Understanding of the Sectors Covered by the Lot 6v

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Abstract. Energy is managed in a complex way by the theories of sustainability. All of the three pillars of sustainability (society, environment, and economy) are inseparable from the energy sector, because energy consumption causes so many externalities which threat the welfare in the long run. Most of the environmental problems are in tight connection with energy use and production, such as nuclear waste management, oil spills, emission, etc. Furthermore, energetics is an integral part of the economic and social development, and sustainable energy is a core issue. In this review a previously developed but recently improved methodology is presented which is suitable for the measurement of sustainable energy. Using panel data and estimating a Fixed Effects Model we examine whether the economic development contributes to the effectiveness of policy implementation for sustainable energy development in East-Central Europe.

Keywords: energy consumption, energy dependence, energy efficiency, energy strategy, sustainability, Central-East Europe.

1 Introduction

The ENP (Figure 1) was initiated in 2003/2004 and is now established as the principal vehicle for cooperation with the neighbouring countries. The primary objective of the ENP is to avoid the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all concerned. The necessary legal and institutional framework for intensified cooperation with the partner countries are Partnership and Cooperation Agreements or Association Agreements. However, the ENP aims to further enhance political, security, social, economic, sectoral, scientific and cultural relations, based on jointly agreed, ENP Action Plans covering a wide range of issues. Implementation of the Action Plans will help to devise and implement policies and measures to promote economic growth and social cohesion, to reduce poverty and to protect the environment, thereby contributing to the long-term objective of sustainable development (Kampa et al., 2008).

ENP partner countries and the Russian Federation as q strategic partner are facing similar environmental challenges to those of the EU, though the priorities and scale of challenges may differ. Industrial pollution, air and water quality, waste management, biodiversity loss, floods, droughts, desertification, etc are issues

common to all partners. Many ENP partners and the Russian Federation are also expected to be seriously affected by climate change. In the context of the EU's relations with the ENP partners and the Russian Federation, the European Commission aims to support partner countries in enhancing environment protection and promoting sustainable development.

The ENP Action Plans contain actions to enhance environmental governance, address issue-specific environment concerns as well as promote international, regional and cross-border co-operation on environment issues. The general premise of ENPI is defined as: the European Union has a vital interest in seeing greater economic development, stability and better governance in its neighbourhood (Guidelines, 2012).

In addition to the ENPI, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) was launched at a summit in Prague in May, 2009, with 33 countries (27 EU Member States and 6 countries of the EaP) represented in order to pursue substantial upgrading of the level of engagement of the EU with the six Partner Countries in the Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus, such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine (Cooperation, 2012).

The EaP panel on Environment and Climate change (under Platform 2 – Economic integration and convergence with EU policies) aims to promote a collaborative approach to tackling environmental



Figure 1 Countries in the ENP and strategic partner (Russian Federation) *Source: European Commission http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/partners/index en.htm*

challenges in the Eastern region of the European Neighbourhood.

The EaP countries recognised that progress towards the Green Economy, i.e. environmentally sustainable and resource and energy efficient economic development, should be considered as a vital part of economic development in the region and should therefore be a key long-term aim for all the countries within the Eastern Partnership. Underpinned by eco-innovation as a means of developing new and different standards of production and products, activities to promote a green economy aim at reconfiguring businesses and infrastructures to deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions, extracting and using less natural resources, creating less waste (Eastern, 2011).

2 Environmental Benefits of Greening the Economy and Rationale for promoting the green economy paradigm

According to the Rio+20 conference final document 'The Future We Want': "green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication will enhance our ability to manage natural resources sustainably and with lower negative environmental impacts, increase resource efficiency and reduce waste" (Future, 2013).

The green economy offers opportunities to all countries, irrespective of their level of development and the structure of their economies. While in many cases investments to move towards a green economy can result in short-term win-win solutions, in other cases a medium term perspective will be needed, and transitional costs will have to be addressed, including through "propoor" policies. Even though there is no "one-size-fits-all" model, there are common challenges and solutions, and countries will benefit from exchanging experience and improved international cooperation.

