Overview of the Sustainable Consumption and Production policies and initiatives in the Eastern European region

- Background paper for the First Eastern European 10YFP meeting –

27 October 2014

Introduction

This brief background paper provides an overview of the policies used in the region to promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and foster a green economy (GE). It addresses the following sub-regions of the Eastern European region: the **European Union** (focusing on examples from EU-12 countries + Croatia), **South Eastern Europe** (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia,), **Eastern Europe & the Russian Federation** (Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation), and the **Caucasus** (Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan).

The aim of this paper is to provide background information to support the **First 10YFP Eastern European multi-stakeholder meeting**, to be held in Geneva on 27 October 2014. It is our hope that the paper will enhance discussion at the meeting and contribute to the development of the regional recommendations to the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP) and its Programmes.

The (10YFP) is a global framework of action to enhance international cooperation to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in both developed and developing countries. The framework supports capacity building, and facilitates access to technical and financial assistance for developing countries and economies in transition for this shift. The 10YFP aims at developing, replicating and scaling up SCP and resource efficiency initiatives, at national and regional levels, decoupling environmental degradation and resource use from economic growth, and thus increasing the net contribution of economic activities to poverty eradication and social development. The framework is meant to encourage innovation and cooperation among all stakeholders. For more information on the 10YFP, please consult: www.unep.org/10YFP.

The report is currently **not a fully comprehensive catalogue** of SCP and GE policy in the region: there will be policies or initiatives, national or regional, that we have not yet uncovered. It represents the results of an initial scoping in preparation for the 10YFP meeting on October 27th. We also hope that the meeting will provide an opportunity to receive information on additional policies and instruments that may be in place or are in the pipeline.

This paper is divided into two sections. The first section explores the overarching policy landscape for SCP in the above regions, including illustrative examples drawn from national policies. The second section addresses the six current programme areas of the 10YFP in these regions, again including, where available, illustrative examples from the respective countries.

Overview of SCP and GE policy development

European Union

The policy landscape in the European Union (EU) for the promotion of SCP and GE is relatively mature and has benefited from iterative development over several decades. The concepts of SCP and GE are deeply embedded in the institutions of the EU and the resultant environmental policy-making.

SCP was enshrined in EU policy with the publication of the SCP/SIP Action Plan in 2008[1], the core of which was a dynamic framework aiming to improve the energy and environmental performance of products and foster their uptake by consumers. This focused on providing more and better quality information to consumers and producers, creating more efficient production chains and thus creating a robust market for more sustainable products and services. A variety of approaches were used to achieve these goals, including support for labelling, green public procurement, eco-design, working with retailers and consumers, and supporting eco-innovation.

Following the economic crisis around 2008/2009, reviving economic growth was the main driver for forward looking strategy. The overarching Europe 2020 Strategy[2], the EU's key growth strategy for the period 2010-2020, seeks to create smart, sustainable and inclusive growth throughout the EU. There are seven flagship initiatives supporting the strategy, one of which calls for a Resource Efficient Europe[3]. This has set tone for subsequent policy in the area of SCP and GE.

A total of 22 key proposals have been made under the auspices of this flagship initiative, addressing energy, energy efficiency, climate change, material resource, transport, agriculture and fisheries, buildings and construction, environmental quality and governance. Among these key proposals is the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe[4]. The Roadmap is a wide-ranging document that builds on the EU's SCP action plan among others, and takes a cross-cutting approach by addressing the economic drivers and opportunities, natural capital and eco-systems, key consumption and production sectors, and governance within these areas. Although the roadmap itself did not include specific targets, it called for a range of initiatives within these work areas that should provide more targets.

In 2012 the Commission published the Strategy for "Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe"[5]. This strategy proposes a comprehensive approach to address the ecological, environmental, energy, food supply and natural resource challenges that Europe is facing. The strategy aims to focus Europe's common efforts in the bioeconomy.

In 2014, the European Commission published Toward a Circular Economy[6], to further promoting a fundamental transition in the EU, away from a linear economy to one where resources remain within the production and consumption loop so they can stay in use for longer. It sets out measures driving a more efficient use of resources and waste minimisation.

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[1] Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan. COM (2008) 397 final.
[2] EUROPE 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. COM (2010) 2020 final
[3] A resource-efficient Europe – Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy. COM(2011) 21
[4] Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe. COM (2011) 571 final
[5] Strategy for "Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe". COM (2012) 60 final
[6] Towards a circular economy: A zero waste programme for Europe. COM (2014) 398 final

South Eastern Europe

Work on SCP and GE in the South Eastern European (SEE) countries is driven by both internal and external demands. In particular, the European Union, the OECD and the UN together provide a clear driver for policy development in relation to the Sustainable Development agenda and potential accession to the EU (requiring alignment of environmental policies in the SEE countries). However, the need to move toward Green Economy and develop more sustainable consumption and production patterns is also felt keenly within the countries themselves.

The Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA) is a body funded by the European Union to aid prospective accession countries in SEE as well as Turkey more closely align their environment and climate policy with that of the EU. The work is divided across four working groups:

- Working group 1: Strategic planning and investment
- Working group 2: Climate Change
- Working group 3: Cross-border cooperation and multilateral environmental agreement
- Working group 4: Environmental compliance and enforcement network for accession.

The work of the RENA is ongoing.

