arribas Quintana, European Commission: Sustainable consumption and production and circular economy is becoming increasingly mainstream, with UNEA-4 having contributed to this. Recently the discussion has moved beyond environmental forums, to also be raised in forums on trade and economy with the issue being taken more seriously. The European Commission has been championing sustainable

consumption and production and circular economy for a long time, with the first Circular Economy Action Plan being adopted in 2015, where more than 15 different measures were put forward with flagship measures such as the one on plastics which is currently being implemented. The next step is make sure the measurements are put in to practice in the national policies and it is interesting to notice the various responses from the different EU member states and non-member states.

The second Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) from March 2020 as a part of the Green Deal, with actions towards a more resource efficient and climate neutral economy in line with the priorities of the Green Deal. It includes proposals for product policies to change how Europe produces and consumes. It proposes new measures on how we design products in Europe to make them more circular and resource efficient, reducing waste, minimizing environmental impact throughout the product life-cycle etc. The idea is to have a holistic and integrated approach from consumption to production to disposal, with the aim of disposing as little as possible and recover and reuse as much material as possible.

As a follow-up a new EU legislation will be proposed building on the Eco-design Directive and applying this to all products beyond energy products. The CEAP also focuses on consumption and states that citizens must be able to contribute better which according to Javier Arribas Quintana is key to the success of the circular economy with consumers being more able to choose sustainable products and be better protected again products that are not green. The Commission will put forward measures within all key sectors as outlined in the action plan.

There are however many dimensions of consumption and production, so there needs to be cooperation with partners. A number of the measures the Commission has proposed does have external measures which again will have an external dimension. One of the objectives is to have a global agreement on the plastic issue in the future and they will continue to push for that. The Commission is in the process of launching the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency external partners.

4. Luca Marmo (European Commission): Complementing the commentaries by Javier, he adds that the Global Alliance is a part of the most recent Circular Economy Action Plan and it will compliment other international initiatives such as the UNEP 10YFP, the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE), the World Circular Economy Forum. The Commission saw that there was missing an alliance of mainly governments that would push the circular economy and resource efficiency at the global level in international forums such as the United Nations Environmental Assembly and the UN General Assembly. The Global Alliance is in the making together with UNEP and UNIDO and would as the first step involve countries that already that are already active in the field and the Commission is already in dialogue with a number of countries. There are also regional alliances, such as the African Circular Economy Alliance. Latin American in collaboration with UNEP is setting up a coalition on circular economy in the region. The Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency could be a federation of the regional initiatives including the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform. The initial plan was to see the launch of the Global Alliance back to back with the UNEA-5 conference as an online event in February.

Complementing the remarks made by Javier on a global agreement on plastics, the idea is to focus more on the upstream area of the life cycle of plastics, in terms of production, design, EPR, despot schemes. The Basel Convention has already made progress on this. There are activities within IMO in the area of ships.

He also raised the aspect of the Circular Economy Action Plan that focuses on defining a 'Safe Operating Space', meaning the amount of resources that can be extracted within the planetary boundaries. This is something that UNEP is also involved in together with the International Resource Panel (IRP). This was also elaborated in the Global Resources Outlook 2019 presented at UNEA-4, which stated that the extraction and processing of materials have a very large environmental impact: 50 percent of climate change and more than 90 percent of impacts on water resources and biodiversity. The extraction and processing of materials is at the core of how we can improve our environmental impact, and it is needed to look at how to improve the governance of natural resources in light of the circular economy. This constitutes one aspect of the external dimension of the Circular Economy Action Plan (2020) and is something the Commission will be working on in the coming time.

5. Andrei Isac: He finds it inspiring to learn about the examples presented during the consultation, and finds it useful as inspiration for how they can move forward. The Green Deal holds new opportunities for how they can develop in the region and open additional possibilities to align national policies with sustainable consumption and production-principles. In the case of Moldova, they are currently not as advanced in this domain. They are promoting sustainable development through procurement, greening of SMEs and they have launched an inter-ministerial dialogue on the promotion of green economy. In the future, they hope to integrate more regulatory provisions, for example regulations on eco-labels and provisions on EPR and efforts to promote the circular economy in Moldova and to be more integrated in the regional level through regional agreements with through for example the Association Agreement with EU and free trade agreements. They are following the EU efforts on eco-design and she states that they are committed to following this process.