The EU considers that an inclusive green economy is an essential means of achieving sustainable development in the context of poverty eradication. A green economy can generate sustained growth, create green jobs and decent work and help eradicating poverty by promoting investments and the preservation of the natural capital base. The EU is proposing aspirational goals and targets as part of the discussions with its partners around the Rio+20 outcome. They focus is made on five areas which are key for a green economy: water, the oceans, land and ecosystems (including forests), sustainable energy, and resource efficiency including waste. These areas are vital to human development and represent basic "pillars of life", upon which poverty eradication, livelihoods, food security, human health and disaster resilience depend.

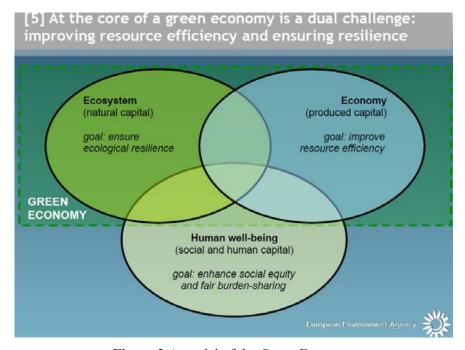


Figure 2 A model of the Green Economy

Source: Speck Stefan (2012)

A Green Economy model was suggested by the EEA (Figure 2).

A green economy is mainly founded on the principles of: 1) Sustainable development; 2) Equity and poverty alleviation; 3) Ecological resilience; 4) Inclusiveness, and 5) Environmental limits.

Europe has taken the first steps on a greener development path: through the Europe 2020 Strategy, in particular the roadmaps for a resource efficient Europe and the low carbon economy, EU Member States are adopting national strategies for a green economy. In October 2011, the European Commission adopted a Communication on "Increasing the impact of EU development policy: an Agenda for Change" which focuses EU development policy on sustainable and inclusive growth – in line with the objectives for the green economy and the agenda for sustainable development (From Policy to Action, 2012).

Developing countries and emerging economies are assisted to formulate more resource efficient policies and see the EU as a useful source of effective standards and expertise including on the use of chemicals throughout their lifecycle. To this end, this subpriority will support green economy policy dissemination towards the target of ensuring that by 2020 chemicals are used throughout their life cycle in ways that minimise significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

'Greening' the economy is increasingly considered as a way to pursue economic growth

and sustainable development, while improving resource efficiency, and preventing environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. It aims at maximising the chances of exploiting cleaner sources of resource-efficient growth, by developing new green industries, jobs and technologies, as well as managing the structural changes that the transition to a greener economy will entail. Emphasis will be on helping developing countries to achieve long-term environmentally sustainable economic development with a focus on supporting policy reform to make their economies more environmentally friendly. If dialogue on reform encourages developing countries to see EU environmental standards and approaches to resource efficiency as useful models, this will assist them in expanding opportunities for trade. Greening can also be addressed through new approaches such as environmental fiscal reform and the promotion of innovative market-based policy instruments by stronger publicly accessible information services.

A greener economy also means safer handling of hazardous substances. In this respect, activities will mostly focus on implementation of international action plans and could include support for the Strategic Plan for the Basel Convention on Hazardous Wastes including its regional activities, field-level technical assistance activities decided under the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on chemicals, the

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Global Mercury Partnership. There is a need in partner countries for inventories, strategies, legislation, feasibility studies and capacity building.

This strategy, covering implementation of the Environment and natural resources thematic programme for the period 2011–2013, builds on the 2007–2010 Strategy and the mid-term review that was carried out in 2009. The indicative amount available for the period 2011–2013 is approximately €517 million (Strategy, 2011–2013).

There are three of the most prominent strategic horizontal policy documents of relevance to **the green economy** that reflect the integration of a range of core ideas underpinning the green economy:

