

**Regional preparatory meeting for the Eastern European Group for the
UNIDO global consultations on circular economy**

Written statements

The present document compiles statements received by the Secretariat in writing after the regional preparatory meeting for the Eastern European Group for the UNIDO global consultations on circular economy, held virtually on 20 November 2020. The statements are reproduced without formal editing or formatting.

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1. School of Business of the Belarusian State University, Belarus



Circular Economy in Belarus: Agenda for Business and Tasks for Productions

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School of Business of Belarusian State University,
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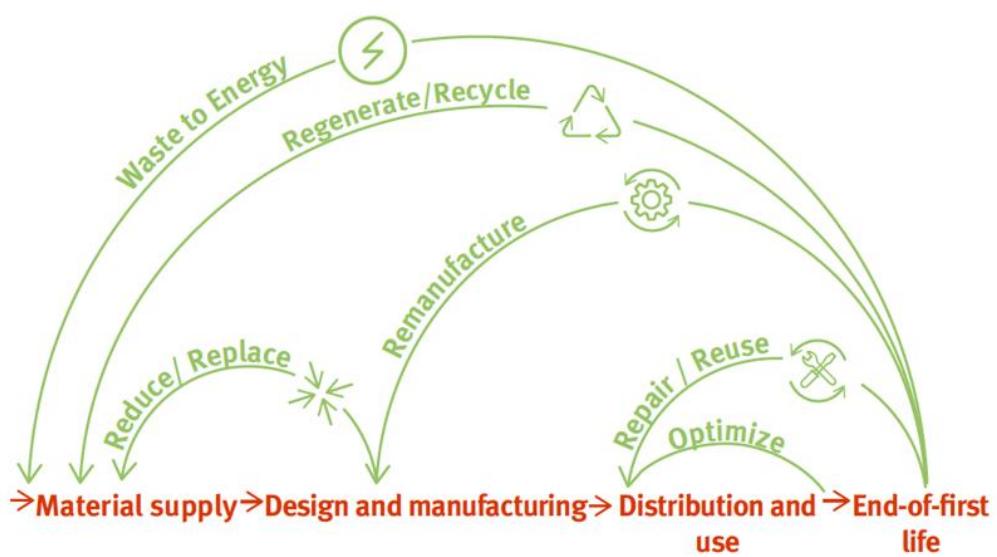
UNIDO Consultations,
20.11.2020

Why CE Agenda is actual for Belarus?

- SDG for Belarus have to be indicated properly
- Climate issue due to GHG emissions and mitigation and adaptation
- Technology transfer, development and investment
- Access to natural resources' limited and overconsumption of raw materials and other resources
- Wise waste management
- Awareness and education
- It is possible! First positive experiences of implementation of business models (e.g cycling of sweet water at production of chocolate Kommunarka, Minsk)

Learning and Doing

- Linear supply chain
- Circular economy practices



Step Towards CE

- Links to national strategy of SD-2030
- Links to National Green Economy plans
- Regional Plans for CE (Brest) and Road Map for CE implementation in Mogilev region
- Support by EU/UNIDO RECP projects
- Close cooperation with other CE projects in Belarus (e.g. GIZ and SIDA)
- Training and awareness raising actions

Gaps and Obstacles

- Still main focus on treatment of waste
- Reliability of waste statistics
- Some accompanying policy instruments not implemented properly (e.g. LCA, eco-labelling, GPP, Eco-design)
- Expansion of the market for secondary raw materials and support of business there
- Professional competence have to be improved



Thank you for your attention!

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2. Association for Waste Recovery, Republic of Moldova

Republic of Moldova The Republic of Moldova is a developing country that today continues to store over 90% of total generated waste, registering very low recycling rates, the main cause being the lack of a separate waste collection system, with the exception of successful EU-funded projects, which make it possible to carry out local waste management projects. It also should be noted that is registered continuous annual growth of municipal waste per capita from 122 kg / person in 2001 to 329.6 kg / person in 2018, which means an increase of 170%. As a result, over 20,000 ha of land are affected by the storage of household or industrial waste, thus polluting the environment and affecting the human health.

