



Environmental Performance Review Programme

CEP-26, November 2020

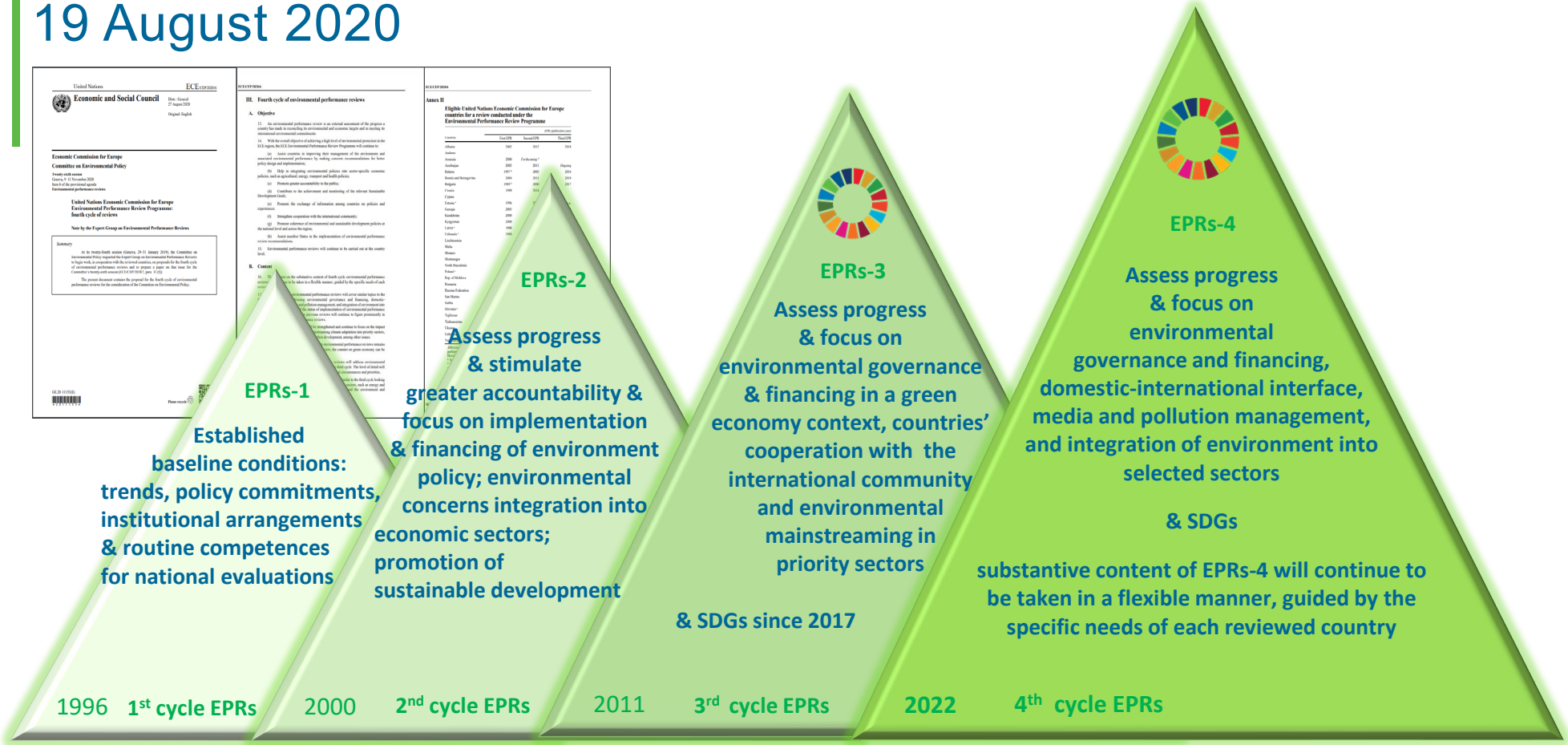
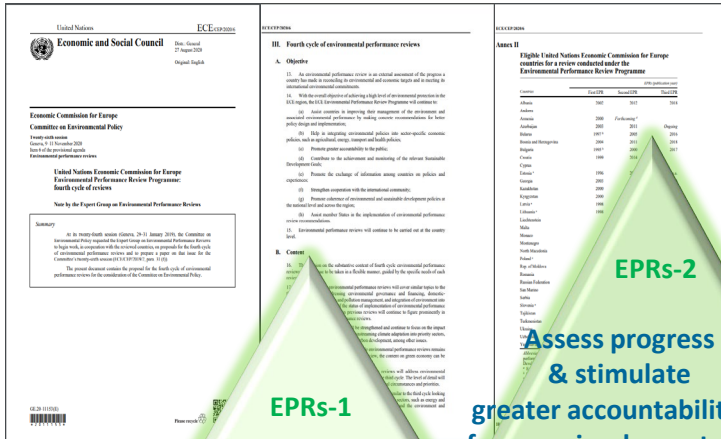


