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Advancing resource efficient and cleaner production in Azerbaijan

The RECP methodology

Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) is the integrated and continuous application of preventive environmental strategies to **processes, products, and services** to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment. RECP is all about producing with fewer resources while minimizing environmental impacts and increasing overall productivity. For **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)**, the RECP methodology is an effective means to lower production costs whilst improving the SMEs' competitive advantage and applying environmentally friendly practices. RECP is also an effective tool to introduce and promote Circular Economy principles among SMEs.

UNIPRO (UNICO) PRODUCTION LLC - FURNITURE MANUFACTURING



Company Overview

Location: Baku

No. of employees: 70

Founding year: 2019

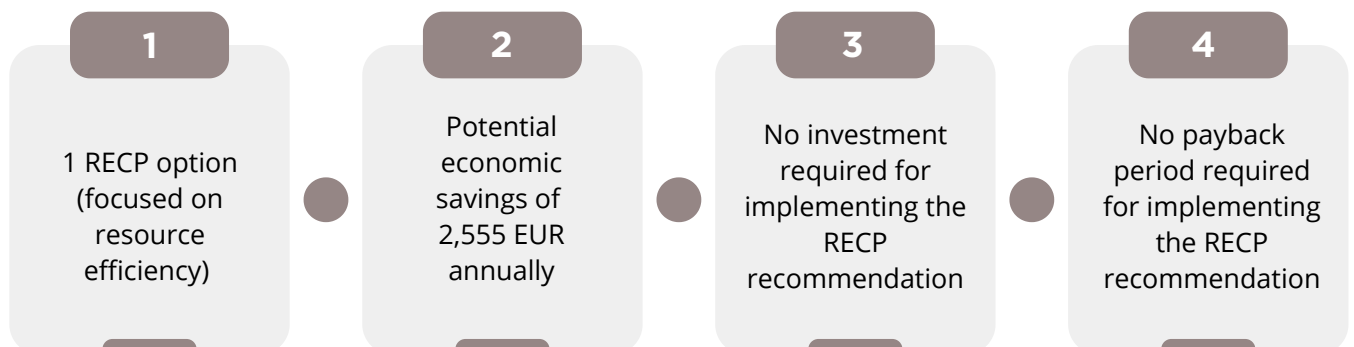
Key products: kitchen furniture, doors, wooden wall coverings, chairs, tables, wooden stairs etc.

Main markets: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia



"UNIPRO (UNICO) Production" LLC specializes in the production of furniture, including doors, wardrobes, wooden wall coverings, kitchen furniture, wooden stairs, tables, chairs, benches, reception desks, and plinths. All furniture products are manufactured in-house, using a combination of handcraft and modern equipment to ensure high quality and meet customer expectations. The largest segment of operations involves cutting, processing, gluing, sanding, priming, and painting various types of raw wood materials. Motivated to address production costs, the company participated in the RECP Demonstration Project under EU4Environment (2019-2024). This publication details the company's experience reported after the assessment exercise conducted in 2024.

BENEFITS



Action implemented by:



UNITED NATIONS
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The project approach

The RECP team evaluated the production site and identified several options, with the following recommendation being prioritised by the company staff:

RECP Option 1. Utilising wood waste: As a low-difficulty measure, the RECP team recommended sorting and repurposing wood waste generated from the cutting and assembling of furniture. Currently, wood products require manual sorting by composition, and the cost of the final raw material is approximately ten times lower than the overall processing cost. Consequently, much of this material becomes general waste, with only 20% being incinerated. The remaining material is not recycled or repurposed for construction materials or other uses. Implementing a more efficient sorting and recycling process could significantly improve the recovery and reuse of this valuable material.

SAVING ACHIEVEMENTS

RECP measure

OPTION 1	Utilising wood waste
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Economic key figures

RECP OPTIONS	INVESTMENT (EUR)	SAVINGS (EUR/YR)	PAYBACK PERIOD (YR)
Total:	-	2,555	-

The introduction of RECP has been part of the EU-funded EU4Environment Action and executed by UNIDO. In this context, **UNIPRO/UNICO Production LLC** joined the RECP Demonstration Project to be monitored under EU4Environment. Follow-up visits have also been conducted to check on the implementation of the recommended RECP options. EU4Environment helps 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. For more details, visit: www.eu4environment.org

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