#### Written inputs:

6. Eva Ahlner: In Sweden, the EPR-system, systematic cross-sectoral dialogues, building evidence through research programmes, Svanen labelling system and being early adopters of life-cycle thinking has been instrumental in Sweden. Other enabling conditions are the benchmarking of environmental performance on priority products and having long-term agreements that last over different governments. On the issue of how to create further coherence among product policies, she raises sharing of best practices and tools for sustainable consumption and production and to facilitate global discussions as it is the case with this event. She also raises common horizontal methodology for assessment of environment performance and raises open access to life-cycle-assessment data on a globally level as an enabler.
7. Mervyn Jones: On how product policies have been instrumental to preserve the environment, he raises the example of policies in the United Kingdom that focus on sectoral level e.g. construction, clothing, ICT etc. These focus on voluntary participation beyond the minimum regulatory requirements. In the United Kingdom the clearest example of product focus is elimination of single use plastics. On enabling conditions for higher impact of product policies, in the case of the United Kingdom enablers include government direction, voluntary sectoral participation and a robust evidence base for the actions and benefits of setting and reaching targets. He also raises Building Material Passports as an enabler for higher impact. In the case of the United Kingdom, implementation remains the biggest challenge for coherence outside of the sectoral voluntary agreements. Inside the VAs the coherence is based on pre-competitive collaboration and peer-pressure in the supply chain. Mervyn Jones: (2) Responding to the comment made by the Netherlands – policy alignment is an issue.

Low carbon, socially responsible, circular, national outcomes etc. are all variants of SCP, but often end up competing.

8. Cuno van Geet: The Netherlands has eight Transition pathways in Circular Economy in infrastructure and buildings, road pavements, zero emission construction sites, etc. It is more focused on the level between the product and general policy instruments: They are trying to further align policies; both between areas like eco-design, labeling and procurement, but also finance and between national and international. More focus by sector to get policy areas together would really be beneficial. As an example, they focus on collaboration on sustainable ICT with the ICT Pact; procurers and label setting organisations and policy collaborate in joining forces to change the market. Important conditions for success is the combination of bottom up and top down approach – more direct involvement in practice (does it work and their needs) helps success.
9. Meri Harutyunyan: She raises the application of extended producer responsibility and an enabler towards higher impact of product policies and raises the example from Armenia on the tax on harmful production.
10. Kamran Rzayev: Azerbaijan mostly uses a standard procedures approach with strong emphasis on ecological expertise. EPR guidelines in Azerbaijan will be developed together with UNEP over this year and next year and together with UNECE they are preparing final draft document on SEA and EIA.
11. Isac Andrei: In the case of Moldova, tax on packaging is raised as an instrumental product policy. The promotion of eco-labels is raised as a tool to achieve higher impact of product policies. On how to create further coherence among product policies, he raises inter-ministerial dialogues. With support from the EU4Environment the Program on the promotion of Green Economy will be updated and will integrate Eu Green Deal and Circular Action Plan provisions. SCP and eco-labeling and eco-innovations will also be included. Implementation of the Program on Greening SMEs (2019-2022) in Moldova will cover greening products and services. The Association Agreement RM-UE and the Free Trade Agreement creates the policy background for the promotion of SCP and circular economy. National Development Strategy Moldova 2030 includes Green Economy as a policy priority.
12. Adeishvili Malkhaz: In Georgia, EPR schemes will become effective in 2023. Ban on plastic bags effective since 2019, but is poorly enforced. They have a pilot project with UNEP on sustainable public procurement starting in Georgia in 2019. The Association Agreement with the EU is the main driver in Georgia to promote sustainable production and consumption policies. The Agreement with the EU requires approximation with the EU legislation and introduction of the EU standards including those related to sustainable consumption and production.
13. Barbora Růžičková: The Czech Republic does not have product-policy, but they have policies on consumer protection based on EU policy. They are also working on a strategy on Circular Economy within collaboration with the OECD.
14. Mirza Lachinov: Azerbaijan is currently developing an EPR-scheme and a deposit-refund scheme. The Belarussian model for EPR and EU policies for packaging through deposit-refund system is also raised.
15. Mihkel Krusberg: Estonia developments raise the potential of digital product passports. He also mentioned a EPR modulation that OECD is working on.

16. Sylvain Chevassus: Roadmaps, action plans, framework law can be good for improving policy synergies and coherence. Definitions and standards are also very important as enablers for the circular economy, for example in the area of refurbished products. We are looking forward to seeing the development of the announced EU sustainable products initiative (public consultation ongoing).
17. Laura Platchkov: The importance of transparency and standards on materials and products with significant impacts. Life-cycle methodologies can be enabling factors. Finally, policies should ideally be checked in terms.
18. Aleksandra Vucinic: Serbia has prepared Roadmap for Circular Economy. This document could be a good starting point for the transition to circular economy which is key principle for implementation of SCP.
19. Margareta Karadza: Croatia does not have a Product Policy Framework, but different sectoral policies applying sustainable consumption and production-principles and are in line with the EU policies. Once the EU Circular Economy Action Plan is adopted, Croatia will develop its national action plan.
20. Elvira Bocos: This year Spain has published the Spanish Circular Economy Strategy and governance model that promotes innovative forms of consumption including sustainable products and services and responsible consumption based on the transparency of information on the characteristics of goods and services, their duration and energy efficiency through eco-labels.

