

Environmental Performance Review Programme

An environmental performance review (EPR) is an external assessment of the progress a country has made in reconciling its environmental and economic targets and in meeting its international environmental commitments.

Since 1991 the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has been implementing the EPR Programme for its members. Pursuant to a decision by Ministers of Environment at their Second Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Lucerne, Switzerland, 1993), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has been carrying out EPRs in interested countries.

The **main objectives** of the EPR Programme are:

- To assist countries to improve their management of the environment and associated environmental performance by making concrete recommendations for better policy design and implementation;
- To promote the exchange of information among countries about policies and experiences;
- To help integrating environmental policies into sector-specific economic policies, such as agricultural, energy, transport and health policies;
- To promote greater accountability to the public;
- To strengthen cooperation with the international community;
- To contribute to the achievement and monitoring of the relevant SDGs.

As a voluntary exercise, EPR is undertaken at the request of the country under review. The assessment team, made up of international experts,

meets with national experts and representatives of civil society and international community in the country under review to discuss issues covered by the review.

EPR contains recommendations for further improvement, taking into consideration the country's progress since the previous review. ECE Expert Group on EPRs expert reviews the EPR. Subsequently, the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy peer reviews the EPR recommendations and adopts them.

First-cycle EPRs established baseline conditions regarding trends, policy commitments, institutional arrangements and routine capabilities for carrying out national evaluations.

Since 1996, the following countries of the ECE region carried out a First EPR: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan (in 2012 according to third-cycle EPRs methodology), Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia.

Second-cycle EPRs assessed progress and helped to stimulate greater accountability. Emphasis was placed on implementation and financing of environment policy, the integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors and the promotion of sustainable development.

Since 2000, ECE has carried out second EPRs in Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

At the Seventh Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Astana, 2011), Ministers reaffirmed their support to the ECE EPR Programme. They invited ECE to pursue a third cycle.

At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 2016), Ministers highlighted the role of EPRs in supporting the **achievement and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals**.

Third-cycle EPRs focus on environmental governance and financing in a green economy context, countries' cooperation with the international community and environmental mainstreaming in priority sectors. Since 2017, EPRs address relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since 2012, ECE has conducted third EPRs in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Third EPRs of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan are on-going.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the EPR methodology have attracted the attention of countries outside ECE region, leading to requests for a transfer of know-how from ECE to other United Nations regional commissions. Morocco was the first country outside the ECE region for which a review was carried out by ECE in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, followed by Mongolia in cooperation with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. A second review for Morocco was carried out in 2020-2021.



Review mission: 14-22 March 2022

Period covered by the 2nd EPR: 2011–2022

Outline of the Review

I. *Environmental governance and financing*

1. Legal, policy and institutional framework (Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE, nicholas.bonvoisin@un.org)
2. Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms (Vadim Ni, UNECE consultant, vadimnee@mail.ru)
3. Greening the economy and financing environmental protection (Saraly Andrade De Sa, UNECE Consultant, saraly.andradedesasa@unige.ch)
4. Environmental monitoring and information (Janyl Moldaliev, UNEP, zhanyl.moldaliev@un.org)
5. Public participation and education for sustainable development (Marianna Bolshakova, UNEP, marianna.bolshakova@un.org, Angela Sochirca, UNECE, angela.sochirca@un.org)

II. *Domestic – international interface*

6. Implementation of international agreements and commitments (Virginia Fusé, UNECE, virginia.fuse@un.org)
7. Climate change (Teodora Obradovikj-Grncharovska, UNECE Consultant, dori.moepgovmk@gmail.com)

III. *Environmental media and pollution management*

8. Air protection (Olivera Kujundzic, UNECE Consultant, ohoo29@gmail.com)
9. Water management (Anabela Rebelo, Portugal, anabela.rebelo@apambiente.pt)
10. Waste and chemicals management (Andras Guti, Hungary, andras.guti@am.gov.hu)
11. Biodiversity and protected areas (Zbigniew Niewiadomski, UNECE Consultant, zbig-niew@wp.pl)
12. Soil conservation (Pandi Zdruli, UNECE Consultant, pandi@iamb.it)

IV. *Integration of environment into selected sectors*

13. Health and the environment (Sylvie Eymard, France, sylvie.eymard@gmail.com, Dafina Dalbokova, UNECE Consultant, dafina.dalbokova@gmail.com)
14. Agriculture and the environment (Hervé Lethier, UNECE Consultant, herve.letthier@wanadoo.fr)
15. Energy and the environment (Viktor Badaker, UNECE, viktor.badaker@un.org)
16. Industry, mining and the environment (Karin Fuéri, UNECE Consultant, karin.fueri@outlook.fr)
17. Transport and the environment (Nikola Sahovic, UNECE, nikola.sahovic@un.org)

Annexes

1. Highlights of SDG targets addressed in the 2nd EPR of Armenia
2. Participation of Armenia in multilateral environmental agreements
3. List of major environment-related legislation
4. Sources

EPR-relevant SDGs will be addressed in respective chapters

For more information

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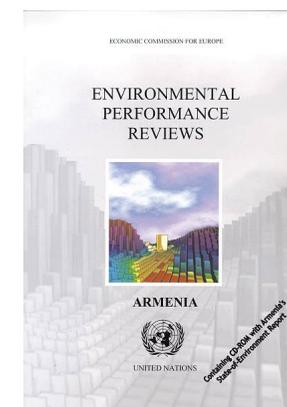
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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS



Armenia

2nd Review



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