



გარემოს დაცვისა და სოფლის
მეურნეობის სამინისტრო



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

Fourth 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 simultaneously to a circular economy requires a radical, systemic change in the way we produce and consume, including actions in different directions, among them the establishment of a relevant policy and regulatory framework, which facilitate circular economy initiatives and ensures Circular 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 work on the circularity roadmap has been launched since September 2023. This Process 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 in the frames of the mentioned sub-project. Of them, three plenary meetings have been already organized, while the fourth plenary meeting will be held on 1st July 2024 to present main findings of our work on the National Circularity Roadmap that will be included in this document - part of them were discussed on the previous plenary meetings and then elaborated on. It should be mentioned that the team of GSNE “Orchis” has been intensively working on the National Circularity Roadmap to produce the draft document in late July 2024, according to the Activity Plan of the Sub-Project.

Together with the preparation of the Circularity Roadmap, the 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.