

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

**Online consultation with Member States in the pan-European region, 25 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, an introduction of the mandate of the UNEA-4 Resolution on sustainable consumption and production was provided by UNEP, 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 in the pan-European region. This was complemented by a presentation of a national product policy framework given by Zulfira Zikrina, Director, Centre of Sustainable Production and Consumption, Kazakhstan. This section was concluded with a status overview of the collection of examples of innovative design practices, covering the pan-European region. One case study from the textile sector was presented in more detail.

The final part of the online consultation included a participatory discussion in order to obtain recommendations on the following questions:

1. Product policies

How have product policies in your country been instrumental to preserve 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, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

The list of participants is found in Annex 2.

III. Proceedings

The online consultation was held in Russian using the Zoom platform. The recording is available through the following link: <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/Mainstreaming-SCP-policies-best-practices-recommendations>

III.1 Welcome

Welcome and presentation of the objectives and methodology of the consultation was given by Alex Leshchynskyy, Technical Officer, UNEP Europe Office. This session was moderated by him.

III.2 Inventory of product policies in the pan-European region

Irina Kustova, Researcher, CEPS presented the inventory of existing coherent product policies for sustainable consumption and production in the pan-European region, the summary of which is shown in the graph below. Following the presentation of the inventory, Zulfira Zikrina, Director, Center of Sustainable Consumption and Production presented product policies in Kazakhstan.

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, Irina Kustova presented the preliminary inventory of collected case studies 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 *Teemill* enterprise was presented as an example of sustainable design practices.

III.3 Results

The results are summarized below. This session was moderated by Irina Kustova, Researcher, CEPS and Alex Leshchynskyy, Technical Officer, UNEP Europe Office.

a) Coherent product policies

How product policies in your country have been instrumental to preserve 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 single SCP policy to ensure a level-playing field and incentivise business and civil society to take more proactive approaches.
- At the same time, it is important to elaborate green programmes in close consultations with business so as to spot existing opportunities.
- It has been agreed that there is no single uniform definition of 'green technologies' not only in the region but also internationally. In some cases, the actions taken by the government do not fall within SCP categories, but they have an indirect effect with broader environmental benefits.
- More cooperation among ministries and other governmental bodies has been agreed to be one of the crucial factors that define success of any programme or legislation.
- In Kazakhstan, the transition to SCP is supported at the highest level; since 2012, work is being conducted on a sustainable transition. An Ecology (Environmental) Code comprises several amendments on models of sustainable processes and life-cycle assessment. The first draft on green taxonomy is to be adopted in the next months. It will delineate the criteria for green projects. Overall, in Kazakhstan, there is still no clear understanding of what is included in SCP, and further elaboration of an action plan and discussions with other countries could improve the situation.
- In Belarus, there are some product policies including on plastic packaging, green procurement. Policies for eco-labelling have not been successful so far. Among the factors, one could mention that environmental expertise of ecologists is not sufficiently taken on board during the elaboration of standards. An interesting example is the leasing of car tires – which, once worn out, are collected and utilised.

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?

- One of the key challenges mentioned was the lack of financing, especially for small pilot projects.
- Kazakhstan mentioned that they work on green certification of product origin, especially given their interest (and certain demand for) for export of traditional Kazakh food to the EU. In this regard, they cooperate with the EU. Also, there is an appetite for green technologies in agriculture, and the issue of water supply is very sensitive in the country. Resource efficiency should be also addressed while planning.
- Apart from the elaboration of legislation and normative bases, methods of management are also key (the so-called 'human' factor).

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 by ‘framing’ and organising knowledge transfer to the region and by enhancing regional dialogue and cooperation between the countries. There is emerging regional cooperation on SCP including under the Switch Asia and Green Bridge initiatives, and international institutions could become key facilitators and interlocutors (one participant compared this role with a driver/coachman).
- International institutions could also play a greater role in promoting best practice exchange and the elaboration of relevant concepts and definitions, such as ‘green technologies’ and green taxonomy.
- Support of various ‘pilot’ projects in sustainable production and consumption and green technologies can be instrumental in enabling the countries of the region to ‘test’ such projects and scale the methodologies up in the future. For example, the methodologies and results of [the project on circular economy in Almaty](#) are gaining interest from other countries.
- Greater support of training and educational programmes has been pointed out by many participants as a requirement for reaching ambitious plans. One participant mentioned that while countries could set up targets and plans (also at the strategic level), they may lack experience in practical implementation.
- The need for more financial instruments and easier application processes have also been mentioned.

