



Action funded by the European Union

Circular Economy and New Growth Opportunities



Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production among SMEs in Armenia

The EU4ENVIRONMENT

Funded by the European Union, the EU4Environment Action aims to preserve and better use the natural capital, increase people’s environmental well-being, and stimulate economic growth in the six EaP countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine. By bringing together environmental and economic actors, it helps deliver policy and legislative changes, making planning and investment greener, stimulating thus the uptake of innovative technologies by adopting new business models and creating green jobs. It also promotes a better environmental governance, improved management of protected areas and forests, and sustainable trade. The Action, spanning from 2019-2022, involves five implementing organizations - OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO, and the World Bank – that focus on producing tangible and achievable results in line with the goals, priorities, and overall cooperation targets defined by the Partner countries.

Building on the important achievements of the former EaP GREEN Programme (2013-2017) in Armenia, in which the participating SMEs demonstrated the effectiveness of UNIDO’s RECP approach, resulting in a reduced consumption of resources, energy, and water, UNIDO will continue to promote and build national capacities to enable SMEs in switching to a Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production. In addition, UNIDO will identify opportunities that can support the creation of circular value chains to raise the opportunities and benefits of a Circular Economy among enterprises, the government, and the civil society.

EU4Environment Actions are clustered around five priority results:



Under Result 2 - “Circular Economy and New Growth Opportunities”, UNIDO is scaling up “Resource Efficient & Cleaner Production among SMEs” in Armenia and other EaP countries and will further work on building the capacity of SMEs to use RECP and eco-innovation approaches in their operations. About 25 Armenian enterprises will be assisted in revising their business models. The local experts trained on the RECP methodology will then conduct assessments in the selected companies. The implementation of the RECP methodology will help them increase productivity, product quality, and overall competitiveness. The project will ensure long-term sustainability for the acquired knowledge in Armenia. As a means to introduce CE principles, the project aims to assess waste sources from industrial activities and identify recycling options (source to waste) where CE models can be introduced as tools such as “waste maps” on a pilot basis. The national capacity to implement RECP will be further built through strengthening the support institutions, raising awareness about the RECP benefits, and sharing knowledge on how it could be implemented nationwide.

Action implemented by:



Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production among SMEs in Armenia is scaled up



Circular Economy

- ✓ Raising Awareness on CE concepts and approaches
- ✓ Identifying and assessing waste sources from production activities
- ✓ Identifying recycling options in the recognized sources of waste
- ✓ Preparing waste maps in the pilot municipalities

Training of National Experts

- ✓ Providing hands-on experience and advancing training on the RECP demonstration companies team and other professionals to foster a continuous learning process on RECP among industry professionals and expand the local market of service providers

Raising Awareness & Sharing Knowledge

- ✓ Supporting & promoting Circular Economy and RECP concepts, methodologies, tools, and the results of the project implementation among programme stakeholders and relevant target groups through efficient communication tools and channels
- ✓ Improving awareness and the understanding of country specific RECP opportunities and benefits to further develop a market demand for RECP services
- ✓ Strengthening the national capacities and collaboration on CE/RECP in Armenia through national professional networks for sharing knowledge among experts, business owners, and staff from the demonstration companies to ensure a continuous exchange of technical expertise, a proper knowledge management, and a regular exchange among professionals

Additional RECP Assessments

- ✓ Increasing the number of companies that apply cost-effective measures for reducing energy, water, and material consumption, as well as waste and emission generation through a systematic and integrated evaluation methodology
- ✓ The RECP saving catalogue, supported by developed studies, and the RECP action and monitoring plans for each company
- ✓ Contribution to establishing initial capacities in the companies for adopting RECP as a necessary strategy for business growth

Coaching sessions for RECP national experts and SMEs

The circle of coaching sessions for RECP national experts and SMEs in Armenia represents a preparatory step before RECP audits can be undertaken for SMEs. The coaching calls to:

- ✓ improve the RECP national experts and SMEs' environmental performance, and find out more resource efficient ways for organizing their production
- ✓ extend the current capacity on the RECP methodology and practices among national experts and demonstrate its implementation in 15 companies, strengthening thus the national expertise on resource efficiency and cleaner production
- ✓ assist local companies working in plastic, fish production, textile, paper, metal processing and food producers in carrying out RECP assessments and further the development of RECP action plans, improving the efficiency and environmental performance of SMEs, reducing waste, using green technologies, whilst improving energy efficiency and cutting material losses

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