

# Good environmental governance in Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine

## Good practices



December 2022

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## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	4
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ONLINE PLATFORM „TOWARDS GREEN TRANSFORMATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA”.....	6
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGISTER IN UKRAINE.....	7
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INTO THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THE SECOND NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION IN UKRAINE .....	8
INVOLVEMENT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL PLANS OF MUNICIPALITIES.....	9
NAMAKHVANI HPP - EIA REVIEW AND MEDIATION PROCESS. RESULT: “NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY” PROCESS AND PROJECT SUSPENSION.....	10
WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN AND STRATEGY IN GEORGIA: INVOLVEMENT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR.....	12
DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THE LAW ON ATMOSPHERIC AIR IN MOLDOVA (2022).....	14
DEVELOPMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR SOME RIVER SUB-BASINS IN MOLDOVA.....	15
REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN (NEAP 4) IN GEORGIA.....	17
INTEGRATION OF THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INTO THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN MOLDOVA.....	18
STATE STRATEGY FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ISSUES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL.....	19
INTEGRATION OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL PRINCIPLES INTO THE NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGIC PLANNING IN UKRAINE.....	20

## INTRODUCTION

The good environmental governance (GEG) is a key precondition for reaching environmental and climate resilience. The proper implementation of the GEG principles will have the robust impact on integration of environmental considerations into all policies, better implementation of legislation, as well as public participation and visibility of reforms. It is also instrumental to enabling youth participation and ensuring gender equality. The key role of the GEG for the progress in reforming environment and climate fields was confirmed by the Luxemburg declaration on cooperation in the field of environment and climate change in the EaP. GEG is among requirements under Association Agreements of three EaP countries (Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine).

According to the EU White Paper on European governance<sup>1</sup>, ‘Governance’ means rules, processes and behaviour that affect the way in which powers are exercised at European level, particularly as regards openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness, and coherence.

1. **Openness.** The institutions should work in a more open manner. They should actively communicate what the EU does and the decisions it takes. They should use language that is accessible and understandable for the general public. This is of particular importance in order to improve the confidence in complex institutions.
2. **Participation.** The quality, relevance and effectiveness of the policies depend on ensuring wide participation throughout the policy chain — from conception to implementation. Improved participation is likely to create more confidence in the end result and in the institutions which deliver policies. Participation crucially depends on central governments following an inclusive approach when developing and implementing policies.

3. **Accountability.** Roles in the legislative and executive processes need to be clearer. Each institution must explain and take responsibility for what it does.
4. **Effectiveness.** Policies must be effective and timely, delivering what is needed on the basis of clear objectives, an evaluation of future impact and, where available, of past experience. Effectiveness also depends on implementing policies in a proportionate manner and on taking decisions at the most appropriate level.
5. **Coherence.** Policies and action must be coherent and easily understood. Coherence requires political leadership and a strong responsibility on the part of the institutions to ensure a consistent approach within a complex system.

During the assessment of the implementation of the GEG principles in Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine<sup>2</sup>, we identified many good examples in all three countries. This brochure offers four best practices from each country in the fields of openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness, and coherence.

The brochure should be of interest to decision-makers in Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, civil society organizations dealing with environmental protection, climate change, decarbonisation of the economy, and local environmental and climate change initiatives, European integration, gender and youth organizations, members of the EaP Civil Society Forum, European institutions, experts.

The brochure was prepared within the project “Advocating for good environmental governance in the EaP region”, implemented by three partner organizations: Resource and Analysis Centre “Society and Environment” (Ukraine), Research-Intellectual Club “Dialogue of Generations” (Georgia), Public Association “National Environmental Centre” (Moldova).

<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52001DCo428&from=EN>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rac.org.ua/uploads/content/667/files/geg-in-georgia-moldova-and-ukrainepolicy-paper2022.pdf>

The project “Advocating for good environmental governance in the EaP region” has three objectives: to mainstream good environmental governance issues into policy and legislative agenda of the EaP countries and EaP policies at regional level; to contribute to the effective participation of civil society in policy-making and to the EaP governments accountability, and strengthen the role of civil society within EaP policy formulation and implementation on environmental matters; to strengthen EaP regional dimension and cooperation by advocating good environmental governance principles and exchanging of experiences and

best practices. The project assessed the state of play of the good environmental governance in three EaP countries which helps to understand the challenges with good environmental governance and formulate concrete recommendations for national authorities, European Commission, civil society. The success stories from Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine will help to share experience with other EaP countries and formulate joint political recommendations for the EaP region.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE ONLINE PLATFORM „TOWARDS GREEN TRANSFORMATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA”

**Component(s):** Transparency

**Time period:** 2021 – till now

### Description of the practice:

The Republic of Moldova recognizes the need to promote the green economy as a precondition for sustainable economic development in harmony with the environment.

First, the Activity Programme of the government dedicates a chapter to promotion of the green and circular economy. Second, the National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”, which is the country’s fundamental strategic plan, mentions among its key priorities the development of a sustainable and green economy, as well as climate change adaptation in all economic sectors. The vision outlined in Moldova 2030 anchors two strategic international commitments: the Association Agreement with the European Union and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Finally, the main sectoral policy planning document – the Environment Strategy for 2014-23 – lists integration of principles of sustainable and green economy into all economic sectors as a priority.

