



UNECE



Republic of North Macedonia

Ministry of Environment
and Physical Planning

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



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



This workshop is funded, inter alia, by the German Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union.

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- Armenia
- Kazakhstan
- North Macedonia
- Georgia

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

Circular economy, including economic instruments (e.g., tax, user/gate fees, product/waste charges, incentives)

- **E-waste monitors in Central Asia and Western Balkans: Methods and results**
– *Elise Vermeersch, UNITAR-SCYCLE Programme*
- **Deposit return system - Bottle collection schemes** – Slovakia

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

Reducing environmental impacts and emissions from waste management (e.g., greenhouse gases, dust, odor, leachate)

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

EBRD activities for waste management (*tbc*)

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*):

- Albania
- North Macedonia
- Kazakhstan
- Armenia

Q&A, interactive discussion (20 min)

17.00 – 17.10 Organizing the groups for the next day

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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 (*tbc*)

Breaking out into groups by area as identified in the annex to the programme. 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)

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- 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.

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