

Aide Memoire

Conference

***“Circular Economy in Tourism in South and Eastern Europe”***

**Ljubljana, Slovenia**

**8 May 2018**

**Project no. 100038**

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**In partnership with the**

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## Background information

Since the mid-1990s, UNIDO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have collaborated to foster the global uptake of resource efficient and cleaner production. Under the joint ﬂagship Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) programme, UNIDO and UNEP have responded to countries’ growing demand for support with delivering RECP services to industries by assisting organizations - especially small and medium-sized enterprises, governments, civil society research institutions and related stakeholders — in over 60 developing and transition economies. Together with partner governments and an initial core of RECP service providers, in 2010 UNIDO and UNEP established a global network - RECPnet. Since then, the global network has grown from 41 founding members to over 65 members and has sharpened its focus and operations to better meet increasing demand from industry.

**The Approach**

Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) is the continuous application of an integrated preventive environmental strategy to processes, products and services to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment. It specifically works to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated manner, by catalyzing:

* **Production Efficiency** through optimization of the productive use of natural resources (materials, energy and water) by enterprises and other organizations;
* **Environmental Management** through minimization of the impact on the environment and nature, by preventing the generation of waste and emissions and improving the use of chemicals in enterprises and other organizations; and
* **Human Development** through minimization of risks to people and communities from enterprises and other organizations and supporting their own development.”

RECP and inclusive and sustainable industrialization are at the core of circular economy and business practices, where value and prosperity are created by using less. Circular economy works by extending product lifespan through improved design and servicing, and relocating waste from the end of the supply chain to the beginning – in effect, using resources more efficiently by using them over and over, not only once.

In a circular economy, products are designed for durability, reuse and recyclability, and materials for new products come from old products. As much as possible, everything is reused, remanufactured, recycled back into a raw material, used as a source of energy, or as a last resort, disposed of. New business models based on paying for performance and sharing and use of renewable energy sources support circular practices.

**Project Objective**

In 2013 UNIDO started the project which involves National Cleaner Production Centers and Programmes (NCPCs/NCPPs) in Albania, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia. The objective of the project is to enhance the competitiveness and productive capacity of industry, primarily SMEs, while safeguarding the environment in the South and Eastern European countries, through the establishment of a regional network/chapter that promotes the increased application of a holistic and sectoral RECP approach to implement circular business practices in the established NCPCs and NCPPs in the region.

The project activities are in line with UNIDO’s mandate which aims at promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) to harness the full potential of industry’s contribution to the achievement of sustainable development, and in this manner respond to SDG 9.

The project focuses on regional networking and RECP application and has the following outputs:

* Output 1: NCPCs operate more efficiently at regional level; and
* Output 2: Companies in each of the thematic and industrial sectors selected (sustainable tourism, low carbon production and sound chemicals management) demonstrate the benefits of applying RECP options on the environment and on their overall competitiveness

The identified priority thematic areas and industrial sectors in the region are low carbon/climate resilient industries, sustainable tourism and sound chemicals management, including chemical leasing—a pay for performance circular business model. For the three thematic and industrial sectors, a similar set of activities has been undertaken, focusing on awareness raising, training of national consultants in the specific areas, assessments at company level and dissemination of information and results of the project.

Based on consultations with the Slovenian Government, it was decided to organize a conference on Circular Economy to take place in Ljubljana on 08 May 2018. Given the importance of the tourism sector in the region, it was decided to focus the conference on the application of circular tourism.

## Objectives of the Conference

The conference will focus on innovations that support the transition to a circular economy in tourism and aims to create a platform for exchange of best practices and build new partnerships among institutions and the private sector.

In keynote speeches and panel discussions, the conference will:

* Focus on how the circular business practices can create value in tourism
* Discuss opportunities and challenges
* Present innovative practices
* Discuss the future trends and developments in South and Eastern Europe

Topics will cover supply chain management in tourism, circular practices in tourism as a contributor to sustainable cities, sustainable waste management, challenges and opportunities for circular economy in tourism and technology trends of the future travel.

## Tentative Agenda

The conference will take place in Ljubljana on 08 May 2018 in the Grand Union Hotel, address: Miklošičeva ulica 1, 1000 Ljubljana

Language, Date and Venue

The working language will be English and Slovenian. Translation service will be arranged during the conference.

## Participants

The participants are senior government and European Union officials, leading international enterprises, leading innovative companies and circular economy experts and representatives from the NCPCs.

## Registration of Participants

Participation in the Conference is by registration only. Each designated participant will be requested to confirm participation by registration which will be done online and is free of charge (contact: e.alic@unido.org and s.styrsky@unido.org). The full name, organization, title, contact address, short CV, and photo of each participant should be clearly indicated and included in the registration.

## Enquiries and correspondence

Enquiries and correspondence on matters pertaining to the conference should be addressed to:

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