

Enabling a Green Transition in Eastern Partnership Countries

E-Course

Syllabus



Context

The EU-funded “EU4Environment” programme supports six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) in making policy planning and investment greener, stimulating the uptake of innovative products and technologies, and raising awareness on greener growth and nature protection.

In line with its global mandate and the commitments made at the EaP Ministerial Meetings on Environment and Climate Change in 2016 and 2018, UNEP is participating in the EU-funded “[EU4Environment](#)” programme, that supports EaP countries in developing, implementing and monitoring policies/practices related to Sustainable Consumption and Production (hereafter SCP) and the Green Economy.

To upscale the abilities of key stakeholders to design and implement green economy policies, UNEP and UNITAR are joining forces to provide a tailored e-learning course for selected civil servants in key Ministries relevant to the SCP and green economy transition in the 6 EaP countries under EU4Environment.

The ultimate objective is to upscale policy action on green and circular economy by strengthening policy makers’ abilities to analyse and design environmental/green economy policies and tools. The project is a collaboration between UNITAR and UNEP, implemented within the framework of the EU4Environment programme.

Target Audience

The course is geared towards high- and mid-level civil servants of the EU’s Eastern Partnership countries, who are directly involved in the process of developing, implementing and evaluating policies supporting the transition towards a greener and more circular economy.

The list of nominated participants is compiled upon recommendation from the Ministries of Environment and of Economy in each of the six EU4Environment countries. Each country may nominate 6 – 10 participants. The nominations are reviewed and approved by UNEP and UNITAR, based on the following criteria:

- Current occupation and level of position;
- Involvement in related projects or policies;
- Leadership and leverage potential;
- Motivation for participating;
- Regional and gender balance;
- Institutional balance (i.e. nominations should be from wide range of Ministries and agencies).

Overall Objectives

THINK GREEN!

The goal of the course is to upscale policy action on green and circular economy by strengthening the policy makers’ abilities to analyse and design environmental/green economy policies and tools.

Participants will learn about different concepts and facets of the green/ circular economy and SCP approaches, as well as regional, national and sector-specific challenges and opportunities for their advancement. Additionally, participants will begin to develop basic skills for applying the green economy concept and principles in their professional context.

After completing the course, participants will be able to:

- Define green economy, SCP and related concepts and explain their value in regional and national contexts;

- Distinguish key elements of effective policy planning in support of a green transition;
- Identify enabling conditions / policy tools for advancing green economy in national governance; and
- Examine existing and new policies from green economy/SCP perspective, identifying opportunities for incorporating green economy principles, and effectuating policy changes.

Structure and Key Characteristics

LENGTH	6 THEMATIC MODULES
EFFORT	5 HOURS PER MODULES
PRICE	FREE / BY INVITATION
SUBJECT	GREEN / CIRCULAR ECONOMY/ SCP
LEVEL	INTRODUCTORY AND INTERMEDIATE
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH and RUSSIAN
PLATFORM	UN CC: E-LEARN
COMPLETION CRITERIA	5 MODULE QUIZES (70% MIN) + COMPLETION OF MODULE ACTIVITIES + REVIEW OF ONE GREEN POLICY OR PROJECT
CERTIFICATION	YES

The course is composed of 5 modules and a course revision. Each module has specific learning objectives and features key information on specific aspects of the policy process in support for green economy and SCP, as well as a range of complementary resources and activities such as reflection points, polls, discussion fora/boards, practice case studies, scenario exercises, group work, quizzes and an end-of-course individual assignment.

The 5 modules cover the following topics:

Module	Module Name
Module 1	Definition, Rationale and Fundamentals of Green Economy
Module 2	Integrating Green Economy into National Policies and Governance
Module 3	The Green Economy Toolbox
Module 4	Greening Key Economic Sectors
	<i>Elective 1: Energy and Industry</i>
	<i>Elective 2: Agriculture and Natural Capital</i>
Module 5	Enabling Green Economy Through Cross-cutting Thematic Areas
Revision	Review of case study. Preparation of course assignment.
Submission of group and individual assignments	

Module 1: Definition, Rationale and Fundamentals of Green Economy

Module 1 sets the scene, providing definition for key concepts, discussing the rationale for advancing green economy and SCP, and outlining key principles. Module 1 also presents the challenges and opportunities for advancing green economy in the EaP countries, both at regional and national context. Lastly, the module provides an overview of international initiatives and developments that have paved the way for advancing the green economy at a global level.