**Second question:** *(1) How is your country performing in identifying and taking up innovative design practices of products/services, which minimize harmful environmental impacts? (2) What are the requirements to implement, replicate and scale up such design practices?*

21. Laura Platchkov: She presented an existing initiative in Switzerland which promotes environmental technology through a financial tool to support SMEs. Firms and project groups can receive funding for their projects to support the development of technologies and products that have lower environmental impact. She also highlights the role of this tool in the light of the current crisis as a way to support SMEs and as a way to help the uptake of innovate practices.
22. Karman Rzayev: He requests more information on the tools raised by Laura Platchkov as it could be interesting from their SMEs. Laura replies that she can put Kamran in contact with the people responsible for this policy tools.
23. Javier Arribas Quintana: As a part of the Circular Economy Action Plan, the European Commission proposes sustainable product policy legislative initiative to widen the Eco-design Directive beyond energy related products, to make the framework applicable to the broadest possible range of product groups. As a part of this initiative, the Commission is considering establishing sustainability principles in terms for durability, reusability, upgradability and repairability. These principles will build on criteria and rules established under the EU Eco-label regulations and product environmental footprint and the EU GPP criteria. Priority will be to address product groups and identify contexts and value chains for highest impact.

**Written inputs:**

24. Eva Ahlner: She raises non-toxic policies such as policies on chemical as examples of policies which minimize harmful environmental impacts. Sweden is inviting innovation teams to tackle key barriers for sustainable development and has increased R&D funding towards environmental objectives. In the case of Sweden, they are applying Lifecycle Thinking on resource use and is supporting SMEs in applying life-cycle assessments. In Sweden, they are supporting sustainable business models with a special focus on the textile industry.
25. Kamran Rzayev: He raises the example of VAT exceptions from modern technologies/equipment for industry. The plan is to reach a level of 30% of energy from renewable sources by 2030 in the case of Azerbaijan.
26. Andrei Isac: The in the case of Moldova, supporting eco-innovations for SMEs is currently being promoted with the support of the EU4Environment initiative.
27. Adeishvili Malkhaz: The apparel sector in Georgia is currently taking up innovative eco-design practices. He raises that SMEs applying innovative design practices must be promoted by media and financially supported through government programs. Georgia has established an Agency of Innovation and Technologies to support this.
28. Sylvain Chevassus: EU instruments such as the Eco-design Directive and the European Ecolabel are very important instruments, but it is also necessary to provide funding to businesses at the national level for eco-design projects. He raises the concept of EPR product fees varying in relation the eco-design criteria.
29. Nebojša Vraneš: Raises the question whether it is possible for EU funds in the field of circular economy to be equalized on the basis of population.
30. Aleksandra Vucinic: Circular vouchers could be a good way for innovation promotion and cooperation between business and academia.

**Third questions:** *What role should UNEP, the UN system and the wider international community play in addressing gaps and challenges highlighted during the above discussions?*

**Inputs from Slido:**

Through an interactive section using Slido, the following comments were collected.

31. International organisations can play an important role by disseminating good examples and best practices.
32. The UN system can promote and contribute to regional capacity building and also country specific support within the area of sustainable consumption and production.
33. International organizations and UN entities can contribute to consensus-building, facilitate network exchange of best practices, develop guidelines, common definitions, methods, resolutions and provide support programmes.
34. UNEP, the UN system and the wider international community should promote cooperation.

35. The One Planet Network should be strengthened as a mechanism for sharing best practices and tools across the UN and member states.
36. The EU and UN agencies should further support for Eastern neighbourhood countries to promote the implementation of policies, legislation and practices related to sustainable consumption and production through capacity building and experience sharing.
37. The UN system should focus on using existing knowledge to avoid duplication and strengthen implementation.
38. UN entities should contribute with expertise, trainings, access to experience of other countries and overall monitoring of progress.
39. UNEP and other UN entities should support further policy development and implementation.
40. UNEP should promote an integrated, systemic approach and strengthen initiatives such as IRP, the life-cycle initiative and the work of the 10YFP.
41. International organisations should work on strengthen access to open lifecycle data.
42. There needs to be work towards the definition of safe operating space.
43. The UN entities should work on methodology for life-cycle assessment because of the importance of quantification and comparability of measures. Importance of addressing the financial sector as well.
44. UNEP and other UN entities should provide analysis on the progress towards better sustainable consumption and production.