



# EU4Environment supports two Georgian regions in advancing Industrial Waste Mapping efforts

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With the help of UNIDO and the European Union, the Georgian municipalities of Rustavi and Zestaponi are closer to completing a complex Industrial Waste Mapping endeavour designed to help their industries become more resource efficient and green.

Industrial Waste Mapping refers to waste management and circular economy activities, from the generation of waste throughout its lifecycle (including the reuse, recycling, and recovery of waste). An efficient and circular system is one which avoids waste (as much as possible), increases business value by treating all materials as resources, and minimises environmental impact. This contributes to the sustainability of manufacturing industries and the promotion of economic opportunities. Hence, the objective of IWM is to identify, assess, and map waste streams from manufacturing enterprises and develop options for improving resource efficiency and the circularity of materials and by-products in the economy.

An online event took place in Georgia on 25 July 2022 to receive feedback from key stakeholders and validate the Industrial Waste Mapping (IWM) report dedicated to the Rustavi and Zestaponi Municipalities.

*“An economic development based on innovative approaches implies investments in education, research and development, the improvement of standards, as well as collaboration between various sectors, especially the public-private one. The development of a green economy is crucial in our country and its principles must be acknowledged within enterprises to increase the potential for sustainable development. We need to switch to means which are resource efficient and resource-saving to reduce the consumption of raw materials. In these efforts, the two Municipalities of Rustavi and Zestaponi are pioneers”,* said Mr. David Advadze, Head of Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

The event, “Circular Economy in Practice: Consultations for the Validation of the Zestaponi and Rustavi IWM Report”, gathered around 30 stakeholders from various areas of interest: the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, as well as the mayors from the Rustavi and Zestaponi Municipalities, industrial enterprises located in the two regions, non-governmental organizations and experts from Georgia, and representatives from UNIDO.

*“In support of the ongoing Circular Economy efforts, the Ministry has founded an intergovernmental working group for the development of a national circular economy roadmap, one of the most important*

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elements being the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in waste management (focusing on specific waste streams such as e-waste, used tyres, used batteries, accumulators, and oils). This will support the first stage of the development of a circular economic model in Georgia. Each waste generator should understand how important waste management is and join the Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) collaborative efforts which are already in place. More than 2.000 producers have been registered in the last month, and each will have opportunities to contribute to reaching national recycling targets and waste treatment. With regards to industrial waste, in Rustavi and Zestaponi, the majority of enterprises (some generating hazardous waste) have already agreed with the Ministry on the companies' waste management action plans; for them, it is important to identify elements of Circular Economy and see potential resources in the waste they generate", said Ms. Irma Gurguliani, Deputy Head of Waste and Chemicals Management Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

Discussions were also held on the results from the waste mapping exercise initiated in the two regions in 2021, including on how to optimise the IWM process to benefit other regions and countries wishing to undertake waste mapping activities. The participants also held a consultation to validate the IWM Report for Zestaponi and Rustavi and offered suggestions on how the recommendations could be implemented to introduce Circular Economy practices for the businesses located there.

*"We have come a long way in our efforts to pilot IWM in the two Georgian Municipalities. From the side of UNIDO, I confirm that the work on Circular Economy is not only focused on waste, but rather on resources – and indeed, we see waste as an important resource for industrial production. For UNIDO, a Circular Economy is an Industrial Economy, as we look at the very design and production of goods and we work with different sectors and industries. Here, synergies can be identified between industries of different portfolios so they can cooperate and exchange by-products and resources – benefiting, thus, from industrial symbiosis in real terms",* said Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, EU4Environment Project Manager, Directorate for Environment and Energy, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

### **Background**

The "European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment) programme aims to help the EU's Eastern Partner countries to preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts. The Action's implementation period is 2019-2023.

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