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ENVIRONMENT

Fourth cycle of EPRs: EPR Expert Group worked virtually 19 August 2020



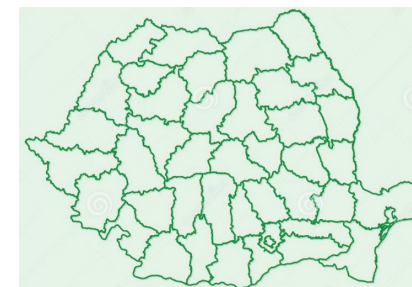
Environmental Performance Review Programme



ENVIRONMENT

Third EPR of Romania: expert review by EPR Expert Group 20-23 October 2020

31st meeting of the UNECE Expert Group on EPRs working virtually on the third EPR of Romania, 20-23 October 2020



Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Environmental Policy
Twenty-sixth session
Geneva, 9-11 November 2020
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Environmental performance reviews
Information pages No. 2
2 November 2020

Third Environmental Performance Review of Romania: recommendations

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The document presents the recommendations of the third Environmental Performance Review of Romania agreed upon by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews at its meeting, conducted by virtual means on 20-23 October 2020.
The Committee is invited to adopt the recommendations.

Chapter 1: Legal, policy and institutional framework

Recommendation 1.1.
The Government should ensure that every legal act on environmental matters is adopted in accordance with Aarhus Convention provisions, allowing public participation in decision-making, and not through government emergency ordinances.

Recommendation 1.2.
The Government should ensure that the scheme of Regulatory Impact Assessment is broadly applied to environment-related regulations to enable and facilitate their implementation, and that relevant systematic capacity-building activities for law ministries are put in practice.

Recommendation 1.3.
The Government should consider revisiting and codifying environmental legislation in order to consolidate existing environmental laws and regulations and harmonize their terminology, principles and provisions.

Recommendation 1.4.
The Government should:

- (a) Ensure the continuity and coherence of environmental policy planning;
- (b) Establish efficient and effective mechanisms for inter-ministerial cooperation across all relevant ministries and offices;
- (c) Consider mechanisms for accelerating the adoption of draft strategic documents, while complying with strategic environmental assessment and public participation procedures;
- (d) Ensure capacity building of experts engaged in SEA procedures and accreditation of SEA consultants;
- (e) Coordinate cycles of strategic and budgetary planning, ensuring funding for adopted or approved environment-related strategic documents.

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Third EPR of Uzbekistan: virtual promotion October 2020

UNECE

Uzbekistan Environmental Performance Reviews

Third Review



Unece Epr-team
October 28 at 1:31 PM · 🌐

The Government of Uzbekistan has recognized organic agriculture as one of the flagship sectors with high export and revenue potential. Despite the lack of a related legal framework, organic production is already ongoing in the country, with over 5,600 ha certified for organic products by foreign certification organizations. The Centre for Standardization of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture organizes training for farmers on organic farming. In May 2020, the Govern... See More



Unece Epr-team
October 24 at 12:06 PM · 🌐

Узбекистан обладает колоссальным потенциалом для развития солнечной энергетики, который пока практически не используется. Об этом говорится в 3-ем Обзоре результативности экологической деятельности (ОРЭД) Узбекистана. По оценкам, технический потенциал в области развития солнечной энергетики в 62 раза превышает совокупный технический потенциал по развитию крупной, средней и малой гидроэнергетики, ветровых установок и установок на биомассе. Третий ОРЭД призывает страну к введе... See More



Unece Epr-team
October 23 at 11:12 AM · 🌐

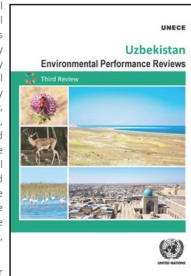
The Aral Sea region of Uzbekistan, which includes the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Khorezm Oblast, stands out in terms of the multiple impacts of the Aral Sea disaster. In 2017, the incidence of antenatal, perinatal and post-neonatal health conditions and complications in the Aral Sea region exceeded the national average by 50%. The Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Uzbekistan welcomes the establishment of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea... See More



UNECE calls upon Uzbekistan to use the recommendations of its Environmental Performance Review for designing its green recovery policies in the aftermath of COVID-19
Published: 20 October 2020