The Green Growth Indicators platform developed in 2021 is based on two important national documents: the Report on Assessing the Performance of Green Economic Development in Moldova (2017) and The Green Economy Promotion Programme for 2018-2020. The Programme was a national mid-term policy document to promote green economy at national level in different areas: energy efficiency, renewable energy, green small and medium-sized enterprises, green agriculture, clean production, and sustainable consumption.

### Why it is important for good environmental governance:

The green growth indicators provide a reliable and comprehensive set of tools for measuring the environmental footprint of economic activities. They track progress towards greening the economy, provide important insights for public policies and ensure accountability of policy makers. Given an international methodology developed by the OECD, these indicators can ensure comparability among countries. This allows tracking of progress in relation to a set of selected benchmarks, adding analytical value.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGISTER IN UKRAINE

**GEG component(s):** Transparency, Participation, Effectiveness

**Time period:** 2017 – till now

### Description of the practice:

Ukraine's EIA system includes a powerful element: EIA register. It was introduced when a new EIA system was put into place in Ukraine in 2017.

In general, Ukraine's EIA system aims to implement the EU EIA directive 2011/92/EU. As amended by the Directive 2014/52/EU, the EIA directive requires that the necessary measures are taken to ensure that the relevant information is electronically accessible to the public, through at least a central portal.

In Ukraine, such portal is called "EIA registry" and its required by law. It has several important functions:

- ◆ formal communication platform between the developer and public authority;
- ◆ publicly accessible database of all information (documentation) produced during the EIA process, such as public notices, EIA report, EIA decisions and other;
- ◆ information and engagement portal (e.g., any user can follow specific EIA cases, get updates, etc.).

As a formal communication platform, it is a digital tool for developers and public authorities to take necessary steps at each stage of EIA. For example, the developers use the EIA registry to submit EIA reports and other required information, the public authorities use the EIA registry to communicate EIA decision.

EIA register offers a searchable full database of all EIA cases. Each case has a unique number and any user in Ukraine can access case history (public notices, comments from the public, EIA report, video recordings of the public hearings, etc).

Finally, the EIA register plays a role of an information and engagement portal. The government intends to further strengthen this function of the portal by adding additional practical features and formalizing this function of the EIA register (such as modifying the register to allow users to subscribe and get relevant information).

During the martial law in 2022, some restrictions were introduced on the register (e.g, limiting scope of some information to be available there) and access to it. However, it is expected the register will return to its full functionality after the Russian aggression is over.

### Why it is important for good environmental governance:

The digital communication function of the EIA register significantly contributes to effectiveness of the EIA system. It provides for paperless interaction between developers and public authorities, ensures institutional memory and avoids unnecessary burden on each side.

"Database" function of the EIA registry is probably the most important and ensures transparency of the EIA procedures, as well as helps the public to participate by allowing quick and easy access to all information. Therefore, it contributes to the transparency and participation components of GEG.

Lastly, its practical implementation (web-site of the register) promotes engagement of the public by offering additional features, such as registering, subscribing to specific EIA cases and getting relevant updates on such cases. Therefore, it also contributes to participation and effectiveness components of GEG. This function is a good tool to support public participation in EIA process in Ukraine.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THE SECOND NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION IN UKRAINE

**GEG component(s):** Transparency (Openness), Participation

**Time period:** 2018 – 2021

### Description of the practice:

In 2018, the process of preparation of the Second Nationally Determined Contribution of Ukraine (NDC-2) started. The process was carried out with the technical support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's project "Support to the Government of Ukraine for the Update of the Nationally Determined Contribution" and funds from the Government of Sweden.

As part of the process, a Working Group for the preparation of NDC-2 was established. The modelling was carried out by a team of scientists from the Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The Working Group included representatives of interested ministries and agencies, legislators, local authorities, industry associations and private business, civil society, and academia, in total more than 75 people. More than 1200 participants were involved in various types of stakeholder consultations, meetings, high-level discussions, round tables, negotiations, and online meetings.

The Working Group operation was based on regular meetings, where participants discussed the issues of the legal framework and international obligations of Ukraine regarding the development of the NDC-2, its structure and content were discussed, methodological approaches and model tools for scenario assessment of the dynamics of greenhouse gas emissions in Ukraine in the preparation of the NDC-2, etc.

On November 26, 2020, the Working Group presented the results of the modelling, necessary for the implementation of the scenarios policies and measures etc. Based on the results of the experts' work, the "Report on the results of modelling greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere" was prepared. To effectively and efficiently inform all parties about the NDC-2, the Ministry of Environment prepared the "Analytical Review of the Second Nationally Determined Contribution of Ukraine to the Paris Agreement".

The Ministry of Environment published on its official website the Draft Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of the Second Nationally Determined Contribution of Ukraine to the Paris Agreement" for public consultations and held an official meeting with the Public Council under the Ministry. The public consultations lasted until May 1, 2021.

