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# EU4GREENRECOVERYEAST

***A Green, Resilient, and Competitive Growth Model  
for the Eastern Partnership Countries***

## Promoting Circular Economy

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries have progressively improved their resource productivity, i.e. the economic output generated per unit of natural resources or materials used. This has been achieved by implementing tailored policies and instruments to increase resource efficiency, productivity of SMEs, and upgrade infrastructure in five of the EaP countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

At the same time, the degree of resource productivity varies among the EaP countries due to differences in their economic structures, energy sources, manufacturing practices, and abundance of natural assets. There is significant room for improvement and a “green disruption” is needed in relation to policy, organisational, and technological frameworks to enable a more rapid adoption of circular economy principles and practices.



# WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE?

*Through the EU4Environment: Green Economy program (2019-2024), the EU has provided comprehensive support for increasing resource productivity and efficiency.*

From both policy and technical perspectives, support was provided to:

- develop policy tools such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- promote sustainable public procurement, eco-innovation and -design
- introduce resource-efficient and cleaner production (RECP) practices
- raise awareness of EU Single Market for Green Products (SMGP)
- improve waste statistics and analyse waste streams
- enhance waste management strategies

This was done through consecutive EU regional programmes implemented since 2013.

## Boosting Resource Efficiency and SME Greening

EU funding from the Neighbourhood Investment Platform and the E5P Multi-donor Fund supported the modernization of municipal waste infrastructure, including new recycling facilities.

In the manufacturing sector, cooperation with UNIDO, OECD and international financial institutions helped hundreds of SMEs adopt circular economy practices. Through training, expert advice and peer learning, companies improved their resource efficiency and used tailored tools for self-assessment and productivity gains.

## RESULTS OVERVIEW



*Factsheets on Circular Economy and new growth opportunities in EaP countries*



*Booklets on various circular pathways*



*Industrial Waste Mapping summaries and reports in EaP countries*

# PLANNED ACTIVITIES TO FACILITATE PROMOTION OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY

*Lead by UNIDO, Environment Agency Austria and UNECE; non-exhaustive list of future products*



## **Circular Economy practices in key national value chains facilitated by digital tools to guide decision-making and enable SMEs to adopt sustainable solutions.**

- Promotion of digital tools among SMEs to support the uptake of circular practises*
- Facilitating further adoption of industrial symbiosis and waste mapping*
- Equipping EaP institutions with tools to support and monitor progress towards CE*



## **Knowledge and good practices from the EU Circular Economy Action Plan shared across EaP countries, empowering enterprises to make their production more circular.**

- Capacity development across stakeholders groups*
- Awareness raising and sustainable in-country hubs for CE*



## **Stakeholders' and business-to-business links in priority CE value-chains are enhanced.**

- Deepening of linkages between research-policy-practice and businesses within EaP countries*
- Collaboration between EaP businesses and international CE stakeholders*



## FOR WHOM?

### **EU Eastern Partnership countries:**

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine - to raise awareness on circular economy and enhance capacities and institutional cooperation to stimulate and monitor progress in the transition to a circular economy.

**Business sector:** to equip entrepreneurs and their associations with a range of methodologies, monitoring framework and self-assessment tools.

**Small and medium-sized enterprises:** connecting them and sharing experiences through platforms and CE Hubs, municipal-level clubs to enable exchanges on best available EU technologies and practices.

**Unique users:** to offer access to the repository of CE knowledge, business cases, and general information.

***Want to know more?***

More resources available here:



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