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EU4Environment supports Belarusian private small and medium-sized companies to expand their knowledge on the benefits of Eco-Industrial Parks

Belarus, Minsk, 12.10.2021

Within the European Union-funded EU4Environment Action, UNIDO advances the technical knowledge of managers and specialists from the private Belarusian companies residing in the Free Economic Zone (FEZ) "Minsk" on the key approaches of Eco-Industrial Parks (EIP) - resource-efficient and cleaner production (RECP) and industrial symbiosis (IS).

Core topics of discussion revolved around the importance and benefits of green transformation for businesses and industrial parks, the transition to low-carbon, and circular economy. The role of hosting the so-called RECP Clubs by the FEZ "Minsk", and the approaches on developing IS were also included as instruments for such a transition.

"The EU is actively supporting the economic development of the country's Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) through a number of projects. Four programmes that are currently run until 2022 address the issue of SMEs and their access to finance, most having the same goal: enhancing the capacities of SMEs to become more independent and competitive on the international markets, and supporting them to respond to the current political and economic crisis. Thus, we are working on different levels in Minsk and throughout the regions by providing advisory services to SMEs via different partners, including EBRD and the World Bank. The EU is and will keep supporting the economy with a very special focus on SMEs", said Luca Carapelli from the Delegation of the European Union to Belarus.

In June - July 2021, the work on the assessment of the pilot plot of FEZ "Minsk" ("Shabany") against [the International EIP Framework](#) was launched. According to the preliminary findings, the current level of compliance of the site with the international recommendations for EIP was at 50%. A technical workshop on RECP and IS was thus considered to be the next important step to further prepare the recommendations for the operator of FEZ "Minsk" to become fully compliant. It also helped continue strengthening the cooperation between the RECP Center (a National Implementing Partner of UNIDO under the EU4Environment Action) and the FEZ "Minsk" management, as well as to involve private

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companies in the process of creating an Eco-Industrial Park. Over 25 participants (out of which 15 were women) from private enterprises and the Zone's management took part in the online event.

“On its end, UNIDO is working on implementing the resource efficiency methodology in Belarus and in the other EaP countries since 2013, when the previous EU-funded programme, EaP GREEN, was launched. In this respect, promoting the EU Green Deal is in line with UNIDO's mandate on inclusive and sustainable industrial growth, as cleaner production and circular economy reduce the environmental (and carbon) footprint of industries and, thus, contribute to preventing ecological catastrophes related to climate change”, said Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, EU4Environment Project Manager from UNIDO.

The event's presenters singled out their contribution around best international practices in the field of RECP and IS (relevant for the private companies), the identification of local opportunities for cost reduction, means of increasing SMEs' competitiveness, and ways to strengthen corporate responsibility.

Background:

The EU4Environment Action, funded by the European Union, aims to support Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to preserve and better use their natural capital, increase people's environmental well-being, and grasp new development opportunities. With a budget of some EUR 20 million for all six countries, EU4Environment is carried out with implementation support by five international partners: OECD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNECE and the World Bank.

Websites

[EU4Environment](#)

[RECP Center Belarus](#)

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