

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia
German Environment Agency

**Workshop on waste management:
Policies and practices on the basis of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews**

Skopje, North Macedonia, 19-20 September 2023
Venue: Aleksandar Palace Hotel, Boulevard 8 September, No. 15

Main Objectives:

- Provide a platform for countries of Eastern and Southeastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus to share their experiences in addressing waste management issues and to support cooperation between the relevant experts for waste management and environment.
- Discuss opportunities and challenges currently hindering the development of waste management considering the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Improve the understanding of available tools and instruments to support sustainable waste management.
- Brainstorm, discuss and identify solutions to overcome challenges and remove bottlenecks in the area of sustainable waste management.

Provisional programme

Workshop Moderator: Andras Guti

19 September 2023

09:00 – 09:30 **Registration + coffee**

09:30 – 10:30 **Opening**

Kaja Shukova, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia
Rossana Dudziak, UN Resident Coordinator, North Macedonia
Antoine Nunes, UNECE - Introduction to the workshop programme
Introduction of participants (*tour de table*)

10.30 – 12.00 **Session 1: Priority issues for sustainable waste management**
Moderator: Andras Guti

Common issues, challenges and proposed recommendations, including tools and instruments, towards a sustainable waste management as identified in the Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) and their interlinkages with relevant SDGs, *Antoine Nunes UNECE*

Sharing of experience on the implementation of EPR recommendations related to waste management and environment. Presentations by country representatives (*to be confirmed*):

- Albania

**Workshop on waste management:
Policies and practices on the basis of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews**

- Armenia
- North Macedonia
- Azerbaijan
- Morocco
- Kazakhstan

Q&A, interactive discussion (30 min)

12.00 – 13.30 *Lunch time*

13.30 – 15.00 **Session 2: Key elements of sustainable waste management**

Moderator: Anita Kodzoman, Chair of the Outcome Group 3 Healthy Environment, UNDP

- Regulatory framework and policy tools in support of sustainable waste management
- Access to adequate, safe and affordable waste management services/infrastructure
- Mainstreaming gender and vulnerable groups
- Extended Producer Responsibility schemes
- Circular economy, including economic instruments (e.g., tax, user/gate fees, product/waste charges, incentives)
- Reducing environmental impacts and emissions from waste management (e.g., greenhouse gases, dust, odor, leachate)

Presentations:

E-waste monitors in Central Asia and Western Balkans: Methods and results –
Elise Vermeersch, UNITAR-SCYCLE Programme

Integrating Waste Management and Marine Litter Prevention in the Western Balkans –
Philipp Steinheim, GIZ

Deposit return system - Bottle collection schemes – Slovakia

EBRD activities for waste management in North Macedonia

Q&A, interactive discussion (20 min)

15.00 – 15.30 *Coffee break*

15.30 – 17.00 **Session 3: Opportunities and challenges for development of sustainable waste management policies**

Moderator: Ana Karanfilova, Head, Department for Waste Management, North Macedonia

Sharing good practices, success stories and challenges from putting into practice a sustainable waste management (*presentations & interventions of up to 7 min*):

National framework and projects (*countries to be confirmed*):

- Албания
- Северная Македония
- Марокко
- Армения

Q&A, interactive discussion (20 min)

17.00 – 17.10 Organizing the groups for the next day

**Workshop on waste management:
Policies and practices on the basis of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews**

20 September 2023

09.00 – 10.30 **Session 4: Interactive session on identifying practical solutions in priority areas to support sustainable waste management**
Moderator: Anita Kodzoman, Chair of the Outcome Group 3 Healthy Environment, UNDP

Breaking out into groups by area as identified below. Three groups will work for 45 minutes to discuss challenges (e.g., policy issues, technical issues, financial issues, availability of expertise) and identify policy options and practical solutions under the following priority areas:

1. Minimizing environmental impacts from waste
2. Improvement of the organization of waste sector
3. Improvement of financing for waste management

Reporting back to the plenary, discussion and wrapping up

10.30 – 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 – 12.30 **Session 5: Interactive session on identifying the next steps for the implementation of EPR recommendations related to waste management and environment from the latest EPRs of participating countries**
Moderator: UNECE

(a) Taking stock of progress

Breaking out into groups. Small groups will work for 45 minutes to identify key barriers to implementing recommendations related to waste management and environment and possible actions to overcome them under the following themes:

1. Policy
2. Standards and planning for infrastructure and investment
3. Financing (charges, subsidies and taxes, tariffs, access to services, needs and inclusion of vulnerable groups)
4. Information and awareness

Each group will receive a list of three recommendations generalised to be applicable for the participating countries.

A working document containing selected recommendations related to waste management and environment of participating countries was prepared with a view to assess progress in implementing the recommendations and to support the work in the groups.

- Discussion in the groups on implementing the EPR recommendations related to waste management and environment.
- Reporting back to the plenary, discussion and wrapping up

12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch time*

14.00 – 15.30 **(b) Way forward**

Breaking out into the same groups as for session 4 with a view to identify three measures relating to the priority area to carry out in the countries in the next 2-3 years.

- Discussion on ways forward (identifying measures)

**Workshop on waste management:
Policies and practices on the basis of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews**

- Report back to the plenary discussion and wrapping up.

15.30 – 16.00

Closing

The Moderator will close the workshop. The summary of the discussions and the list of participants will be finalised by the UNECE secretariat for circulation to the participants after the workshop.

