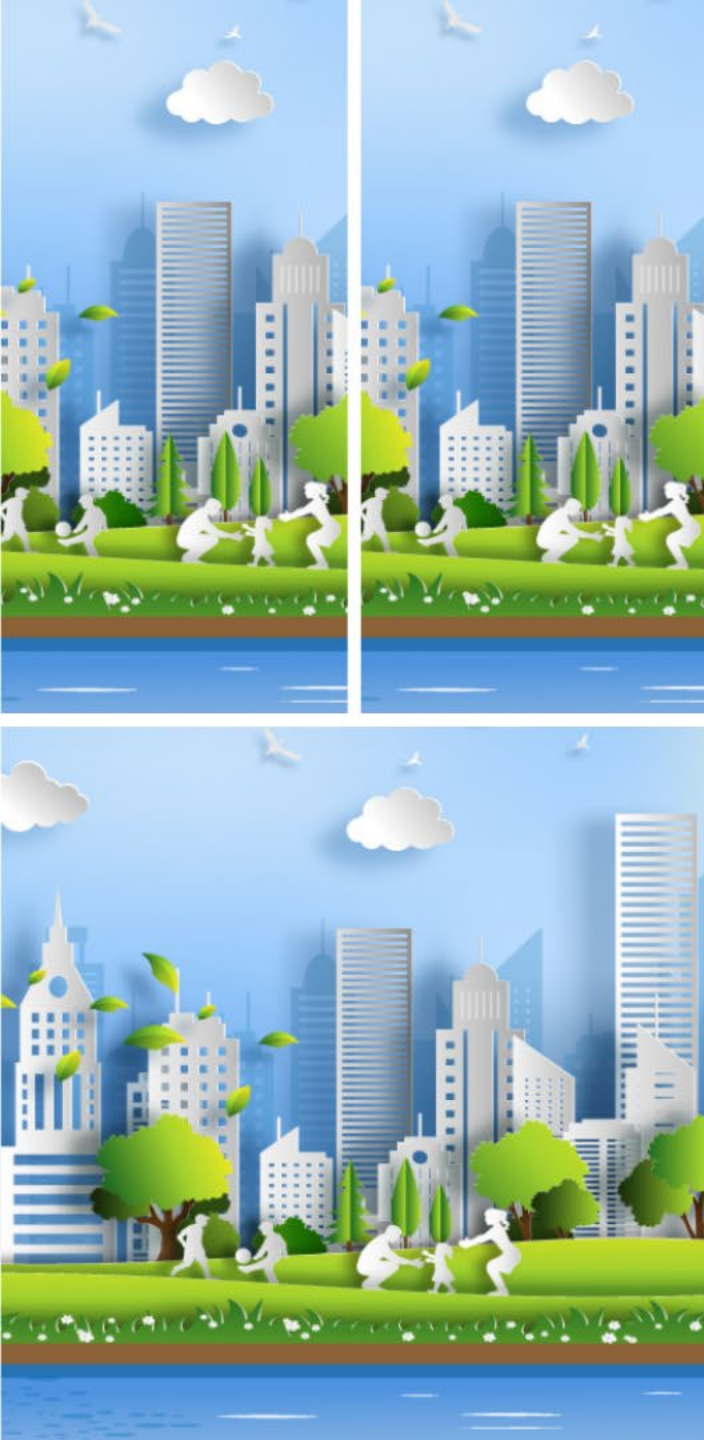




Unpacking the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

E-workshop 3: Circular Economy
12 December 2024

We are starting soon ...

Technical housekeeping



Your microphone is currently off

If you want to speak, click on the button at the bottom of the screen **to raise your hand**.
Thank you for opening the mic only upon invitation.



If you have comments or questions during presentations, please post them in the chat, or wait for the Q&A moment to unmute yourself.