On July 30, the Government of Ukraine approved NDC-2, which provides for a 65% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 and submitted it to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### Why it is important for good environmental governance:

The process of updating the NDC of Ukraine was built on the principles of a transparent and inclusive stakeholder consultation process. The process of consulting with the public was built on the broad involvement of stakeholders at various stages of the NDC-2 development and the use of various forms of involvement (both participation in the work of the Working Group and discussion of the draft NDC-2). Information on the development of NDC-2, relevant draft decisions and scientific justifications were published by the Ministry of Environment on its website.

This transparent and inclusive consultation process ensured the understanding, involvement, and support of all stakeholders at every stage of the process of developing the updated NDC of Ukraine. As a result, a compromise on the NDC-2 of Ukraine was reached and culminated in its approval by the Government of Ukraine.



## INVOLVEMENT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL PLANS OF MUNICIPALITIES

**GEG component(s):** Transparency, Participation, Effectiveness

**Time period:** 2020 – till now

### Description of the practice:

Public participation (involvement of citizens) in the decision-making process is impossible without proper informing of citizens.

The Code of Spatial Planning, Architectural and Construction Activities of Georgia, adopted on July 20, 2018, establishes the procedures for making decisions on spatial planning and town-building plans of Georgia and the provisions for ensuring public participation in this process.

The Code establishes three hierarchical levels of spatial planning and urban planning as well as the bodies responsible for the development and adoption of plans.

According to the Code, the above-mentioned plans must be adopted using the rule of public administrative procedure, which implies that the initiators of the plans must ensure public participation (citizen involvement) when making decisions on the adoption of plans.

The initiator of the plan, within 5 working days after the start of the administrative proceedings regarding the review of the plan concept or the draft plan, is obliged to publish on its official website information about the plan concept or the draft plan, and information about the opinions and the opportunity to submit comments.

The initiator of the plan is obliged to conduct a public review of both the concept and the draft plan. The initiator of the plan is obliged to publish information about the public hearing

on its official website, at least 30 working days before the public hearing.

The statement on public review must include, at least, the following information: (a) the authorized administrative body; (b) information about the boundaries of the planning unit; (c) a summary of the plan concept or draft plan; (d) the time and address of the public hearing; (e) information about the means of familiarizing the documentation; (f) information on the possibility of attending the public hearing and submitting opinions and comments.

The public hearing must be held no later than 40 days after the publication of the information on the public hearing.

Any person has the right to participate in the public discussion. The public discussion is led by a person equipped with the relevant authority. The public review process should be reflected in the minutes of the review. Any person has the right to submit comments and opinions to the initiator in writing about the draft concept or plan within 15 working days after the end of the public hearing. The initiator is obliged to consider the submitted comments and opinions and, if there is a corresponding basis, to make corrections to the concept or the draft plan.

### Why it is important for good environmental governance:

Public participation is a key component of transparency and participation itself gives opportunity to population being involved in decision making process. Locals better know how they can live in harmony with environment and what is the best solution for development of living conditions without damage of nature. Active participation of the locals increased role of green solutions and made general plans more people and environment oriented.

## NAMAKHVANI HPP - EIA REVIEW AND MEDIATION PROCESS. RESULT: “NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY” PROCESS AND PROJECT SUSPENSION

**GEG component(s):** Participation

**Time period:** 2019 – 2021

### Description of the practice:

Namakhvani is a cascade hydropower project (HPP) located on the Rioni River in the west part of Georgia, several kilometres above the city of Kutaisi – Municipality of Tskaltubo and Municipality of Tsageri. The cascade consists of Upper Namakhvani (Namakhvani–Tvishi, 100 MW) and Lower Namakhvani (Namakhvani–Zhoneti, 333 MW) with a total installed capacity of 433 MW.

The project was first developed by JSC Namakhvani (a state-owned company). JSC Namakhvani received approval of the project design in 2015 and an Environmental Decision (permit) in 2019. Based on the results of a tender procedure for a Build-Own-Operate (BOO) contract, the Government of Georgia awarded the right to develop the project to Clean Energy Group Georgia LLC. On 21 April 2019, a BOO contract was signed between the Government and Clean Energy Group Georgia LLC. Clean Energy Group Georgia LLC was subsequently purchased by the Turkish ENKA group, and the company changed its name to Enka Renewables LLC. All permits issued were to be transferred to the new project developer.

Enka Renewables LLC decided to change the basic design of the cascade project relating to the Lower Namakhvani site. These changes triggered a new environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the revised project. The EIA report for the Lower Namakhvani project was made available for public consultations in November 2019. In January 2020, additional documents (studies and reports) were prepared and published. On 28

February 2020, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MoEPA) issued a new Environmental Decision approving the EIA report and the revised Lower Namakhvani project.

According to the history of the Namokhvani HPP, which has important role to understand process of the locals protest started, when the Ministry of Energy of the Soviet Union was planning to build a giant hydroelectric power station near the village of Namokhvani, which in 1969 included the start of the construction of the arch-dam “Namakhvani HPP” in the “Energy Development Plan of 1971-1975”. This project was approved in 1985, however, the beginning of the national movement in Georgia (which was given a significant charge by public dissatisfaction caused by the negative impact of the planned giant hydroelectric power plants on the natural and socio-cultural environment) and the collapse of the Soviet Union, stopped it for a long time.