After completing Module 1, participants will be able to:

- Provide a definition key concepts and principles;
- Discuss why the green transition is important for EaP countries;
- Describe social, environmental, and economic benefits from the green transition; and
- Analyse the evolution of the green economy and SCP at an international level.

Module 2: Integrating Green Economy into National Policies and Governance

Module 2 presents an overview of the policy process and reviews good practices in developing and implementing green economy policies and strategies. More specifically, the module describes the four stages of the policy cycle, provides insight into the process of mainstreaming green policy reforms, highlights the importance of inter-governmental coordination and dedicated governance mechanism for successful policy implementation, reviews key principles for ensuring policies are designed and enforced taking into account local contexts (e.g. rural, urban), and outlines the role of effective multi-stakeholder engagement. Lastly, the module gives an overview of monitoring and evaluation approaches as a fundamental part of effective green economy policymaking. Participants reflect critically on the government structure in their countries and identify opportunities for improvement.

After completing Module 2, participants will be able to:

- Explain the stages of the policy cycle in the context of green/SCP policymaking;
- Discuss challenges and solutions for mainstreaming the green economy in national governance;
- Explain the role of political support, inter-governmental coordination, multi-level governance, and multi-stakeholder engagement for effective green economy policy reform; and
- Explain the fundamental role of monitoring and evaluation and begin to identify appropriate green economy indicators.

Module 3: The Green Economy Toolbox

Module 3 focusses on the green economy tools and instruments which policy makers have at their disposal to advance the green economy. The policy tools are categorized (i.e. regulatory, economic, information-based, etc.), and their respective pros and cons are discussed. Appropriate global and regional examples and case studies are reviewed. Participants reflect on the usefulness of each category of tools in their countries and provide examples based on their professional role.

After completing Module 3, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the main categories of policy tools and give examples of their application to advance green economy;
- Identify challenges and opportunities to applying different policy tools in their respective countries; and
- Discuss how policy tools can be effectively combined in policy strategies.

Module 4: Greening Key Economic Sectors

Module 4 looks into the application of the green economy in key economic sectors. Module 4 has two parts:

Part one is dedicated to mandatory learning materials and activities that review approaches and examples of greening the key economic sectors, including energy, agriculture, industry, transport, buildings, waste, and tourism. Part one is mandatory for all participants.

In part two, participant can choose if they want to focus on an in-depth examination of the sectors that are mostly linked to building capital (i.e. energy, industry, infrastructure) or the sectors more closely linked to natural capital (i.e. agriculture, water management etc.) In part 2, learners work in small groups to develop approaches to increasing resource efficiency and enabling circularity in either one of the electives they have chosen.

After completing Module 4, participants will be able to:

- Provide examples of how policies can be applied to green the various sectors, such as: tourism, industry, waste, buildings, energy, transport, and agriculture;
- Identify existing or new policy instruments that would be most relevant for participants' national contexts; and
- Explore key challenges, opportunities, and solutions for implementing policy instruments in various sectoral contexts.

Module 5: Green Economy and Cross-cutting Policy Reform

Module 5 reviews three main cross-cutting enablers for a green economy, including: finance, SME development and job creation, as well as education and awareness. The section on finance reviews both public instruments, such as fiscal reform and procurement, as well as private instruments such as, bonds, loans, and investments. The part on SME development examines global and regional case studies, with specific focus on the social and employment benefits from greening SMEs. In the section on learning, the role of formal and informal education for various stakeholders is reviewed. Learners consider how the three cross-cutting, underlying enablers for green economy refer to the policy/policies they are focusing on in their individual/group assignment.

After completing Module 5, participants will be able to:

- Identify approaches for financing the green transition;
- Discuss the role of SMEs for advancing the green economy in the 6 EaP countries; and
- Explain why education is an effective policy measure for advancing the green transition.

Preparation of course assignments

This part of the course provides a recap of the five previous modules of the course, reviews one policy case study jointly with course participants, and prepares learners for their group and individual assignments. The group and individual assignments for the course are to be submitted at the end of this part of the course.

After completing the course revision, participants will be able to:

- Develop effective approaches for collaboration and coordination of policy action; and
- Compare and prioritize policy action for advancing the green economy in the context of competing policy objectives.

Study Plan and Workload

Course Sequence

The course takes place over 8 weeks period.

Participants will have access to a new module every week. Once available, modules will remain accessible until the end of the course. Before moving from one module to another, participants are advised to complete the mandatory readings and activities, as well as to take the Module assessment test at the end of each module. It is recommended that participants complete all the mandatory and facultative learning activities related to one module over a one-week period. The last week of the course will allow participants to review the Green Economy Policy Fitness Tests of their peers and make final revisions to their own applied case study (i.e. Policy fitness test).