Rich in natural gas, gold, uranium and other mineral resources, Uzbekistan actively attracts international investments, implements large infrastructure projects and is confronted with difficult choices in finding a way to long-term growth based on climate-friendly technologies and sustainable management of natural resources. Reducing its dependence on fossil fuels by tapping its immense potential for solar electricity, increasing efforts to reduce water losses in agriculture, a sector that represents 32.4 % of GDP (2018), and extending the protected area network are amongst the key recommendations of the Third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Uzbekistan prepared under the auspices of UNECE. The Review equips the Government with 99 recommendations to improve the environmental situation and the wellbeing of the population, while greening the energy, agriculture, transport, housing, industry and health sectors.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has reconfirmed our dependence on nature. It heightened the importance of finding sustainable solutions for environmental issues. I invite Uzbekistan to use the EPR recommendations on a clean energy transition, sustainable agriculture, sustainable management of natural resources and green economy for designing its green recovery policies. I also urge international partners to support Uzbekistan in implementation of EPR recommendations", said Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary.



Olga Algayerova presents the Third Environmental Performance Review of Uzbekistan
147 views · Oct 20, 2020

UNECE
2.56K subscribers

Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary, describes the outcomes of the Third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Uzbekistan organized under the auspices of UNECE.
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=537...>



У Узбекистана колоссальные возможности в области развития солнечной энергии



Всемирный банк/М.Мухамедов. Площадь Регистан в Самарканде, Узбекистан





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❖ On-going EPRs

- **3rd EPR of Azerbaijan: preparatory mission – Nov 2019; country review mission – postponed from Apr 2020 to 2021 due to COVID-19**
- **2nd EPR of Morocco: preparatory mission – virtually in Aug–Sep 2020; country review mission – hybrid format in Nov 2020–Jan 2021**



❖ Planned EPRs

- **2nd EPR of Armenia: preparatory and country mission in 2021/2022**
- **3rd EPR of Ukraine: in 2022/2023**
- **Eligible UNECE countries for an EPR carried out under the EPR Programme are in annex II to the document on the 4th cycle of EPRs**

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UNDA Project: Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in South-East Europe

<i>Activities / countries</i>	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Montenegro	North Macedonia	Serbia
Assessment	✓	On-going	✓	✓	✓
Validation workshop			✓		
Policy Package	✓	On-going	✓	✓	✓
Revisions due to COVID-19			✓	✓	On-going

Key results: policy packages on green economy, air quality improvement, climate change, waste management at the national and local level, medical waste management and environmental inspections.

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Gender mainstreaming in EPRs

UNECE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

COVID-19 Response Find out about UNECE's Latest Developments

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Gender mainstreaming in environmental performance reviews

Gender mainstreaming is well developed in the Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme, and gender issues are addressed in all country reviews. The EPR Programme contributes to the empowerment of women and gender equality through the representation of women in all aspects of the Programme. This includes the composition of review teams visiting beneficiary countries.



All the latest EPRs include a subsection on gender in the introductory chapters. Broadly speaking, this subsection includes matters such as the countries' ratification of CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, national legislation on gender equality, the political representation of women, and the countries' score on gender equality indexes. Some EPRs include gender disaggregated data on health including data on pregnant women, reproductive health and cancers specific to women.

Specific studies on women and environment are also reflected in reviews. For example, results are included from the Equitable Access Scorecard of the Protocol on Water and Health wherever it has been applied.

Since 2017, EPRs have integrated the sustainable development goals and this has provided another way in for gender mainstreaming. SDG 4 quality education, SDG 5 gender equality, SDG 6 clean water and sanitation and the corresponding targets 4.a, 5.a and 6.2 feature most prominently in relation to gender, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Gender issues in the reviews

Gender issues are addressed in the reviews where the expert teams considered these aspects important for the countries reviewed. The third EPRs of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are the most

ENVIRONMENT Gender Mainstreaming in Reviews

- Introductory Sections of latest EPRs
- Ratification of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- National legislation on gender equality
- Political representation

Unce Epr-team September 9

UNECE Webinar on gender mainstreaming in environmental policies and strategies: highlights from EPRs

Gender Mainstreaming in the Environmental Performance Review Programme Geneva, 9 September 2020

Gender Mainstreaming in Reviews

- Introductory Sections of latest EPRs
- Ratification of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- National legislation on gender equality
- Political representation
- Gender equality indexes (e.g. Gender Equality Index)
- Disaggregated data & studies exposure & health impacts
- Recommendations



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Addressing environment-related human rights in EPRs