If you can't hear or see: leave and rejoin the meeting, and close other programs



This event is recorded and made available to the online knowledge platform RésEAU at <https://www.sdc-water.ch/> and CDE at <https://www.sdc-cde.ch/>



For more **technical support**, you can contact martin.laeng@skat.ch



Agenda

Introductory note: Swiss support to Circular Economy for the GAWB	Jean-Christophe Favre, SDC
Keynote: OECD support towards a Circular Economy in the Western Balkans	Jovana Pavlovic Djukic, OECD
<i>Q&A on keynote</i>	<i>Plenary interaction</i>
GAWB implementation of circular economy at national level – EU for Green Agenda in Serbia	Vladimir Jovanovic, UNDP
SECO's Global Eco-Industrial Park and Sustainable Recycling Industries Programmes	Philipp Ischer, SECO
<i>Reactions and reflections on Pillar 2</i>	<i>Plenary interaction</i>
Conclusion and closing	Jean-Christophe Favre, SDC



Introductory note: Swiss international cooperation's support to the WB6 countries for the promotion of circular economy

How is Switzerland currently contributing to the GAWB's Pillar 2 and what are possible ways forward?

Jean-Christophe Favre

Regional Advisor for Economy and Employment in the Western Balkans, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

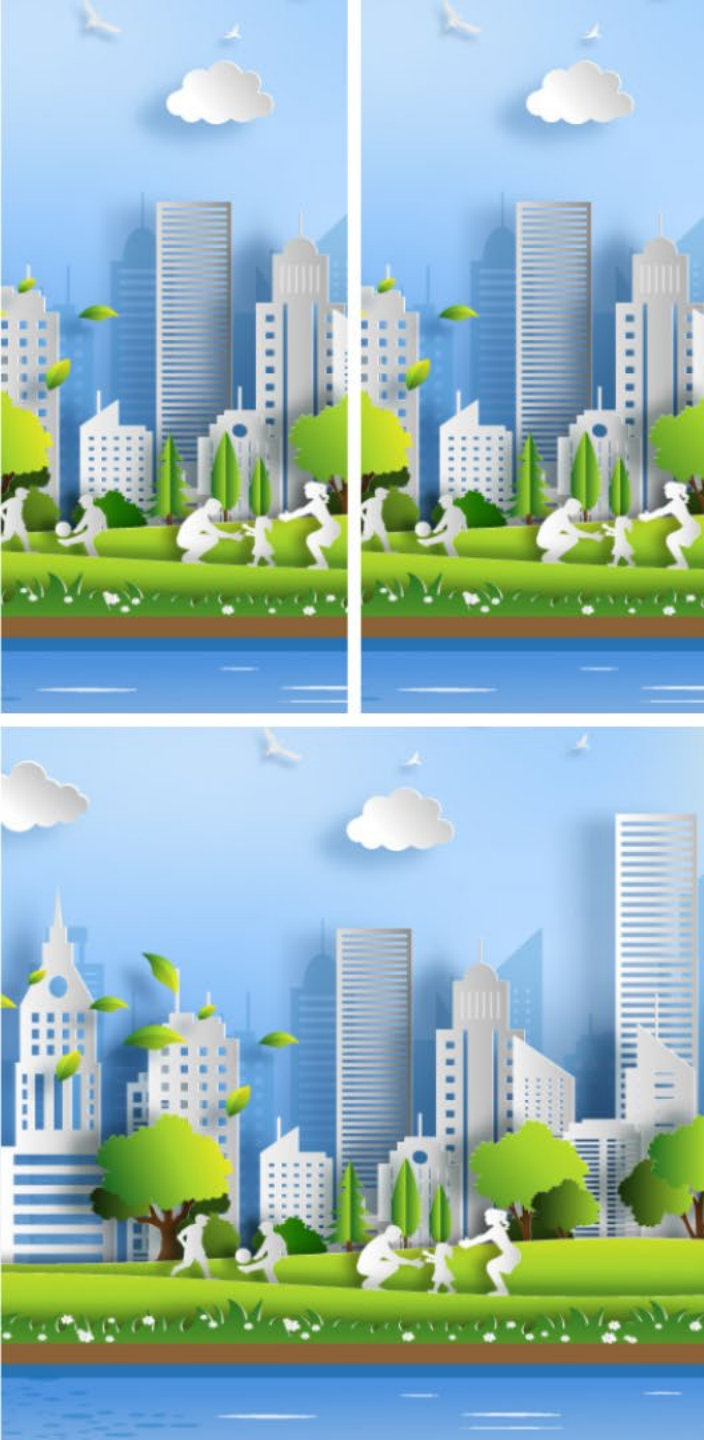


Keynote: OECD support towards a Circular Economy in the Western Balkans

Jovana Pavlovic Djukic

Team Lead – Green Economy and Sustainability
OECD South East Europe





OECD support towards a Circular Economy in the Western Balkans

**E-workshop Circular Economy in the GAWB
12 December 2024**

Jovana Pavlovic Djukic

Team Lead – Green Economy and Sustainability
OECD South East Europe



OECD South East Europe flagship work

Driving sustainable progress: 25 years of impact in the Western Balkans

Western Balkans Competitiveness Outlook

Assesses structural reforms, including environment policy. The 4th edition was launched in June 2024.

SME Policy Index - Western Balkans and Türkiye

Evaluates SME policy performance, based on the EU's Small Business Act for Europe (SBA). Next edition in 2026.

Flagship work





OECD circular economy expertise

Western Balkans Competitiveness Outlook

Under the environment policy dimension assessing the circular economy in all WB6 economies, focusing on policy recommendations for further **promoting waste minimisation, resource efficiency, and sustainable production and consumption.**



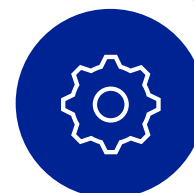
The 2024 Competitiveness Outlook edition: provides regional recommendations targeting **enhanced resource efficiency and circularity in the greening cluster.**