- Europe's growth Strategy 'Europe 2020' (COM, 2010), although does not specifically refer to the green economy but stresses sustainability as a key component of the EU 2020 strategy, whose flagship initiatives include resource efficiency and an industrial policy with strong sustainability features. Sustainable production and consumption are at the core of a specific policy agenda for improving the environmental performance of products and increasing the demand for more sustainable goods and production technologies. This policy is complemented by other components of the renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy. The main initiatives that have promoted in this regard include the development of the Eco-label scheme, the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), the promotion of green public procurement and environmental technologies, the adoption of specific legislation for the eco-design of energy related products and consumer oriented awareness raising initiatives. Other initiatives, such as the Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme (ECAP), aim at supporting small and medium enterprises in their efforts to comply with environmental legislation and to improve environmental performance. an Integrated Product Policy (IPP) has been formulated with a view to minimise environmental degradation by addressing the different phases of products' life-cycle and taking action where it is most effective to reduce their environmental impact.
- The Commission's Communication "A resource-efficient Europe Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy" (COM, 2011).
- 2011 Roadmap to a resource efficient Europe (COM (2011) 571 final.

These documents identified eight sectors as key for a transition to a green economy (agriculture, buildings, energy supply, fisheries, industry, transport, waste management, water) in which the EU already has a policy framework in place to provide a basis for measures to make these sectors more sustainable. Forestry and Tourism issues fall primarily under Member State competence. This means that the above eight areas could mainly be considered for transfer of the green economy expertise in the EC external aid policy for ENPI. A few more EC documents that were issued earlier are of relevance to the Green Economy:

- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan COM (2008) 397 final.
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Mainstreaming sustainable development into EU policies: 2009 Review of the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development COM (2009) 400 final.
- Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Ecolabel.
- Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), repealing Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 and Commission Decisions 2001/681/EC and 2006/193/EC.
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Public procurement for a better environment COM (2008) 400 final.

In 2012, the Council of the European Union in its declaration following the UN Rio-20 Summit:

- reaffirmed its commitment to the promotion of clean and environmentally sound technologies as a means to facilitate a transition to green economy for all countries regardless of their development status as well as its commitment to support cooperation and capacity building for developing countries;
- stressed the importance of private and public sector engagement in promoting green economy in the context of sustainable development including through public-private partnerships;
- **supported** the development of international standards and voluntary initiatives undertaken by business and industry such as corporate

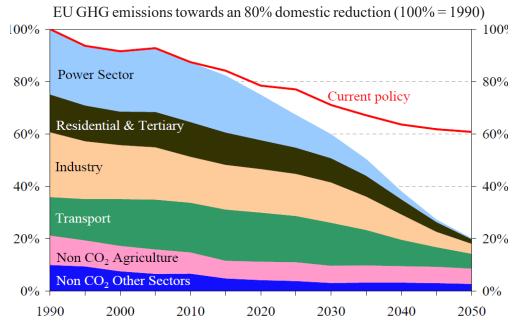


Figure 3 EU Greenhouse gases emissions reduction targets

Source: A Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050. Communication ... COM (2011) 112 final, Brussels, 8.3. 2011, p. 5

Table 1 Sectoral reductions			
GHG reductions compared to 1990	2005	2030	2050
Total	-7%	-40 to -44%	-40 to -44%
Sectors			
Power (CO ₂)	-7%	-54 to -68%	-93 to -99%
Industry (CO ₂)	-20%	-34 to -40%	-83 to -87%
Transport (inci. CO ₂ aviation, excl. maritime)	+30%	+20 to -9%	-54 to -67%
Residential and services (CO ₂)	-12%	-37 to -53%	-88 to -91%
Agriculture (non-CO ₂)	-20%	-36 to -37%	-42 to -49%
Other non-CO, emissions	-30%	-72 to -73%	-70 to -78%

Table 1 Sectoral reductions

Source: A Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050. Communication... COM (2011) 112 final, Brussels, 8.3.2011, p. 6

social responsibility and corporate sustainability reporting;

- **underlined** the urgent need for EU Member States, independently and in cooperation, to further enhance the capacity of **educational systems** to provide people, particularly youth and women, with the related skills to pursue green economy as a means to achieve sustainable development (Rio, 2012).

The EU Commission proposed that the EU pursue the following principles in its discussions on the post-2015 framework: "The framework should cover, in an integrated fashion...drivers, needed to ensure ...the transition to an inclusive green economy capable of addressing climate challenges" (Decent, 2013).