ENVIRONMENT AGENDA	ENVIRONMENT INTRODUCTION	ENVIRONMENT INTRODUCTION	ENVIRONMENT HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 01 Introduction Situating this presentation 02 Legal Framework Human rights framework and international environmental framework 03 Human Rights Obligations Substantive and procedural obligations, obligations to vulnerable groups 04 Case Study Practical illustrative case study 05 Challenges Challenges which arise from integration 	<p>Why are human rights important to integrate into EPRs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To help member countries implement SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) o To increase attention on this relationship within EPRs <p><small>External Independent Evaluation of EPR Process Based on Reviews Carried out in the Period 2015-2019, July 2019</small></p>	<p><small>Report of the Independent Expert, A/HRC/22/43</small></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Substantive Rights</th> <th>Procedural Rights</th> <th>Members of Groups in Vulnerable Situations</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>Internationally recognised rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Right to life o Right to an adequate standard of living o Right to health o Right to adequate food o Right to clean water and sanitation o Right to adequate housing <p>ECHR rights</p> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Access to information o Public participation in decision making o Access to justice and right to a remedy o No persecution, penalization or harassment of persons seeking to protect the environment </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Right to equality and non-discrimination o Women o Children o Indigenous Peoples o Workers o Environmental Human Rights Defenders o Elderly </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Substantive Rights	Procedural Rights	Members of Groups in Vulnerable Situations	<p>Internationally recognised rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Right to life o Right to an adequate standard of living o Right to health o Right to adequate food o Right to clean water and sanitation o Right to adequate housing <p>ECHR rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Access to information o Public participation in decision making o Access to justice and right to a remedy o No persecution, penalization or harassment of persons seeking to protect the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Right to equality and non-discrimination o Women o Children o Indigenous Peoples o Workers o Environmental Human Rights Defenders o Elderly
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ENVIRONMENT AIR PROTECTION
<p>Right to life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Air pollution causes 7 million premature deaths annually (A/HRC/40/55) o Deaths as a result of air pollution accounted for 10% of deaths of adults over 30 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (A/HRC/37/58/Add.2) o ICCPR Article 6(1), ECHR Article 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Human Rights Committee, General Comment No.6, 30 April 1982: The right to life is not to be understood 'in a restrictive manner' o Positive obligation to adopt legislative and administrative frameworks in the international system and per the European Court of Human Rights o European Level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The ECtHR has rarely found a violation of Article 2, there are only a few cases where applicants have been exposed to dangerous activities or natural disasters. o Challenges: Proving a causal link o Test Case: Di Caprio and Others v. Italy (no. 39742/14) and three other applications (Communicated case – ongoing)

EPRs will continue to address issues related to human rights and the environment as per current practice, by explicitly covering procedural rights under the Aarhus Convention and by addressing issues related to substantive rights – such as the right to access to safe water and adequate sanitation, the right to clean air, the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to adequate food – in various chapters, depending on the reviewed country's needs. Also, EPRs will continue to make recommendations that consider the needs of vulnerable groups.

Video available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s6IA3cB91w&feature=youtu.be>



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Biodiversity assessment (2020)

to analyse developments & challenges in biodiversity and protected areas management in countries that had an UNECE EPR since 2014



Green economy assessment (2020)

to analyse developments & challenges in greening the economy in countries that had an UNECE EPR since 2014





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Supporting country's efforts to plan and monitor the implementation of EPR recommendations

developing roadmaps for implementing EPR recommendations in North Macedonia and Uzbekistan, with technical assistance from the UN Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation



Proposed template of a roadmap

11. A roadmap to support the process of coordinated implementation and regular self-monitoring and self-assessment of implementation of EPR recommendations (it can be done in Excel or Word programs) could be structured as follows:

Title, chapeau and text of the recommendation

Template to support the implementation planning and self-monitoring of EPR recommendations:

Implementation measures	Detailed actions	Period of execution for each action	Lead authority	Other institutions & stakeholders	Cost assessment	Financial sources	Means of verification	Comments
<i>[Identify measures required to implement the recommendation]</i>	<i>[Plan concrete actions for each measure]</i>	<i>[Establish concrete deadline for each action]</i>	<i>[Assign lead authority]</i>	<i>[Assign other institutions and stakeholders]</i>	<i>[Provide a cost assessment per action (NCU, \$, €)]</i>	<i>[Public budget; IFI (World Bank, etc.); Private sector]</i>	<i>[For example, law, programme, Governmental Decision]</i>	<i>[remarks regarding the implementation of measures and actions]</i>

Template for the self-assessment of the status of implementing each point of the recommendation:

Date	Not implemented	Partially implemented	In progress	Implemented	No longer relevant	Evidence of implementation / comments





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Acknowledgment of contributions & expertise

- ✓ Austria
 - ✓ Germany
 - ✓ Hungary
 - ✓ Italy
 - ✓ Luxembourg
 - ✓ Portugal
 - ✓ Switzerland
- UNEP
 - UNDP
 - WHO
 - OECD
 - EIB
 - UNECE
- Energy
 - Environment
 - Forestry
 - Housing
 - Statistics
 - Transport
- EPR Expert Group : Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania and Switzerland





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Thank you!



**Antoine Nunes
EPR Programme
UNECE**