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 9th to: Alex Leshchynskyy, UNEP Europe Regional Office, alex.leshchynskyy@un.org or Claire Thiebault, UNEP Economy Division, Claire.Thiebault@un.org.
- Sharing inputs on national product policies and good examples of design practices will be possible until October 30th to: Vasileios Rizos, CEPS, 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.

Alex Leshchynskyy, Technical Officer, UNEP Europe Office

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

Alex Leshchynskyy, Technical Officer, UNEP Europe Office

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

Irina Kustova, Researcher, CEPS

10.20 am – 10.30 am: Deep dive: product policies in Kazakhstan

Zulfira Zikrina, Director, Center of Sustainable Production and Consumption

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

Irina Kustova, Researcher, CEPS

10.35 am – 11.25 am: Interactive discussion

Moderation by Alex Leshchynskyy, Technical Officer, UNEP Europe Office & Irina Kustova, Researcher, 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
Olzhas	Atymtayev	Programme Officer	UNEP	Central Asia office
Siarhei	Darozhka	Professor	Institute of Business of Belarusian State University	Belarusian National Cleaner Production Centre
Anvar (Анвар)	Djabbabarov (Джаббаров)	Начальник отдела (Head of Unit)	Государственный комитет Республики Узбекистан по экологии и охране окружающей среды (State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on ecology and environmental protection)	Отдел методологии и разработки нормативной документации в сфере обращения с отходами (the Unit for methodologies and normative documentation in waste management)
Artur	Ghavalayan	Chief Specialist	Ministry of environment of RA	Strategic Policy Department
Elena	Kaminskaya	Head of Department	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Belarus)	Department of Analytics, information and science of Chief Department of environmental policies, international cooperation and sciences)
Ainur	Kunhozhayeva	Head	IGTIC	DGTC
Irina	Kustova	Researcher	CEPS	Energy and Climate
Alex	Leshchynskyy	Technical Officer	UNEP Europe Office	
Larissa	Lukina	Deputy Head - Head	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus	General Directorate for Environmental Policy, International Cooperation and Science - International Cooperation Department
Boburjon	Makhmudov	Chief Specialist	State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan	International Cooperation and Projects Department
Mirgajbulla)	Makhmudov (Head of Unit of eco-labelling)	State unitary enterprise "Center for state ecological certification and standardisation" at State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on ecology and environmental protection	
Gunel	Mammadli	adviser	Ministry of Ecology and Natural ResourcesThe Republic of Azerbaijan	International Cooperation Division
Maryna	Mykhailovska	Senior Specialist	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine	International Affairs
Aisha	Okusheva	expert	Economic Research Institute	Strategic development
Olga	Pogorelaya	главный специалист (Chief Specialist)	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Belarus	Unit of international cooperation of Chief Department of environmental policies, international cooperation and sciences
Irina	Punga	President	Ecocontact	PA
Vasileios	Rizos	Head of Sustainable Resources and	CEPS	Energy, Resources and Climate Change

		Circular Economy		
Tatiana	Shidlovskaya	(Chief Specialist)	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Belarus)	Department of Analytics, information and science of Chief Department of environmental policies, international cooperation and sciences)
Sergei	Sysoev	Investment analyst	BEROC	
Claire	Thiebault	Associate Programme Officer	UNEP	
Constantin	Turcanu	Head of department	Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development (ODIMM)	analysis, inovation and enterpreneural training department
Balzhan	Zhartybaeva	Head of the division of implementation of Green economy Concept	Ministry of ecology, geology and natural resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan	
Zulfira	Zikrina	President	CSPC	
Окушева	Айша	expert	Economic Research Institute	Strategic development