



European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-Border Cooperation



Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020



Project BSB1021 CIRCLECON

Project title: Knowing Circular Economy in Black Sea Basin

D.T.1.1.1 CEWG WORKSHOPS Mapping Report

Programme priority	2. Promote coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter in the Black Sea Basin
Programme priority specific objective	2.2 Promote common awareness-raising and joint actions to reduce river and marine litter
Project title:	Knowing Circular Economy in Black Sea Basin
eMS Code:	BSB-1021
Grant contract no	31113/11.03.2021
Project Deliverable:	D.T.1.1.1 CEWG WORKSHOPS Mapping Report
Partner	PB5 ICSRPA
Date	22.01.2022

The document only reflects the author's view and that the Programme authorities, including EU, are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein. Its contents are the sole responsibility of and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union

This document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020 is co-financed by the European Union through the European Neighbourhood Instrument and by the participating countries: Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.



Aim

This report demonstrates the conclusions of the CEWG meetings in Georgia where PB5 is situated.

The meetings' participants represented
National / Regional / Local Authorities and regional agencies: 18
Infrastructure and public service providers: 2
Interest groups including NGO's: 10
Higher education and Research, Training Centers: 3
Business Support Organisations, SMEs, enterprises: 3

The presentations were focused on

- The regulatory framework
- The governance at local, regional and national level,
- Research and development activities
- Behavioral patterns of people
- EU support in Georgia in terms of Circular Economy and Green Economy
- Promoting Circlecon Project

The main findings were:

- Strategies must be broader than just waste
- More coordination among different projects in order not to overlap activities
- Georgia is in the process of accelerating Circular Economy in country and the project will greatly contribute to the aim

The round table discussion OR *The questions and answers*

referred mainly to topics such as:

- How EU support and Circlecon project specifically, can contribute to the development of CE in Georgia?
- What can be done for the cooperation of the stakeholders from the black sea basin area?
- When will be Strategy and roadmap with regard to CE in Georgia available to public?
- How we can deepen cooperation among different stakeholders

The key speaker(s) Dr. Michael A. RUPP- Principal Administrator, DG NEAR – Eastern Partnership, C.1. Team leader Georgia, European Commission , Mr. George Kremlis- Honorary Director of the European Commission for circular economy, Non-Paid Principal Advisor to the Greek Prime Minister on energy, climate, environment and circular economy and Dr. Dariusz Edward Prasek - International Expert in environmental, social and governance areas and Circular Economy, member of the United Nations Advisory Board on Circular Economy, former Director of Operations in Environmental and Sustainability Department of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Team leader of the projects: "To Map



Circular Economy in Georgia" and "Circular Economy Programme in Georgia", Mr. Alexandre Darras - Attach , Sector Coordinator Connectivity, Energy, Environment & Climate change, EU Delegation to Georgia stressed out the importance of taking action in the following:

- At this moment in time, European industry only uses recycled materials, up to 12% in its products, 12%. That's very little, of course. So, the first step is that we need to strive for a greener, more digital and more competitive industry.
- need to support industries towards climate neutrality
- need a deeper and more digital single market.
- embed a spirit of industrial innovation in this whole system
- need what we call skilling and reskilling because the old skills in the economy will no longer be relevant in the economy.
- we need to train and retrain people
- need to invest and finance this transition through big investment for the Eastern Partnership
- for a cleaner and more competitive Europe, we need to promote sustainability of products
- we need to put products on the market that lasts longer
- consumer information is important.
- Avoiding waste of course altogether and transforming into high quality secondary resources are very important, so we need a real market for secondary raw materials.
- need to provide incentives for product as a service so companies maybe keep the ownership of the devices we use waste prevention and reduction is of course something that we have been dealing with in the past and this needs to be invigorated.
- need to really move forward with reducing plastic.
- working on the general improvement of waste management system, helping to develop missed municipal waste management plants in different municipalities and also developing the different ways data management systems so that we have better information on the quantity of where's the natural request so that we can better prepare.
- On strengthening the organizational structure of Mapper for the PR coordinations provision and monitoring.
- communication and change behavior, A lot of things is about our own behavior as citizens, and of course a lot of things can be done in the way we do we care about.
- to develop a platform for the help to finance green and secular economy projects in Georgia and inform the nodes of the what does the different needs that can be supported.
- With the extension and of separated collection of West and promotion and support to the reuse and recycling.
- continue training municipal and environmental inspectors, so, for instance, they can check better than on use of plastic bags because we know that.
- It's crucial to mention that for Georgia, the circular economy is crucially important to implement it, and having a possibility to use the European Union's experience.



- innovation is a strong factor in developing CE, therefore Ministry of Economy should play more active role

The conclusions of the meetings are:

- The role of public authorities and civil society was also mentioned, noting the lead role of the former, and the benefit of greater inclusion of civil society.
- Offering education and promotion programs to enhance public awareness
- Developing circular economy-related incentives to drive behavior change for consumers and businesses

Furthermore, recommendations have been made from Dr. Michael A. RUPP- Principal Administrator, DG NEAR – Eastern Partnership, C.1. Team leader Georgia, European Commission , Mr. George Kremlis- Honorary Director of the European Commission for circular economy, Non-Paid Principal Advisor to the Greek Prime Minister on energy, climate, environment and circular economy and Dr. Dariusz Edward Prasek - International Expert in environmental, social and governance areas and Circular Economy, member of the United Nations Advisory Board on Circular Economy, former Director of Operations in Environmental and Sustainability Department of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Team leader of the projects: "To Map Circular Economy in Georgia" and "Circular Economy Programme in Georgia";as to:

- having sewerage networks and wastewater treatment installations is extremely important, and in that respect, the treated water, according to this European Union regulation can be reused. For irrigation purposes and for other industrial purposes, this is something very important, and this is a good practice that could also be promoted in Georgia and in the Black Sea region as we can use this water instead of. Save water as saving water is extremely important in a period where because of climate or the climate crisis we will have a water scarcity.
- What is also extremely important for Georgia and something that the European Union requires is to have. National circular economy plans and of course these plans need to be implemented and become more specific at the regional level and ideally at the level of the cities at the municipal level.
- Public private partnerships need to introduce circular economy patterns with the view to becoming circular companies.
- Georgia will benefit and is benefiting from EU financing, but can also benefit. From AIB and the EBRD loans can develop public private partnerships and of course circular economy can lead to the creation of green jobs.
- Develop good practice in in the broader region of the Black Sea will lead to awareness raising and will further promote. Circular economy as the model, which will ensure the achievement of the energy



transition, climate neutrality and of course preservation of our planet goals.

- Try to find, you know a formula which would allow to help Georgian businesses, particularly small and medium sized enterprises.