

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)
Actions by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Organization: United Nations Environment Programme

Title: Supporting Pan-European countries in developing sustainable and resilient infrastructure
--

Description of the action:

During the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi last March, Member States adopted a resolution on Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure (UNEA/E.A.5/Res.9). This new resolution builds on a 2019 UNEA resolution (UNEP/EA.4/Res.5) by encouraging Member States to implement the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure, published last year through the UNEP-led Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership and endorsed by the United Nations Environment Management Group; promote investment in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, natural infrastructure and nature-based solutions; cooperate internationally to strengthen frameworks, including for financing; and provide opportunities for engaging relevant stakeholders.

Under this mandate, and within available resources, UNEP will help advance the transition towards inclusive green economy in the Pan-European region through its support to Member States on sustainable and resilient infrastructure by:

- promoting the implementation of existing tools, and further developing knowledge on sustainable and resilient infrastructure, economy-wide and by sector;
- working with Member States and the United Nations system through existing platforms, and with other international partners, to support long-term sharing of experiences, peer-to-peer learning, technical assistance, capacity-building and training on sustainable infrastructure;
- offering capacity support to plan and deliver sustainable infrastructure investment that will drive an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development;
- facilitating private-sector engagement in planning and developing, and mobilizing finance for sustainable and resilient infrastructure by engaging businesses, practitioners, investors and other private-sector stakeholders;
- collaborating with the International Resource Panel to advance efforts for connecting science and policy for sustainable infrastructure in order to provide expert, policy-relevant and science-based options on the matter;
- providing technical assistance on the implementation of the international good practice principles, as appropriate and upon the request of a Member State, for application to specific subsystems of infrastructure and for the private sector and other stakeholder groups;
- continuing to collect and share best practices, tools and experiences for improving the sustainability of infrastructure systems.

Time frame/milestones, for action, as appropriate: Until end of 2025

Type of action: information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments

Economic sectors: Economy-wide, as well as targeted sectors.

Reference instruments and sources as appropriate:

<https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39852/SUSTAINABLE%20AND%20RESILIENT%20INFRASTRUCTURE.%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

https://content.unops.org/publications/Infrastructure_underpinning_sustainable_development_EN.pdf

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:

Infrastructure underpins the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as it cuts across the 17 Goals and influences [92%](#) of the 169 individual SDG targets, while also advance world efforts to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and meet the objectives of the Paris climate agreement. Through integrating sustainability into infrastructure plans, governments can ensure that 21st century infrastructure promotes environmental, social and economic sustainability and resilience. Positive social results can include poverty reduction, promote equity and advance gender equality, whilst promoting economic development and investment in nature, supporting local communities, generating green jobs, and promoting innovation.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: 92% of targets across al 17 SDGs.

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) recommendations, as applicable: not applicable

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: To be derived from the relevant SDG indicators.

Partners: UN Country Teams, UN System partners, Member State Governments, civil society, academia, international financial institutions, national and local authorities, academia, as represented in relevant networks such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership, One Planet Network, International Resources Panel, and other relevant sectoral, global, and regional initiatives and platforms.

Contact point:

UNEP Regional Office for Europe
15, chemin des Anemones
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneve, Switzerland
Email: roe@unep.org