



გარემოს დაცვისა და სოფლის
მეურნეობის სამინისტრო



SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA IN ENHANCING GOVERNANCE & POLICIES FOR A TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The Third Plenary Meeting on National Roadmap to a Circular Economy for Georgia

A circular economy is a systemic approach to economic development designed to benefit businesses, society, and the environment. In contrast to the ‘take-make-waste’ linear model, a circular economy is regenerative by design and aims to gradually decouple growth from the consumption of finite resources. This economic concept is built on the principles of eliminating waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, regenerating natural systems, and thus is often linked to the provision of Sustainable Development Goals and the Green Economy.

The transition to a circular economy requires a radical, systemic change in the way we produce and consume, where several elements of the system have to change simultaneously. This includes actions in different directions, among them the establishment of a well-functioning, non-distortive policy and regulatory framework, which removes barriers for circular economy initiatives and ensures a level playing field for circular business models.

With the general objective of replacing the ‘end-of-life’ concept with an economic system that closes material loops, Georgia embarked in 2018 on an accelerated path to transition to the circular economy with enacting the concept of the Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) in the national Waste Management Code. This was followed by mapping of the circularity level of Georgia’s economy in 2020-2022. The circularity mapping has been successfully accomplished by CSO Georgian Society of Nature Explorers “Orchis” (GSNE “Orchis”) in close cooperation with the GoG and with the financial support of the Government of Sweden. The GoG has been represented by the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Board consisting of 36 experts from various ministries and governmental agencies under the leadership of the Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Acad. Solomon Pavliashvili. The mapping process resulted in a report “Circularity Mapping for Georgia 2022”, which identifies and comprehensively analyses 14 priority economic sectors, provides recommendations regarding appropriate national quantitative circular economy policy targets and circular ambitions, identifies sectoral opportunities, defines sector-specific policy options and gives a set of recommendations for the Circular Economy Roadmap and Strategy for Georgia.

The Roadmap development is being coordinated by the GoG and implemented by GSNE “Orchis” within the framework of the “Supporting the Government of Georgia in Enhancing Governance and Policies for a Transition to a Circular Economy” Sub-Project of the UNDP’s Governance Reform Fund (GRF) Project funded by the Government of Sweden. The key stakeholders in this process are the representatives of the GoG, especially the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA), which has a coordinating role in this process and Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MoESD).

To ensure coordination and cooperation between the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Board of the GoG and the experts of GSNE “Orchis”, four Plenary Meetings and one National Meeting have been planned. The Third Plenary Meeting will take place on 14th March 2024. It has been planned with the specific objectives to discuss with the members of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Board a set of priority actions as well as financial and non-financial policy recommendations to achieve transition to circularity in two time horizons – by 2030 and by 2050. This will be preceded by the presentation of the key findings of the 2024 Circularity Gap Report, the recommendations of which show great synergy with the Georgian anticipated activities.

The development of the roadmap will be carried out as a series of sequential actions:

- Setting the goals and objectives

- Identification of the Priority Sectors of Economy and Clusters
- Selection of appropriate instruments ((laws; regulations; policies; procurement procedures; accountability standards; Creation and support platforms for sharing goods and services; capacity building projects and educational programs etc.)
- Development of the frame of road map by priority clusters and sectors (tables: clusters – sectors of economy – priority goals – set of instruments - leading proponents – beneficiaries – sources of funding)
- Structure the activities according to short-term, medium-term and long-term plans

Together with the preparation of the Circularity Roadmap, the mentioned Sub-Project includes building capacity of key stakeholders, including the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Board, MEPA, MoESD, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure and other agencies in the areas of Circular Economy, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), and Green Public Procurement to ensure their informed participation in the development and implementation of the National Roadmap to a Circular Economy.

The implementation of the Sub-Project is led by the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Board of the GoG Acad. Solomon Pavliashvili and International Expert in the Circular Economy, Team Leader of GSNE “Orchis” Dr. Dariusz Prasek, who are supported by the team of local experts having sound knowledge of the Georgian economy, sustainable development and environmental, social and governance issues.