In the period after 2008, the Georgian authorities decided to “revive” the projects initiated in the Soviet period.

On December 8, 2009, in Tbilisi, Minister of Energy Aleksandre Khetaguri (on behalf of the Government of Georgia) signed a memorandum with a consortium of Turkish-Korean companies (including Turkish Nurol Energy Production and Marketing Inc. (“Nurol”), Korean Korea Electric Power Corporation (“KEPC”) and Korea’s SK Engineering and Construction Co. Ltd (“SK&C”). In 2010, “KEPC” left the consortium.

On January 25, 2012, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia applied to the joint-stock company “Georgian Oil and Gas Corporation” with a request that the latter, with its 100% equity participation, establish the joint-stock company “Namakhvan HPP”.

JSC “Namakhvan” prepared a project in 2015, which, unlike the previous projects, involved the construction of a cascade consisting of two hydroelectric plants (“Tvishi HPP” and “Namakhvani-Zhoneti HPP”) on the Rion River.

On December 25, 2015, the Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources Gigla Agulashvili approved a positive ecological expertise report on this project.

On January 17, 2017, Clean Energy Group Georgia LLC was announced as the winner of the expression of interest. “Clean Energy Group Georgia” LLC was a company based in Georgia, 100% of which was owned by the Norwegian “Clean Energy Group”. The share of the company (90%) was bought by the Turkish company “Enka”, after that, in the spring of 2019, “Clean Energy Group Georgia” LLC changed its name to “Enka Renewables” LLC. On January 17, 2017, Clean Energy Group Georgia LLC was announced as the winner of the expression of interest. “Clean Energy Group Georgia” LLC was a company based in Georgia, 100% of which was owned by the Norwegian “Clean Energy Group”. The share of the company (90%) was bought by the Turkish company “Enka”, after that, in the spring of 2019, “Clean Energy Group Georgia” LLC changed its name to “Enka Renewables” LLC.

Protest of the locals continued during many years, but stronger it became in last two years, when “Enka Renewables” started construction process. During last two years locals organised permanent strikes (held tents villages nearby construction) and made different actions and meeting, which covered whole Georgia.

On 26 April 2021, Mr Dirk Buschle on behalf of the Energy Community Secretariat’s Dispute Resolution and Negotiation Centre was invited by the Minister for Economy and Sustainable Development to establish a dialogue and mediate the discussion concerning the Namakhvani HPP project between the Government, represented by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MoESD) and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MoEPA), and the civil society organisations protesting against the project (CSOs). Mr Buschle was joined by Ms Aleksandra Bujaroska (“the mediators”). The mediation was meant to open a channel for direct discussions in an atmosphere conducive for finding agreeable solutions and to create trust through exchange and cooperation rather

than confrontation. The mediation process was welcomed by the international community, including the European Union.

### **Why it is important for good environmental governance:**

Locals could achieve their goals: suspension of the construction and working process on “National Energy Policy”. On 20 October 2021, an introductory presentation of the NECP was given by the MoESD. After that followed 11 meeting with representatives of CSOs and local protest organizers. The NECP will also be made subject to strategic environmental assessment (SEA). The CSOs will be involved early in the SEA preparation and contribute the SEA scoping report. Once drafted, both the NECP and the SEA will be made subject to wider public consultations.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN AND STRATEGY IN GEORGIA: INVOLVEMENT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR

**GEG component(s):** Participation, Effectiveness, Coherence

**Time period:** 2020 – till now

### Description of the practice:

By signing the Association Agreement with the EU, Georgia took the commitment to harmonize its waste management system, together with other fields, with the EU requirements.

Georgia's Waste Management Code, which entered into the force on January 15, 2015, aims to introduce legal grounds in the field of waste management for carrying out waste prevention, increasing recycling, and processing waste in an environmentally safe manner.

Georgia's waste management sector must change significantly in the next few years. According to the requirements imposed by the Association Agreement, the country must establish a waste management system, which will comply with the EU requirements. The National Waste Management Strategy clearly shows Georgia aims at recycling more and preventing waste.

Under Activity 2.4.1 "Develop draft of action plan for national waste management", UNEP would provide technical assistance and stakeholder consultation in Georgia through providing a review of the existing National Waste Action Plan 2016-2020 and development of a draft National Waste Action Plan 2021-2025 for the implementation of a National Waste Management Strategy in Georgia.

To assist UNEP in the implementation of the aforementioned activities, the Regional Environmental Centre was selected as an implementing organization to carry out actions

under Activity 2.4.1: Develop draft of action plan for national waste management in Georgia. The meeting gathered 26 participants from UN Environment Programme, EU delegation; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia, Ministry of Finance of Georgia, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Tbilisi Municipality, Telavi municipality, Kutaisi municipality and Government of Autonomous Republic of Ajara, Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament, and CSOs.

