

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)
Actions by Romania

Country: Romania

Title:

Establish national Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) strategies and plans or include SCP in green economy policies

Focus area 4: Shift consumer behaviours towards more sustainable consumption patterns

Description of the action: Developing a National Action Plan on SCP, agreed by national authorities and relevant stakeholders that will be approved by a government decision. The national action plan will be developed taking into consideration the existing European and national legal framework in this area (e. g. Law on green public procurement). The National Action Plan should answer to the overall objective of the NSDS on sustainable consumption and production - *To promote sustainable consumption and production patterns*, as well as the goals of the strategy timeframe.

Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate: 2020-2030

Type of action: Legal, regulatory and policy instruments including fiscal instruments, such as environmentally friendly subsidies (e.g. *programs financed by Environmental Fund*)

One of the actions took by Romania towards a higher energy efficiency is given by an increased rate of renewable energy sources quota in order to meet European and international climate change commitments. (through Green House Programme - managed by the Romanian Environmental Fund Administration). The Program promotes the use of heating systems based on alternative energy resources, replacing or supplementing traditional heating systems with installation based on renewable energy, encouraging the use of renewable clean energy sources.

Economic sectors: The following sectors: agriculture, forestry; energy; manufacturing; water; waste; housing, buildings and construction

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate: Statistical data collection through Romanian National Institute of Statistics, national and sectoral strategies that refer to SCP, closely linked with relevant documents of the European Union.

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:

- The achievement of the eco-efficient management of resource consumption that will maximise resource efficiency by promoting a sustainable pattern of production and consumption.
- Development an attractive business environment that can enhance investment flows, which will stimulate technological upgrading and encourage continued renewal of processes and products.
- To consider the impact of products on the environment throughout their life cycle (from design, manufacturing, assembly, marketing, distribution, sale and use down to recycling and disposal)
- Significant improvement of the quality of products and services leading to better performance on the market and higher added value

- Increase resource efficiency which will lead to a lower depletion rate of the categories of primary resources, that will further on and reduce the costs, improve competitiveness and achieve sustainable economic growth
- Develop the research and innovation activities that will focus on the sectors where the expected effects are the most significant in terms of ecological progress and competitiveness (organic foodstuffs, water-management technology, energy efficiency, urban transport, construction business, selective waste collection, recycling and disposal, biofuels, etc.)
- The improvement of the capacity of both public authorities and companies, to implement the legislation on green public procurement, and to encourage the national and local public authorities to initiate, in cooperation with business associations, chambers of commerce and industry, universities, will increase the level of social awareness and corporate responsibility regarding sustainable production and consumption.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) recommendations, as appropriate:

Recommendation 1.2:

The Interministerial Committee for the Coordination of the Integration of Environmental Protection into Sectoral Policies and Strategies at the National Level should:

- (a) Improve the coordination and harmonization of relevant strategies and programmes, taking into account results of forward looking analysis; and
- (b) Improve monitoring and evaluation of progress made in the implementation of the adopted policy documents in order to provide regular feedback for revision of the ongoing actions and preparation of the new ones.

Recommendation 4.3: The Ministry of Environment and Forests should:

- (a) Develop a mechanism to promote dialogue with the private sector on national and international environmental issues; and
- (b) Facilitate the active participation of the private sector in international cooperation on the environment and the green economy.

Recommendation 5.1: The Ministry of Environment and Forests should:

- (a) Review air and water pollution taxes with a view to ascertaining and strengthening their environmental effectiveness; and
- (b) Consider applying air pollution taxes to further major pollutants and submit relevant proposals to the Government for adoption

Recommendation 5.2:

The Government should:

- (a) Monitor and evaluate the impacts of the waste management taxes and other waste charges on waste generation;
- (b) Ensure that municipal waste collection charges are applied systematically across the country and that there are adequate incentives for waste sorting, deposit-refunds schemes and waste recycling; and
- (c) Set waste taxes and charges for manufacturing waste."

Recommendation 5.3:

The Government should review the system of water abstraction charges and water supply and sewage tariffs and adjust rates with the aim to ensure the implementation of the principle of full cost recovery.

Recommendation 5.4:

The Government should explore the scope for strengthening the role of fuel taxes and road user charges for dealing with road transport pollution.

Recommendation 5.5:

The Government should:

- (a) Gradually raise gas prices to levels that correspond to effective unit supply costs
- (b) Phase out regulated electricity and gas prices; and
- (c) Retain effective support of vulnerable consumers by means of well-targeted direct income support."

Recommendation 6.1:

The Government should evaluate the economic and environmental effects of the car-scrapping programme in order to decide whether it is really useful to continue with it."

Recommendation 9.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Forests should provide:

- (a) Resources and capacity-building necessary to produce protected area management plans for all protected areas for which these are required; and
- (b) Necessary tools and better capacity to access the available EU funds to the management authorities of protected areas in order to set up required activities for their management and develop mechanisms to support the livelihoods of the surrounding communities.

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: National and territorial sustainable development indicators

Partners: The Government of Romania through the members of the Interministerial Committee for the Coordination of the Integration of Environmental Protection into Sectoral Policies and Strategies at the National Level, relevant stakeholders (e.g The Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production REC-PNET)

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