These data confirm that today, Republic of Moldova, despite of a legal framework that partially transposes the European directives in the field, including also the national Waste Management Strategy 2013-2027, has failed to identify a mechanism / model of production and consumption focused on a rational consumption of resources and an efficient management of the generated waste, applying fully a linear economic model and not a circular one. Certainly, the basic benefits of the circular economy are known by the authorities, so as the Republic of Moldova along with 5 other countries is part of EU4Environment program, benefiting from support including achieving the result Circular economy and new growth opportunities.

Also, in 2019, was approved the Greening Plan for SMEs in the Republic of Moldova. However, the Association for Waste Recovery, as a representative of civil society, which over the past 10 years has carried out various projects and studies in the field, considers it absolutely necessary to

prioritize and accelerate concrete actions in the field, with the implementation of projects aimed directly at identifying the most appropriate business models based on the circular economy, in particular targeting the most impactful sectors of the national economy such as agriculture and the food industry, as well as the construction sector (as the main polluting sector mentioned in Circular economy and environmental priorities for business).

Another component of this process is the development and consolidation of an industrial synergy, which would facilitate the transition to the circular economy through the exchange of information at the level of public policies through local, national and regional approaches. The association in order to promote the principles of the circular economy created in 2019 the e-circular.org platform and with the financial support from EU and GEF implemented projects in the field of separate collection of WEEE and Plastics, 2 types of absolutely recyclable waste, which can be used as a secondary raw material in new production chains. As an example, in the period 2019-2020 within the project Clean city with recycled e-Waste, we managed in partnership with authorized operators the collection of more than 50 tons of WEEE, which were subsequently exported for recycling in Romania, a process that guarantees the circularity of these resources.

In 2021, we plan to expand this project and the number of collection points created (<https://e-circular.org/harta-puncte-colectare/>), including promoting the concept of repair by organizing hands on for WEEE and information and awareness campaigns. No less important is to involve national EEE producers in concrete activities like to extend the life cycle of the manufactured products. Taking in consideration the result of last study realized by the Association, the main identified obstacle in making possible the transition from a linear to a circular economic model is a very low level of information and awareness and insufficient infrastructure for separate collection of recyclable waste. Considering mentioned above, AWR intervention is based on:

- Conducting specialized trainings for business sector. Starting with 2021, AWR will launch certified course for waste management specialist. Would be a great idea to include in this course the circular concept with presentation of business circular models. For this will be necessary to have support form UE experts.
- Extend the separate collection infrastructure. Only by having this infrastructure will be possible to increase the amount of recyclable waste.
- Innovative HUB research - another important activity planned by the association jointly with academia and producers would be the creation of a Research Hub, which would stimulate and develop circular economic models applicable to the national specific, focused on the analysis of best practices and exchange of experience in the field.

All this activity proposed above, for sure will stimulate the implementation of Circular economy principals in the Republic of Moldova. That way, the Association is looking for organizations that would financially support research and analysis activities in the field, directly focused on the practical component of implementing the circular economic model at national level, thus promoting the idea of STOP- RESET -GO at national level. Hope, our intervention is at least enough to convince you regarding our interest in participating and implenting concrete actions in the field.

3. Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Slovenia

In the recent years Slovenia has been putting a lot of efforts to develop and enhance the transition to circular Economy. Circular Economy was recognized as one of the main national smart specialization areas for the Multiannual financial framework 2014 - 2020.

Roadmap for Circular Economy was adopted by Slovenian Government in 2018. There was a conference on Tourism and Circular Economy, organized together with UNIDO in 2018.

