



IBC Training Programme on Green Transitions

UN Inter-agency Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia

Background on Green Transitions: The green transition is key to safeguard our planet's future allowing us to turn the fossil-fuel dependent economy to a green economy, in a new sustainable paradigm that drives sustainable development and peace. It is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and directly contributes to the achievement of most of the SDG targets. The Ukraine crisis has seriously affected the Europe and Central Asia region including exacerbating the energy crisis, increased pollutants, biodiversity loss and climate change. During this time, it is important to support member states of the region to turn environmental and climate challenges into opportunities and to make the Green Transition just and inclusive for all. The success of this transition depends on strong regional coordination, involving local authorities, state-owned enterprises, the private sector, civil society, research and education institutions, youth, the financial sector, and the development community.

Purpose of Training Programme: In response to the request by Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and the Development Coordination Office, in 2022 the Issue Based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia (IBC) developed and offered the **Training Programme on Green Transitions**, dedicated to Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) and UNCTs in Europe and Central Asia. The work was led by UNDP, UNECE, UNEP and UNESCO and facilitated by IISD, with contributions from the other IBC organisations and external experts. The objective of the Training Programme was to further build UNCTs' capacities to support countries in their effort to design strategies and action plans for the green transition. The Training Programme was also designed to contribute to addressing financing for development needs.

Content of Training Programme: The IBC Training Programme on Green Transitions focused on five main themes, identified through various consultations with the RCOs and UNCTs, which are: (1) **Sustainable Finance**; (2) **Energy**; (3) **Plastics**; (4) **Circular Economy**; and (5) **Enabling Policies and Strategic Frameworks** for Green Transition at the country level. The content was based on the expertise and resources among the IBC members. Further details on the series of webinars and individual components of the Training Programme will follow in the next page.

Delivery Method of Training Programme: To present the guidance and to offer a platform for discussion, a 2-hour long webinar was held for each of the themes from September to November 2022. The **webinars** were attended by over 250 participants. During the webinars, experts and panellists representing national, regional and international perspectives delivered presentations sharing relevant knowledge, information and experiences. Participants, experts and panellists had also the chance to discuss, share additional case examples, insights and suggestions during **Q&A sessions** and via a **virtual discussion app**. In addition, theme-specific **Guidance Notes** were produced and are available on the IBC website ([IBC on Environment and Climate Change | uneurocentralasia.org](https://uneurocentralasia.org/en/ibc-environmental-coalition)), together with the **recordings of the webinars**.



Training Programme on Green Transitions

At the country level, the transition to a green economy represents a national challenge that requires innovation, infrastructure investments and changes in consumption and production patterns. To bring those about, governments need to design strategic frameworks and put in place enabling policies both economywide and at sectoral levels. UNCTs are well positioned to become leading partners for the green transition, and the Training Programme aims at further building their capacities to do so. The Training Programme delves into specific sectors that have a strategic importance for the green transition, and it also focuses on system-wide actions to support it, providing participants with in-depth and concrete knowledge, introducing them to useful initiatives and information, and disseminating experiences and good practices.

Sustainable Finance (Webinar 1)

The objective of this training is for participants to have a concrete yet comprehensive grasp of what sustainable finance is, including key concepts, current state of play across relevant topics and themes, main institutions driving the work within the UN system, key public and private sector counterparties at national, subregional and regional level.

Energy (Webinar 2)

This training illustrates how the energy sector will need to transform in order to ensure a climate neutral future. This goes along with various challenges - reinforced by the current energy crisis - and therefore requires the consideration of a range of interventions and instruments with the ambition to achieve a just transition. Several approaches and tools to facilitate the planning and managing of the green energy transition are presented.

Circular Economy (Webinar 3)

This training provides in-depth insights into the environmental and socio-economic opportunities of a circular economy. Focussing on selected priority value chains (construction, industry and agriculture), the webinar demonstrates potential intervention points and concrete best practice examples how circularity can be achieved under different framework conditions. The expected path dependencies and resistance against change when it comes to transformations from linear towards circular systems are also addressed.

Plastics (Webinar 4)

The objective of this training is for participants to gain an understanding of the policy context and approaches to addressing plastic pollution and the role the UNCTs can play on the ground to help countries. The webinar addresses how plastics affect the environment, causing pollution to both terrestrial and marine ecosystems and impacting human health, and how the shift to a circular economy can create positive results in terms of both reducing waste and creating green jobs.

Enabling Policies and Strategic Frameworks (Webinar 5)

The overall objective of this training is to help UNCTs to formulate a strategic approach to support the green transition at the country level. To that end, the webinar introduces the elements of a strategic approach for supporting the green transition, and it presents critically how the green transition is taking place in countries in Europe and Central Asia. It also features UNCTs sharing experiences regarding support to the host governments on the green transition; exploring what could be a more strategic role of the UNCTs in promoting and supporting the green transition; and identifying further or specific capacity development needs in UNCTs to fulfil that role.