

Key Messages from the First Stakeholders' Forum of the Green Recovery Platform for Ukraine

Thematic Panels

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHITECTURE PANEL

Overview: The panel discussion on Environmental Architecture for Green Recovery focused on the frameworks necessary to support Ukraine's transition towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly recovery following the ongoing war. The dialogue emphasized the importance of collaborative governance, public participation and the integration of environmental principles into legislative frameworks. The speakers highlighted the challenges posed by the existing environmental management system and the need for comprehensive reforms to align with European Union standards.

Main Themes Discussed

1. Collaborative Governance:

- Effective cooperation among governmental institutions is essential for accelerating Ukraine's green recovery. This requires transparency, accountability and informed decision-making through public participation, including in plan, programme and project level environmental assessments.

2. Public Participation:

- Engaging civil society in environmental decision-making is crucial for enhancing transparency and accountability. Meaningful public participation can significantly contribute to the reconstruction process, ensuring developments align with the needs of the population.

3. Challenges in Environmental Management:

- The outdated environmental management system presents significant challenges to implementing modern environmental policies. The lack of transparency and cross-sectoral approaches hampers the ability to achieve a green recovery.

4. Data Availability:

- High-quality, up to date environmental data is necessary for informed decision-making and effective policy implementation. Establishing a comprehensive data management system and data portal is fundamental for supporting environmental strategies and informing a green recovery.

5. Strategic Framework:

- A comprehensive strategic framework for environmental protection, including sub-sectoral strategies for waste and water management, is needed to secure funding and guide implementation effectively.

6. Legal and Policy Coherence:

- The legal framework governing environmental policies must align with EU directives, without the introduction of exemptions or derogations. This includes ensuring that environmental assessments and public access to policy-making documents are integral parts of the legislative process. The EU acquis will promote economic growth while protecting the country's natural resources.

7. Funding Mechanisms:

- Implementing the "polluter pays" principle and securing national funds are essential for financing environmental initiatives. A clear accountability framework is necessary to ensure effective use of funds.

8. Integration of Environmental Principles:

- Environmental principles must be embedded in legal frameworks to ensure sustainable development. This includes reforming environmental control and monitoring systems to align with modern standards.

9. Holistic Recovery Approach:

- A holistic approach that considers the interconnections between environmental, economic and social factors is vital for a successful green recovery. This requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

Conclusion: The panel underscored the necessity for a comprehensive and integrated approach to environmental governance in Ukraine. By addressing existing challenges and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, Ukraine can effectively navigate its path towards a sustainable and resilient green recovery. The dialogue highlighted the importance of aligning national policies with EU standards and ensuring that environmental considerations are central to the recovery process. This will not only support ecological restoration but also contribute to the overall well-being of the population and the economy. Institutional and legislative reform can begin immediately.