



Regional resource efficient and cleaner production demonstration project for the European Union project “Greening Eastern Partnership”

Background

The “Greening Economies in the European Union’s Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN) is a programme of the European Union aiming at assisting the six countries of the European Union Eastern Partnership (EaP) in progressing faster towards achieving a green economy. Decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation should result in higher productivity and competitiveness, better natural capital management, enhanced quality of life and more resilient economies.

The four-year programme, is being jointly implemented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the project’s lead partner, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The project website is available here: www.eap-green.org

Within EaP GREEN, UNIDO is conducting a resource efficient and cleaner production demonstration project in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Funded by the European Union with additional co-funding from UNIDO, the Government of Slovenia and the Development Bank of Austria, the UNIDO component of the programme aims to improve the resource productivity and environmental

performance of businesses and other organizations in the food, chemicals and construction materials sectors in EaP countries and thereby contribute to sustainable industrial development and the generation of employment and incomes.

Approach

The regional resource efficient and cleaner production demonstration project conducted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization is structured in four work-streams:

- Training experts on RECP
- Conducting RECP assessment of small and medium-sized enterprises
- Raising awareness on RECP
- Identifying common technical needs for the implementation of RECP solutions

The results of RECP assessments are promoted for replication through a customized group-based replication programme that sets up RECP clubs and develops guides with RECP terminology and basic concepts in national languages (RECP Primers).

Activities

In the first phase of the project, national coordination and implementation mechanisms were established in each of the six countries. Project web pages were created to cover the activities of the project in the respective national languages as well as English. The first resource efficient and cleaner production training sessions were conducted in all six countries, availing a cadre of trained experts to assess small and medium-sized enterprises in each country. National steering mechanisms were established to endorse project activities and to connect those with policy-making processes. Awareness-raising campaigns were organized in capitals and different regions to promote the concept of RECP and to open a dialogue to receive inputs from governments, non-governmental organizations, business and civil society with support from national media.

Overview of results

A total of 47 national experts from five countries trained in 2014 have received a resource efficient and cleaner production expert award from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for having completed RECP assessments in enterprises and contributing to the adaptation and adoption of RECP in their home countries. Another 70 experts will be trained during the second and final phase of the project.

Detailed RECP assessments have been completed for 37 small and medium-sized enterprises to identify and evaluate RECP opportunities.

Case study booklets have been published for Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine to inform the general public about at least five RECP business cases per country. Case study booklets are being produced for the other countries.

Two regional replication programmes based on RECP clubs have been conducted in Moldova (in the municipalities of Bălți and Orhei) and initiated in other countries.

RECP assessments have been completed for 40 small and medium-sized enterprises and advice and monitoring support have been provided for the implementation of the resulting RECP options.

Outlook

Before the project comes to an end in December 2016, it is foreseen that:

- Approximately 65 experts in all countries will have been trained and about 50 small and medium-sized enterprises in target sectors will have been assessed.
- Up to 15 enterprises will be assisted with the development and implementation of advanced resource efficient and cleaner production solutions using RECP monitoring equipment kits.
- Detailed business plans for the institutionalization of RECP support mechanisms will be developed and discussed with the main stakeholders in four countries of the region.
- Specific opportunities for the adaptation and adoption of cleaner technologies will be developed to create a set of pilot projects demonstrating the technical potential of industry modernization and the adoption of best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP).
- Additional awareness-raising campaigns will be conducted using promotional leaflets and business cases, culminating with RECP conferences in each country in the fall of 2016.

