



Minutes of the National Workshop “Green Criteria for Public Investment Management in Ukraine”

Place: Hilton Hotel Kyiv, Kyiv, and online

Date and Time: 8th December 2025, 10.00-14.00 (Kyiv time)

The Workshop was organized as an ‘activity’ within the framework of the ‘Ukraine Green Recovery Platform’ (UGRP)

Moderator: Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE

Speakers: Maryna Denysiuk, Deputy Minister for Development of Communities and Territories, Ukraine; Jürgen Keinhorst, UNEP; Yuliia Vlasenko, DREAM; Andrii Kitura, Green Transition Office; André Fabian, GIZ; Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE; Ksenia Bahrii, AV Group; Yuliia Kliuchkovych, CDM Ukraine; Pavlo Kozyrev, Association of small cities of Ukraine; Svitlana Berzina, NGO Living Planet. Additionally, intervention by Marcela McAndrew, DG Environment, EC.

Maryna Denysiuk, Deputy Minister for Development of Communities and Territories, Ukraine

- Green recovery will require innovative technology and climate-oriented standards; flexible financial arrangements for both private and public investments; streamlined procedures to accelerate priority projects; and enhanced coordination with international partners.
- Recent efforts by the Ukrainian government to reform the public investment system have been successful in establishing a mid-term priority public investments plan and creating the Single Project Pipeline (SPP) to enhance transparency, create a structured priority list of projects, and attract financing for investments.
- Going forward, it is crucial that regions and municipalities prepare and approve their mid-term investment plans and respective single project pipelines.
- The workshop will help to better frame the role of green criteria in the investment process to assess all projects and select those that can be marked as green.



- Another crucial step will be to support local levels in applying green criteria.
- Strengthening environmental considerations at the strategic level—including for local governments—is essential to ensure that projects are prioritized based on green criteria.
- Agreement has been reached on approaches for integrating green criteria into the DREAM ecosystem, which will enable assessment of the climate resilience and inclusiveness of projects at the planning stage.

Jürgen Keinhorst, UNEP – Opening remarks

- A priority of the UGRP is to identify investment barriers and to develop recommendations on how to overcome those barriers. Apart from selecting projects that improve resilience and competitiveness it is essential that new investments are in line with safety, environment and climate requirements, principally based on EU-standards. For this purpose it is important that ‘green’ criteria are part of the evaluation of project proposals at an early stage. The Workshop, including follow-up activities, is aiming at further developing and improving the criteria-set applied up to now and make it a substantial part of the PIM.
- Green Criteria must be pragmatically implementable, specifically in times of war. Apart from the existing legislation, reference should be the EU-Acquis. But at the early stage of the identification of projects for the SPP, a fully-fledged Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and even more requirements as within a permitting process would go too far. The ‘green’ criteria in the context of PIM/SPP should support the identification of high-risk projects at early stages of project preparation as regards climate, environment and biodiversity impacts. The ‘green’ criteria should help project sponsors reflect respective aspects in their proposals from the beginning and the public authorities to use their limited human and financial resources in an effective and efficient way.
- The Workshop is composed in a way that all major stakeholder groups playing a crucial role in the evaluation process can contribute with their practical experience, helping to identify gaps and making proposals on how to improve the procedures. Further work on these points is intended to become part of the work program of the UGRP.



- Another relevant topic for the future is the support for Strategic Environmental Impact Assessments, particularly relevant for programs, which are also included in the SPP, but due to limited time not center of this workshop today.

Yuliia Vlasenko, DREAM

- Presented key facts about the recent Public Investment Management reforms to enhance systemic investment management.
- Regions and communities are also feeding in their projects, 90% of all regional and sectoral committees now feeding in their data in DREAM, large state enterprises as well.
- DREAM is the single window to enter public investment programs; the central element is a mid-term state plan that includes information on streams, priorities and outcomes for the next three years.
- All projects in the SPP pipeline fully comply with the strategic priorities of the state, each project is logically justified based on a new methodology that was generated in a long-term process based on global best practices.

Stages of development of project pipeline

- Communities and regions develop their own strategic documents and mid-term plan for priority investment and corresponding project pipelines. Every project is then added to a sectoral pipeline/portfolio and assessed by sectoral experts. If projects are confirmed by expert assessment, they can enter the programmes of the state SPP.

Green Criteria currently applied

- Green Criteria have been inspired by international best practices, EU Green Taxonomy was chosen as guiding principles as the most structured framework; developed together with International Partners, GTO, and Ukrainian Ministries.
- Basic principles of EU taxonomy were integrated, identifying significant contribution and Do No Significant Harm of project proposals.



1. Economic sector/activity is being classified, then EU Green Criteria are used to identify key climate & environmental aspects relevant to this sector in the EU taxonomy
 2. Pre-feasibility study: Top-level questions on risks and contributions to six goals of EU Green Taxonomy.
 3. Feasibility study: More detailed analyses based on detailed information available, quantification of GHG emissions, EIA has been performed by this point in time if needed, risk mitigation measures are described.
- Important that green criteria are included in the green recovery process and are thoroughly applied in SPP process, technical support and awareness raising will be essential.
 - There is no external verification in the beginning, it is based on trust.

