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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

EU4Environment supports Georgia to adopt digital tools for greening Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

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On 24 March, the “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) programme supported the launch of a new digital tool to help Georgian Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) boost their resource and energy efficiency. The launch of this tool gathered 40 participants from various fields (RECP Clubs’ member and demonstration companies from the regional programmes EU4Environment and EaP GREEN, experts, businesses, and representatives from the Government and international organizations).

Within the EU4Environment Action, various workshops have been carried out to tackle green growth and production. In this sense, it is important for companies and organizations to participate in these meetings as they provide the information needed to develop a green attitude that makes production more efficient and cleaner. As various pilot activities have been successfully organized in Georgia, today’s workshop on the introduction of the I-GO tool will be one more step forward for implementing the recommendations and guidelines on the services needed to establish a competitive and green production, said Mr. David Advadze, Head of Division of Sustainable Development Promotion, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Department of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia.

Based on self-assessment and confidentiality of information supplied by SMEs, the I-GO Assistant results in a free of charge, immediate advice on SME performance and possible steps to increase it. Originally developed by the Green Industry Platform and adapted for use in Georgia by EU4Environment, this digital tool is addressed to enterprises willing to overcome energy and resource wastage based on in-house knowledge and financial resources.

So far, EU support resulted in significant savings for those SMEs that implemented the recommendations received from EU4Environment. The greening of our economies is an important goal of the post-2020 Eastern Partnership (EaP) agenda. The EaP Economic and Investment Plan translates this goal into practice, including by promoting a Circular Economy and better waste management. In Georgia, the European Union has been and continues to provide extensive support to stimulate economic development, improve people’s environmental well-being, and help preserve Georgia’s natural capita, said Ms. Angela Bularga, Programme Manager, DG NEAR, European Commission

EU4Environment builds on the achievements of past EU support, which enabled policy changes and enterprise-level measures. In Georgia, the introduction of resource and energy efficient production (RECP) has been a central task of implementation efforts by UNIDO. Due to EU-funded RECP demonstration projects and the functioning of RECP Clubs in two pilot regions (Lower Kartli and Kakheti), seventeen Georgian SMEs made their production greener. Moreover, thirteen experts were trained on the RECP methodology, and ten SMEs were assessed as RECP Demonstration Companies. Industrial waste mapping pilots were also developed in Rustavi and Zestaponi to help enterprises embrace practices that minimize waste and promote industrial symbiosis. Overall, across the EaP region, over 100 SMEs

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benefited from the application of the RECP methodology and 10 regional RECP clubs were created since the launch of EU4Environment in 2019. Similar RECP activities are also taking place in other EaP countries.

Thanks to the support of the EU, in the last ten years (since the first RECP programme was launched in the EaP region, including Georgia), we have been building the capacity of enterprises to apply the RECP methodology and to make products and production processes cleaner and less harmful on the environment. Of course, the knowledge and capacities accumulated throughout the years are on our partners' web pages dedicated to RECP, where we try to make sure that all relevant data is available and up-to-date. As our mandate as a UN specialized agency stipulates, we are focusing on inclusive and sustainable industrial development to concretely support enterprises, experts, and stakeholders' groups. Besides it, we not only work on industrial development but also on gender mainstreaming and digital transition where we facilitate access to knowledge. This workshop today is one of the platforms where we can concretely discuss how inclusion could be further strengthened and how we can promote resource efficiency services and facilitate them among Georgian SMEs, said Tatiana Chernyavskaya, EU4Environment Project Manager, UNIDO

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 resource efficiency in Georgia, please visit: www.recp.ge

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