In the context of the European Green Deal, Slovenia will, just as any other EU Member State, have to significantly step up its efforts to meet net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century. This will require critical structural and exponential changes that must occur both rapidly and on multiple fronts simultaneously. Ambitious climate action and a dedicated long-term climate policy is needed to ensure a prosperous future for generations to come, in Slovenia and around the globe.

Recovery and Resilience Plan for Slovenia is treating Circular Economy as one of the most important areas within Green and Sustainable Transition Component. It is giving a framework for the integrative development and conceptualization of the programme "A Deep Demonstration of a Circular, Regenerative and Low-Carbon Economy".

The programme is proposed and co-shaped by European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Climate Knowledge Innovation Communities (KIC) with EIT RawMaterials, two of the Knowledge & Innovation Communities of the EIT, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the Slovenian Government aims to reinforce and systemically link ongoing efforts in Slovenia - which are manifold.

In a nation-wide approach, it is directed towards a multitude of Slovenian stakeholders and all local communities, and applies a system-based logic to enable a process for decarbonizing Slovenia's socio-economic system through circular economy principles. Between 2020 and 2023 a partnership with Slovenian authorities and stakeholders will be established to roll out a deep demonstration of rapid change to a circular, regenerative and low-carbon economy and society, building on key processes, policies and activities already underway.

In the cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary approach, the working plan matches different disciplines and work across boundaries, silos and departments. Its overall goal is to position Slovenia as a European leader in harnessing circularity to transform and decarbonize its economy while fostering a green economy and designing and promoting the smart and circular transition of local communities through a coordinated and coherent national approach based on local needs and international best practice. As a result, wellbeing and prosperity for all Slovenes will be advanced and secured for decades to come and greenhouse gas emissions significantly reduced to support Slovenia in reaching its targets.

The programme of work is focused on three pillars:

- Smart and circular communities.

- Circular development.
- Circular policy design & science.

Systemic innovation will tackle material production and waste flows across key economic systems and value chains; training, education and capacity building will create change agents and foster life-long learning as well as widely disseminate insights and good practices, while policy initiatives and experiments will ensure enabling conditions.

Following an integrated portfolio approach, activities will be structured across nine intrinsically linked flagship programmes, targeting the three major stakeholder groups of local communities, business, and policy-makers. All programmes will be anchored via a dedicated vehicle called the Slovenian Centre for Smart and Circular Transition which serves as the beating heart and physical nucleus of the entire deep demonstration, bringing together the different stakeholders and opening up activities to the wider public.

An overarching programme focusing on five key value chains for Slovenia (circular buildings, food producing, forestry-based industries, manufacturing, mobility) will create values via project identification and generation in local communities across Slovenia. Each of the value chain programmes sprouts into policy, community engagement and entrepreneurship support, building on existing collaborations and previous research, and a systemic approach is granted by engaging multiple programmes simultaneously with each other.

To unlock finance from different national, European and international sources, a dedicated work stream will focus on removing investment barriers to a circular, low-carbon economy. Ongoing monitoring, learning and evaluation as well as sense-making is underpinning the entire approach and a core element of all programmes.

Before the start of activities, a comprehensive resource flow map encompassing the flows of raw and intermediate materials, finished products, waste, energy, human resources, economic value as well as imports and exports as well as stakeholders and ongoing projects, activities and initiatives, will be conducted that will form the backbone of any further activities. The programmes described in this proposal will synergistically work together to create systemic long-term impact and feed into one another.