Municipalities are mostly responsible for waste management as from 2019 every municipality is tasked with waste separation duties, while for 2025 a separation system for paper, plastic, glass and metal waste is to be established. Hence, Georgia's local municipalities, and the entire society, will face significant challenges in the near future. Successful implementation of a waste separation system is directly linked with the mentality of the population and their active involvement in the process. Therefore, it is important that every municipality raises public awareness on this issue.

A crucial milestone in raising awareness among citizens on waste management issues is educating them on waste prevention and elimination. However, current awareness raising activities are not sufficient, since they do not have an adequate scale, they do not cover every target group or Georgia's entire territory.

Lack of information causes the creation of ad-hoc waste dumps and a careless attitude of the population towards waste, which negatively affects the environment and economic development of the country, namely its tourism industry development. In general, a waste management policy aims to establish a society which recycles waste. Each individual and the entire society as such have a major role in the waste management process.

**Why it is important for good environmental governance:**

The implementation of modern approaches to waste management at the municipal level, namely the prevention of waste at its sources, requires that the population is actively involved in the process. However, the level of public involvement depends directly on the level of education and awareness on this matter. The state must take necessary measures to foster new attitudes and approaches towards waste management. The country must create unified system on educating and informing its population on the environment of waste management, which ensures the inclusion of every stakeholder in the process.

## DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THE LAW ON ATMOSPHERIC AIR IN MOLDOVA (2022)

**Component(s):** Effectiveness

**Time period:** 2020 – 2022

### Description of the practice:

Atmospheric air, along with other components of the environment, has a very vital importance for nature and human health. To ensure a sustainable development of the environment and society it is necessary to protect the air from the adverse impact caused by pollutants.

The development of the Law on atmospheric air quality was based on the need to transpose at the national level the European Directives included in the Association Agreement Republic of Moldova – European Union, namely:

- Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (Official Journal of the European Union No. L 152 of 11 June 2008, as last amended by Commission Directive (EU) 2015/1480 of August 28, 2015;
- Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in the ambient air (Official Journal of the European Union no. L 23 of 26 January 2005), as last amended by Commission Directive (EU) 2015/1480 of 28 August 2015.

In the same way, the development of the law on atmospheric air quality was also dictated by the need to harmonize the legislation of the Republic of Moldova and the uniform implementation of the Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution.

The need to develop and adopt the Law on atmospheric air quality is also conditional on achieving the objective of creating an integrated air quality management system and reducing

pollutant emissions in the atmosphere by 30% by 2023, provided for in the Environmental Strategy for the years 2014- 2023.

The Law provides for the creation of the legal framework in order to strengthen institutional capacities in the identification and implementation of the most effective measures to reduce emissions to levels that minimize the harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole, in order to improve monitoring and evaluation of air quality and to guarantee the provision of information on atmospheric air quality to the public, in accordance with the provisions of the European Directives mentioned above.

The Law on atmospheric air quality is a new one and comes to replace Law 1422/1997 on the protection of atmospheric air, which will be repealed after the entry into force of the new law, except for art.11 and art.12, which will remain in force until upon the entry into force of the Law on Industrial Emissions; Art. 17 para. (3) lit. b), art. 20 para. (3) and annexes. We note that this Law only contains provisions on atmospheric air quality, not regulations on pollutant emissions into the atmosphere resulting from the activity of economic agents and their authorization.

### Why it is important for good environmental governance:

After the adoption of the law, the Ministry is developing a series of normative acts for the implementation of the law on atmospheric air quality, namely: the Regulation on monitoring and management of atmospheric air quality, the Regulation on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, the National Program of control of atmospheric pollution, the Methodology for the development of air quality plans and air quality maintenance plans.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR SOME RIVER SUB-BASINS IN MOLDOVA

**Component(s):** Effectiveness

**Time period:** 2016 – till now

### Description of the practice:

The implementation of the river basin management principle at national level through the Management Plans, contributes to the promotion of sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources, contributes to preventing further deterioration, conservation, and quality improvement of aquatic ecosystems, reduces the risk of pollution, contributes to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts, etc.

Directive No. 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy has been transposed in the Water Law No. 272/2011. The Water Law establishes a new principle of water resources management – water resources management based on the river basin. Art. 5 of the Water Law stipulates that the management of water resources of the Republic of Moldova is carried out based on the Dniester River basin and the Danube-Prut and Black Sea River basin, called river basin districts.

Also, according to the provisions of Art. 19 of the Water Law, the river basin district is managed based on a management plan, approved by the Government which provides measures for the implementation of national policy documents in the field of water resources. From the point of view of water resources management, on territory of the Republic of Moldova were delimited the borders of 2 river basins: Dniester, Danube-Prut, and Black Sea, and 39 sub-river basins.

The purpose of elaborating the River Management Plan is to ensure the management, protection and efficient use of water resources

and related ecosystems of the river basin district, to gradually achieve the provided environmental objectives. The management plan shall include environmental objectives focused mainly on achieving good ecological status of water resources through the protection of surface and groundwater, protected areas in the river basin district, the rehabilitation of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, the prevention of damage and the long-term sustainability of, improvement, restoration of water bodies, prevention of their deterioration, status of surface water, as well as the deadlines for achieving these objectives.

