

E-ALERTS FROM THE OECD/EAP TASK FORCE SECRETARIAT

PROMOTING BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES IN EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

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Russian version

[E-Alerts archive](#)

PROGRESS WITH COUNTRY-LEVEL PROJECTS

Screening environmentally-harmful subsidies in Kazakhstan

Over the last months data collection and analysis was performed within the project on energy subsidies and climate change in Kazakhstan. An expert meeting was organised on 12 September 2012 and additional meetings with key government agencies were held on 20-22 November in Astana. The focus of the project is on subsidies in the coal, oil, gas, electricity and heat generation sectors. A draft report identifying existing schemes of energy-harmful subsidies and their impact on GHG emissions and the public budget is being prepared and will be finalised in early 2013. A similar study will be soon launched in Moldova.

Testing the OECD Green Growth Indicators in Kyrgyzstan

While not the entire set of OECD green growth indicators can be applied currently in Kyrgyzstan, the country is able to measure more than half of these indicators. This is the conclusion of a team of national experts that compared the OECD set and existing economic, social, and environmental statistics. In cooperation with the OECD Secretariat, the team will produce a capacity assessment study and an indicator-based report proceeding from on existing data. These project outputs will serve for informing the process of National Sustainable Development Strategy preparation, launched by the Kyrgyz President on 24 November 2012. This pilot project is implemented jointly with UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative. Besides expert analysis, two stakeholder meetings were conducted in September and November 2012.



Identifying areas for support to the water sector in Tajikistan

Within the framework of the programme's water pillar, the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat conducted a mission to explore opportunities for responding to the demand from the Government of Tajikistan for assistance in water sector reforms. More specifically, support for enhancing the economic sustainability of such reforms was discussed. Several leads have been identified for projects in Tajikistan. In particular, OECD could contribute to the development of economic mechanisms for water demand management at national and basin levels, in cooperation with other partners already present in the country. It has to be noted that a Draft Sector Reform Strategy for Water Resources Management is being discussed in Tajikistan, including as part of National Policy Dialogues facilitated by the UNECE Secretariat.

Adapting the water sector to climate change in Moldova



The 2012 drought had extremely high economic costs for Moldova: an equivalent of 17% of its GDP (2011) being lost. Against this background, a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is being developed by the Moldovan Government with support from international partners. The OECD contributes to this process by assisting the Ministry of Environment to define measures for adaptation in the water supply and sanitation sector. The results of this work were reported at an EUWI National Policy Dialogue meeting held on 19-23 November in Chisinau.

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About the EAP Task Force

Since the 1990s, the OECD has supported countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) to reconcile their environment and economic goals. This support has been provided within the framework of the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (the EAP Task Force).

➤ [Learn more ...](#)

Contact information

The EAP Task Force Secretariat
Environment Directorate
2 rue André-Pascal
75775 Paris CEDEX 16 France
Fax: (+33) 1 44 30 61 83

➤ eap.contact@oecd.org

➤ www.oecd.org/env/eap

About the OECD's work on environment

The OECD Environment Directorate produces 20-30 titles a year in English and in French, with summaries of selected titles translated into other languages (available for free on the OECD on-line bookshop). Many free reports are available on our websites.

REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL EVENTS

Annual Meeting of the EAP Task Force (24-25 September, Oslo)



The delegates to the 2012 Annual EAP Task Force's meeting expressed satisfaction with progress on the work programme implementation and endorsed the proposed activities and budget for 2013. The meeting had a diverse agenda featuring discussion and endorsement of policy and technical papers, presentations from countries, international partners and the Secretariat on pilot projects and brainstorming regarding future work. The key topics that were debated include market-based approaches for environmental protection, environmentally-harmful subsidies, eco-innovation, economic instruments in the context of water resource management and institutional arrangements for integrated water resource management. The issue of eco-innovation involved an active exchange of experience between OECD and EECCA countries, including presentations from the European Union, South Korea, Russia, and some other delegations. Given the current Task Force's focus on green growth promotion, including in the water sector, participants agreed that the Rio+20 Summit provided a useful reference due to its strong signal on the importance of regional cooperation. The Summit's follow up will require an enhanced attention to policy implementation, the EAP Task Force being well placed to respond to this need. The meeting was hosted and co-sponsored by the Norwegian Government. The main outcomes of the meeting are reflected in its [Summary Record](#). Find meeting materials and read [more](#).

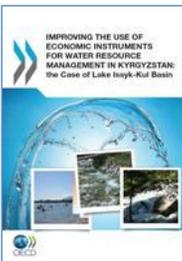
NEW PUBLICATIONS

Refocusing economic and other monetary instruments for greater environmental impact: How to unblock reform in EECCA



The main weakness of the application of monetary instruments for pollution prevention and control in EECCA over the last 20 years has been the lack of concern for their environmental effectiveness. The poor definition and distortion of the functions of individual monetary instruments and the exclusive focus on revenue raising are the key barriers to the improved implementation of these tools in line with international practices. This report's objective is to help EECCA countries to address these barriers to reform and to create a coherent mix of economic and other monetary instruments that would contribute to the overall greening of their economies. Read the [report](#).