3 Challenges of EU policies related to Green Economy

Economic activity has delivered unprecedented environmental damage: an estimated 60 per cent of the world's ecosystems have been degraded and significant scarcity in key resources – such as oil – could be less than a decade away. The current economic and environmental crisis tells us that the time is ripe for governments around the world to implement a new kind of economy, which is resilient, sustainable, operates within the limits of our planet's resources and creates a fairer society. This thematic issue covers research which can help policy makers develop this Global Green Economy. Two of the most important steps in the transition to a green economy are to establish our resource

and environmental limits and to fix the wider economic model, to one that does not stimulate unsustainable consumption. To achieve this we need to be able to measure resources, economic activity and progress, accurately and appropriately (Global, 2011).

To achieve the transition to a green economy three interlinked policy dimensions should be addressed:

- (1) Investing in the sustainable management of key resources and natural capital ("what").
- (2) Establishing the right market and regulatory conditions ("how").
- (3) Improving governance and private sector involvement ("who").

Green infrastructure has been identified as a valuable tool for addressing needs for ecological preservation and environmental protection as well as societal needs in a complementary fashion. The planned European Green Infrastructure Strategy aims to create the framework for progress in this area and, more specifically, support Target 2 of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020.

Green infrastructure is the network of natural and semi-natural areas, features and green spaces in rural and urban, and terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine areas, which together enhance ecosystem health and resilience, contribute to biodiversity conservation and benefit human populations through the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem services. Green infrastructure can be strengthened through strategic and co-ordinated initiatives that focus on maintaining, restoring, improving and connecting existing areas and features as well as creating new areas and features.

A set of recommendations for policy actions at the EU as well as the national and local/regional levels has been prepared to inform developments on the upcoming EU green infrastructure strategy and strengthen the implementation of green infrastructure initiatives throughout Europe (Naumann, 2011).

Some challenges are presented in Figure 3 and Table 1 below.

Over the past decades, sustainable development has been promoted by a number of EU policies. For example, the EU has adopted **binding climate targets** together with the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, as well as range of legislative instruments on biodiversity, waste management, water and air quality. This has encouraged the growth of EU eco-industries, which now correspond to over 2.5% of EU GDP and provide jobs to over 3.4 million people. In 2001 the EU adopted an

EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) which was renewed in 2006.

The EU has recently announced the following Flagship initiatives for the Green Economy to gain traction:

- (1) "Innovation Union" to improve framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation so as to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create growth and jobs;
- (2) "Youth on the move" to enhance the performance of education systems and to facilitate the entry of young people to the labour market;
- (3) "A digital agenda for Europe" to speed up the roll-out of high-speed internet and reap the benefits of a digital single market for households and firms;
- (4) "Resource efficient Europe" to help decouple economic growth from the use of resources, support the shift towards a low carbon economy, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernise our transport sector and promote energy efficiency;
- (5) "An industrial policy for the globalisation era" to improve the business environment, notably for SMEs, and to support the development of a strong and sustainable industrial base able to compete globally;
- (6) "An agenda for new skills and jobs" to modernise labour markets and empower people by developing their of skills throughout the lifecycle with a view to increase labour participation and better match labour supply and demand, including through labour mobility;
- (7) "European platform against poverty" to ensure social and territorial cohesion such that the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society (Rio, 2013).

An earlier EU Flagship Initiative promoted "An industrial policy for the globalisation era". Industry and especially SMEs have been hit hard by the economic crisis and all sectors are facing the challenges of globalisation and adjusting their production processes and products to a low-carbon economy. The impact of these challenges will differ from sector to sector, some sectors might have to "reinvent" themselves but for others these challenges will present new business opportunities. Commission will work closely with stakeholders in different sectors (business, trade unions, academics, NGOs, consumer organisations) and will draw up a framework for a modern industrial policy, to support entrepreneurship, to guide and help industry to become fit to meet these challenges, to promote the competitiveness of Europe's primary, manufacturing and service industries and help them seize the opportunities of globalisation and of the green economy. The framework will address all elements of the increasingly international value chain from access to raw materials to after-sales service (Europe, 2010).

