umweltbundesamt°
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA

Call for Expression of Interest
for mapping stakeholders of the Circular Economy ecosystem in Armenia, Moldova, and/or Ukraine

August 2025

Content

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1 Background

1.1 Introduction of the tenderer

The Environment Agency Austria/Umweltbundesamt (EAA) was founded in 1985 by the "Federal Act on Environmental Control" as a **national Government Agency attached to the Federal Ministry for the Environment.** With more than 600 experts from 55 disciplines, Environment Agency Austria is the leading provider of environmental solutions. They are thus able to cope with the problems of environmental protection in an interdisciplinary manner, providing expertise on the condition of the environment and its developments, as well as on measures to avoid or reduce environmental pollution, and to promote the environmentally compatible and sustainable use of resources.

Environment Agency Austria has successfully participated in institution and capacity building projects for almost all "New Member States" and Accession Countries to the European Union. In addition, Environment Agency Austria is a sought-after partner of international organizations such as the **European Commission (e.g., DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG ENEST), the European Parliament, the European Environment**

Agency, UN-organisations, and OECD. Because of our international engagement, our experts have deep insight to international environmental and climate policy and are up-to-date with any new developments.

At national level, **EAA coordinates environmental monitoring and reporting in cooperation with the 9 Provincial Authorities,** and operates the related **National environmental registers and databases** on hazardous chemicals, wastes, contaminated sites, air, water and soil quality, etc. One of the EAA key legal functions is assuring national **cooperation with the European Environment Agency via the Austrian National Focal Point and the National Reference Centres for all thematic areas**, which includes the Austrian contribution for building up the **Reportnet infrastructure for European environmental reporting.**

1.2   Introduction of the EU4Green Recovery East (EU4GRE) program

The European-funded EU4Green Recovery East (EU4GRE) program supports Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries in their transition towards greener and more circular economic models. These activities are summarized under Component 1 – Circular Economy, led by UNIDO and co-led by EAA.

One of these activities – in this particular case under the lead of EAA – is the mapping and analysis of local stakeholders in the **Circular Economy (CE) Ecosystem** of **EaP countries Armenia, Moldova, and/or Ukraine** to establish a stronger presence in the region and truly understand the local stakeholder network and their needs.

The stakeholder mapping and analysis aims to get **a clear picture of what the current CE ecosystem looks like, and where, how and who is involved** in key product value chains (KPVCs) for:

- exploring synergies and overlaps in interests, activities, and stakeholders through a broader green, circular economy approach;
- enabling institutions to develop and implement CE policies and legislation, industry and SME to establish new business models, the financial sector to steer investments into the CE ecosystem, and the civil society to implement CE practices;
- Linkage of stakeholders along value chains and across countries.

The stakeholder mapping and analysis will aim to strengthen EEA's position in supporting countries through stakeholder engagement on the pathway towards circular economy.

2   Application during the span of the program

The CE stakeholder mapping is expected to serve as a one stop shop during the span of the project and be a resource for:

- SMEs engaged in key products value chains (KPVCs);

- Ministries of Economy, Environment, and national statistical offices;
- Business support organizations and CE Hubs/RECP Clubs established under the programme;
- Education and training institutions;
- Non-Governmental-Organizations (NGOs).

3 Tasks

The tasks, to be implemented and completed in 2025, are listed as followed.

3.1 Task 1: Identification of stakeholders

In the initial phase, the focus will be identification of stakeholders in the CE ecosystem. The **scope of the CE ecosystem is defined as followed**:

(1) EaP country scope with a focus on Armenia, Moldova, and/or Ukraine;
(2) Stakeholders of the categories government (GOV), institutions supporting technical change (ISTC), medium-and high-technology industry (MHTI), business enterprises (BEs), knowledge-based institutions (KBIs), higher education (HE), research institutions (RIs), arbitrageurs (ARBs), financial institutions (FIs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and non-government organizations (NGOs), creatives;
(3) Key products value chains (KPVCs) Construction and Buildings, Tourism, Batteries and Vehicles, Electronics and ICT, Renewable energy with a focus on solar panels, Textiles, and Packaging;
(4) All material life cycle stages from imports, (domestic) mining and beneficiation, production and manufacturing, use, and waste management;
(5) All 10 R-activities refuse, rethink, reduce, reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacture, repurpose, recycle, recovery (thermal), and sanitary landfill disposal;
(6) All types of instruments such as policy and legislation, finance, capacity building, and awareness raising.