Improving the use of economic instruments for water resource management in Kyrgyzstan: The Case of Lake Issyk-Kul Basin



This report presents the findings of a study into the use of existing economic instruments for water resource management in the Kyrgyz Republic, with a focus on the pilot basin of Lake Issyk-Kul. A wide range of instruments were studied, and available financial data for 2007 to 2010 has been presented. The report also presents existing water resource management and environmental challenges faced by the country, provides recommendations on improving the use of existing instruments and introducing new ones, and ties the economic instruments to the problem(s) that the instruments are supposed to, or could be used to address.

Green growth and environmental governance in EECCA



The Rio+20 Summit emphasized the role that regional, national and sub-national-level action can play in green growth promotion. The current report looks at how efforts could be channeled to achieve results on the ground in EECCA countries. A preliminary version of this report was issued prior to the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference that took place on 21-23 September 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The preliminary version was enhanced with new information, for instance on donor assistance to EECCA. The report is divided into eight chapters and is largely based on the OECD's analytical toolbox, including green growth indicators. Country profiles are available in an Annex. Read the [report](#).

[EAP Task Force's E-Library...](#)

➤ [OECD work on water](#)

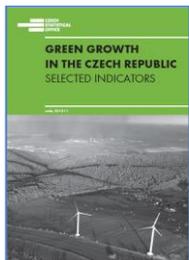


➤ [OECD work on green growth](#)



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Expert meeting on green growth indicators (Prague, March 2013)



The Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic will host an OECD/EAP Task Force expert meeting to discuss how countries can design and use in practice their national sets of green growth indicators. Together with the Netherlands and South Korea, the Czech Republic was among the first to apply the set of OECD green growth indicators and is well placed to facilitate such a discussion. The meeting will gather experts, government officials, and international organisations active in countries of Eastern Partnership and Central Asia.

[Events web page...](#)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND NEWS

A framework for financing water resources management



OECD has recently issued a new report that provides governments with a framework to assess and strengthen the financial dimension of water resources management. The report proposes a set of four principles to frame financing strategies for water management, with a specific focus on the potential role of economic instruments. This OECD study will serve as an analytical framework for country-level work in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Read [more](#).

OECD Policy Handbook to target renewable energy in Ukraine



Within its Eurasia Competitiveness Programme, the OECD has issued a Policy Handbook for Attracting Investment in Renewable Energy in Ukraine. The Handbook complements an earlier Sector Competitiveness Strategy for Ukraine. Ukraine's energy production from renewable sources currently accounts for seven percent of total energy consumption, which is far below its potential. This is particularly true for electricity and heat production, the focus of this publication. Ukraine's actual underutilisation of energy production from renewable sources is at odds with the country's desire to decrease its energy dependence and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Read the [report](#).

OECD Annual Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum (Paris, 23 November 2012)



The first OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum (GG-SD Forum) gathered some 300 delegates from around the world. The GG-SD Forum is a new initiative aimed at providing a dedicated space for multi-disciplinary dialogue on green growth and sustainable development. It will bring together experts from OECD Committees, partner countries and institutions working on a range of policy issues. The GG-SD aims to provide participants with an interactive platform to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ease the exploitation of potential synergies. This year's GG-SD Forum theme was 'Encouraging the Efficient and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources: Policy Instruments and Social Acceptability'. Ainur Kuvatova, the EAP Task Force's Bureau member from Kazakhstan attended the forum. Read [more](#).

Joint OECD-GGGI Workshop: Green growth development paths for a better future, 22 November 2012.

This workshop brought together experts and policy makers from OECD and developing countries with the aim of sharing evidence and experience on how to create an enabling framework and design policy options for overcoming key challenges and prioritizing inclusive green growth opportunities. Green growth in developing countries is a matter of both economic policy and broader policies for sustainable development. It tackles two major issues: economic growth to reduce poverty and improve wellbeing and improved environmental management to tackle resource scarcities and climate change impacts. The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are both working with developing countries to find tailored solutions for these challenges. During the workshop, intermediary results from the OECD/EAP Task Force pilot project in Kyrgyzstan on green growth indicators were presented (download the [presentation](#)). Read [more](#).

Seminar "Green Economy in the Eastern Partnership partner countries after Rio+20 Conference" (Brussels, 4 October 2012)

This event was conducted by the European Commission within the framework of the Eastern Partnership's (EaP) Panel on Environment and Climate Change. The meeting was attended by some 60 participants, including EC officials, government officials representing EU member states and the ministries of environment and economy from the six EaP countries, NGOs, UNEP, UNECE, UNIDO, the European Investment Bank and the Regional Environmental Centres for CEE, Moldova, and the Caucasus. The main objective of this meeting was to fine-tune with beneficiary countries the scope of a EUR 12.5 million multi-donor action to promote green growth in the EaP countries. OECD has been invited to lead this action, which is largely financed by the European Commission (EUR 10 M) and involves three other international organizations – UNIDO, UNEP, and UNECE. Activities under this action are closely aligned with the priorities established by the EAP Task Force and will be regularly reported to its members.

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (28-30 November, Rome, Italy)

This meeting, organized by UNECE, set the scene for granting access to non-UNECE countries, so that the Water Convention becomes global. Bilateral agreements have been signed (between Ukraine and Moldova, for instance). OECD participated in the meeting to highlight cooperation with UNECE under the EU Water Initiative. A side event was organised on national policy dialogues in EECCA, to share experience and discuss relevance of the process to other regions of the world.

This newsletter is edited by the OECD/EAP TASK FORCE Secretariat.

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