Major approaches to a transition towards the Green Economy were pointed in the European Parliament resolution of 29 September 2011 on developing a common EU position ahead of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable **Development** (Rio+20). It stressed that Green Economy should focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication' and (b) 'the institutional framework for sustainable development' for world leaders to set the sustainability agenda for the next 10 years, including a Green Economy Roadmap. A 'green economy' was understood as the entire economy functioning within the limits of sustainability in respect to biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services, climate protection and use of natural resources; stresses that more focus should be given to human, environmental and natural capital and that sustainable development is more than just green economy. The transition towards a green economy requires urgent action as regards ecosystems protection, efficient and sustainable resources and natural capital, while promoting sustainable consumption and production. It highlighted the need to pursue current initiatives on capacity building and stressed that climate change poses a serious threat to poverty reduction, human rights, peace and security and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in many developing countries.

Special attention was given to the need to achieve and implement plans for sustainable production and consumption and keep the impacts of the use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits; to the importance of assessing resources, natural capital and ecosystem services at their real value, while not commodifying natural systems; the establishment of natural capital accounting processes and their integration into economic accounting structures and political decisionmaking processes; to integrating the concept of internalisation of external costs on the environment and communities. Other issues were highlighted: water as a public good; the human right to water and sanitation to be globally achieved; a radical transformation of the energy sector in order to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency; an alternative model to measure growth and welfare

'beyond GDP', building on initiatives such as the international system for integrated environmental and economic accounting (SEEA), the Human Development Index, and the OECD's 'Measuring the Progress of Societies' project; the adoption of clear and measurable indicators that take account of climate change, biodiversity, resource efficiency and social inclusion; the recognition of the principle of non-regression in the context of environmental protection as well as fundamental rights; improvement of sustainable development governance, the involvement of finance ministers, ministers, development ministers, economy environment ministers and others in sustainable development policies.

4 Role of framework contracts to promote green economy in EPA countries

An EU-funded report was commissioned in 2010–2011 to provide information about the current situation and potential opportunities in the Eastern Partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) and make recommendations on progress towards a green economy and the introduction of eco-innovation policy instruments (Opportunities, 2010).

The report pointed out that the concepts of green economy and green growth are new for all Partner countries, and that while most have a general socioeconomic development strategy and have adopted or are updating environmental documents, no country has specific strategic documents on green economy, sustainable production and consumption or cleaner production.

In order to promote a green economy, the report pointed out that all countries should need to:

- improve their legal systems and especially their regulatory mix;
- build additional capacities in the field of environmental management;
- improve coordination among ministries and relevant state agencies;
- develop specific water related infrastructure as well as waste management systems;
- improve their environmental monitoring system (with the exception of Belarus);
- support green procurement at all levels of public administration;
- raise awareness in the field of green economy.
 In order to support Partner countries towards the green growth objective, the European Commission is urged to:
- increase the importance of green economy issues in ongoing projects;
- prepare a new 'umbrella' project on green economy governance;

- increase the importance of green economy relevant issues in existing financing mechanisms;
- increase coordination of activities with international organisations active in the region in the field of green economy.

Project "The role of market-based instruments in achieving a resource efficient economy" under framework contract: ENV.G.1/FRA/2006/0073 can be a good example of a framework contract implemented in EU member states. Its results can be usefully transferred to ENPI countries.

The Institute for European Environmental Policy is a partner in a major framework contract for DG Environment on the Sustainable Management of Resources, which has so far given rise to projects on natural resources (reviewing the Natural Resources Thematic Strategy, analysing key contributions to resource efficiency, and on waste and on sustainable consumption and production).

5 Suggestions to Improve the Implementation of FWC Lot 6

5.1. A Thematic Coverage for Lot 6

The most recent detailed description of Lot 6 does not spell out Line "Green Economy" (see Annex 3). There is no single approach to "a green economy" but similar with regards to sustainable development. Green Economy policy can be grouped into several clusters (available EU legislation put in brackets):

Climate change mitigation and adaptation (A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies (Green paper, 2013).

- 1. Eco-Efficiency, including decoupling economic growth from natural resource use, dematerialization, product labeling, life-cycle, waste management, (Energy Efficiency Directive, Waste Framework Directive since 1975 with amendments).
- 2. Greening markets and public procurement (EU Emission Trading Directive).
- 3. Investment in sustainable infrastructure (Discussion about the EU supergrid).
- 4. Restoration and enhancement of natural capital, a resilient green economy (EU Fuel Quality Directive).
 - 5. Getting prices right (EU Natura 2000 network).
 - 6. Eco tax reform (national reforms).