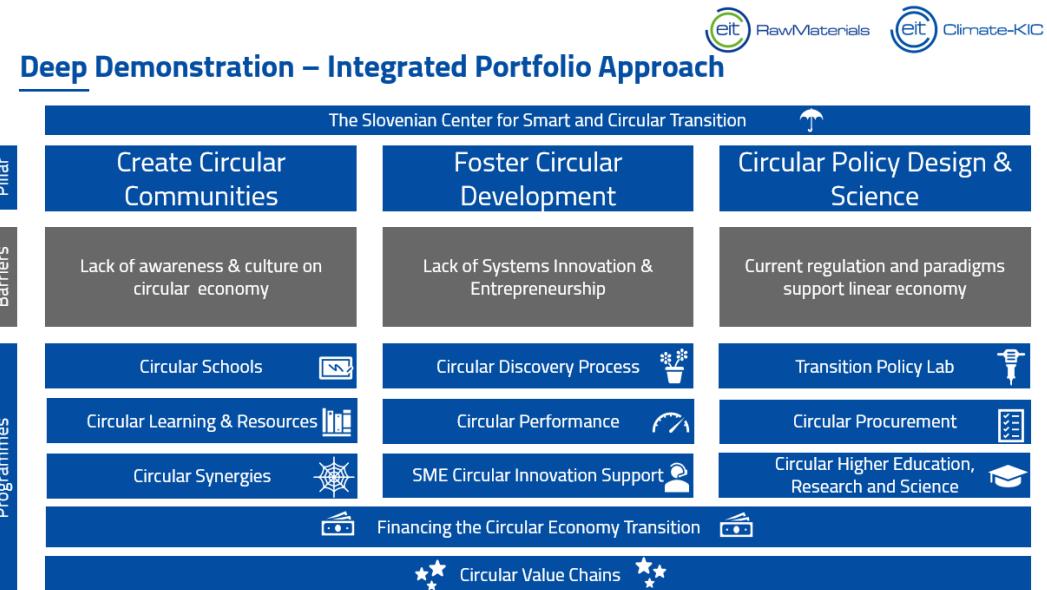
Wherever possible, existing programmes will be linked and new programmes will be connected to already locally ongoing initiatives with the aim to avoid duplication, enable synergies and build on existing stakeholder networks and platforms as well as step on learnings and best practices.

Profile-building and community events will bring stakeholders together, ensure the dissemination of results and put Slovenia on the international circular economy map. An integrated platform linked to a contact database and website will enable dissemination of results and capture of high-quality data.

Following the experiences from the project, Slovenia is willing to share their know-how and their experiences with UNIDO and any other international institution or country. KIC community

expertise and additional local and other delivery partners will be brought into the activities on a case-by-case basis to ensure access to state-of-the-art knowledge and expertise as well as networking.

The deep demonstration is expected to produce critical insights as the European Union embraces the Green Deal - making Slovenia a frontrunner and international example with regards to aligning and synergizing policy instruments and legislation while placing citizens at the centre of the transition.



4. Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture, Ukraine

Colleagues!

Let us thank you for organizing consultations on ways and preconditions for implementing the Circular economy principles in the countries of our region.

The Ministry of Economy supports the EU policies and approaches intended to provide carbon-neutral, clean, and resource-efficient production. Resource efficiency is one of the priorities of the draft Strategy for Developing the Industrial Complex of Ukraine - 2030, which was developed by the Ministry.

Today, the Ministry of Economy works closely with UNIDO to implement three projects aimed at the efficient use of resources in industrial enterprises in different regions of Ukraine: there are: The project to implement resource-efficient and cleaner production is being completed this year. It has shown good results.

- Project to develop eco-industrial parks in local communities with the Swiss Government's support. It provides for the implementation of industrial symbiosis and the circular economy principles.

- In addition, within the EU project EU4Environment, the Ministry supports the implementation of its second result "Circular economy and new growth opportunities".
- In our view, the main issues that need special attention and support from the UNIDO side are:
- Mechanisms to encourage enterprises and local authorities to rationally use resources, Development of value chains for the circular economy; Normative regulation on industrial wastes management.



5. Industry4Ukraine, Ukraine

To: UNIDO Circular Economy Team

Date: 27 Nov 2020

Dear Members of the UNIDO Circular Team

The Industry4Ukraine Platform (industry4ukraine.net) as the Coalition of 30+ representatives of business support organizations, think tanks and academic institutions presents its compliments to all the UNIDO Circular Team and expresses support to all the crucially important initiatives aimed at popularization of Circular Economy principles and approaches among industries.

