

On behalf of:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Climate Action,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE
INITIATIVE

of the Federal Republic of Germany

PROGRESS

Promoting Green Deal Readiness in
the Eastern Partnership Countries

Agenda

PROGRESS regional training webinar

Strengthening the capacity of fruit and berry producers in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) to access the EU market

Zoom Platform

Tuesday, 23 June 2026 (3h35)

12:00-15:35 CEST / 13:00-16:35 (MD/UA) / 14:00-17:35 (AM/AZ/GE)

Wednesday, 24 June 2026 (1h55)

12:00-13:55 CEST / 13:00-14:55 (MD/UA) / 14:00-15:55 (AM/AZ/GE)

Organised by:

Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus)
and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
(OECD)

**Funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German
Federal Government (BMUKN)**

Background

Agricultural exports, including fruits and berries, represent a major opportunity for economic growth and export diversification for the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. There has been a notable expansion of fresh fruit and berry exports from the EaP region to the EU, notably from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova (henceforth “Moldova”).

At the same time, EU import requirements are among the most stringent in the world. Imported food must meet the same safety, quality and traceability requirements as domestic EU products in order to protect consumers and the environment, and to ensure fair market competition. Strengthening farmers’ technical capacity as well as the quality and compliance management within the EaP fruit and berry supply chains are essential to secure their stable and consistent access to the EU market.

Climate change can increase the risk of plant pests and chemical and microbiological contamination of crops through heatwaves, heavy rainfall, flooding and changing weather patterns. Meeting the mandatory EU import requirements such as on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), Maximum Residue Levels (MRL), hygiene and traceability can help fruit and berry producers become more resilient to climate change by encouraging the adoption of more sustainable farming practices and potentially improving their ability to absorb climate-related losses and invest in climate-smart technologies and practices.

This training webinar is organised in the framework of the regional project “Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the Eastern Partnership Countries (PROGRESS)” to share information on the mandatory EU import requirements and how to achieve them, including those related to environmental protection.

Meeting objectives

The aim of this training webinar is to explain the key mandatory EU import requirements for fresh fruits and berries, and provide concrete advice on how to achieve them, including on SPS, MRL controls, food safety and hygiene, traceability, labelling and marketing. It will also explore how meeting these requirements can promote climate change adaptation and provide a platform for an exchange among the actors of the EaP fruit and berry value chains.

Please note that the training focuses on mandatory EU import requirements and not on private standards required by larger retailers and some wholesalers such as GLOBALG.A.P.

Participants

The main audience for the training includes producers of fresh fruits and berries interested in exporting to the EU, as well as business associations working with the same sector.

Other participants will include representatives of the wider EaP countries’ fruit and berry value chain, agricultural and environmental ministries and national control authorities, civil society and academia, international organisations and PROGRESS Programme Partners.

AGENDA (CEST time)

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 23 JUNE	
Moderator: Ms. Olga Olson, Output I Manager, PROGRESS, OECD Environment Directorate	
12:00-12:20	Introductory Remarks • Ms. Sophiko Akhobadze, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (RECC) • Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, OECD Environment
SESSION 1: EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Requirements and Maximum Residue Level (MRL) Controls	
12:20-13:10	• SPS: Mr. Vincent Andre, Consultant on Learning and Documentation, Cronos Europa, Belgium • MRL: Mr. Dionyssis Vlachos, Agronomist, Green Fund, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece • Eastern Partnership (EaP) case study: ◦ Dr. Viacheslav Chobotar, PhD, Head of Farming Enterprise (Vinnytsia Region), Ukraine
13:10-13:50	Digital Poll and Open Discussion
13:50-14:00 Coffee Break	
SESSION 2: EU Food Hygiene Requirements for Fresh Fruit and Berry Imports	
14:00-15:00	• Managing microbiological hazards: Prof. Ana Allende, Research Professor, Centre for Soil Science and Applied Biology of the Segura River (CEBAS), Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Spain • Managing chemical hazards: Mr. Francesco Sbrana, Environmental Chemist, Regional Agency for Environmental Protection of Tuscany (ARPAT), Italy • EaP case studies: ◦ Ms. Aliona Castravet, Deputy Director General, National Food Safety Agency (ANSA), Moldova ◦ Mr. Ilia Kunchulia, Certification Specialist, Georgian Farmers' Association, Georgia ◦ Mr. Seymur Jafarov, Lead Consultant, Azsertifika LLC, Azerbaijan
15:00-15:30	Digital Poll and Open Discussion
15:30-15:35	Conclusion of Day 1
DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE	
Moderator: Ms. Olga Olson, Output I Manager, PROGRESS, OECD Environment Directorate	
12:00-12:10	Summary of Day 1 and Outline of Day 2 • Ms. Olga Olson, Output I Manager, PROGRESS, OECD Environment Directorate
SESSION 3: EU Traceability, Labelling and Marketing Requirements, and Border Control Posts (BCPs)	
12:10-13:05	• Traceability, labelling and marketing: Ms. Kristina Mattsson, Agricultural Analyst, Swedish Board of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure, Sweden • BCPs: Ms. Lucía Pitarch Mampel, Counsellor for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Permanent Delegation of Spain to the OECD • EaP case studies: ◦ Ms. Alena Kolomoitseva, Adviser to the Head, Association of Gardeners, Winegrowers and Winemakers, Ukraine ◦ Mr. Shota Tsukoshvili, CEO, Georgia Blueberry Growers Association (GBGA), Georgia
13:05-13:50	Digital Poll and Open Discussion
13:50-13:55	Conclusion of Day 2

Relevant EU legislation and resources

SESSION 1: EU SPS Requirements and MRL controls
• Regulation (EC) 178/2002 General food law regulation • Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain • Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against pests of plants, and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 for its implementation • Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market • Regulation (EC) 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides • EU Pesticides Database • Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Academy
SESSION 2: EU Food Hygiene Requirements for Fresh Fruit and Berry Imports
• Regulation (EC) 178/2002 General food law regulation • Regulation (EC) 853/2004 Food hygiene regulation • Regulation (EU) 2023/915 on maximum levels of certain contaminants in food • Regulation (EC) 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs • Commission notice (2017/C 163/01) on guidance document on addressing microbiological risks in fresh fruits and vegetables at primary production through good hygiene
SESSION 3: EU Traceability, Labelling and Marketing Requirements, and BCPs
• Regulation (EC) 178/2002 General food law regulation • Regulation (EU) 2017/625 Official controls regulation, and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1014 to lay down detailed rules on minimum requirements for border control posts • Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 on the temporary increase of official controls • Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers • Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products • Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2429 supplementing Regulation (EU) 1308/2013

About PROGRESS

The project “Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the Eastern Partnership Countries” (PROGRESS) is implemented on behalf of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Government of Germany. Within the Federal Government, the IKI is anchored in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN). Selected project is also the responsibility of the Federal Foreign Office (AA). PROGRESS is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, as the lead agency, in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC), the European Business Association (EBA) Moldova and the Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IEF).

PROGRESS aims to support the EaP countries with achieving long-term mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development consistent with the EU Green Deal objectives and 1.5°C pathways of the Paris Agreement. PROGRESS lasts during 2023-2028 and has a total budget of EUR 20 million. Website: [Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the Eastern Partnership Countries](#)