



EU4Environment empowers Georgian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises with a new resource efficiency training

(online) Tbilisi, 22 December 2022

There is a growing interest among Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to adopt development approaches based on the [Best Available Techniques \(BAT\)](#) to prevent and control their industrial emissions. For enterprises located in the European Union (EU)'s Eastern Partnership region, learning more about BAT and its role in the transition to a Circular Economy has become easier thanks to the EU4Environment programme.

This is the case recorded in Georgia, where, on the 22nd of December, SMEs, over 30 industry representatives and specialists working in environmental management and engineering (chemical, industrial, environment, or related fields) have completed a specialized training on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) with a focus on BAT. The participants were joined by the RECP Demonstration Companies (selected for the RECP assessments under EU4Environment) and representatives from national organizations and the Georgian Technical University.

Within the umbrella of the EU-funded EU4Environment programme, we are hosting our last meeting of the year on a topic of great interest, the best available techniques related to Circular Economy for SMEs. Within the agenda, and as discussed with the international expert and the technical group, we have prepared for today local examples, issues, and stories to facilitate the learning process with practical case studies relevant for Georgian companies, said Mr George Abulashvili, National Coordinator and Director of the Energy Efficiency Centre, Georgia

The two-hour training predominantly focused on the relevant elements of the [EU Best Available Techniques reference documents \(BREFs\)](#), as well as indicators, benchmarks, processes, waste and emissions sources. Delving further into the matter, the RECP trainer also presented BAT, BAT sources, and a radar for new technologies and their application for Georgian SMEs working in food, metal, and plastic processing. Within it, the participants enjoyed practical lessons about cross-cutting BREFs (big combustion plants, energy efficiency, cooling, wastewater treatment, and many others), and discussed the replicability of practical examples from other countries, and the materials that could be used by potential suppliers.

As part of EU4Environment, UNIDO has been working on resource efficiency in Georgia since 2019, and; it is a great pleasure to build this knowledge and share an understanding of the role of industry in achieving green growth. As a stepping stone, UNIDO is promoting Circular Economy as an industrial economy, and EU4Environment is giving us the platform to discuss and apply this knowledge in concrete enterprises. I am glad to confirm that the demand for this is high and we will continue sharing our experience to see what is applicable in Georgian enterprises and the economy, overall, said Ms Tatiana Chernyavskaya, EU4Environment Project Manager, Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Unit, UNIDO

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The session also helped the participants learn about the [EU Industrial Emissions Directive](#), BAT and BREFs, the purpose of introducing a radar for new technologies in the food, metal, and plastic processing sectors, and how to develop strategic individual approaches to apply BAT references to support Circular Economy principles.

Within the EU-funded EU4Environment Action, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is implementing activities related to “Circular Economy and New Growth Opportunities” with the support of the Energy Efficiency Centre Georgia (as a National Implementing Partner). The objective here is to promote more efficient use of resources (energy, materials, and water) within Georgian manufacturing enterprises, and to reduce risks to the environment and human health.

[Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production \(RECP\)](#) is used as an umbrella term for the application of preventive environmental strategies to products, processes, and services. UNIDO has developed the RECP methodology to help identify sources of losses for all types of resources used by an enterprise, identify the root causes of such losses, and develop and assess the feasibility of activities aimed at reducing or completely eliminating the identified losses.

This training is a continuation of a very successful series of instructions within EU4Environment. And, through a good partnership like the one held with UNIDO, companies in the Eastern Partnership can achieve well-developed economic situations that also take into account their interest in environmental protection. Knowledge-based economic development is also a priority for the Government of Georgia, as well as the encouragement of innovative processes, commercialization, inventive start-ups, and the increase of competitiveness among businesses. Only by investing in these elements can we continue advancing the path towards a green economy and the better integration of its elements into Georgia's industries, said Mr David Advadze, Head of Division of Sustainable Development Promotion, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Department, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Background

The “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment – Green Economy) Action helps the Eastern Partnership countries 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.

It is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organizations - OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO, and the World Bank – over the 2019-2024 period, with a budget of EUR 20 million. For more information about the Action, please visit: www.eu4environment.org.

For more information about RECP in Georgia, please visit: www.recp.ge

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