We have received over dozen of responses from our members, partners and individual companies to our questionnaire prior to the UNIDO regional consultations. Below are the most important and interesting comments provided.

- Among **benefits** our participants indicate increasing the rational use of resources, including natural; for enterprises and companies - this is a significant saving on the purchase of materials, reducing the cost of production and disposal of waste, reducing the burden on the environment; owners of startups and inventions will adopt the principles and practices of the circular economy and will create new business models by reducing the amount of raw materials and utilized resources, and reuse them while protecting the ecology of the region.
- When it comes to **success stories** our members have outlined the following:
 - ✳ Getting fuel briquettes by processing waste which accumulates during the bringing of grain and oilseeds to the marketable shape. They are used further for heating industrial premises and sell the surplus to the population.
 - ✳ In cement production - use of alternative fuel from recycled household waste of Garbage Sorting Plant in Rivne, one of Ukrainian cities.
 - ✳ “Give up batteries!” Project is an example of the European value chain when the recycling of such waste takes place in Romania.

- With regard to barriers our participants have identified:
 - ✳ **Legal and normative:** absence of by-laws and auxiliary normative acts, absence of auxiliary provisions, complexity and inconsistency of rules in the field of state regulation and normative-legal provision)
 - ✳ **Organizational and managerial aspects:** organizational barriers caused by resistance to change within the organization and the opposition of individuals.
 - ✳ **Financial and economic barriers** - large upfront investment costs: recycled materials have a higher value than linear business models.
 - ✳ **Technological barriers** - technological restrictions on processing, product design. Absence of methods of data processing of product life cycle. Limited availability and quality of material processing.
 - ✳ **Consumer restrictions** - lack of information on the characteristics of products related to the circular economy.
 - ✳ **Commodity restrictions** - a new environmental product needs to be promoted among consumers.
 - ✳ **Logistic restrictions** - lack of control over channels and conflict of interest within firms, exchange of materials is limited by the possibilities of reverse logistics.
 - ✳ **Confidentiality requirements** - the exchange of information between all participants in the chain may violate confidentiality and related competitive position of an individual firm
 - ✳ **COVID-19** - business is striving for getting essential support from the government to survive and are reluctant to experiments

- Among methods and forms of support required our members have named:

- ✳ Communication and promotion of Circular Economy
- ✳ Necessity to develop national and regional concepts for the transition of the economy to a circular economy.
- ✳ Introduction of effective environmental supervision
- ✳ Financial incentives and fiscal benefits for the industries in the use of alternative fuels, and other resources and output involved into circular economy chains
- ✳ Legislative support for business and utilities, availability of credit and grant funds for the purchase of machinery and technology, expert support

As result of our preparatory activities, we have also decided to launch a separate branch of our Platform named as **Circular4Industry** to foster communication between all stakeholders in the sphere. Furthermore, on November 26, 2020, the first consultations among major groups of stakeholders were conducted and the Platform's concept, its goal and assignments, structure were approved by all participants.

A list of organizations and companies that have contributed to the recommendations preparations as well as provided their consent to the Circular4Industry launch are the following: **Regional Development Agency of the Ivano-Frankivsk region, Bila Tserkva City Council, Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Center, State Enterprise "Institute of Economics and Forecasting of National Academy of Science of Ukraine», Management Bureau Ltd., SYNERGY Center, State Enterprise "Institute of Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine», Association of Investors and Employers of Ukraine, NIBULON Agricultural Enterprise LLC, PJSC "Dickerhoff Cement Ukraine», Eurocar, Khmelnytsky Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Having said this, we are looking forward to further global consultations, development and implementation of the UNIDO projects in Ukraine.

Please accept the assurance of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bazilevych
Industry4Ukraine Platform's co-founder and GR Coordinator
