

Harnessing Circularity: Driving Climate Targets with CO₂ Savings from Resource-Efficient and Circular Business Practices

Experience from the EU Eastern Neighbourhood

Agenda

Date: 16 November 2024

Time: 15:45 - 16:45 (Baku time)

Meeting venue:

UNIDO Pavilion

(Industry Solutions for People and Planet Hub, UNIDO (A7, Blue Zone) – 323, Heydar Aliyev street, Baku, Azerbaijan).

Registration for the event is [here](#)

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Background

The extraction and use of material resources drives over 55% of global GHG emissions. The transition to a Circular Economy (CE) with resource efficiency is therefore essential for mitigating climate change. Circular business practices and models, which focus, amongst others, on efficient resource use, waste reduction, and reusability, not only reduce CO₂ emissions but also support long-term economic sustainability.

In the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), circular economy initiatives have demonstrated the potential for substantial CO₂ emission reducing. By embracing these practices and business models, countries are advancing towards their climate targets and creating a more resilient, resource-efficient economy. This event will explore the experiences of businesses (from the Eastern Partnership region of the European Union) that have successfully introduced cleaner production and CE strategies in their manufacturing practices, addressing specifically the efficiency of use of water, materials and energy, which contributed to significant reductions in their carbon emissions.

Objective

The event will highlight how circular business practices and models can drive CO₂ reduction and contribute to achieving climate goals, particularly through applying Circular Economy principles, that are equally resource efficient and low carbon. It will showcase practical examples from Eastern Partnership countries where businesses have achieved notable CO₂ emission reductions through these practices.

Participants

The meeting will bring together governments and business representatives from the EaP countries who have successfully implemented circular economy models, alongside EU institutions, international organizations, and experts in the field.

Practical Information

The event will be organized in English language and take place on 16 November 2024, from 15:45 to 16:45 in UNIDO Pavilion of the COP29 premises in Baku, Azerbaijan. Registration for the event is open at: <https://forms.gle/pSZ9i4PMbKQsa2We7>.

About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the six partner 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 is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank based on a budget of some EUR 20 million. The Action implementation period is 2019-2024.

For more information please visit: www.eu4environment.org and/or contact Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya at t.chernyavskaya@unido.org.

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Moderator: Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO

Time	Item	Speaker
15:45 -15:50	Welcome and Opening Remarks EU/D Government of Azerbaijan UNIDO Brief introduction to the event and its importance in advancing the Circular Economy for climate mitigation.	H.E. Peter Michalko, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan Huseyn Huseynov, Head of the Social Policy and Sustainable Development Department at the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Secretary of National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan Orkhan Vidadi oglu Mammadov, Chairman of the Management Board of the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Mr. Ciyong Zou, Managing Director, UNIDO
15:50 – 16:00	Keynote Address: Circular Economy as an important driver of Climate Mitigation CO ₂ . Savings from Resource-Efficient and Circular Business Models	Dr. Rene van Berkel, Senior Expert on Circular Economy, SWITCH-Asia, Thammasat University
16:00-16:15	Governments’ perspective: Policy support to Circular Economy – NDCs as a driver for innovative practices enhancing mitigation of, and adaptation to climate impacts Moderated discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mihai Rusu, Principal consultant within the Policy Service in the Field of Circular Economy and Economic Instruments at Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova • Victoriia Kyreieva, Deputy Minister of Environment of Ukraine • Andrii Teliupa, Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine

16:15-16:20	Questions and answers	
16:20 - 16:35	Circular Business Models in Action Representatives from businesses will present their success on CO ₂ savings as a result of CE application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henning Sasse, Norm CEO, Azerbaijan • Anvar Akbarov, Advisor to CEO, Azeraluminium, Azerbaijan • George Abulashvili, Director of Energy Efficiency Center, Georgia • Zahari Dolomanji, Eveco Construct, Moldova • Anastasiya Sobotyuk, IR and ESG Compliance Director, MHP SE, Ukraine • Gulnar Maharramova, Azerbaijan State University of Economics, Azerbaijan
16:35 - 16:40	Questions and Answers Discussion on the lessons from the EaP Region on implementing circular economy models to meet climate goals.	
16:40 - 16:45	Closing Remarks	EU/UNIDO