The Small Business Act (SBA) for Europe[7] lays down a framework for the development of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) sector in Europe. In line with this act, SEE countries, together with Turkey, have been assessed for their policy support for SMEs against the Small Business Policy Index: a set of indicators that help describe the SME policy landscape. The 2012 edition of the assessment[8] has the following key findings on the landscape for SMEs in a green economy in SEE:

- Current enterprise and SME policy documents make little mention of eco-efficiency and eco-innovation and have no environment-related measures targeting SMEs. This would suggest that most economies consider environmental protection and SME development as separate policy areas.
- In all economies, SMEs show little awareness of how they could improve their environmental performance through environmental management systems (EMSs) and standards.
- The availability of environmental information varies across the region. Most governments provide no specific support for environmental certification for businesses, although some companies have gained ISO 14001 certification.

In March 2014, Serbia enquired whether its Environmental Protection Agency could join the European Environment Agency (EEA) as a full member rather than maintaining its current status as a cooperating country.

SEE countries benefited from the EU's previous long-term 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7)[9] research programme. In July 2014, the SEE states and the Republic of Moldova joined Horizon 2020, the successor to FP7. A significant portion of the research funding through this programme is channelled towards environment, resource energy and climate projects.

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[7] "Think Small First" A "Small Business Act" for Europe. COM(2008) 394 final
[8] http://www.oecd.org/investment/psd/SMEWBalkansTurkey.pdf
[9] http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/understanding/fp7inbrief/what-is_en.html

Serbia, FYR Macedonia and Montenegro have National Sustainable Development Strategies, while Albania's National Strategy for Development and Integration (2007-2013) is considered a de facto instrument of planning for sustainable development in Albania, and Albania's constitution includes the concept of sustainable development. Kosovo and Bosnia & Herzegovina have not published Sustainable Development Strategies.

Eastern Europe

Overarching support for Sustainable Consumption and Production and Green Economy in Eastern Europe is found primarily within National strategies for Sustainable Development, for example:

- National Development Strategy of Moldova - 2020: 7 solutions for economic growth and poverty reduction[10];
- National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period until 2020[11];
  - Program for socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus for the years 2011 to 2015.

However, environmental protection is also a key component, and Eastern European countries all have ongoing national environmental strategies:

- Strategy in the field of environmental protection in the Republic of Belarus for the period until 2025[12];
- Environmental Strategy of Moldova for the years 2013 to 2023;
- Strategy for the state environmental policy until the year 2020, approved by the Law of Ukraine in 2010[13];
  - National Action Plan on Environmental Protection for the years 2011 to 2015[14].

Specific legislation addressing specific aspects of the Environment are also present in all three Eastern European countries:

- Belarus: Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for the years 2011 to 2020;
- Belarus: Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus for the period until 2020[15];
- Republic of Moldova: State program of reforestation and afforestation of forest reserve lands for the years 2003 to 2020;
- Republic of Moldova: The National Program for the creation of a national environmental network for the years 2011 to 2018;
- Ukraine: National Program for formation of the environmental network in Ukraine for the years 2000 to 2015[16];
- Ukraine: National target-oriented program for the development of Water Resources and Environmental Rehabilitation of the Dnipro River Basin for the period until the year 2021[17];
- National program "**Drinking Water of Ukraine**"[18].

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[10] http://www.gov.md/public/files/Moldova_2020_RUS.pdf

[11] http://www.minpriroda.gov.by/ru/legistation/nsur2020

[12] http://www.minpriroda.gov.by/ru/legistation/new_url_1670219329

[13] http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2818-17/page

[14] http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/577-2011-%D1%80

[15] http://www.minpriroda.gov.by/ru/legistation/new_url_1649710582

[16] http://zakon3.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1989-14

[17] http://zakon0.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/4836-17

In addition, Eastern European countries have mentioned climate adaptation policies (Republic of Moldova), energy efficiency policies (Ukraine) and hazardous waste management policies (Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) as having SCP and/or GE related components.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), OECD, UNEP, and UNIDO are together implementing the Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN) programme[19]. The programme runs from 2013 to 2016, and aims to assist the six European Union's Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine – in their transition to a green economy. The programme is financed by the European Commission, the four implementing organisations and other donors.

The programme has three components:

- Component 1: Governance and finance
- Component 2: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Component 3: Demonstration projects

Under each of these core components are a number of specific key issues that the programme seeks to address.

Component 1: Governance and finance	Component 2: SEA and EIA	Component 3: Demonstration projects
• Development of national policy frameworks • Progress measurement: green growth indicators • Access to finance for green investments • Reform of environmentally harmful subsidies • Taxation of environmentally harmful products • Greening small and medium-sized enterprises	• Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) • Environmental impact assessment (EIA)	• Resource efficient and cleaner production • Sustainable public procurement • Promoting organic agriculture

In 1996, the President of the Russian Federation signed a decree "The Concept of Transfer of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development" where sustainable consumption and production issues took a central place.

Environmental Doctrine of the Russian Federation 2002[20] describes targets, directions, tasks and principles of carrying out common state policy in the sphere of ecology in the long-term. Although these comprised the main principles of sustainable development, they remained only declarative documents. Their adoption didn't contribute to the development of specific legal provisions in this field.

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[18] http://zakon1.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2455-15
[19] http://www.unece.org/env/sea/eapgreen.html
[20] Order of the Government of the Russian Federation, No.1225-r, dated 31 August 2002

The Russian Federation's stated strategic goals over the next 10 to 20 years, however, largely correspond to those of transition to a "green economy": the main goal of the Russian economy is to move away from its current natural resource-based model. This is embodied in the follow strategy documents[21]:

- Concept of Long-Term Development of Russian Federation (2008);
- Strategy 2020: New Growth Model – New Social Policy, (2013) [22];
  - The report indicates that the federal policy on ecological development should be based on a green growth strategy that integrates socio-economic and ecological development to create a green economy[23];
- Basic Principles of State Environmental Development Policy of the Russian Federation through to 2030 (2012). This document addresses a host of interlinked issues:
  - social and economic problems;
  - ensuring green economy growth;
  - conservation of the environment, biodiversity and natural resources to meet the needs of present and future generations;
  - the right to a healthy environment,
  - strengthening the rule of law in the field of environmental protection and ensuring environmental security.

