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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

National Conference

Introducing Circular Economy in Azerbaijan: building on implementing the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production in manufacturing enterprises

DRAFT AGENDA

Date: 13 May 2024

Venue: Park Inn Radisson Hotel – Dan Ulduzu Hall

Start: 9:00 (AZT)

End: 18:00 (AZT)

Format: hybrid (online and in-person event)

Language: English and Azerbaijani (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 Azerbaijani 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 Azerbaijan. Registration is mandatory and will close on 10 May 2024. For additional information please contact Tatiana Chernyavskaya at t.chernyavskaya@unido.org

Action implemented by:



AGENDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Moderator: Ms. Asya Chalabova, UNIDO National RECP Partner

TIME	ITEM
09:00 – 09:30	Registration and welcoming coffee
09:30 – 10:00	<p>Welcoming remarks <i>Moderator: Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, Project Manager, UNIDO</i></p> <p>Mr. Viktor Bojkov, Head of Cooperation Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan</p> <p>Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, Project Manager, UNIDO</p> <p>Ms. Asya Chalabova, CEO at ACE Group Consultants UNIDO National RECP Partner</p>
10:00 – 11:10	<p>Session 1: IS CIRCULAR ECONOMY BECOMING A REALITY IN AZERBAIJAN? / ENSURING THE RIGHT POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK / COP29 <i>Moderator: Ms. Asya Chalabova, UNIDO National RECP Partner</i></p> <p>Greener business in Azerbaijan: The balance sheet after ten years of cooperation Dr. Johannes Fresner, UNIDO Senior Technical Advisor (online)</p> <p>Strategic Roadmaps and Circular Economy in Azerbaijan Mr. Farman Aliyev, Head of Strategic Planning and Project Management Department Tamiz Shahr OJSC (TBC)</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Policy in Azerbaijan Mr. Asaf Rzayev, Head of Energy Efficiency Division / Department of Energy Efficiency in Buildings The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan</p> <p>Latest developments in Azerbaijan towards a greener future - renewables Mr. Fagan Abdurahmanov, Head of Department on Development of RE territories Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency (AREA)</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
11:10 – 11:40	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

11:40 – 13:20

Session 2: PROMOTING EFFICIENCY IN PRODUCTION PROCESSES*Moderator: Ms. Asya Chalabova, UNIDO National RECP Partner***Regulatory framework for greening SMEs – work performed by OECD**

Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager

Finance, Investment and Global Relations Division, Environment Directorate, OECD

EU4Environment RECP Project – work performed in Azerbaijan*Ms. Asya Chalabova, UNIDO National RECP Partner***Presentations of business cases from the Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production demonstration companies and members of RECP Clubs in Azerbaijan**

Mr. Valeh Nasibov, Industrial Energy Efficiency Expert

Ms. Rena Alizada, RECP trainee

Mr. Tofiq Hasanov, RECP Expert

Ms. Laman Hasanova, RECP Clubs Facilitator

RECP Business case – NORM OJSC / Initiative at industry level in the frame of the Azerbaijani Cement Producers Association

Mr. Elvin Mirzayev, CFO, NORM OJSC

Technical feasibility, simple payback time, NPV calculation, potential finance, link to financing organisations, action plan

Mr. Javanshir Abdullayev, Business and Financing Development Expert

Questions and answers

13:20 – 14:20

NETWORKING LUNCH

14:20 – 15:00

AWARD CEREMONY for partner SMEs of the EU4Environment programme

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.

15:00 – 16:00

Session 3: CIRCULARITY FOR VALUE CHAINS AND NEW BUSINESS MODELS*Moderator: Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, UNIDO***Industrial Waste Management: prioritising recycling, processing, and treatment**

Farman Aliyev, Head of Strategic Planning and Project Management Department

Tamiz Shahar OJSC

Use of industrial waste mapping for SMEs in Azerbaijan: results of UNIDO pilots

Mr. Tofiq Hasanov, RECP Expert

Eco-Industrial Parks as a framework for Circularity and Efficiency Promotion in the Industry

	<p>Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, UNIDO</p> <p>Making Investments Flow into Circular Economy Mr. Elmin Ibrahimov, Principal Banker, Manufacturing and Services (TBC) EBRD</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
16:00 – 16:30	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK
16:30 – 17:00	<p>Session 4: SPEEDING UP PRODUCTS' REDESIGN AND DIGITALISATION <i>Moderator: Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, UNIDO</i></p> <p>Promoting Access to the EU Single Market for Green Products (SMGP): perspectives of introducing Product Environmental Footprint in Azerbaijan Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, UNIDO</p> <p>Stimulating the greening of businesses through Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) and its complementary tools Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva, UNEP (TBC)</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
17:00 – 17:40	<p>Session 5: INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF RECP IN AZERBAIJAN <i>Moderator: Ms. Asya Chalabova, UNIDO National RECP Partner</i></p> <p>Memorandum of Cooperation with UNEC – RECP handbook for academic year 2024-2025 Mr. Mirlazim Dadashov (TBC), International Centre for Graduate Education, UNEC</p> <p>RECP Clubs future prospects Ms. Gulnar Maharramova, Sustainable Development and Green Economy Centre, UNEC</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
17:40 – 18:00	<p>Closing remarks Ms. Asya Chalabova (ACE) and Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya (UNIDO)</p>
18:00 – 19:30	Networking cocktail

National Conference “Introducing Circular Economy in Azerbaijan: building on implementing the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production in manufacturing enterprises”

Event objectives, expected outputs, and outcomes

The conference aims to highlight and promote resilience and green growth in Azerbaijani 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 Azerbaijani Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) through six sessions.

The **first session** is dedicated to the outlines of the circular economy, relevant experience in Azerbaijan including strategic targets of the country in the field as well as to **national policies where experts will discuss green development strategies**, focusing on manufacturing enterprises reflecting on policies and associated development in Azerbaijan. 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 outlines of Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development" programme, Strategic Roadmaps, Socio-economic Development Strategy for 2022-2026, Azerbaijan's Nationally Determined Contributions by 2050 to the UNFCCC and opportunities for the private sector in the new political context of climate change and upcoming **COP29 to be held on 11-24 November this year in Baku**.

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 Azerbaijan**, which is already supported by several regional and national initiatives. Here, participants will receive an overview of Circular Economy mapping in Azerbaijan 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 Baku and Absheron-Khizi) will be showcased. The presentation on Eco-Industrial Parks methodology and guide produced by UNIDO for the EaP countries will be made at that session.

The **fourth session includes an overview of product-focused initiatives supporting the greening of Azerbaijani 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 Azerbaijan 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.

In the **fifth session, the focus will be on institutionalization of RECP in Azerbaijan**, outlines of the Cooperation Memorandum signed between the UNIDO's RECP Implementation Partner with UNEP as well as the future prospects of RECP Clubs and demonstration companies involved in the EU4Environment RECP project.

Participants

The target audience is comprised of stakeholders engaged in green economic development in Azerbaijan, 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 (2021-2024) and EaP GREEN (2013-2017) Actions (RECP Clubs' members and RECP Demonstration Companies, RECP experts). The tentative number of in-person participants is about 80 persons and online is unlimited.

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 Azerbaijan by its National Implementing Partner, ACE Group Consultants. The event is hosted in a hybrid format (in person and online) in both English and Azerbaijani (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 Azerbaijan, visit: <https://recp.aceconsultants.az/en>