

E-ALERTS FROM THE OECD/EAP TASK FORCE SECRETARIAT

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

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[E-Alerts archive](#)

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Identification of environmentally-harmful subsidies (EHS) in Kazakhstan: Project presentation in Astana

This new demonstration project was presented at the national Rio+20 preparatory meeting, held on 22-23 February 2012 in Astana. The project aims to help Kazakh authorities identify the scope and size of EHS in the energy sector and better understand their environmental impacts. The overall meeting's objective was to discuss "green economy" projects, including ones that would be a contribution to the "Green Bridge Initiative" of Kazakhstan. The meeting gathered some 150 participants, including top level officials from the Ministry of Environment Protection, as well as NGOs and private sector and international partners. Financing for the EHS-related work of the EAP Task Force is provided by Germany, Norway and Sweden.

EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue series in Moldova: New developments

A new project on improving the environmental quality of the Black Sea through better waste water treatment and climate change adaptation of the water sector in Moldova was started as part of the ongoing EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on water policy in Moldova. The NPD meeting held on 23 March in Chisinau endorsed the results of preparatory work and agreed on a detailed work plan. The next milestone is an expert meeting (planned for the end of April), which will discuss business models used in, and applicable for, the rural sanitation in Moldova. The project is co-sponsored by the European Commission (DG Environment).

REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL EVENTS

EAP Task Force Bureau meeting

The Bureau of the EAP Task Force met in Paris on 24 January 2012. The Bureau members set the priorities for work in 2012 as well as endorsed amendments to the long-term [Work Programme](#) for 2012-2015, notably to include activities on technology cooperation and access to climate finance.

Workshop to discuss water economics in the Caucasus

A workshop on regional cooperation on water resource management in the Southern Caucasus was held on 29 February in Tbilisi. The participants shared lessons learned on the actual use of economic instruments for water management and endorsed a programme of work within the Germany-sponsored project to improve the economics of water policies in the Caucasus. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss objectives which can be shared and potentially harmonized across the three countries. The workshop was attended by 45 participants from the three south Caucasus countries and international organizations.

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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 ...](#)

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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 expert meeting on environmental liability and economic instruments of environmental management

The meeting took place on 5-6 March 2012 in Warsaw and was hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Poland. Participants considered the results of two comparative studies of environmental liability systems in OECD and EECCA countries and the implementation of their recommendations. They reiterated their support for policy recommendations, developed by OECD, on the main lines of reform of the environmental liability regimes in EECCA, in particular the need to re-orient their function from monetary punishment of offenders towards the prevention and remediation of environmental damage. High demand was expressed for follow-up country-level projects and methodological support on scoping and costing of remediation activities as part of reforming their environmental liability regimes. In addition, progress in reforming pollution charges and other economic instruments in EECCA over the last ten years was discussed and comment provided on the need for further analysis of this issue. This work is financially supported by Finland, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

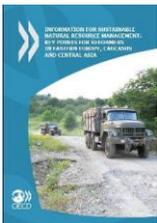
Expert meeting on methodologies for identification and assessment of environmentally-harmful subsidies

An expert meeting was held at the OECD headquarters on 30 March 2012 in order to: 1) review the experience with applying the existing OECD tools and models for identifying, measuring and assessing environmentally harmful subsidies; and, 2) to brainstorm on their applicability in the EECCA countries. An overview report, critically analysing the design and use of these methods, prepared for and discussed during the meeting, is being finalised.

[Events web page...](#)

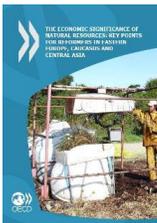
NEW PUBLICATIONS

Information for sustainable natural resource management: Key points for reformers in EECCA



This document explains the importance of information to support policy-making related to sustainable natural resources management. It provides users with a menu of possible measures that can improve the design and performance of their countries' knowledge systems on natural resource management. The document also reveals areas where policy dialogue and consensus-building is necessary. Decision-makers in environmental, economic, and sector-specific ministries in EECCA are the main target audience for this document. Financing for preparing this document was provided by the government of Norway.

The economic significance of natural resources: Key points for reformers in EECCA



Deriving the greatest value from natural assets requires a good understanding of the role that they play in social and economic development as "natural capital". To this end, first of all, a proper valuation of resources is necessary, stretching beyond the assessment of market values. Furthermore, adequate institutions and transparent and inclusive decision making processes ensure that resources are utilized optimally for the highest long-term economic value, which would benefit the entire society rather than elites. The current document promotes all these messages and thus aims to better inform reforms conducted by EECCA countries. Financing for preparing this document was provided by the government of Norway.

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

➤ [OECD work on water](#)



➤ [OECD work on green growth](#)



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Annual meeting of the EAP Task Force



The next Annual Meeting of the EAP Task Force is scheduled for 24-25 September 2012 and will be hosted by the Norwegian Government. The meeting will take place just a few months after the Rio+20 Summit. This presents an opportunity to discuss how decisions taken in Rio could be operationalised by EECCA countries, particularly within the framework of the EAP Task Force work programme.

OTHER NEWS

2012 OECD Environment Ministerial Meeting: Making Green Growth Deliver

Environment Ministers and officials from OECD countries as well as the EU, Brazil, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Russia and South Africa met at the OECD on 29-30 March 2012. During the meeting they discussed and exchanged their national plans for cost-effective green growth policies that can boost the economy, create jobs and prevent further environmental degradation. The Ministers also adopted a [Policy Statement](#) as input to the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June. For more information: www.oecd.org/environment/ministerial

OECD Environmental Outlook to 2050



The Outlook presents the latest projections of [socio-economic trends](#) over the next four decades, and their implications for four key areas of concern: [climate change](#), [biodiversity](#), [water](#) and the [health](#) impacts of environmental pollution. Despite the recent recession, the global economy is projected to nearly quadruple to 2050. Rising living standards will be accompanied by ever growing demands for energy, food and natural resources - and more pollution. The Outlook's executive summary is available in over 20 languages, including Russian. For more information:

www.oecd.org/environment/outlookto2050

OECD participation in the 6th World Water Forum, 12-17 March 2012, Marseille

At the WWF, OECD's Secretary-General, Angel Gurría, launched the flagship report [Meeting the Water Reform Challenge](#). The report sets out OECD's approach with a focus on sustainable financing, effective governance and policy coherence. The outcomes of EAP Task Force's work on water policy reform in EECCA, particularly vis-à-vis the water supply and sanitation sector, served as useful input to this report and OECD-facilitated debates on water reform more generally. [More...](#)

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

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