Caucasus

The Caucasus countries mainly use overarching development strategies to promote sustainable consumption and production and green economy. Core environmental legislation is also key to identifying, protecting and improving eco-system services and biodiversity.

For example, in Azerbaijan the following policy and strategy documents broadly support SCP and GE:

- The National Strategy for sustainable socio-economic development of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the period until 2020
- Azerbaijan 2020: a vision of the future[24]
- Azerbaijan: National program "On the socio-economic development with a sustainable environmental situation[25]
- State program of sustainable development and poverty reduction for the period of 2008 to 2015.
- State Program for socio-economic development of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2014 to 2018) [26].

These Sustainable Development-oriented documents are complimented by more specifically environmentally focused legislation: for example, the program for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity for years 2014 to 2020, and the state program for the "Restoration and augmentation of forests in the Republic of Azerbaijan".

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[21] Sustainable Development in Russia, Sergei Bobylev and Renat Perelet, Russian-German Environmental Information Bureau, 2013. http://www.rnei.de/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/SustainableRussia-WEB11.pdf
[22] Strategia-2020: novaya model' rosta – novaya sotsial'naya politika
[23] Green Economy: Realities, Prospects, And Limits To Growth. Boris Perfiriev, Carnegie Moscow Center, 2013 http://carnegieendowment.org/files/CP_Porfiriev_Eng_web.pdf
[24] http://www.president.az/files/future_ru.pdf
[25] http://www.eco.gov.az/es-milli-pro.php
[26] http://www.mst.gov.az/index_11_az.html; http://www.eco.gov.az/mus-.php

Similarly, the Armenian 2008 Sustainable Development Program, an adapted version of the 2006 Poverty Reduction Program, and the "Strategic plan for the future development of the Republic of Armenia for years 2014 to 2025"[27], together form the basis of SCP and GE support from an economy-wide perspective. Again, these development policies are complimented by core environmental legislation: the National Action Plan for Environmental Protection (NEAP). Armenia has completed the NEAP-2, envisaged for 2008 to 2012, and is currently preparing the NEAP-3.

Georgia has yet to publish a sustainable development strategy. However, like other countries in the region, it has relatively comprehensive Environmental protection legislation, particularly at the strategic level. The Georgian National Program of Action for the **Protection of the Environment** for years 2012 to 2016[28] is the second iteration of national environmental action programs in Georgia, and represents the culmination of long and difficult policy development process: the first NEAP covered the years 2001-2004.

Climate and energy policies also play a role in steering the development of SCP and GE in the Caucasus countries, including use of the Clean Development Mechanism, renewable energy and energy security strategies, as well as climate adaptation strategies.

The EaP GREEN programme mentioned earlier under the section on Eastern Europe is also active in the Caucasus. See above for further details.

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[27] www.gov.am
[28] http://moe.gov.ge/files/Saministros%20Prioritetebi/NEAP_eng_2012.pdf

Initiatives in areas of the 10YFP programmes

This section provides brief overviews of activities in the five sub-regions within the six programme areas of the 10YFP.

European Union

Sustainable tourism

Europe's Political Framework for Tourism in Europe[29], launched in 2010, contains six key actions to help increase the sustainability of Europe's tourist industry. The first of these is the development of a European Tourism Indicator System[30] for sustainable management at destination level, which will be used to develop a label for promoting tourist destinations. The development of the indicator system is still at an early phase.

The Framework also called for the development of a European Charter for a Sustainable and Responsible Tourism. This is being developed by the Tourism Sustainability Group, which was established in 2007 and comprises individuals from international bodies, member state governments, regional and local authorities, the tourism industry, professional bodies, environmental organisations, trade unions and research and educational bodies, who have expertise and experience in the sustainability of tourism. The Charter has not yet been published.

Mandated by the same Framework, the European Strategy for more Growth and Jobs in Coastal and Maritime Tourism[31] provides for a path towards more sustainable use of coastal areas for tourism. It points in particular toward increased use of the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and the European Ecolabel in the tourist industry, as well as further implementation of the Barcelona Convention Protocol on Integrated Coastal Management[32] and better maritime spatial planning.

The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas[33] is a voluntary agreement under the EUROPARC Federation[34], an independent, non-governmental organisation with members in 36 countries that works closely with the European Commission DG ENV, LIFE+ and Natura2000 programmes. It provides a practical management tool for ensuring that tourism contributes to a balanced economic, social and environmental development of protected areas in Europe.

There has also been considerable activity at the national level. New member states, often though national tourist boards, are particularly keen to capture tourists by developing and offering sustainable tourist destinations.

In 2012, The Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism of Romania, together with the National Institute for Research and Development in Tourism (INCDT) and the Association of Ecotourism in Romania (AER), have developed a framework for identifying and certifying ecotourism destinations in Romania. The voluntary system allows destinations that meet certain criteria to obtain the status of "ecotourism destinations" and be included in the national tourism promotion campaigns by the Ministry. The criteria are based on in the European Ecotourism Labelling Standard, drawn up by the European Ecotourism Network. The first step of the certification program is for applying destinations

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[29] Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination – a new political framework for tourism in Europe. COM(2010) 352 final
[30] http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/tourism/sustainable-tourism/index_en.htm
[31] A European Strategy for more Growth and Jobs in Coastal and Maritime Tourism. COM(2014) 86 final
[32] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/barcelona.htm
[33] http://www.european-charter.org/home/
[34] http://www.europarc.org/home/

to conduct a self-assessment based on the criteria and indicators provided by the Ministry. Following this, a team of evaluators coordinated by the Ministry will conduct a field evaluation. Depending on the results of these evaluations, the status of Ecotourism Destination is granted for a period of 3 years.