Andrii Kitura, Green Transition Office

- International funding is most central, severe lack of national resources; all international stakeholders bring in their own sustainability-related safeguards and guidelines; Application of green criteria will be helpful in this regard to facilitate and speed up negotiations with international partners.
- Various international frameworks have been analyzed to define green criteria (i.e. OECD DAC Rio Markers which are used in the Ukraine facility, New European Bauhaus). EU Green Taxonomy was clearly the most useful; also due to highly detailed sector-specific guidelines that can be applied where needed.
- Important to distinguish between large-scale new investment projects and smaller maintenance expenses at local level, criteria must account for this.
- For 2026, projects will have to be prepared by local level, key to building capacity and education.
- Next year, he expects lots of feedback on SPP procedures, which is a good development as it will be crucial to gather insights for improvements.



André Fabian, GIZ, Ukraine Climate Office

- Director of FELICITY 2, project facility financed by German International Climate Initiative (IKI), is a project preparation facility in cooperation with EIB.
- Currently commissioning various studies on SEA
 - To what extent is SEA already in line with EU standards?
 - Capacity gaps at local level are a key challenge
 - To what extent can SEA be used for transformative change?
 - One key aspect is improved spatial planning.
- It is important to use SEA as a "High upstream" tool.
- Project selection under SPP was partially constrained by very tight deadlines, underlining the need to strengthen upstream strategic planning.

Marcela McAndrew, DG Environment, EU Commission

- DG Environment is following EU Accession of Ukraine closely and interested in supporting green recovery efforts.
- Emphasized the distinction between basic projects requirements (EIA, SEA, permits etc., applicable to all projects) and green criteria that may be relevant for prioritization of environmentally sustainable projects in investment planning, both need to be developed
- Other relevant topics are monitoring, compliance, planning of public-private partnerships, etc.

Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE

- Provided an overview on the 5 UNECE multilateral environmental Conventions and their protocols, highlighting their symbiotic character with EU legislation and Ukraine's membership in all conventions and many protocols.



- UNECE environmental conventions provide a pan-European legal framework with legally binding environmental obligations that also apply to Ukraine, irrespective of the funding source.
- UNECE conventions provide guidance in particular on managing transboundary impacts and internationally recognized procedural aspects, under Aarhus, Espoo conventions and their protocols.
- They can also help to define substantive standards, regarding water resources management and pollution control.

Ksenia Bahrii, AV Group (Consultancy)

- IFI-supported investments must comply with both national legislation (Environmental Impact Assessment, EIA) and international requirements (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, ESIA), with international standards imposing higher and more comprehensive requirements, particularly in relation to social aspects.
- Practical experience shows recurring gaps in projects when assessed against IFI standards, notably limited understanding of environmental and social risk management procedures.
- There is an urgent need for targeted capacity-building support for companies, particularly to strengthen their ability to implement, monitor, and follow up on Environmental and Social Action Plans (ESAPs) developed as part of EIA/ESIA processes.

Yuliia Kliuchkovych, CDM Ukraine (Consultancy)

- Emphasized that EIAs and ESIA are two different instruments:
 - ESIA is a managerial risk management tool that comes in earlier in the development process, with the goal to shape decisions on technical, design and location choices, etc.
 - EIA is undertaken once these decisions are met to ensure that investment is compliant with environmental legislation.



- Going forward, it may be helpful to identify how ESIA and EIA could be further aligned and harmonized.
- For implementation, lack of time, financial and staff resources is often a challenge for enterprises, also for municipal enterprises.

Pavlo Kozyrev, Association of small cities of Ukraine

- Municipalities are key stakeholders for green transition, but implementation of greener solutions faces challenges on the ground.
- Emphasized capacity gaps at the local level, managerial clarity is needed to explain requirements of green criteria.
- Often, there is uncertainty about costs and investment returns of green infrastructure investment, and needs to be clarified, especially where green solutions require additional financial resources.
- Lack of capacity and understanding at the local level, also regarding the importance of the environment as an element of risk management. Gives an example of a city bypass that was built without prior consultation, violating the Aarhus convention.
- Another important element is to highlight the importance of green jobs as local benefits which need to be further understood by municipalities; green consideration may seem far-fetched at the local level, but creation of local jobs (i.e. green energy, circular economy) can be an important driver.
- Support for capacity building and support, also from consultancy companies, would be greatly appreciated.
- Emphasized the importance of pilot projects to better understand local socio-economic and political contexts.

Svitlana Berzina, NGO Living Planet

- Highlight importance of capacity building and training at local level



- Important for international organizations to study what has already happened at the local level, key example: Public Procurement Law allows that 30% of criteria in public procurement can be non-financial; however, is rarely implemented in practice.
- Pilots are essential: Use pilots to study barriers towards implementation, then scale up solutions. This should also be done for lack of green procurement.
- Another important lever: Ukraine should adopt classification of environmental goods and services (in line with EU regulation 2015/2174), without it will be difficult to move green recovery forward.
- Importance to improve coordination between ministries

Closing remarks by Jürgen Keinhorst

- Greatly appreciative of the contributions of all participants, the meeting shows strong commitment to green recovery and to further develop the 'green' criteria-set.
- This commitment is remarkable, specifically in times of war. It is reflecting the continued work on the implementation of a future -orientated strategy of the country.
- The workshop has provided a lot of information and insights which now will be thoroughly reflected. The intention is to develop proposals on how extended and updated 'green' criteria can be best integrated in the PIM.
- It will be additionally considered how programs, which are also part of the SPP, can be addressed as well.
- The issue of prioritizing of environment related infrastructure projects in the PIM under a more strategic view, an issue which has also been addressed in the workshop, will be proposed for further discussion in the 'Coordination Group' of the Ukraine Green Recovery Platform.