Key environment and bio technologies, compatible with a new industrial revolution, pollution prevention and control, new industrial revolution (EU, 2010).

1. Institutions and Partnerships for green economy.

Transboundary resource management (including water, energy, land management, payment for ecosystem services, biodiversity offsets) (The role, 2011).

5.2. A new topic – the 3rd Industrial Revolution – looming large on the EU 2020 agenda

The European Commission is developing ways for a radical reshape of European industry so as to boost sustainable growth. In May 2012, the European Commission Vice President Antonio Tajani at a conference 'Mission Growth: Europe at the Lead of the New Industrial Revolution' pointed out that without a new industrial policy, there will be no growth and no jobs. Mr Tajani called for a new industrial revolution that "should accompany, with technological development, a more efficient and sustainable use of ever scarcer resources. The five pillars of the Third Industrial Revolution are:

- 1) shifting to renewable energy;
- 2) transforming the building stock of every continent into micro-power plants to collect renewable energies on-site;
- 3) deploying hydrogen and other storage technologies in every building and throughout the infrastructure to store intermittent energies;
- 4) using Internet technology to transform the power grid of every continent into an energy-sharing intergrid that acts just like the Internet (when millions of buildings are generating a small amount of energy locally, on-site, they can sell surplus back to the grid and share electricity with their continental neighbours);
- 5) transitioning the transport fleet to electric plug-in and fuel cell vehicles that can buy and sell electricity on a smart, continental, interactive power grid (Ourworld, 2012).

A recent EU Parliament Declaration On Energy And The Economy recalled that the EU Parliament endorsed the Third Industrial Revolution as the long-term economic vision and development model for the member states in a formal declaration passed in June 2007.

In fact, it is resource- and energy efficient and environmentally friendly dimension of green economy as a post-carbon 3rd industrial revolution economy.

Though the concept of new industrial revolution is presently under DG Enterprises it seems to be closely coordinated with DG Environment and belong to Lot 6 Framework Contracts.

5.3. Across the board themes

An earlier version of Lot 6 coverage included the following experiences:

1. Programme / project identification, preparation / formulation.

- 2. Programme / project implementation.
- 3. Preparation of Terms of Reference (services) or technical annexes (works, supplies) or evaluation of offers (Procurement).
 - 4. Evaluation of grant proposals.
- 5. Evaluations (ex-ante, interim, ex-post etc.), monitoring as well as a number of horizontal aspects.
 - 6. (Cross-) sectoral policies / reforms.
 - 7. Macroeconomics.
 - 8. Public financial management.
 - 9. Legislation, regulations, law enforcement.
 - 10. Approximation of legislation.
 - 11. Institutional building.
 - 12. Training / research.
- 13. Awareness-raising, (incl. information / communication).
- 14. Items 12 through 14 seem to be given special attention in Framework contracts for ENP countries (oneglobalexpert, 2011).
 - 5.4. Geographic coverage by Lot 6

A wind power plant will be built near the town of Novogrudok as part of the Belarus-EU international technical assistance project "Green Economy in Belarus". Under the agreement,

about 20 smaller green projects are also slated for implementation. Activities will be undertaken to improve the institutional and legislative framework. Attention will be given to the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of the green economy, small green initiatives and mini-projects. The EU allocates about €12 million for the agreement signed in May 2013 (Belarus, 2012).

As it is indicated above the ENPI/East has already been taken care of in the Framework Contract coverage. The transition to green economy is promoted in Kazakhstan while other countries of the Central Asia region are falling behind and need assistance. For example, a report Agenda-21. Execution of obligations on sustainable development in Kazakhstan (2011) has Chapter 8. Opportunities for the transition to green economy. This report includes the analysis of Kazakhstan's progress concerning the implementation of the commitments in the field of sustainable development, identifies the main barriers to the green economy, and provides recommendations for the future. Kazakhstan has put forward its international initiative "The Green Bridge" to promote regional and wider cooperation on green growth (Agenda-21, 2011).

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