3.2 Task 2: Description and assessment of stakeholders

Building on the findings of the identification phase, the next phase will be the documentation of **key stakeholder characteristics** including a short description on the working area and responsibility of the stakeholder, the contact details, and the assignment of the stakeholders to the categories of the six scoping dimensions (see list above). Next, a **stakeholder assessment** identifies for each stakeholders' needs and expectations on the one hand and the impact and influence on the CE ecosystem on the other. The findings are documented in a **report** and **stakeholder database** with a clear structure in a machine-readable, open-access format (e.g., *.csv). A template for the stakeholder database will be provided.

Where **gaps** remain, such as the lack of an umbrella organization for solar panel value chain, or the lack of responsibility for waste prevention in public administration, a brief assessment on the consequences of the gaps and a proposal on how to fill them will be provided.

3.3 Task 3: Interactive online mapping

The results from the descriptive task are used to generate an interactive online map of stakeholders, which will be user-friendly and accessible to the public. The interactive map gives a **graphical overview on the stakeholder network** on the one hand and allows to **cluster and filter the stakeholders** based on the categories of the scoping dimensions on the other. A contact formular enables notifications from the public to EEA to record additional stakeholders. The online map needs to comply with EU legislation concerning the protection of personal data (GDPR). The consolidated version of the map will be hosted on an own website or the EU4Green Recovery Program website.

4 Call for Expressions of Interest

This call does not represent a formal EAA tender; hence it is not meant to solicit formal detailed proposals by potential providers. The purpose of this call is to invite potentially interested providers to express interest in participating in any future tender for the above-described services. Interested parties are invited to submit **a single PDF document with the following information**:

- A brief profile of the organization/expert, highlighting relevant experience in circular economy, stakeholder identification, mapping, and prioritization, the usage of visualization tools for stakeholder networks such as Kumu (https://kumu.io/), or relevant fields. Examples of previous work carried out for international organizations or stakeholder analysis are encouraged.
- For existing stakeholder mapping reports, registries and databases for one of the EaP countries or the EaP region, developed by the organization or third-party entities, a reference to the report/registry/database, a brief description of the aim and scope, the completeness and currentness of information, along with any access and usage modalities.
- A list of key personnel or experts expected to be involved, along with short descriptions of their roles and relevant experience, as well as their CV.
- An indicative price list (in EUR) of daily rates for the proposed profiles. Where technical development is proposed, respondents should describe their approach and the technologies they would use, particularly in cases involving tool adaptation or integration.

5 How to submit the Expression of Interest

This call is published through the webpage[1] of the "EU4Green Recovery East" program and the webpage of EEA. Consequently, the **submission shall be done via e-mail** to the address lebenslauf@umweltbundesamt.at with the mandatory subjective "*Stakeholder Mapping for country Armenia, Moldova, and/or Ukraine* [choose the appropriate one/ones]) and should reach us by the indicated deadline of **25 August 2025**, Vienna Time.

The Expression of Interest (EoI) should be a single PDF document in English and contain all information requirements as described under section 4.

After selection of qualified candidates, the relevant experts will be contacted and invited to submit a bid (direct award procedure according to the provisions of the Austrian Bundesvergabegesetz BVergG 2018) in accordance with the more precisely defined specifications of the services requested. The Contracting Authority (CA) may also conduct negotiation rounds at its own discretion if, from its point of view, a better offer (in particular, but not limited to the price offered or with respect to any other criteria the CA deems appropriate) can be achieved. For this purpose, the CA may, in its sole discretion, conduct either one or more rounds of negotiations with any bidder.

For EoI and the direct award procedure no reimbursement can be claimed.

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[1] Until the launch of the programs web-page under https://eu4waterdata.eu/en/