For the efficient and sustainable management of water resources, the management plan of the Dniester River basin district was approved in 2017 and the Danube-Prut and Black Sea District Management Plan was approved in 2018, documents that constitute the main river basin management tool. Thus, the implementation of the basin management principle at national level through the Management Plans, contributes to the promotion of sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources, contributes to preventing further deterioration, conservation, and improvement of aquatic ecosystems, reduces the risk of pollution, contributes to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts, etc.

According to the provisions of the Water Law, River Basin District Management Plans shall be reviewed every 6 years. Now, the Ministry of Environment is finalizing and will submit to the Government for approval (until the end of 2022) the Danube-Prut River Basin and Black Sea District Management Plan cycle II (2022-2027), as well as development of the Dniester River Basin Management Plan initiation for cycle II (2023-2028),

Examples include:

- ◆ Botna River Basin Management Plan (2021-2027).
- ◆ Local climate change adaptation plan for the Ichel River basin.
- ◆ The socio-ecological situation in the Răut river basin.
- ◆ Assessment of water resources in the Răut river basin and mapping of Dondușeni springs.

- ◆ Assessment of the state of water resources in the Naslavcea-Vasilcău hydrographic sub-basin.
- ◆ Identification and hydro chemical evaluation of springs in the Lăpușna sub-basin.
- ◆ Camenca river basin management plan.
- ◆ The management plan of the hydrographic sub-basin of the Ciulucul mic river.
- ◆ Management plan of the Larga hydrographic sub-basin, cycle I 2019-2024.

protection and management of water resources, competent institutions for the protection of public health, water users, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to ensure integrated management for the water resources in the sub-basin.

Also, according to the provisions of the Water Law, for each river basin district, a river basin district committee shall be formed, consisting of representatives of central and local government authorities, sub-basin committees, water users' associations, civil society, and the scientific community. The Committee shall be a coordinating and consultative body, independent in the exercise of its functions, which has the competence to participate in the activities of efficient management of water resources in the district limited to the respective river basin. The role of the Committee is to ensure effective collaboration between the central and territorial public administration authorities for water management and protection and the local public administration authorities, water users in the river basin district concerned, beneficiaries of water management services, representatives of scientific research institutions, civil society organizations on the management, use and protection of water resources in the watershed district.

In 2020 the nominal composition of the Committees of the river basin districts was approved (Dniester and Danube-Prut-Black Sea).

### **Why it is important for good environmental governance:**

Within the two river basins, Committees of the Dniester and Danube-Prut and Black Sea River basin districts were created. These Committees are coordinating the functioning process of 16 sub-basin committees. The purpose of the sub-basin committees is to facilitate effective collaboration between local government authorities, competent institutions for the



## REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN (NEAP 4) IN GEORGIA

**GEG component(s):** Effectiveness, Participation, Coherence

**Time period:** 2022

### Description of the practice:

*The Fourth National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia for 2022-2026* includes the protection of water resources, management of atmospheric air, land, waste, forest resources, protection of biodiversity and protected areas, achieving good environmental status in the Black Sea and marine environment, ensuring nuclear and radiation safety, environmental education and sustainable development.

The existing legal and political framework, the actions stipulated by the Third National Program of Environmental Protection Actions, as well as other strategic documents, including already implemented reforms and recent accomplishments are reviewed with regard to each priority area.

The requirements set forth in the Law of Georgia on “Environmental Protection” as well as obligations taken under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement were reviewed in the elaboration/development process of the “Fourth National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia for 2022-2026”.

It should be mentioned, that the National Environmental Action Programme (hereinafter NEAP-4) identifies the environmental priorities of Georgia for the years 2022-2026 and aims to improve the state of the environment and environmental governance in the country.

### Why it is important for good environmental governance:

NEAP fully reflects the challenges and problems existing in various sectors of environmental protection, which representatives of the non-

governmental sector have been focusing on for years. It is important to hold thematic meetings in order to reflect the issues left behind the document and also to evaluate the extent to which the written tasks ensure the fulfilment of the goals that the program envisages. This process shows that participation made document more realistic and valuable. Coherent approaches give opportunity to create long-term environment policy.

## INTEGRATION OF THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INTO THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN MOLDOVA

**Component(s):** Coherence

**Time period:** 2020 – till now

### Description of the practice:

The Republic of Moldova is extremely vulnerable to climate change. According to the Fourth National Communication of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2014-2017) and the National Human Development Report 2015/2016, it is predicted that in the future the impact of climate change on various economic, social, and environmental aspects will intensify.

Natural calamities associated with climate change, such as drought, floods, hail, and others, have become more frequent in recent times, causing estimated damage at ever-increasing socio-economic costs.

The phenomenon of climate change is recognized as a fact of national importance, that is why the Adaptation Strategy of the Republic of Moldova to climate change was adopted. It represents a national framework document intended to ensure that the social and economic development of the Republic of Moldova becomes resilient to the impact of changes climate of the future.

