“Environment for Europe” process



Survey of green economy developments and priorities   
in the pan-European region

29 January 2014

1. INTRODUCTION

At the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21-23 September 2011), Ministers agreed to take the lead in the transition to a green economy and invited the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to contribute, together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and relevant international organizations, to the development of the Rio+20 green economy outcomes. In line with that mandate, at its eighteenth session (Geneva, 17-20 April 2012), the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) invited the secretariat to prepare jointly with UNEP and other relevant partners an overview on developments in the ECE region towards a green economy (ECE/CEP/2012/2, para. 25 (d)). At its nineteenth session (Geneva, 22-25 October 2013), the CEP discussed the overview report (ECE/CEP/2013/10) and invited the ECE and UNEP secretariats, in close consultation with relevant stakeholders, including ministries, business and civil society, to prepare for the CEP session in 2014 an updated report on the progress and future prospects in greening the economy in the pan-European region. This new report should include additional chapters on the identification of priorities for greening the economy in the region and possible modalities and options to achieve this objective.

UNEP has commissioned a consultant to assist with the preparation of the updated report in consultation with ECE. In order to obtain background information useful for the preparation of the report, a questionnaire has been developed with a three-fold aim. First, to identify any new developments and experiences on the transition to a green economy in the pan-European region. Second, to identify green economy priority objectives, actions and sectors. Third, to identify what the role of international organizations and stakeholders should be in supporting the transition to a green economy in the region. While there is no universally-accepted definition of green economy, it is useful to remind the questionnaire respondents that UNEP defines a green economy as one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

The questionnaire is expected to be filled by the government officials. At the same time, it must be stressed that **the responses provided represent the opinion of a qualified individual with adequate knowledge and access to relevant information, and do not necessarily represent the formal position of the Government**. The responses to this questionnaire will be used by UNEP and ECE secretariats for the purpose of drafting the document requested by CEP. Thus, the responses to the questionnaire will be used to identify the potential pan-European priorities for green economy, and not to formulate, quote, or otherwise define any national position on the national priorities for greening the economy. Representatives of business and civil society are also invited to complete the questionnaire, as much as feasible.

The questionnaire should be filled in and submitted to the ECE secretariat (efe@unece.org) as soon as possible and not later than **Friday, 21 February 2014**.

1. **CONTACT INFORMATION**

*Please indicate the name, title, organization and country, as well as the contact data of the person who filled in the survey.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| First name: | … |
| Last name: | … |
| Title: | … |
| Organization: | … |
| Country: | … |
| Address: | … |
| Telephone: | … |
| E-mail: | … |
| Date: | … |

1. ACTIONS TAKEN BY COUNTRIES IN THE PAN-EUROPEAN REGION

*Please indicate what actions to promote the transition to a green economy have been taken by your country since the Astana Ministerial Conference (September 2011). Please add as many additional actions as relevant.*

* 1. **Knowledge generation and sharing**

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| **3.1.1 Development of a national green economy assessment**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders. Discuss related knowledge sharing efforts.* |
| **3.1.2 Development of topical green economy studies (e.g. on environmental fiscal reform, reform of environmentally-harmful subsidies, opportunities for greening specific economic sectors,…)**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders. Discuss related knowledge sharing efforts.* |
| **3.1.3 Development of evaluations of the social, economic and environmental impacts of current policies**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders. Discuss related knowledge sharing efforts.* |
| **3.1.4 Development of a comprehensive green economy monitoring and evaluation framework**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders. Discuss related knowledge sharing efforts.* |
| **3.1.5 Development of a set of green economy indicators**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 150 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders. Discuss related knowledge sharing efforts.* |
| **3.1.6 Other knowledge-related actions (e.g. identification of best practices, valuation exercises, …)**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders. Discuss related knowledge sharing efforts.* |

* 1. **Strategy and policy development**

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| **3.2.1 Setting national green economy goals, objectives and targets**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.2.2 Identification of priority sectors to focus policy interventions**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.2.3 Developing a national green economy strategy or strategic policy framework**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.2.4 Identification of key policy reforms that need to be undertaken to promote the transition to a green economy**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.2.5 Development of new policies in different areas (such as environmental policies, investment policies, fiscal policies, education policies or innovation policies)**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.2.6 Other actions related to strategy and policy development**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |

* 1. **Policy implementation**

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| **3.3.1 Introduction or reform of regulatory policy instruments (such as emission standards, best available technology requirements, zoning, environmental impact assessment...)**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.3.2 Introduction or reform of market-based policy instruments (such as administered-prices, subsidies, taxes, charges, tradable permits, payment for ecosystem services,...)**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.3.3 Introduction or reform of information- and education-based policy instruments (such as certification, labelling, information disclosure mechanisms, awareness-raising campaigns, education for sustainable development programmes, worker-retraining programmes...)**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.3.4 Strengthening of enforcement mechanisms**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.3.5 Public expenditure programmes (investment in research and development, investment in public infrastructure,…)**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.3.6 Other implementation-related actions**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |

* 1. **Institutional and capacity development**

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| **3.4.1 Setting up a national green economy commission**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.4.2 Creating or strengthening inter-ministerial coordination mechanism on green economy issues**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.4.3 Setting green economy objectives across ministries**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.4.4 Creating or strengthening mechanisms for dialogue with the private sector and civil society on green economy issues**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.4.5 Developing capacities of public administrations at different levels to deal with green economy issues**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |
| **3.4.6 Other action related to institutional and capacity development**  Current status:  not considered /  under discussion /  approved /  implemented /  other (please specify)  *Please provide a brief description of the action (up to 100 words), specifying whether the action has been supported by international organizations or other stakeholders.* |

### 4. GREEN ECONOMY PRIORITY OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

*Please indicate what are your country’s main priorities to promote the transition to a green economy. Please add as many additional priorities as relevant.*

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| **4.1.1 Alleviating poverty and reducing social inequalities**  high-level and urgent priority /  medium-level priority /  low or not urgent priority /  not considered  *Please provide a brief description (up to 100 words) of how this priority is reflected in policy documents and backed by public policy measures or budget allocations.* |
| **4.1.2 Creating resilient jobs in cleaner production activities**  high-level and urgent priority /  medium-level priority /  low or not urgent priority /  not considered  *Please provide a brief description (up to 100 words) of how this priority is reflected in policy documents and backed by public policy measures or budget allocations.* |
| **4.1.3 Greening targeted sectors**  high-level and urgent priority /  medium-level priority /  low or not urgent priority /  not considered  *Please provide a brief description (up to 100 words) of how this priority is reflected in policy documents and backed by public policy measures or budget allocations.* |
| **4.1.4 Reducing the energy intensity of the economy**  high-level and urgent priority /  medium-level priority /  low or not urgent priority /  not considered  *Please provide a brief description (up to 100 words) of how this priority is reflected in policy documents and backed by public policy measures or budget allocations.* |
| **4.1.5 Increasing the sustainability of production patterns** (reducing pollution emissions; increasing efficiency in the use of energy, water and materials in production processes,…)  high-level and urgent priority /  medium-level priority /  low or not urgent priority /  not considered  *Please provide a brief description (up to 100 words) of how this priority is reflected in policy documents and backed by public policy measures or budget allocations.* |
| **4.1.6 Increasing the sustainability of consumption patterns** (enhancing re-use and recycling of consumption products; reducing energy consumption in personal transport and housing; reducing food waste; shifting consumption to greener products and services…)  high-level and urgent priority /  medium-level priority /  low or not urgent priority /  not considered  *Please provide a brief description (up to 100 words) of how this priority is reflected in policy documents and backed by public policy measures or budget allocations.* |
| **4.1.7 Creating markets for green products and services** (renewable energy, organic agriculture, eco-tourism,…)  high-level and urgent priority /  medium-level priority /  low or not urgent priority /  not considered  *Please provide a brief description (up to 100 words) of how this priority is reflected in policy documents and backed by public policy measures or budget allocations.* |
| **4.1.8 Preventing the loss of and investing in biodiversity, natural capital, and ecosystem services**  high-level and urgent priority /  medium-level priority /  low or not urgent priority /  not considered  *Please provide a brief description (up to 100 words) of how this priority is reflected in policy documents and backed by public policy measures or budget allocations.* |
| **4.1.9 Reducing environmental hazards and managing environmental risks** (e.g. industrial accidents, floods, droughts, water pollution, air pollution,...)  high-level and urgent priority /  medium-level priority /  low or not urgent priority /  not considered  *Please provide a brief description (up to 100 words) of how this priority is reflected in policy documents and backed by public policy measures or budget allocations.* |
| **4.1.10 Supporting governance and capacity development for a green economy in other countries in the region (i.e. countries in transition)**  high-level and urgent priority /  medium-level priority /  low or not urgent priority /  not considered  *Please provide a brief description (up to 100 words) of how this priority is reflected in policy documents and backed by public policy measures or budget allocations.* |
| **4.1.11 Other priorities (please specify)**  high-level and urgent priority /  medium-level priority /  low or not urgent priority /  not considered  *Please provide a brief description (up to 100 words) of how this priority is reflected in policy documents and backed by public policy measures or budget allocations.* |

5. PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR GREENING THE ECONOMY

*For those objectives and goals that are a priority in your country (as indicated in section 4 of this questionnaire), please indicate what types of actions are considered a priority. Please, indicate the level of priority using the following key:* ***H = High-level and urgent priority****,* ***M = Medium-level priority****,* ***L = Low or not urgent priority****,* ***N = Not considered****.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TYPES OF ACTIONS | OBJECTIVES AND GOALS | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Alleviating poverty and reducing social inequalities | Creating resilient jobs in cleaner production activities | Greening targeted sectors | Reducing the energy intensity of the economy | Increasing the sustainability of production patterns | Increasing the sustainability of consumption patterns | Creating markets for green products and services | Preventing the loss of and investing in biodiversity, natural capital, and ecosystem services | Reducing environmental hazards and managing environmental risks | Supporting governance and capacity development for a green economy in other countries in the region |
| Awareness raising |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Education and skills development |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Technological development and innovation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public investment in infrastructure |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| More stringent regulations and enforcement |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Provision of positive incentives to the private sector (subsidies) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Correction of market failures through economic instruments |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Environmental fiscal reform |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Promotion of voluntary actions by the private sector |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Promotion of voluntary actions by consumers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Institutional and organizational innovations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strengthening international governance |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

6. PRIORITY SECTORS TO BE GREENED

*Please indicate what sectors in your country are considered a priority in terms of promoting the transition to a green economy. Please select one option for each sector. Please add as many additional sectors as relevant.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | High-level and urgent priority | Medium-level priority | Low or not urgent priority | Not considered |
| Agriculture |  |  |  |  |
| Forestry |  |  |  |  |
| Fisheries |  |  |  |  |
| Mining |  |  |  |  |
| Energy production |  |  |  |  |
| Construction |  |  |  |  |
| Manufacturing |  |  |  |  |
| Transport |  |  |  |  |
| Tourism |  |  |  |  |
| Commerce |  |  |  |  |
| Water use |  |  |  |  |
| Waste management |  |  |  |  |
| Education |  |  |  |  |
| Health |  |  |  |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |  |  |  |

7. ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY

*Please indicate what types of international support are considered a priority in your country to promote the transition to a green economy. Please select one option for each type of support. Please add as many additional types of support as relevant.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | High-level and urgent priority | Medium-level priority | Low or not urgent priority | Not considered |
| **COUNTRY LEVEL** | | | | |
| Supporting the development of national green economy assessments |  |  |  |  |
| Supporting the development of topical studies |  |  |  |  |
| Supporting the development of a long-term vision or a strategic framework |  |  |  |  |
| Providing tailored policy advice |  |  |  |  |
| Supporting the development of investment packages |  |  |  |  |
| Supporting the implementation of specific policy instruments |  |  |  |  |
| Supporting the development of technical and functional capacities of governments |  |  |  |  |
| Supporting the development of technical and functional capacities of other national actors |  |  |  |  |
| Supporting the development of platforms for dialogue among different stakeholders (i.e. government, business and civil society) |  |  |  |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |  |  |  |
| **REGIONAL LEVEL** | | | | |
| Developing a pan-European green economy assessment |  |  |  |  |
| Facilitating a process for agreeing green economy priorities at the pan-European level and eventually developing a strategic framework |  |  |  |  |
| Developing a pan-European green economy monitoring and evaluation framework |  |  |  |  |
| Supporting knowledge development (please specify in which areas) |  |  |  |  |
| Enabling peer learning (e.g. through workshops) |  |  |  |  |
| Supporting knowledge sharing (e.g. through a multi-party green economy toolbox) |  |  |  |  |
| Developing advice on how to finance the transition to a green economy |  |  |  |  |
| Convening regional joint meetings of ministers of economy, environment and relevant social ministries |  |  |  |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |  |  |  |
| **GLOBAL LEVEL** | | | | |
| Facilitating the transfer of knowledge to and from other regions and at the global scale |  |  |  |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |  |  |  |