



## Circular Economy and New Growth Opportunities



### Resource Efficient Cleaner Production among SMEs in Georgia

#### 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 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 Georgia, in which 50 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 the national capacity 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.

The EU4Environment Action is 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 Georgia 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 40 Georgian enterprises will be assisted in revising their business models. The local experts trained on the RECP methodology will then conduct assessments for the selected companies. The implementation of the RECP methodology will help increase productivity, product quality, and the competitiveness of SMEs. The project will also ensure long-term sustainability for acquired knowledge in Georgia. RECP clubs will be established in two regions to promote peer coaching mechanisms and enhance the productivity of the selected industrial enterprises. As a means of introducing CE principles, the project will aim at assessing waste sources from industrial activities and identify recycling options (source to waste) where CE models can be introduced as "waste maps" tools on a pilot basis. The national capacity to implement RECP will be further built by 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 Georgia is scaled up



## Supporting RECP Clubs

- ✓ Support SMEs to create internal capacities on the integration of RECP principles in their business, leading them towards the identification of viable economic and environmental solutions that improve their productivity and green their performance
- ✓ Scale up RECP demonstrations in the country through RECP Clubs - a peer review coaching mechanism established in 2 municipalities

## Circular Economy

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

## Training of National Experts

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

## Additional RECP Assessments

- ✓ Increasing the number of companies applying cost-effective measures for reducing energy, water, and material consumption, and waste and emission generations, 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 adoption RECP as a necessary strategy for business growth

## Raising Awareness & Knowledge Sharing

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

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