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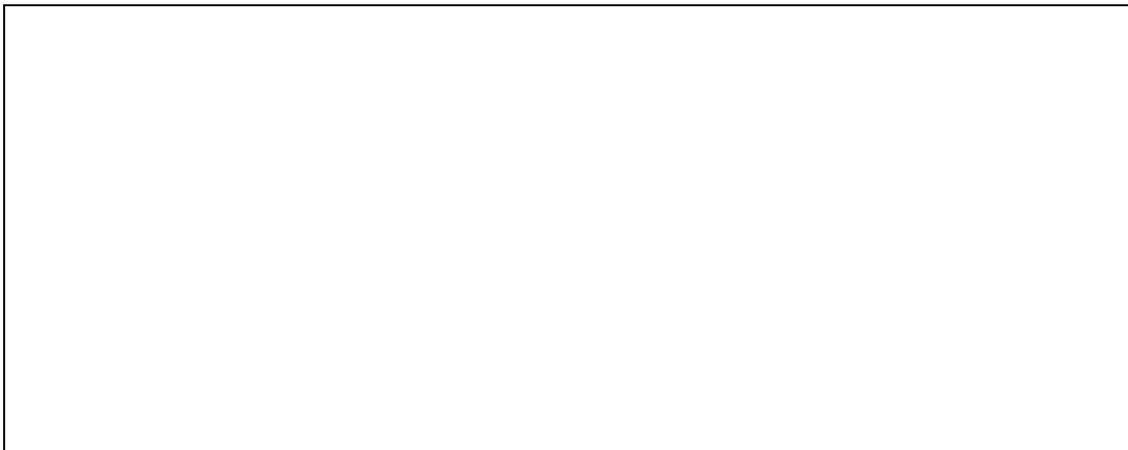
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Is a green COVID-19 economic recovery possible? Perspectives for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

This will be a Live Talk via ZOOM. Please register in advance via this link

Feel free to contact us in case of any enquiries
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Is a green COVID-19 economic recovery possible? Perspectives for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

25 June 2021,

10:00 – 11:00 CEST

ZOOM Live Talk

Background

The economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic presents opportunities to build forward greener. According to new OECD data, OECD countries and key partner economies have allocated USD 336 billion to environmentally positive measures within their COVID-19 economic recovery packages. These measures help to pave the way for a recovery that not only provides income and jobs, but also has broader well-being goals at its core, integrates strong climate and biodiversity action, and builds economic, social and ecosystem resilience.

As in many countries, the economies of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) have been negatively affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Their governments responded by addressing the health impacts and providing relief to affected businesses and workers.

In the short term, policy measures taken to slow down the spread of the virus have had both negative and positive impacts on the environment in the EECCA region. With regards to positive effects, countries have experienced short-term improvements in air quality due to limited mobility of people and reduced activity of enterprises, leading also to reduced emissions. However, these improvements are only temporary and much more needs to be done to ensure that recovery plans can advance the transition to a greener, climate-resilient and low-carbon economy.

The event

Have governments in the EECCA region made efforts to green their economic recovery? Can more be done in the context of budget constraints, impacts of the economic downturn on businesses or a relatively high share of the energy intensive sectors in the economies of the region? What are the co-benefits and trade-offs of greening post-COVID-19 economic recovery measures?

To find out answers to these question and discuss priority steps for building forward greener in the EECCA region join high level policy-makers and experts for the Live Talk on 25 June CEST. The discussion will be based on the OECD policy brief "COVID-19 and Greening the Economies of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia".

Agenda

Moderator: **Ms. Kumi Kitamori,** Head of Green Growth and Global Relations, OECD Environment Directorate

Time (Paris time)	Contributor	Topics
10:00 – 10:05am	**Kumi Kitamori**, Head of Green Growth and Global Relations, OECD Environment Directorate	Welcome and introduction
10:05 – 10:20am	**Isabella Neuweg** and **Douglas Herrick**, Policy Analysts, OECD Environment Directorate **Andrew Prag**, OECD Environment Directorate	Lightning round on green recovery measures in EECCA and G20 countries
10:20 – 10:40am	**Iryna Stavchuk**, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Ukraine **Jusipbek Kazbekov**, Deputy Chairman, State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection, Uzbekistan **Isabel Blanco**, Associate Director, Lead Economist on Green Economy Transition, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	Panel discussion Designing a green recovery from COVID-19 – lessons-learnt from the G20 and EECCA. Aligning environmental and fiscal sustainability – challenges and opportunities. Building forward better with limited resources – how-tos.
10:40 – 11:00am	**Discussion and Q&A**	What are the big knowledge gaps? Where do we need a better evidence-base to inform policymaking? How to design effective green recovery measures while minimising negative economic and social effects?