

The GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW) for the Eastern Europe Constituency took place in Lviv, Ukraine from March 6 to March 9. Over 70 participants, including GEF and Convention focal points and representatives from Civil Society Organizations from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine and Turkey attended the four-day workshop. In addition, colleagues from implementing Agencies from FAO, UNDP UNEP, UNIDO, WB and WWF and a representative from the UNFCCC SEC participated in the event.



CSOs, GEF OFPs and PFP at the SGP consultation

Following on the agenda of previous years the first morning was dedicated to a half-day **CSO meeting**, led by the CSO Regional Focal Mr. Vakhtang Kochoradze (from Georgia). About 20 CSOs attended the meeting where they discussed ways to enhance the level of Network activities at the country and regional level. Items in the agenda also included informing the CSOs on GEF-7 processes and obtaining feedback on the current level of engagement of civil society in GEF projects, in the region, and how to move forward.

Right after lunch GEF OFPs and PFPs joined the CSO group to participate in the **SGP consultation** where the National SGP coordinators from Ukraine (Ms. Svitlana Nigorodova), Moldova (Ms. Inessa Galitshi) and Ms. Valentyna Kyrychenko (SGP Ukraine) presented some of the work done by SGP in the region before breaking into groups and focus the discussion on what should be the areas of work for GEF-7. Throughout the week beneficiaries from different SGP projects created a knowledge market place where they showcased their work, achievements and displayed a variety of products.



Mr. Semerak, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources going through the SGP market place



SGP market place



Opening remarks by the Minister, Vice Minister and William

Mr. Semerak, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, traveled from Kiev to attend the first morning of the ECW. After delivering the opening remarks, the Minister, the Vice-minister and William visited a GEF project ([ID 3917-Improving Energy Efficiency and Promoting Renewable Energy in the Agro-Food and other SMEs in Ukraine](#)). During the visit the Minister had four press conferences where he highlighted the work accomplished by the GEF in Ukraine.

This year's agenda for the ECWs include interactive exercises and discussions regarding the Role of the GEF's partnership and updates on the GEF-7 replenishment process, facilitating synergies in implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) towards sustainable development, Monitoring and Evaluation, Cross-Cutting Capacity Development, stakeholder engagement and gender mainstreaming, green finance and a half-day training course on "The Art of Knowledge Exchange". This hands-on activity shows best practices and key ideas and methods behind successful knowledge management using GEF project examples.



WWF Scorecard exercise



Knowledge Day



On the last day participants went on a GEF Knowledge Day using a project field trip as a basis for learning. This included visiting two projects. For each one the group navigated in small groups through different learning stations, a wide range of project beneficiaries presented lessons learned and challenges faced throughout the implementation of the projects.

The knowledge day included two site visits. The first stop took place at an energy efficient bread-baking plant where the learning focused on:

- Technological innovation, managerial improvement and reduction of CO2
- Financial partnership arrangements
- Project implementation during unstable economy and corruption



To conclude, the group traveled to KILGAN Biofuels where the three topics in the learning stations included:

- Modern Technologies of biodiesel production and CO2 reduction
- Testing of the biomass/biofuel production certification scheme
- Promotion of the local community and local business development

For additional information please contact the Country Relations team.