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Advancing resource efficient and cleaner production in Moldova

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 can effectively 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.

“ÎM COVAL & CO” LTD - FOOD PRODUCTION

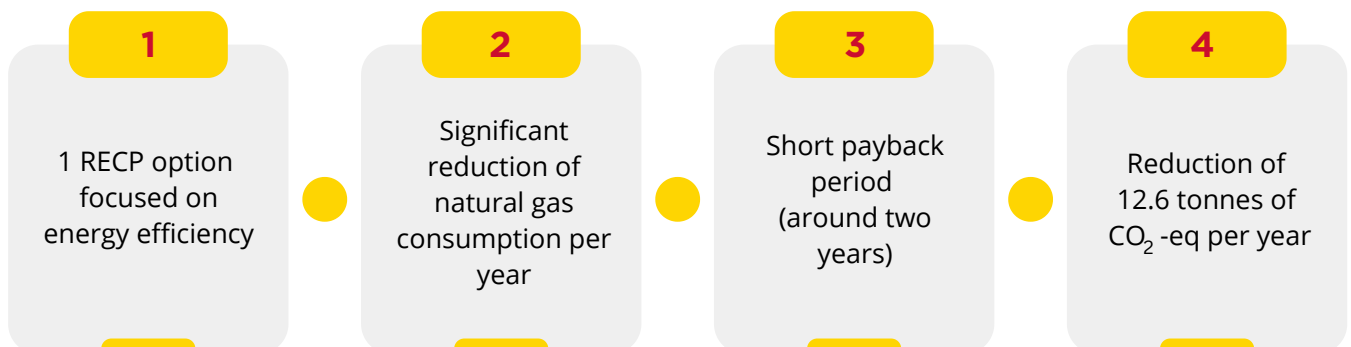


Company overview

Location: Cantemir
Key products: canned fruits and vegetables
No. of employees: 30
Main markets: Moldova
Founding year: 1967

“ÎM COVAL & CO” (Cantemir Canned Plant) is a producer of canned fruits and vegetables (in glass and plastic containers). Established in 1967, the enterprise owns three main areas: a site for receiving, washing, and sorting the raw materials, a production area, and a canning area. Operating on a seasonal basis, manufacturing starts when fresh fruits and vegetables from the new harvest become available. After the production season ends, routine-repair works are conducted. Motivated to optimise energy consumption, especially considering the constantly increase in energy prices, the company participated in the RECP Clubs programme under EU4Environment (2019-2024). This publication shows the company's experience reported after the monitoring exercise conducted in 2021-2024.

BENEFITS FROM IMPLEMENTING RECP OPTIONS



Action implemented by:

The project's approach

The RECP assessment examined the production site and identified several RECP options, out of which the following was prioritised by the company. The suggested RECP recommendation requires a payback period of about two years:

RECP Option 1. Installation of an economiser: This measure consists of installing an economiser (heat utiliser) onto the boiler's chimney to enhance the overall efficiency of the gas boiler and steam production. The concept revolves around harnessing heat from the boiler's flue gas exhaust, subsequently utilising it to pre-heat the water supplied to the boiler for steam generation. In other words, this approach would help reduce the amount of natural gas required for heating the water within the boiler to generate steam.

SAVING ACHIEVEMENTS

Main RECP action

OPTION 1

Installation of an economiser

Economic key figures

RECP OPTIONS	INVESTMENT (EUR)	SAVINGS (EUR/YR)	PAYBACK PERIOD (YR)
Option 1:	5,000	2,400	2.1

Resource savings

RECP OPTIONS	NATURAL GAS (M ³ /YR)/%
Option 1:	3,000/10

Total pollution reduction

RECP OPTIONS	TOTAL CO ₂ -EQ (TONNES/YR)
Total:	12.6

“ Our company was interested in participating in the EU4Environment programme because energy prices were soaring over the last few years. Thanks to the RECP Clubs programme, we learned how to determine the efficiency of our resources, especially in terms of energy, to calculate specific production indicators, and to compare and evaluate them. This, in turn, makes it possible to identify new improvement areas where efficiency measures could be implemented within the enterprise. As our company plans to further improve technological processes and reduce resource consumption, the RECP project has inspired us to come up with new ideas and approaches regarding the implementation of RECP measures in the future, said the director, Mr. Nicolai Covali. ”

The introduction of RECP has been part of the EU-funded EU4Environment Action and executed by UNIDO. In this context, **ÎM COVAL & CO** joined the RECP Clubs programme 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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