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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

National Conference

WILL RESOURCE EFFICIENCY BE AT THE CORE OF BUSINESS SUCCESS IN GEORGIA?

DRAFT AGENDA

Dates: 7-8 November 2023
Venue: Hotel Biltmore Tbilisi

Start: 9:30 (GET) on 7 November
End: 13:00 (GET) on 8 November

Format: hybrid (online and in-person event)
Language: English and Georgian (with simultaneous interpretation)

Please kindly register for the event by [clicking here](#)

This conference will showcase the benefits of resource efficiency and a greener growth more generally, which were obtained by Georgian enterprises involved in several demonstration activities. In addition to highlighting frontrunners' experience, the conference will provide an opportunity to discuss how resource efficiency could be put at the core of business success in Georgia.

Registration is mandatory and will close on 6 November 2023. For additional information please contact Tatiana Chernyavskaya at t.chernyavskaya@unido.org

Action implemented by:



DAY 1

Moderator: Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, Project Manager, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

TIME	ITEM
09:30 – 10:00	Registration and welcoming coffee
10:00 – 10:30	<p>MEDIA POST</p> <p><i>Together with the media representatives, high-level speakers, and business representatives are invited to share their views and experience on making the use of energy and material resources by Georgian businesses more efficient.</i></p>
10:30 – 10:50	<p>High-level session: PUTTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY ON THE GROWTH AGENDA</p> <p><i>Moderator: Tatiana Chernyavskaya, Project Manager, UNIDO</i></p> <p>Ms. Maia Bitadze Head of the Parliament Committee on Environmental Protection and Natural Resources</p> <p>Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture</p> <p>Mr. Romeo Mikautadze Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Mr. Cătălin Gherman Deputy Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Georgia</p>
10:50 – 11:15	<p>AWARD CEREMONY for partner SMEs of the EU4Environment programme</p> <p><i>The Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Experts, representatives of Demonstration Companies, and members of RECP Clubs will receive certificates of participation in the programme.</i></p>
11:15 – 11:30	Networking coffee break and slideshow of products from partner SMEs of EU4Environment
11:30 – 12:00	<p>Setting the scene: IS CIRCULAR ECONOMY BECOMING A REALITY IN GEORGIA?</p> <p>Greener business in Georgia: The balance sheet after ten years of cooperation</p> <p>Dr. Johannes Fresner UNIDO Senior Technical Advisor</p> <p>Circular Economy Roadmap in Georgia</p> <p>Dr. Dariusz Prasek Team Leader, Circular Economy Programme in Georgia (online)</p>
12:00 – 13:30	<p>Session 1: ENSURING THE RIGHT POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Malkhaz Adeishvili, EU4Environment National Action Coordinator</i></p> <p>Panel discussion on the past and future evolution of national policies with the involvement of key stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. David Advadze Head of Sustainable Development Unit, MoESD ● Mr. Alverd Chankseliani Head of Waste and Chemicals Management Department, MEPA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Maia Javakhishvili Deputy Head of Environment and Climate Change Department, MEPA ● Mr. Murman Pataraiia Director, LTD Biodiesel Georgia ● Mr. Giorgi Guliashvili Chairman, Association of Extended Liability of Georgian Producers ● Mr. Bernardas Padegimas Team Leader, Stockholm Environmental Institute's Project "Promoting Green Agenda in Georgia, Ukraine, Armenia, and Moldova" (online) ● Mr. Guy Halperin OECD, Georgia's SME Policy Index: Environmental Dimension (online) ● Mr. Giorgi Mukhigulashvili Greening Firms in Georgia: the World Bank Report 2023
13:30 – 14:30	Working lunch
14:30 – 15:00	<p>Session 2: PROMOTING EFFICIENCY IN PRODUCTION PROCESSES</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. George Abulashvili, UNIDO National RECP Partner</i></p> <p>Presentations of business cases from the Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production demonstration companies and members of RECP Clubs in Georgia</p> <p>Mr. Kote Barjadze RECP Expert</p> <p>Dr. Nick Javshanashvili RECP Clubs Facilitator</p> <p>RECP trainees and company representatives</p>
15:00 – 16:00	<p>Session 3: CIRCULARITY FOR VALUE CHAINS AND NEW BUSINESS MODELS</p> <p><i>Moderator: Tatiana Chernyavskaya, Project Manager, UNIDO</i></p> <p>Knowing circular economy in the Black Sea basin: BSB - CircEcon project in Georgia</p> <p>Ms. Elene Chkheidze Executive Director, International Centre for Social Research and Policy Analysis (ICSRPA) (online)</p> <p>Support to waste management and development of circular economy in Georgia</p> <p>Mr. Wim Van Breusegem Circular Economy Expert, COWI (online)</p>

	<p>Industrial Waste Management: prioritising recycling, processing, and treatment Mr. Lasha Kajaya Waste and Chemicals Management Department, MEPA</p> <p>Use of industrial waste mapping for SMEs in Zestaponi and Rustavi: results of UNIDO pilots Ms. Sophiko Akhobadze UNIDO IWM Partner, REC Caucasus</p> <p>Agricultural Waste Management Program in Georgia: Biogenic loop in focus Ms. Marita Kochlamazashvili Management Group</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
16:00 – 16:30	Networking break
16:30 – 17:30	<p>Session 4: SPEEDING UP PRODUCTS' REDESIGN AND DIGITALISATION <i>Moderator: Mr. George Abulashvili, UNIDO National RECP Partner</i></p> <p>Advancing Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) in selected industries as part of the Single Market for Green Products (SMGP) initiative Mr. Hovhannes Atabekyan UNIDO National PEF Partner, CIVITTA</p> <p>Promoting eco-innovation and eco-labelling among Georgian SMEs Mr. Alex Leshchynskyy Programme Management Officer, United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Europe (online)</p> <p>Stimulating the greening of businesses through Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) and its complementary tools Mr. Kakha Demetrashvili Deputy Head, State Procurement Agency</p> <p>Opportunities for the private sector in the new political context of climate change Ms. Ekaterine Mikadze National Coordinator, EU4Climate in Georgia</p> <p>Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production implementation for Georgian SMEs: digital tools for institutionalisation Mr. George Abulashvili UNIDO National RECP Partner, EEC Georgia</p> <p>Practical application of acquired knowledge. Green Operations: How operations efficiency affects the environment? Mr. George Jokhadze Founding Partner, Kaizen Institute Georgia, UNIDO RECP Training Program Participant</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>

17:30 -17:45	Closing of Day 1 Mr. George Abulashvili and Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya
17:45– 19:30	Networking cocktail

DAY 2

Moderator: Mr. George Abulashvili, UNIDO National Implementing Partner, Energy Efficiency Centre Georgia

TIME	ITEM
09:30 – 10:00	Registration and welcome coffee
10:00 – 11:15	<p>Session 5: DEVELOPING GREEN SKILLS</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Nino Kakulia, Qualifications and Partnership Development Team Leader, Skills Agency Georgia</i></p> <p>Training and certification programmes for RES technology installers</p> <p>Ms. Natia Arabidze Georgia Technical University</p> <p>Ms. Marika Zaqareishvili Vocational Education Expert, GIZ</p> <p>Energy transition for income and employment</p> <p>Mr. Alexander Gogoberidze Regional Manager for Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries (online) RECONOMY Program of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency & HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation</p> <p>Development, implementation, and institutionalization of higher professional programs of energy efficiency and renewable energy at GIPA</p> <p>Ms. Nana Kashakashvili Head of Vocational Education Department, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA)</p> <p>Construct2: Green Skills Award finalist from Georgia</p> <p>Ms. Eliso Jikidze Adult Education Coordinator, “Construct2” College</p> <p>Zurab Guntsadze Head of the Human Resources Management and Organizational Development Department, BK Construction LLC</p> <p>The Winners of the Beat Plastic Pollution Competition (TBC)</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Networking break

11:30 – 13:00	<p>Session 6: MAKING INVESTMENTS FLOW INTO CIRCULAR ECONOMY</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Nelly Petkova, OECD</i></p> <p>Successful projects as an inspiration for new green investment opportunities</p> <p>IRFs/banks, EU4Business EBRD/GEFF Representative (TBC)</p> <p>Green Growth Fund(TBC)</p> <p>KfW (TBC)</p> <p>Greening SMEs Programs</p> <p>Mr. Gigi Minadze Program Senior Manager, Enterprise Georgia</p> <p>Ms. Mariam Gelashvili Head of the Project Development Department, NNLP Rural Development Agency</p> <p>Mr. Levan Khmiadashvili Energy Specialist, Climate Finance at responsAbility Investments AG</p> <p>Role of the banking sector</p> <p>Ms. Salome Tvalodze Head of Sustainable Finance Division, National Bank of Georgia</p> <p>Mr. Ketevan Mumladze Head of Environmental and Climate Risk Management Department, Bank of Georgia</p> <p>Ms. Ana Salaridze Senior Environmental and Social Risk Manager, TBC Bank</p> <p>ProCredit Bank (TBC) Credo Bank (TBC)</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
13:00	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>European Union Delegation/UNIDO/Ministry representative (TBC)</p>

National Conference “Will Resource Efficiency Be at the Core to Business Success in Georgia?”