Sustainable public procurement

Green/Sustainable Public Procurement (GPP/SPP) is promoted in the EU by the Commission Communication Public Procurement for a Better Environment[35].

The European Commission provides support to Member States in implementing GPP through an extensive internet portal[36]. This provides criteria for GPP, examples of GPP in practice, a policy toolkit that can be used to design GPP implementation, as well as a handbook to help public authorities to buy goods and services with a lower environmental impact, and links to and further information on the existing National Action Plans (NAPs) for GPP[37]. To date, 22 Member States have published NAPs on GPP, including Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Progress in Member States toward GPP is outlined in a report[38] published in 2012. The main findings of the study point to progress toward increasing the use of GPP, but practical implementation is still generally well short of reaching the 50% target in the Communication. The report also identifies significant differences between countries in the implementation of GPP: four countries reported that core GPP criteria were applied in 40-60% of cases, while 12 countries, nine of which were from the New Member States, included the core GPP criteria in less than 20% of contracts. Purchasing costs are still the predominant factor in contracts, while only a few countries apply Life Cycle Costing.

Sustainable lifestyles and education

Despite a general awareness of the need to live more sustainably, the promotion and exploration of sustainable lifestyles within the EU establishment has primarily taken place through research projects under the FP7 and Horizon 2020 programmes (for example, the SPREAD project[39]). The Bioeconomy Strategy does explicitly state the need to achieve "*rapid, concerted and sustained changes in lifestyle and resource use*"[40].

In line with the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, and the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the European Council conclusions in 2010[41] on EDS invites Member States to take appropriate measures at the relevant level of responsibility – local, regional or national – to encourage the further development and implementation of ESD and its integration into the education and training system at all levels, in non-formal and informal learning just as in formal learning.

A number of specific initiatives have also be put in action. For example, the Environmental Design in University Curricula and Architectural Training in Europe (EDUCATE)[42] is a EU sponsored programme

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[35] Public procurement for a better environment. COM(2008) 400 final
[36] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm
[37] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/national_gpp_strategies_en.pdf
[38] The Uptake of Green Public Procurement in the EU-27. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/CEPS-CoE-GPP%20MAIN%20REPORT.pdf
[39] http://www.sustainable-lifestyles.eu
[40] Strategy for Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe. COM(2012) 60 final. pp 3
[41] http://consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/117855.pdf
[42] http://www.educate-sustainability.eu/home

to integrate environmental (and primarily energy related) subjects into existing architecture and design courses.

Consumer information

Environmental labelling schemes allow EU consumers to choose more sustainable products. Over 50 different labelling schemes are in operation in EU countries covering different products and geographic regions. They also have divergent institutional setups: some are state sponsored, others are NGO driven.

The EU Ecolabel[43] is a voluntary, pan-European initiative regulated by EU regulation No 66/2010 [44]. It may be awarded to products and services that have a lower life-cycle environmental impact than other products in the same group.

The Single market for Green Products[45] seeks to address the lack of a common definition of what a 'green product' is, and what makes a 'green organisation', lack of consumer trust in green claims, remove or reduce costs for businesses and remove barriers to trade in green products. In particular, it calls for the implementation of Product Environmental Footprints (PEF) and Organisational Environmental Footprints (OEF) based on methods developed by the Commission[46].

The Energy Label Directive[47] and Ecodesign Directive together regulate the design and energy labelling of energy using and energy related products. This helps to provide consumers and businesses with information on the energy impacts and thus associated costs of using a given product.

Sustainable buildings & construction

The EU has taken a number of steps to increase the environmental and economic sustainability of buildings and construction in Europe. These focus on increasing the competitiveness of the sector and increasing energy efficiency and material productivity. In the Strategy for the Sustainable Competitiveness of the Construction Sector and its Enterprises[48], the EU sets out the key challenges and opportunities present in the construction sector. It aims to stimulate favourable investment conditions; improve the human-capital basis of the construction sector; improve resource efficiency, environmental performance and business opportunities; strengthen the Internal Market for construction; and foster the global competitive position of EU construction enterprises.

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive[49] aims to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, primarily focusing on the energy used for space heating. This includes performance standards for new buildings, and targets and performance criteria for energy efficiency renovation, as well as specific demands for the energy efficiency of public buildings. The Directive mandates the

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[43] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/

[44] Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 Of The European Parliament And Of The Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Ecolabel.

[45] Building the Single Market for Green Products: Facilitating better information on the environmental performance of products and organisations. COM(2013) 196 final

[46] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/smgp/product_footprint.htm

[47] Directive 2010/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy-related products.

[48] Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises. COM(2012) 433 final

[49] Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings.

implementation of Energy Performance Certificates (EPC), although the exact form of EPCs are defined at the national level.

The Energy Efficiency Directive[50], the Energy Labelling Directive[51] and the Ecodesign Directive[52] also directly or indirectly aim to increase the energy efficiency of the European building stock. They mainly focus on the energy consumption in the use stage of buildings and appliances, although the Energy Efficiency Directive does set a target for the energy efficient renovation of central government buildings of 3% of total stock per year.

With respect to the management of construction and demolition waste, the revised Waste Framework Directive sets a target for the preparation for re-use, recycling and others forms for material recovery (excluding energy recovery) of 70%. This is the main European policy driver towards better recycling of construction and demolition waste.

The Sustainable Buildings Communication[53] addresses the non-energy related aspects of the sustainability of buildings and construction. In particular, it describes steps towards a common approach for the assessment of the environmental performance of buildings, and the development of a better functioning market for recycled construction materials.

Sustainable food systems

The activity towards a more sustainable food system focused on the consumer end of the lifecycle is generally addressed by the provision of consumer information (see above). However, in addition to providing information at the point of sale (influencing the choice of food), the EU is also actively attempting to reduce the amount of food-waste generated. The Roadmap to a Resource-Efficient Europe calls for *"…incentives for healthier and more sustainable production and consumption of food and to halve the disposal of edible food waste in the EU by 2020"*.

The European Commission is currently running a campaign aimed at reducing food waste[54], and provides a useful library of material for food waste prevention. In addition, the European Environment Agency also has a comprehensive library for waste prevention, which includes food waste initiatives[55].

Retailers are key stakeholders in fostering a sustainable food system. The Retail Forum[56] is a multi-stakeholder platform set in motion by the SCP/SIP Action Plan. It aims to facilitate exchange of best practices on sustainability in the European retail sector, and to identify opportunities and barriers that may further or hinder the achievement of sustainable consumption and production. Membership of the Retail Forum is voluntary and open to all retailers who join the Retailers'

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[50] Directive 2012/27/EU Of The European Parliament And Of The Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC

[51] DIRECTIVE 2010/30/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 19 May 2010on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy-related products.

[52] DIRECTIVE 2009/125/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products

[53] On Resource Efficiency Opportunities in the Building Sector. COM (2014) 445 final

[54] http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/sustainability/index_en.htm

[55] http://scp.eionet.europa.eu/themes/waste_prevention/wplibrary/waste_food

[56] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/retail/about.htm

Environmental Action Programme (REAP)[57], which includes a set of specific environmental commitments.

Published in early 2014, the EU's Action Plan for the future of Organic Production in the European Union[58] provides medium- and long-term strategic direction for the future of organic farming in Europe. The communication is particularly concerned with further widening the recognition of the EU Organic Label, ensuring trust in the organic brand and addressing difficulties within the rules for organic agriculture.

A Commission-run Organic Farming Portal[59] provides support to consumers and producers of organic products, and links to relevant legislation. Two Regulations (Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008) together control the specific rules for the production, control and labelling of organic products (also relevant for the section above on Consumer information).

The European Food Sustainable Consumption and Production Round Table[60] aims to promote a science-based, coherent approach to sustainable consumption and production in the food sector across Europe, while taking into account environmental interactions at all stages of the food chain. The Round Table is co-chaired by the EC and food supply chain partners, and supported by the UNEP and the EEA. The Round Table has also produced the ENVIFOOD[61] Protocol, a tool guiding the assessment and communication of the environmental impacts of food production.

South Eastern Europe

Sustainable tourism

Tourism plays a vital role in the economy of the countries of South Eastern Europe. Serbia is party to the Carpathian Tourism Strategy (described below in the sustainable tourism section for Eastern Europe) which aims to develop coordinated sustainable tourism in the Carpathian Mountains. The Tourism Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (2006-2015) also has provisions for the further development of sustainable tourism.

Montenegro's Tourism Development Strategy to 2020 aims to create sustainable, high quality and diverse tourism products to enable the growth of revenues and arrivals, while at the same time generating new jobs and increasing the standards of living.

The Centre for Sustainable Tourist initiatives[62] in Montenegro is a NGO working on the development of tourism products in Montenegro, engaging the principles of responsible and sustainable tourism.

A number of internationally funded support projects aimed at developing sustainable tourism in SEE countries have been or are being undertaken. For example, the current LIFE+ Project Innovation: Promotion of Sustainable Tourism in Albania, a three year project that aims to incorporate sustainability into tourism development, focusing on non-coastal tourism[63], and the World Bank Sustainable Tourism Development Project[64], which aimed to assist Montenegro in better designing

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[57] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/retail/reap/
[58] Action Plan for the future of Organic Production in the European Union. COM (2014) 179 final
[59] ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index_en.htm
[60] http://www.food-scp.eu/
[61] http://www.food-scp.eu/files/ENVIFOOD_Protocol_Vers_1.0.pdf
[62] http://www.cstimontenegro.org/newsCSTI.php?cmbJezik=2&
[63] http://www.ecoweb.info/31_31_promotion-sustainable-tourism-albania
[64] http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P093461/sustainable-tourism-development-project-montenegro?lang=en

and implementing an integrated coastal zone management approach to reduce coastal degradation and at the same time foster environmentally sound tourism development.

Sustainable public procurement

GPP and SPP are still at the nascent stage in South Eastern Europe. Drivers for inclusion of green and sustainable (and energy efficient) criteria in public procurement come primarily from the EU. For example, the Energy Community coordinated European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Project "Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) for the West Balkans", sets aside 1 million Euros for policy support, including the development of energy efficiency oriented GPP.

Sustainable lifestyles and education

The Green Pack, developed by the Regional Environmental Centre, provides Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) curriculum material for schools, youth and the general public. Initially developed for the SEE countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia), the Green Pack has been further expanded to other neighbourhood countries, including Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Russia.

The Green Pack is an expensive educational tool that has gone through many iterations as it has been transposed for different national settings. As of 2007, the Green Pack has been used to teach 12,000 teachers and 1.5 million students in six countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Since then, its geographic coverage has expended significantly.

