

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST:

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes in the European Union's Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries in the framework of the EU4Environment Action

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is looking for an Implementing Partner to provide technical support in the establishment of EPR schemes for packaging waste streams in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine

Deadline: 6th December 2020

Action implemented by:

Background

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is looking for an Implementing Partner to provide technical support in the establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for priority product streams in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. As part of the EU-funded “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) programme (2019 – 2022), UNEP is leading a component on promoting the establishment of EPR schemes in the partner countries.

In recent years, the scale of production and poor waste management practices lead to large amounts of littering and pollution: the packaging – especially plastic packaging cause most problems. In many countries, waste management and disposal are often insufficiently organized and severely underfunded. Industry, as well as governments and public authorities, agree on the need to find practicable ideas and concrete measures and actions. To this end, under the EU4Environment’s component 2.4 on the “Use of strategic approaches on waste management”, specifically under Activity 2.4.2: Initiating/assisting the establishment of EPR schemes, UNEP will support the partner countries in the establishment of the schemes for priority product streams through the provision of technical assistance, advisory services and capacity development/training to policymakers, procurement practitioners, businesses and business associations, as well as NGOs and other stakeholders.

In light of the above, UNEP is looking for an Implementing Partner to contribute to the delivery of activities under the EU4Environment Activity 2.4.2: Initiating/assisting the establishment of EPR schemes in partner countries. The Implementing Partner will lead the below-listed activities to promote the establishment of EPR in selected countries with inputs from national partners and experts. UNEP will provide technical and overall guidance and will ensure quality control of products. All work will be conducted in close consultation with the European Commission and the EU Delegations, who will be informed in advance of all activities and invited to open and participate therein. An Implementing Partner will also work closely with the EU4Environment National Focal Points.

Activities

Regional level (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine)

Activity 1: Prepare an EaP countries regional analysis on the current best practices of EPR schemes for the packaging waste with 2-3 case studies from the EU Member States. The analysis will provide a strategic overview of the current capacity, approaches and initiatives that exist in case for sustainable management of packaging waste. It will offer policy and business decision-makers the opportunity to acquire a brief overview on EPR schemes, including details on key topics. It will describe models of Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs), the typical roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, financial schemes and will provide the characteristics of high-performing systems as well as less effective ones. It will also give recommendations for taking the next steps toward a successful EPR implementation that can be rolled out in the partner countries [January 2021].

Activity 2: Assist in the preparation and organization of a Regional capacity building online workshop/webinar on EPR through: i) identification of participants and facilitation of logistics; ii) showcasing the results of the analysis on the current best practice on EPR practices for packaging waste using case studies from the EU Member States in selected countries

(PowerPoint presentation); (iii) support a stakeholder survey to understand the status of EPR implementation in targeted countries; and (iv) prepare a summary of key actions at the regional level [February 2021].

Azerbaijan

Activity 3: Conduct gap analysis and develop recommendations for the draft packaging waste law in consultation with national partners and experts [February 2021].

Action 4: Carry out assessment and develop a roadmap to establish an EPR system for packaging waste in Azerbaijan through comparing and evaluating different models, e.g. collection methods, policy, recycling rates national partners and experts [March 2021].

Activity 5: Organize a national validation workshop of the report(s) produced as part of Activities 3-4 with relevant stakeholders from the government (ideally at an inter-ministerial policy dialogue platform) and private sector. The aim of the workshop is to acknowledge the analysis/recommendations made and propose actionable steps to implement these [May 2021].

Belarus

Activity 6: Conduct a technical review on the existing EPR mechanisms and further opportunities in Belarus for packaging waste to improve the performance of the existing system [March 2021].

Activity 7: Organize a national validation workshop of the report(s) produced as part of Activity 6 – with relevant stakeholders from the government (ideally at an inter-ministerial policy dialogue platform) and private sector. The aim of the workshop is to acknowledge the analysis/recommendations made and propose actionable steps to implement these [May 2021].

Georgia

Activity 8: Contribute to a capacity building training workshop on EPR issues for SMEs in collaboration with UNIDO and national partners and experts [March 2021].

Activity 9: Develop a training module for municipalities based on the new responsibilities defined by the EPR by-laws and develop promotional materials for effective participation of municipalities in the EPR schemes with inputs from national partners and experts [May 2021].

Activity 10: Contribute to the establishment of the functional EPR system in Georgia through assessment and training workshops for MEPA and other economic operators under EPR System. This also includes development of the procedure for inspection of Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) and other economic operators under the EPR system [June 2021].

All activities will be implemented in full compliance with EU visibility requirements. All the products (publication, communication materials, agenda, presentation slides, etc.) should comply with EU visibility requirements.

Eligibility

This call for expressions of interest is open to any not-for-profit organization, think tank, university or research centre or an individual consultant (up to a team of 3 people). While it is advantageous if the applying entity is based in the region, applications from entities/consultants outside the region are also welcome.

- Relevant experience, in the area of sustainable waste management, sustainable development and circular economy;
- Knowledge of the principles and approaches of circular economy and EPR is essential;
- Knowledge of international practices on EPR is required, especially for packaging and the plastic sector;
- Proven experience in dealing with diversified entities encompassing government agencies, development partners, donor organizations;
- Knowledge of Caucasus or Eastern European countries will be an asset;
- Existing connections with regional networks of governments, representatives of private sector (particularly SMEs) and/or civil society are strong advantage; and
- Proficiency in English is required. Knowledge of Russian and/or another regional language is an asset.

Application

To express interest in this assignment and/or receive further details on the project, please send the following information **no later than Sunday 6th of December 2020** to Irina Davis (irina.davis@un.org) at the UNEP Europe Office:

- A succinct description (max. four A4 pages, font size 11) of your organization's profile and experience. The expression of interest should provide details on the relevant experience and previous work of the organization (including publication links) in the field of circular economy and Extended Producers Responsibility in Europe.
- An overview of the proposed team, their functions in this assignment and respective CVs.