Overview of Study Plan

During weeks 1-5 of the course participants complete mandatory Module readings and learning activities.

Weeks 6 and 7 are dedicated to the elaboration of an applied cases study/ policy fitness tests (although participants are advised to commence the development of their assignment as early as week 4).

In week 8 participants peer review the assignments produced by fellow participants (optional) and complete final revisions to their policy fitness tests and any outstanding course work.

Learning Hours

The total number of learning hours is 50, over an 8-week period. The average amount of work expected for the completion of the course per week/module is included in the table below.

Weeks	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Modules	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5	Revisions and plan preparation	Policy Fitness plan	Peer Reviews and wrap up
Estimated time/hours	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	4

Methodology

Learning Approach

The course pedagogy is adapted to professionals in full-time work. Participants are provided with the opportunity to learn through various experiences: absorb (read); do (activity); interact (socialize); and reflect (relate to one’s own reality). To support this learning, the course features a range of learning activities and experiences that include exercises, discussion forums, and experiential learning. Each Module features mandatory interactive lesson, as well as suggested additional readings.

The interactive elements of the course ensure that the course addresses professional learning needs and priorities of participants and, to the extent possible, make a practical link between their work and the application of green economy/SCP.

Course Moderation

The course is moderated by an international expert with vast knowledge and experience in the area of Green economy and SCP, as well as the regional context of the EaP countries.

Throughout the course, learners can consult with the Moderator directly, either in public discussion spaces during the webinar or in private messages.

The Course Moderator promotes participation and interaction among the students, by actively facilitating the discussions in forums, polls, reflection points and boards.

The Course Moderator also provides feedback on a regular basis to course activities and exercises. He/ she monitors, evaluates, and gives personalized feedback to students with regard to their Green Economy policy Fitness tests, and overall participation in the course.

The Moderator facilitates five live webinar lectures – i.e. one in Module 1; one in Module 3; two in Module 4 (for each elective); as well as a final webinar to review written assignments (Policy fitness tests). All participants are required to make every effort to attend the lectures so that they can participate in group work and pose specific questions to the Moderator and their peers. Some webinar lectures may feature additional experts with specific sectoral or thematic knowledge in addition to the course Moderator. A recoding of all webinar lectures will be provided.

Learning tools

Each learning unit features a mix of learning tools which deliver key content and engage the learners. These include:

- Interactive lessons that provide the fundamental basis for each Module;

- Webinar lectures with the Moderator and (occasionally) a renowned expert in specific thematic expertise;
- Short practical activities that may include knowledge checks, reflection points, discussion boards, polls;
- Group assignment with peers from other EaP countries, as well as for participants from the same country; and
- Individual assignments (Green Economy Fitness Tests) and peer reviews.

Learning Path and Accessibility

The content is broken down into smaller modules making it lighter and more easily accessible to learners.

UNITAR Support Team

The Environmental Governance Programme at UNITAR provides continuous administrative and technical support to participants throughout the delivery of the course. In addition, the course is methodologically supported by a number of UNITAR units - including Knowledge Systems Innovation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Communications, and Administrative and Finance.

Course Completion and Certification

Assessment Tests

Participants will be allowed 3 attempts for each assessment test. In order to receive the Certificate of Completion, participants need to pass all 5 Module assessment tests with a score higher than 70%. It is recommended that an assessment test is taken in conjunction with their corresponding module. However, recognizing the existence of different learning paths and the professional occupation of most participants, the assessment test will remain open online until the end of the course.

Applied Green Fitness Plan and Peer Review (tbc)

The applied Green Economy Fitness Tests should be 3-4 pages long (Arial font, size 11) and respect the following set of characteristics:

- Address a specific issue/problem/challenge;
- Have clear objectives and expected results;
- Comprise specific measures/activities; and
- Contribute to advancing the green economy in a national context.

In addition, each course participant should prepare 2 peer-reviews of plans posted by other participants. Peer-reviews should have a length of approximately 1 page.

All submissions will receive individualized feedback from the Course Moderator within a two-week period following the end of the course.

Overall Participation

The overall participation in the course activities will be assessed by the Course Moderator and the UNITAR team at the end of the course. A record of active participation is a mandatory requirement for successful completion of the course.

Certification Criteria

A certificate of completion is awarded to learners who complete the following:

- Five assessments are complete with 70% or higher score;
- 70% of all course activities are marked as complete; and
- The individual course assignment is submitted and assessed.

The certificate will be available upon completion of the course.