

Foresight for Industrial Strategy in Ukraine: case study on the Circular Economy

26 September 2023 | Warsaw, Poland

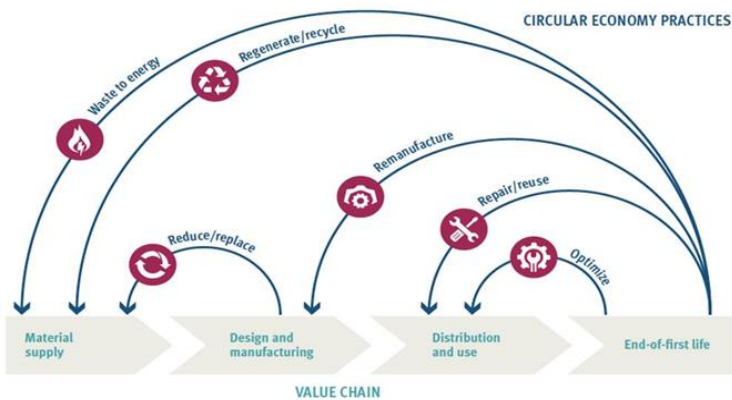


How to draw a road-map for a sustainable future in Ukraine with a high skill zero-waste circular economy? 20 experts showed one way to do in Warsaw at a UNIDO training program. Together they looked at challenge, trends, visions and actions, in 5 key value chains – construction, agriculture / food, plastics, electronics and cars. These results have now kickstarted a 4-month program of foresight, exploring the visions for medium / longer term transformation, and practical ways to achieve them.

Following an inception workshop on industrial policymaking held in June 2023 in Serock, Poland, a one-day workshop on the application of foresight for elaborating future-looking industrial strategy was hosted by the training course organized in Warsaw, Poland on 26 September. This series of training courses are part of the project “Industrial capacity-building, policy advice and diagnostics for the green recovery of Ukraine” funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Here, the one-day foresight workshop served as a launch of the “Exploratory Strategic Foresight for Circular Economy (CE) in Ukraine” (hereinafter CE Foresight) activities implemented by UNIDO as part of the EU4Environment Action funded by the European Union.

The in-person event comprised representatives from Government of Ukraine, including the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Strategic Industries, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, and the Cabinet of Ministers. Following the introduction of foresight approach for industrial strategy and the related different methods and tools, the UNIDO foresight experts from the Mind-Lab (hosted by Manchester University) demonstrated a method for interactive stakeholder discussion on Exploratory Strategic Foresight for CE for elaborating future-looking industrial strategy.

This CE Foresight project dedicated to the preparation of a future-setting roadmap for further development of Circular Economy principles and practices in Ukraine builds on the experience of CE being a transformation in progress in many countries around the world.



UNIDO defines Circular Economy as an **industrial economy** that routes products, parts and materials back into use several times, creating additional value and less waste.¹

In a circular economy, along value and supply chains, value is maintained for as long as possible, products are designed to last, the generation of waste and pollution are minimized, and renewable energy is used, as much as possible.

For Ukraine, there are many potential benefits from this transformation, such as:

- Increase income for business and the wider economy
- Reduce dependence on external resources
- Modernize the economy and increase value-added
- Enhance investment, trade flows, incomes and skills
- Strengthen cooperation with the EU and internationally
- Minimize waste and pollution

Such transformation in Ukraine can be far-reaching, with many sectors of business and society, many material streams, and many kinds of location. It is also very practical, and its success may depend on the basic details in sectors such as construction, agriculture/food, automotive or electronics. To make sense of this, to look ahead at the challenges, to mobilize the visions and opportunities, and turn these into practical actions – this is the role of foresight and strategic thinking.

Indeed, industrial strategy aims to combine short term opportunities with longer term transformation. This strategic level of thinking calls for the foresight approach, as used around the world in many sectors. Generally, this approach aims to connect between shorter- and longer-term horizons, as well as between different parts of the value chain, and between technology innovations and social change.

The foresight presentation at the workshop in Warsaw was conducted in four sessions, corresponding to the work stages of the current foresight exercise in Ukraine, namely (1) introduction to foresight and industrial strategy; (2) scoping and scanning for the circular economy; (3) future scenarios, visions and opportunities; (4) strategy and roadmapping.

The workshop engaged representatives of the Ukraine government into interactive discussion and concept mapping, which is central the foresight approach, and gave a strong impulse to the initiation of the roadmapping concept taking into consideration the conditions and perspectives for the future successful implementation of Circular Economy in the country.

¹ <https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-02/IRE%20and%20Circular%20Economy.pdf>

Action implemented by:



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 2019-2024.

Contact

Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, EU4Environment Project Manager, Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Unit, Email: T.CHERNYAVSKAYA@unido.org.

Action implemented by:

