

Circular economy becomes a clear milestone in the green recovery of Ukraine

Kyiv, 19 December 2023

Ukraine will need to adjust its economic model once the war is over. How it can be best achieved and what support is needed were the core topics discussed at the National conference “Circular Economy for Green Recovery of Ukraine” that took place on 19 December 2023, part of the “European Union for Environment” programme. The event marked a decade of EU support to improve resource efficiency at the enterprise and municipal level, building on the outcomes of the “Green Recovery in Ukraine” conference organised by the EU in Vilnius, Lithuania at the end of November 2023. The event brought together over 300 participants (over 40% - women) from various stakeholder groups.

“Soon, Circular Economy will play a significant role in the competitiveness of countries. Today, the world’s leading countries are actively working in this area, making CE development a priority in their long-term strategies. We are only at the beginning of this journey, but the first confident steps have already been taken. There is still much work to be accomplished in terms of implementing the required legislation and endorsing green reforms in the economy. The path we have chosen will play an important role in the post-war recovery” said **Ms. Nadiia Bihun**, Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine.

Over the last decade, the EU has been actively supporting Ukraine to better align itself to the European standards of economic stability, environmental protection, and social development. Ukraine’s accession to the EU will further accelerate this process, with the European Green Deal acting as an integrated instrument towards Circular Economy, and helping Ukraine achieve climate neutrality, preserve its nature, and strengthen its economic growth.

“Circular Economy is important for Ukraine’s resource autonomy, economic growth, and jobs, as well as its recovery from Russia’s war of aggression. We are standing with Ukraine on its path of recovery and the EU accession. Adopting a new economic model is not easy, but we can achieve this goal together” noted **Ms. Chloé Allio**, Head of the Department for Economic Cooperation, Energy, Infrastructure and Environment of the EU Delegation to Ukraine.

Since 2019, the EU4Environment programme has conducted 26 assessments within Ukrainian companies on the use of the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) methodology. A total of 116 RECP measures were identified, which have the potential to generate annual savings of almost €1,2 million, while reducing negative environmental and climate impacts. To this date, nine companies have already implemented around one fifth of RECP measures with expected annual savings amounting some €200,000.

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"For many years, UNIDO has been working with Ukraine on the implementation of projects to green its economy. We aim to accelerate and promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development, which is a key contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. Ukraine's future lies in the European Union and, therefore, Ukraine needs to align its economy and strategic development plans with the European standards. Ukraine's decision to decouple economic growth from resource use through Circular Economy is not only a milestone towards sustainable economic development but it will decrease Ukraine's resource needs and increase its resilience." said **Mr. Stephan Sicars**, Senior Coordinator for Ukraine, UNIDO.

The EU4Environment programme also launched initiatives on Industrial Waste Mapping (IWM) and Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) in Ukraine. Pilot PEF studies were carried out in three companies, with the experiences further promoting the potential benefits of the PEF methodology for exporting companies wishing to access the EU Single Market for Green Products. In terms of IWM, industrial waste maps were carried out in two selected municipalities, based on a study that identified the potential volumes of accumulated industrial waste and waste treatment facilities, the presence of waste sorting/processing or disposal facilities, and the availability of waste management plans for these facilities. Overall, 25 enterprises from the municipalities of Slavuta and Davydiv participated in the IWM initiative.

Background

The "European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment) Action 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. The Action's implementation period is 2019-2024. For more details, please visit www.eu4environment.org.

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