



Action funded by the European Union

## Circular Economy and New Growth Opportunities



### Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production among SMEs in Azerbaijan

#### The EU4ENVIRONMENT

Funded by the European Union, the EU4Environment Action aims to preserve and better use the natural capital, increase people’s environmental well-being, and stimulate economic growth in the six EaP countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine. By bringing together environmental and economic actors, it helps deliver policy and legislative changes, making planning and investment greener, stimulating thus the uptake of innovative technologies by adopting new business models and creating green jobs. It also promotes better environmental governance, improved management of protected areas and forests, and sustainable trade. The Action, spanning from 2019-2022, involves five implementing organizations - OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO, and the World Bank – that will focus on producing tangible and achievable results in line with the goals, priorities, and overall cooperation targets defined by the Partner countries.

Building on the important achievements of the former EaP GREEN Programme (2013-2017) in Azerbaijan, in which participating SMEs demonstrated the effectiveness of UNIDO’s RECP approach, resulting in a reduced consumption of resources, energy, and water, UNIDO will continue to promote and build the national capacity to enable SMEs in switching to a Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production. In addition, UNIDO will identify opportunities that can support the creation of circular value chains to raise the opportunities and benefits of a Circular Economy (CE) among enterprises, the government, and the civil society.

EU4Environment Actions are clustered around 5 priority results:



Under Result 2 - “Circular Economy and New Growth Opportunities”, UNIDO is scaling up “Resource Efficient & Cleaner Production among SMEs” in Azerbaijan and other EaP countries and will further work on building the capacity of SMEs to use RECP and eco-innovation approaches in their operations. About 35 Azerbaijani enterprises will be assisted in revising their business models. The local experts will be trained on the RECP methodology while conducting assessments in selected companies. The implementation of the RECP methodology will help increase productivity, product quality, and the competitiveness of SMEs. The project will ensure long-term sustainability for the acquired knowledge in Azerbaijan.

Action implemented by:



# Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production among SMEs in Azerbaijan is scaled up



## Supporting RECP Clubs

RECP clubs will be established in two regions to promote peer coaching mechanisms and enhance the productivity of industrial enterprises. This activity will:

- ✓ Support SMEs to create internal capacities on the integration of RECP principles in their business, leading them towards the identification of viable economic and environmental solutions that improve their productivity and green their performance
- ✓ Scale up RECP demonstrations in the country through a peer review coaching mechanism established in collaboration with local authorities

## Circular Economy

As a means of introducing CE principles, the project will aim at assessing waste sources from industrial activities and identify recycling options (source to waste). CE practices will be introduced using industrial “waste maps” on a pilot basis. This activity will focus on:

- ✓ Raising Awareness on CE concepts and principles
- ✓ Assessing waste sources from production activities
- ✓ Identifying recycling options
- ✓ Preparing waste maps in two pilot municipalities

## Training of National Experts

The national capacity to implement RECP will be further built through strengthening support institutions, raising awareness about RECP benefits, and sharing knowledge on implementing it nationwide, by:

- ✓ Providing hands-on experience and advancing training on RECP for demonstration companies teams and other professionals
- ✓ Fostering a continuous learning process among industry professionals and expanding the local market of service providers

## Additional RECP Assessments

RECP assessments for the selected industrial enterprises will be conducted to increase the number of the methodology demonstrations by:

- ✓ Increasing the number of companies applying cost-effective measures for reducing energy, water and material consumption, and waste and emission generation
- ✓ Developing the RECP saving catalogue, supported by the RECP action and monitoring plans to create implementation business cases for each company
- ✓ Contributing to establishing capacities in the companies for RECP adoption as a necessary strategy for business growth

## Raising Awareness & Sharing Knowledge

Strengthening the national capacities and collaboration on CE/RECP in Azerbaijan through efficient communication tools and channels:

- ✓ Supporting and promoting CE and RECP concepts, methodologies, tools, and results of project implementation among programme stakeholders and relevant target groups
- ✓ Improving awareness and understanding of country specific RECP opportunities and benefits to further develop a market demand for RECP services
- ✓ Ensuring a continuous technical expertise exchange and a proper knowledge management through national professional networks
- ✓ Sharing knowledge among experts, business owners, and staff from the demonstration companies

## For more information, contact:



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