Relevant to informal education, it is also worth mentioning the Sustainable Development Academy of the Regional Environmental Center, conducted since 2004, in Eastern Europe, and designed to build the capacities of key leaders in the fields of politics, public service, business, NGOs and the media while at the same time forging partnerships between these groups and academia[65]

Consumer information

Regulation and implementation of consumer information for sustainability is often tightly woven with the legislation on organic or sustainable agriculture. As such, some of the initiatives here are equally relevant to the section on sustainable food systems. Consumer information and certification of food and agriculture products is particularly salient given the growing market in the EU for organic produce.

SEE countries are party to the Energy Community Treaty, one of the commitments of which is to apply the EU's Energy Labelling Directive in national legislation.

Sustainable buildings and construction

As described below in the section on Eastern European countries, Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo and FYR Macedonia are party to the Energy Community Treaty, meaning that they should enact legislation transcribing energy-related legislation of the EU, including the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Energy Labelling Directive and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. These directly influence the sustainability of buildings. Most SEE countries have recent and relatively comprehensive energy efficiency legislation, although not all comply with the standards laid down in the above EU Directives. Further information on the state of

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[65] http://sdacademy.rec.org/

implementation of energy efficiency legislation in these countries can be found at the EnC Secretariat homepage[66].

As with other regions, SSE countries have benefited from international support in the area of energy efficiency in buildings. One such project from the World Bank – Western Balkans: Scaling up Energy Efficiency in Buildings – has recently been completed[67]. It aimed to help scale up improvements in EE in buildings in SEE through the sharing of best practices, policy and implementation options, case studies and plans.

Serbia has a national branch of the Green Building Council[68], an assessment and certification body. It is an emerging member of the Global Green Building Council, while Montenegro has a GBC as a prospective member[69].

Sustainable food systems

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, all have national regulation on organic production, and they all provide financial support to organic production, as does Montenegro. Albania and FYR Macedonia also have national action plans for organic agriculture[70]. The organic sector is expanding throughout SEE, although the majority of the increase in organically farmed area and production has occurred in Croatia[71].

Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation

Sustainable tourism

In September 2014 the governments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine adopted the Carpathian Tourism Strategy[72], an initiative to develop tourism in the region in a sustainable way. The strategy aims to develop common actions that foster more sustainable use the Carpathians. The strategy has three objectives:

- To establish supportive conditions for sustainable tourism products and services, including the development of a marketing scheme for the promotion of the Carpathians as a unique sustainable tourist destination;
- To develop innovative tourism management, fully integrating the needs of the local people and economies and other supporting sections, and respecting the preservation of nature and cultural heritage;
- To establish a continuous process of awareness raising, capacity building, education and training on sustainable tourism development and management at all levels.

A ten-year timeframe (2014-2024) has been set for the implementation of the Strategy, and specific actions to achieve these three objectives have been described.

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[66] http://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME/AREAS_OF_WORK/Implementation/Country_Reports

[67] http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2014/06/19782698/western-balkans-scaling-up-energy-efficiency-buildings-final-report

[68] http://www.serbiagbc.org

[69] www.gbc.me

[70] Organic Farming Policy in South-East Mediterranean and Western Balkans Approaches and Measures in Government Support. Mediteranian Agronomic Institute of Bari. 2008.

[71] Organic Balkans: Stakeholders, policies, and institutions: a regional perspective. Mediteranian Agronomic Institute of Bari. 2011

[72] Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians. http://www.ceeweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/strategy_2014sept26_web.pdf

Moldova is implementing an industry development strategy "Tourism 2020[73], which resulted in the development of a Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova in 2003-2015[74]. The main aim of the strategy is to create the basis for domestic and international tourism development in an integrated, balanced and sustainable manner, in order to bring substantial cultural and socio-economic benefits to the country and its communities.

Belarus declared 2013 the "Year of Green Tourism", with numerous activities promoting sustainable tourism both domestically and internationally.

The Ukrainian State Programme of Tourism Development for 2002-2010 was created to stimulate efficient use of existing recreational resources, improve inter-sectoral cooperation, and encourage the development of market relations in the tourism sector, to determine the perspectives for further development of tourism based on the analysis of its current state. In addition, the Ukrainian State Program on the Sustainable Development of Rural Areas for the period till 2020, has the development of rural green tourism as one of its priorities.

In the Russian Federation, the Federal Agency for Tourism falls under the Ministry of Culture. In September 2001, the Russian Ecotourism Association was founded. The foundation of the Association was the first step in putting into practice the International Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism and Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The following Sustainable tourism initiatives were conducted in the Russian Federation up to 2002[75]:

- Development of the ecotourism foundations in the nature reserves of the Primorye Region, the Russian Far East (1996-1998, funded by USAID and WWF);
- Ecotourism development in the Altai-Sayans Ecoregion (1999-2000, in the framework of ROLL program);
- Development of ecologically sustainable tourism in the North Caucasus (2000-2001, funded by ROLL program);
- Ecotourism development in Baikal (1997-1998, World Bank; 1999-2000, ROLL program);
- Ecotourism development in the North-West of Russia (2001-2002).

More than 150 ecotourism programs have been developed in the Russian far East, Altai, Baikal, Khakassia, Sayans, Tuva, Krasnoyarsk region, Caucasus, European North. Ecotourism workshops were conducted for nature reserve personnel. Booklets for many nature reserves and illustrated books presenting the ecotourism possibilities in various regions of Russia have also been prepared. The program for ecotourism development had been included in the regional Tourism Development Program in the Republic of Karachaevo-Cherkessia (Western Caucasus), approved at the governmental level.[76]

Sustainable public procurement

GPP/SPP is still in the early phase of development in Eastern European countries. The EaP GREEN program is supporting the development of GPP/SPP in the Eastern European countries, with workshops held in Moldova and Ukraine in May 2014, and in Belarus in July 2014, with support, also,

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[73] Official Gazette of Republic of Moldova, 2007, № 14-17., Art. 40
http://www.turism.gov.md/files/files/SDT%20Turism_2020%20Ro.doc
[74] http://www.tur.md/eng/section/257/
[75] Russian Ecotourism Association "Cooperating for Sustainable Tourism", Proceedings of the Forum International at the Reisepavillon 2002, Kasparek Verlag.
[76] Russian Ecotourism Association "Cooperating for Sustainable Tourism", Proceedings of the Forum International at the Reisepavillon 2002, Kasparek Verlag;

provided by the UNEP under the 10YFP Sustainable Public Procurement Programme. National Action plans for SPP will be developed in these countries shortly, followed by demonstration activities.