At the same time, the Strategy supports the achievement of global environmental objectives, established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CONUSC), to which the Republic of Moldova is a Party.

The adaptation strategy of the Republic of Moldova to climate change was developed in accordance with the provisions of the “Climate

Change” Chapter of the Association Agreement with the European Union, as well as with the provisions of the Activity Program of the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

For the implementation process of the Strategy to be comprehensive and effective, a coordinated and concentrated effort of the central and local administration is necessary. Also, to deal with the risks generated by climate change, it is necessary that the objectives and actions of this framework document are assumed and carried out both at the central and local level, by incorporating in local development strategies appropriate measures of adaptation to climate change.

At the same time, policies at the national, sectoral, and local level must be developed considering approaches from the perspective of human rights and gender equality, based on the principles of solidarity and social cohesion.

The project “Sustainable and resilient communities to climate change by empowering women”, funded by the Government of Sweden and implemented by UNDP Moldova, has the mission of responding to this need.

### Why it is important for good environmental governance:

Integration of environmental protection solutions, adaptation to climate change and the gender dimension into the Nisporeni, Calarasi, Basarabeasca, Leova, UTA Gagauzia, Transnistrian district development strategies in a participatory and inclusive manner will contribute to creating sustainable livelihoods, environmentally sound and resilient to climate change, as well as capacity building and knowledge on the environment, climate change and gender.

A risk analysis has also been made and a plan of measures to be integrated in the local development plans has been proposed.

## STATE STRATEGY FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ISSUES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

**GEG component(s):** Coherence, Effectiveness

**Time period:** 2020 – till now

### Description of the practice:

On August 5, 2020, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted the State Strategy for Regional Development for 2021-2027. The strategy defines the general vector of sustainable development of the regions and was developed in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030. The need to prepare the Strategy was caused by expiration of the State Regional Development Strategy for the period until 2020, as well as by the new challenges Ukraine faced during the past seven years and significantly affect the situation in the regions, as well as the quality of life of the residents of cities and villages.

One of the challenges identified in the Strategy is climate change (abnormally warm winters, extreme weather events) and deterioration of the environmental situation (loss of biodiversity, deterioration of water bodies, lack of sources of high-quality drinking water in certain regions, the problem of waste management, atmospheric air pollution, growth morbidity due to environmental conditions, etc.).

Environment and climate change issues are integrated into all strategic and operational objectives of the strategy through specific tasks. For example, Strategic Goal I. “Development of a cohesive state in social, humanitarian, economic, environmental, security and spatial dimensions” contains the following tasks related to environmental issues and climate change: introduction of strategic planning for the development of transport systems taking into account the principles of sustainable

mobility; providing support to the waste processing and disposal industry, which uses advanced innovative technologies; creation of favorable conditions for the introduction of circular economy approaches; improvement of the legislative and other regulatory framework in the field of spatial development planning, in particular, taking into account climate change, resistance to natural and man-made disasters; ensuring the modernization of urban infrastructure, which reduces the need for non-renewable resources, creates resistance to natural and man-made disasters, adapts the urban network to climate change; promoting the expansion of green spaces, etc. The Strategy also includes a separate operational goal dedicated to environmental protection.

### Why it is important for good environmental governance:

The integration of environmental and climate issues into the regional policy of Ukraine helps to increase the involvement of the local level in the implementation of the national environmental and climate policy, to implement important initiatives on the ground, and allows the regions to feel part of the implementation of reforms.

From the point of view of the effectiveness, the implementation of reforms on the ground, in particular, European integration obligations in the field of environment and climate change, will help to increase Ukraine’s progress on the way to full membership in the EU.

## INTEGRATION OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL PRINCIPLES INTO THE NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGIC PLANNING IN UKRAINE

**GEG component(s):** Coherence, Effectiveness

**Time period:** 2020 – till now

### Description of the practice:

Ukraine was super quick in responding to the adoption of the European Green Deal by the European Union in 2019, and expressed its interest actively participate in the EGD implementation, particularly to join the EU efforts to achieve climate neutral economy.

Ukraine started to synchronize the policies of Ukraine with the European Green Deal in two main ways: through the high level policy dialog with the EU (summits, EU-Ukraine Association Council meetings, high level group on EGD issues) and by including the EGD issues into the sectoral reforms.

Recently adopted the National Economy Strategy till 2030 introduced a target to reach climate neutral economy by 2060. The key targets envisaged by the EU policy documents implementing EGD in most sectors are fully or partially reflected in Ukraine's strategic documents (government program, action plans, strategies, etc.). However, in many areas Ukraine lags behind: while the EU is improving existing instruments, Ukraine plans to introduce them (for example, emissions trading system, chemicals regulation or waste management).

Several areas are in the focus of policy debate in the context of the EGD, while some other areas are not on the agenda. The top priority areas are: energy, climate change, industrial policy in the context of CBAM, energy efficiency, agriculture. The zero pollution and biodiversity components of the EGD are not debated much, yet.

