



გარემოს დაცვისა და სოფლის
მეურნეობის სამინისტრო



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

GEORGIAN SOCIETY OF NATURE EXPLORERS “ORCHIS”

Press Release

Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Ballroom

14th March 2024, 10:00 – 14:10

On 14th March 2024, the Third Plenary Meeting on National Roadmap to a Circular Economy for Georgia will be held in Tbilisi City to bring together the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Board established by the Government of Georgia (GoG) to facilitate transition to a circular economy in the country and the experts' team of Georgian Society of Nature Explorers “Orchis” (GSNE “Orchis”), the party responsible party for the development of the Circularity Roadmap.

The Plenary Meeting is organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) and GSNE “Orchis” in the frames 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 GSNE “Orchis” represents an implementing agency for the Sub-Project, whereas the MEPA has a coordinating role.

The Third Plenary Meeting has been planned with the objective 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. And finally, an outline of the Circularity Roadmap for Georgia will be presented for discussion.

“Supporting the Government of Georgia in Enhancing Governance and Policies for a Transition to a Circular Economy” Sub-Project has been implemented in the frames of the UNDP’s Governance Reform Fund (GRF) Project funded by the Government of Sweden. Together with the preparation of the National Roadmap to a Circular Economy for the country, it comprises building capacity of key stakeholders including the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Board, MEPA, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure and other governmental agencies in the areas of circular economy, Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) and green public procurement (GPP) to accelerate the transition to circular economy and achieve sustainable development in the country.

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, ESG and Sustainable Finance, Team Leader of GSNE “Orchis” Dr. Dariusz Prasek - former Director of Operations in Environmental and Sustainability Department of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, member of the United Nations Advisory Board on Circular Economy, and Independent Expert on Development Financing at IDB Invest. They are supported by the team of GSNE “Orchis”

comprising experts having sound knowledge of the Georgian economy, sustainable development and environmental, social and governance issues.

- A circular economy is a systemic approach to economic development designed to benefit businesses, society, and the environment. This economic concept is regenerative by design and aims to gradually decouple growth from the consumption of finite resources. It 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. Among other, this includes 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.
- To foster the transition to a circular economy, the GoG has initiated development of the National Roadmap to a Circular Economy as a strategic plan that defines a long-term vision for circular economy for the country and establishes the main initiatives required to achieve it. The Circularity Roadmap will be based on the new 2020 European Union Circular Economy Action Plan - a fundamental component of the European Green Deal, Georgia's commitment to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), findings of 2022 Circular Economy Mapping, and consultations with key stakeholders.

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Contact Details:

Nino Kuchava

Tel: 595335699

E-mail: orchisge@yahoo.com