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## RECP Innovative approaches towards sustainable industrial development in Armenia

Emphasizing innovation is paramount in the pursuit of sustainable development, particularly for fostering Circular Economy (CE) principles for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). It is imperative to explore new ways for shaping innovative Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) approaches.

The RECP Innovation in Armenia event took place on 19 March 2024 gathering 30 participants from government, SMEs, civil society, research, and academia. The meeting had following objectives:

- Present the success stories of RECP activities conducted in Armenia.
- Outline innovative solutions recommended and implemented by Armenian SMEs.

The event highlighted real-world business cases of Armenian enterprises which have successfully implemented RECP principles. The tangible benefits of implementation of RECP measures include significant **reductions in energy and water consumption, waste generation, and greenhouse gas emissions**, coupled with **cost savings and improved production efficiencies**. These enterprises originated from different industries, including food and agriculture, construction materials, chemical production (including metal and plastic production), energy and water solutions.

Such examples illustrate the potential of RECP to drive both environmental sustainability and economic competitiveness across different industries for Armenian SMEs.

In Armenia, the RECP assessment is being implemented within the EU-funded EU4Environment Action, with additional help of Energy Saving Foundation, International Center for Agriculture Research and Education and other companies.