Event objectives, expected outputs, and outcomes

The conference aims to highlight and promote resilience and green growth in Georgian enterprises by showcasing the benefits of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) in the transition to a Circular Economy. Additionally, the event will provide an opportunity to discuss and share experiences, tools, and programmes on greening Georgia’s Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) through six sessions.

The **first session** dedicated to **national policies will discuss green development strategies**, focusing on manufacturing enterprises reflecting on policies and associated development in Georgia. Among other things, these also include questions of industrial pollution and emissions, waste and water management, and the issues of the EU Green Deal and the development of Georgia’s new Green Growth strategy.

One of the most directly relevant approaches to improving the industries’ production and environmental activities of industries is the introduction of RECP. The focus of the **second session will be on resource efficiency in practice**, as an application of this methodology boosts competitiveness and improves the performance of SMEs. This approach is based on the assessment of the potential for saving resources, energy, and materials to prevent non-product output, reducing emissions and discharges of pollutants into the environment, as well as waste (which will, above all, contribute to reducing the economic costs of enterprises by increasing resource productivity). The RECP methodology is used by enterprise specialists, industries, and experts to identify sources of losses for all types of resources, specify the root causes of such losses, and develop activities that can reduce or completely eliminate the losses.

In the **third session**, the focus will be on the **transition to a circular economy (CE) in Georgia**, which is already supported by several regional and national initiatives. Here, participants will receive an overview of Circular Economy mapping in Georgia and the Black Sea basin and familiarise themselves with priority practices for waste management. As part of the session, the discussion will also include the concept of Industrial Waste Mapping (IWM), where the successful experiences of two pilot regions (the municipalities of Zestaponi and Rustavi) will be showcased.

The **fourth session** includes an **overview of product-focused initiatives supporting the greening of Georgian SMEs**, such as Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) and eco-labelling as a part of the Single Market for Green Products (SMGP) initiative, promoting eco-innovation, and stimulating the greening of production through Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) and its complementary tools. Apart from the EU4Environment initiatives, other EU4 and bilateral programs supporting the greening of SMEs will be showcasing their results and plans. Apart from that, the session also includes the presentation of RECP institutionalisation in Georgia using the digital means of support to SMEs (I-GO initiative and

its Assistant tool), a rapid online SME self-assessment and navigation tool that matches an SME to the most relevant RECP knowledge and support services.

Day 2 of the conference will serve as a platform to discuss the necessary skills and national funding for greening SMEs. The **fifth session** will host **presentations on training and certification programmes**, including on energy transition for income and employment. It will also consider building a pathway between skills/training and high-value employment opportunities and showcase the award-winning solutions in this area.

The **issues** dedicated to financing the **green transition for SMEs in Georgia** will be discussed at the **sixth session**. It will cover the country's conditions, programs, and available sources of financing for greening SMEs. The session will include presentations on green taxonomy implementation in Georgia, interventions from various banks, and examples of successful projects that inspire new green investments in the Georgian industrial sectors.

Participants

The target audience is comprised of stakeholders engaged in green economic development in Georgia, including Government, international, and civil society organizations. It is also organised to engage representatives of MSMEs, including industrial enterprises; businesses, experts in the fields of engineering (chemical, industrial, environmental) and energy; members of academia, as well as practitioners from EU4Environment (2019-2024) and EaP GREEN (2013-2017) Actions (RECP Clubs' members and RECP Demonstration Companies, RECP experts). The tentative number of participants is about 80 persons.

Practical information

The event is supported by the European Union and organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as an implementing partner of the EU-funded EU4Environment Green Economy Action, and supported in Georgia by its National Implementing Partner, the Energy Efficiency Centre (EEC). The event is hosted in a hybrid format (in person and online) in both English and Georgian (with simultaneous interpretation). Online participants are kindly requested to register in advance [using the following link](#).

Background

Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) is an umbrella term used for the application of preventative environmental strategies to processes, goods, and services to improve the industrial sector's efficiency and lower risks to people and the environment. UNIDO developed the RECP methodology to assist enterprises in identifying, evaluating, and reducing their resource usage while eradicating losses, increasing resilience, and enhancing productivity and competitiveness. In Georgia and other Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, the UNIDO RECP methodology is introduced under the regional programme funded by the European Union, "EU4Environment" Action.

About EU4Environment

The EU4Environment is an EU-funded Action that aims to help the EU's 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 implemented by five partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO, and the World Bank in 2019-2024, with a budget of EUR 20 million.

For further information, visit: www.eu4environment.org

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