As far as it has been possible to ascertain, the Russian Federation has not yet published any GPP/SPP legislation or criteria.

Sustainable lifestyles and education

Little information has been found on official policies toward sustainable lifestyles in the Eastern European region, although the rural development policies mentioned above in the first part of this report, and below under sustainable food systems, could also be considered as promoting sustainable rural lifestyles.

In the National Strategy for the Development of Education in Ukraine for the period until 2021[77], one of the strategic directions for state policy for education in the Ukraine is the "ecologization" of education.

The Green Pack, a tool for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and developed by REC, has been adapted for use in Ukraine.

The Belarusian Coordination Center "Education for Sustainable Development" was founded in 2007 by resolution of the Ministry of Education. The aim of the ESD Center is to carry out scientific research and implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD, to develop the national action plans in the Belarusian academic sector.

As of 2006, there was no federal law on Environmental Education, although laws had been adopted at the regional level[78].

The Green Pack has been adapted for use in Russia and in the Russian speaking countries.

Consumer information

Regulation and implementation of consumer information for sustainability is often tightly woven with the legislation on organic or sustainable agriculture. As such, some of the initiatives here are equally relevant to the section on Sustainable food systems.

In Belarus, certification of small private farms and household plots that organize production according to the rules of organic farming, is carried out by Ekodom, an NGO that promotes development and dissemination of the concept of sustainable development and of an ecologically sound way of life. Ekodom developed a public certification mark "In harmony with nature", which helps consumers distinguish products produced on environmentally conscious farms.

Organic Standard Ltd[79] is the Ukrainian national organic certification body founded in 2007. It provides services in inspection and certification of organic production, including production certification in Ukraine and Republic of Belarus and carries out inspections in Russia, Georgia, Armenia and Uzbekistan. To cater to the export market, certification is based on the EU standards for organic production, although can also follow US or Japanese standards.

Organic agriculture in Moldova is regulated by the Law on Ecological Agro-Food Production[80]. This law includes:

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[77] http://nmu.edu.ua/eng/strategy.php
[78] http://www.unep.ch/scoe/documents/russia_report_12142006_en.pdf. Pp41
[79] http://www.organicstandard.com.ua
[80] Nr.115-XVI

- the National Plan for Organic Agriculture;
- regulations on principles and methods of organic agriculture;
- regulation of the inspection and certification systems of the Republic of Moldova; and
- regulation on the import and export of organic products.

Further legislation was introduced in 2008 on "Organic agro-food production and labelling of agro-food products", Nr. 1078 (22.09.2008), which provided more detailed guidance on the labelling and marketing of Organic produce.

Covering the Russian market, the Vitality Leaf Ecolabel was developed by the Saint-Petersburg Ecological Union in 2001 and is officially registered in Federal Agency on Technical Regulation and Metrology. It currently has product rules for 18 product and service categories.

Ecological labelling and certification is conducted in the Russian Federation, although within the limited time frame available to prepare this background document, it has not be possible to collect information about the existing schemes.

Sustainable buildings and construction

Work in this area mainly focuses on increasing the energy efficiency of the existing building stock. A primary driver for this in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova is their membership as Contracting Parties to the Energy Community (EnC Treaty)[81]. As such, they are obliged to implement the equivalents of the energy-related legislation of the EU, including the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Energy Labelling Directive and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Ukraine is yet to adopt any of the above legislation, although it has gone part of the way to fulfilling the requirements of the Energy Labelling directive. Moldova has made more progress, including the adoption of a Law on Energy Performance of Buildings in July 2014.

Ukraine's National Program for Reform and **Development of Housing and Communal Services** in 2009 - 2014[82] includes provisions for increasing the energy efficiency of the housing stock[83].

Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus (along with the Russian Federation, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania, and Kazakhstan) are involved in the UNECE project Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (FEEI) in the framework of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project.

Ukraine has a Green Building Council, registered as a prospective member.

In Russia, the Energy Strategy for period up to 2030 (2009), Law on Energy Saving, Increasing of EE & Introduction of Changes in Selected Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation (2009), decree of the President on measures to increase the energy and environmental efficiency of the Russian economy (2008) all have an impact on the sustainability and energy efficiency of buildings.

The Green Standards Eco-certification is a system of building and construction certification similar to LEED and BREEAM systems found in the USA and Europe respectively. The first version of the building certification systems was registered in 2010. The third iteration is now being prepared[84].

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[81] http://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME/ENERGY_COMMUNITY/Legal/Treaty
[82] http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1869-15
[83] http://oporaua.org/en/articles/1332-mehanizm-derzhavnoji-pidtrymky-energozberezhennja-v-zhytlovomu-sektori
[84] http://www.greenstand.ru/english.html

Russia has a national branch of the Green Building Council[85], an assessment and certification body. It is an emerging member of the Global Green Building Council.

Sustainable food systems

Much of the development toward sustainable food systems in this sub-region is centred around the development and certification of organic farming, which has been presented in the above mentioned section Consumer information.

Moldova has adopted a National Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Agro-industrial Complex (2008-2015), and ongoing development of the organic farming is conducted by the Ecoprodus Association in collaboration with the Institute of Field Crops.

The Belarusian parliament is developing a law on organic farming to be adopted in 2014.

Cabinet Ministries of Ukraine Decree 1158 dated 19.09.2007 "Programme of Ukrainian Rural Development to 2015" aims to "ensure sustainability of the rural economy, its competitiveness in domestic and foreign markets, to guarantee food security of the country and to preserve the peasantry as the carrier of the Ukrainian identity, culture and spirituality. Ukraine also has a national program: "**Drinking Water of Ukraine**"[86].

The Ukrainian Law on Organic Production was adopted in early 2012[87]. The law defines governmental policy on organic production and aims to ensure organic products of high quality, environmental protection, efficient natural recourses, health protection, as well as identification zones of agricultural lands appropriate for organic production.

In the Russian Federation, a draft Law on the "Regulation of Organic Production" has just finished public consultation, and in July 2014 an updated version of the Federal Law "On Manufacture of Organic Products" was published for public comments. The overall objectives of these laws are:

- Development of a competitive economic environment in the field of organic production;
- Increase in exports of organic products;
- Development of the domestic market for organic products.

Caucasus

Sustainable tourism

The State program of development of tourism in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2010-2014"[88] envisages an intensive development of "green tourism", noting that one of the elements of sustainable functioning of protected areas is the development of environmental tourism. Within the framework of that program, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has approved special routes and services for tourists for all protected areas, primarily for the National Parks in Azerbaijan. For the management of tourism, recreation and recreational activities in protected areas in 2012, norms of permissible load for protected areas were approved. In addition, the State Program for development of tourism in the years 2014 to 2018 in the Republic of Azerbaijan also mentions sustainable tourism.

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[85] http://www.rugbc.org/en
[86] http://zakon1.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2455-15
[87] http://www.organicstandard.com.ua/files/standards/en/PressRelease/Press%20Release%20Ukrainian%20law%20%20of%20Organic%20Production.pdf
[88] Approved by the Decree of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan on April 6, 2010 № 838. http://1news.az/economy/20111115052816707.html

"Georgia's Way" – a Comprehensive Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development in Georgia[89] is the key strategic document for sustainable tourism in Georgia.

Sustainable public procurement

As far as it has been possible to obtain information, it appears that GPP/SPP is not institutionalised in the Caucasus countries. The EaP GREEN programme has a specific line for supporting the development of GPP/SPP in the Caucasus and the countries of Easter European[90].

Sustainable lifestyles and education

The Green Pack, which provides ESD curriculum material for schools, the young, and the general population, has also been adapted for Azerbaijan.

A comparative study of Education for Sustainable Development across Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and the Caucasus published in 2011 concluded that ESD was present in some form in most curricula, although it was often focused on the social and economic aspects of Sustainable development, and contained less content on the environmental aspects of Sustainable development[91].

The Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus promoted Education for Sustainable Development in the region.

Further information on on-going sustainable lifestyle and education will be added in the next version of this paper.

Consumer information.

Armenia's Law on Organic Agriculture (2008) includes provisions for the labelling and marketing of organic products[92].

Within the short time frame available to prepare this background document, it has not be possible to find information about consumer information or product certification in relation to SCP or GE activities in the Caucasus sub-region.

Sustainable buildings & construction

The INOGATE[93] project Energy Saving Initiative in the Building Sector (ESIB)[94] was a project concluded in January 2014. This project promoted energy efficiency in the building sector, and supported policy and other initiatives in this area.

Seven standards have been developed in Armenia for energy consumption and energy efficiency in apartment buildings and public buildings harmonized with the recommendations of the European Committee for Standardization[95] and synchronized with the Strategic Development Program of

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[89] http://www.sw-associates.net/projects-and-activities/central-asia-caucasus/georgia/

[90] http://www.oecd.org/env/outreach/eapgreen-public-procurement.htm

[91] http://enjoined.edupolicy.net/images/policy_briefs/ENjoinED%20Comparative%20Report.pdf

[92] http://www.shen.am/PDF/Milestones%20of%20Organic%20Agriculture%20in%20Armenia.pdf

[93] The INOGATE Programme supports energy policy cooperation between the European Union and the INOGATE Partner Countries, which include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and the Ukraine.

[94] http://www.inogate-ee.org/

[95] www.cen.eu

hydropower engineering in the Republic of Armenia. These standards were adopted between 2010 and 2012[96].

Georgia has a Green Building Council. It is a prospective member of the Global Green Building Council.

Sustainable food systems

The following legislation has an impact on sustainability of food systems in the Caucasus:

- Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of Georgia for years 2014 to 2020;
- Azerbaijan: Law "**On environmentally clean agricultural production**" ("On organic farming") (2013);
- Armenia: Strategy for the sustainable development of agriculture of the Republic of Armenia for years 2010 to 2020;
- Armenia: "**Law on Organic Agriculture**" (2008).

The Elkana Biological farming Association[97] is an NGO that promotes organic farming in Georgia. ECOGLOBE from Armenian and Caucascert from Georgia are private organic certification bodies that have developed a certification systems for organic agriculture and organic food production, which is marketed under the brand "Green Caucasus". Caucascert also includes standards for labelling and marketing. In 2008 Green Caucasus was accredited by the German International Accreditation Body DAP, and certified products may be sold on the European market as organic.

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[96] Lessons Leant from the UNDP-GEF Project in Armenia: Improving Energy Efficiency of Municipal Heating and Hot Water Supply. 2012.
[97] http://www.new.ruraltourism.ge/?action=0&lang=eng