On a practical level, such an opportunity for business can be noted as joining the so-called "green alliances". Such alliances include business, associations, state institutions, politicians, experts, representatives of civil society. Ukraine is actively promoting the issue of the inclusion of Ukrainian business in raw materials, hydrogen and battery alliances.

The EGD issues are also in the focus of the work of the parliament, in particular, in 2020, hearings on the EGD were held by the Committee on European Integration and the Committee on Environmental Policy.

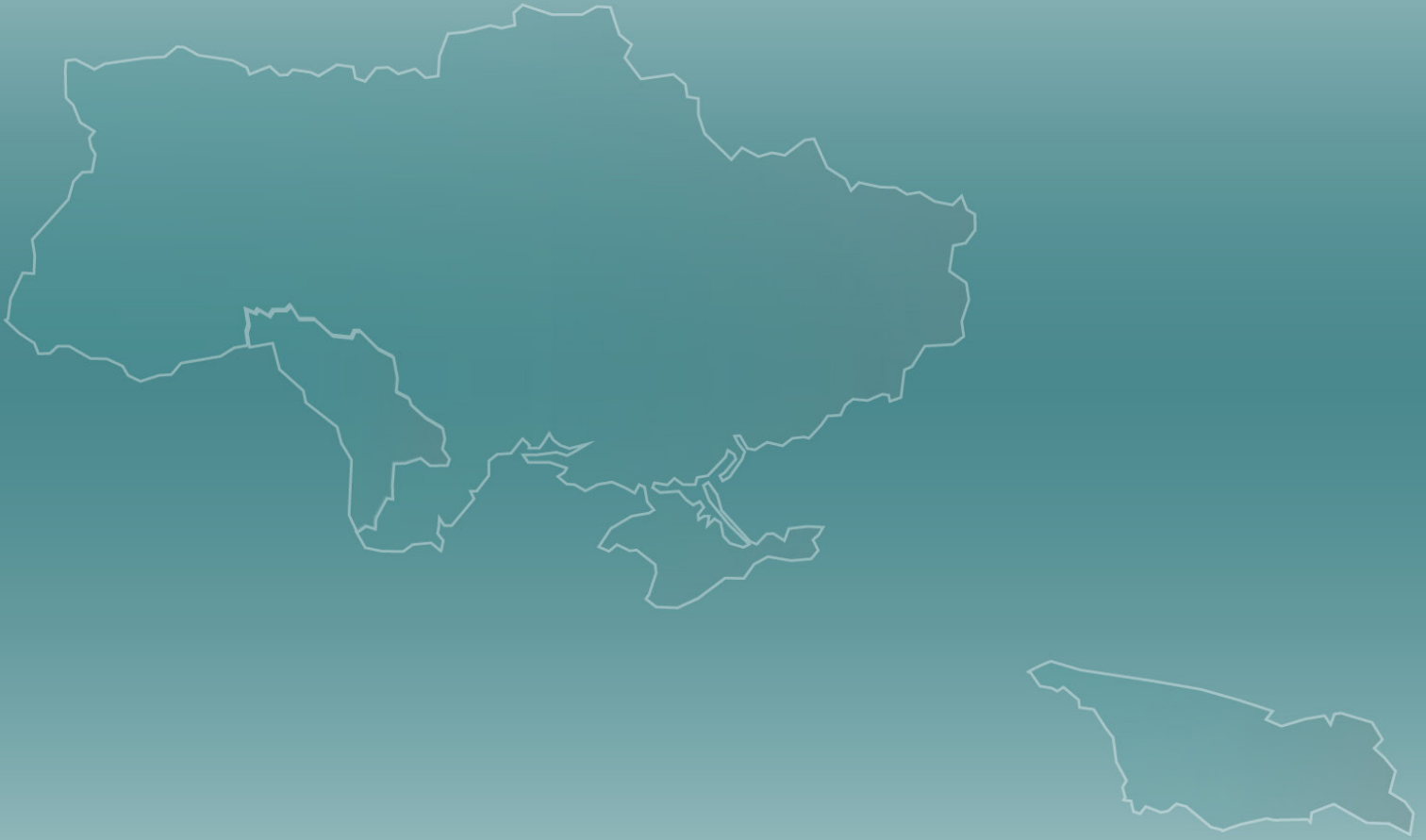
At the institutional level there were created two working groups, namely on the EGD and on the CBAM.

Local authorities are also making attempts to synchronize with the EGD both through the use of separate tools for cities and through the adoption of a comprehensive strategic direction on green transformation. For example, in January 2022 Vinnytsia city council declared the Green Deal of Vinnytsia and adopted the Road Map for its implementation.

### Why it is important for good environmental governance:

The process of synchronization with the EGD in Ukraine helps to integrate climate and environmental issues into other sectoral policies and legislation in Ukraine, namely in the fields of economy, transport, agriculture, finances, etc. This significantly improves the coherence component of the good environmental governance in Ukraine.

From the point of view of efficiency, effective synchronization with the EGD will help to improve progress in the implementation of the Association Agreement, as well as in the process of becoming full member-state of the EU.



**Good environmental  
governance in Georgia, Moldova,  
and Ukraine**  
**Good practices**

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