A **novel Data Hub** provides a detailed overview of **qualitative and quantitative indicators assessing the WB6 economies' transitions to more circular and sustainable economic models.**



SME Policy Index – Western Balkans and Türkiye



Assesses the framework for **environmental policies targeting SMEs**, considering greening aspects with **particular focus on resource efficiency, eco-innovation and circular economy principles.**



Presents **recommendations to more effectively leverage financial incentives, information-based and other tools to encourage greener and circular practices in businesses** across the WB6 and Türkiye.

**Building on the greening work carried out as part of the
Competitiveness Outlook and SME Policy Index:**

New project focusing on green and circular economy





Supporting Green Transition through Circular Economy Roadmaps

1 October 2022 – 30 September 2026



SUPPORT FOR DESIGN

→ to Albania and North Macedonia in the development of their national Circular Economy (CE) Roadmaps to serve as blueprint for CE transition, based on OECD methodology



SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

→ to the Western Balkan region to facilitate:

- ✓ provision of expertise
- ✓ regional knowledge exchange
- ✓ OECD and EU good practice transfers



Main project features – support for design



Consultation of key stakeholders, including the government, private sector, civil society, academia and IOs **throughout the CE roadmap development.**



Inception: Q4 2022-Q1 2023

- Nomination of CE co-ordinators
- Set up of CE Working Groups: relevant ministries, private sector, academia, civil society, locally present international organisations

Diagnostics: Q1, Q2 2023

Provides a thorough assessment of circular economy state-of-play:

- Key economic features
- Environmental trends and developments
- Existing policy and legal frameworks

Prioritisation: Q3, Q4 2023

OECD prioritisation methodology falls back on four criteria:

- Economic importance
- Policy relevance
- Circularity potential
- Decarbonisation potential

Proposal of a long list of priority areas followed by the selection of 3-5 areas

Monitoring

The roadmaps include a monitoring framework based on a two-tier structure:

- A set of headline indicators to monitor the economy-wide circular transition (based on EU's circular monitoring framework)
- A set of indicators per priority area to monitor the progress made on specific recommendations



Main project features – support for design

Launch of the Roadmaps – March 2024

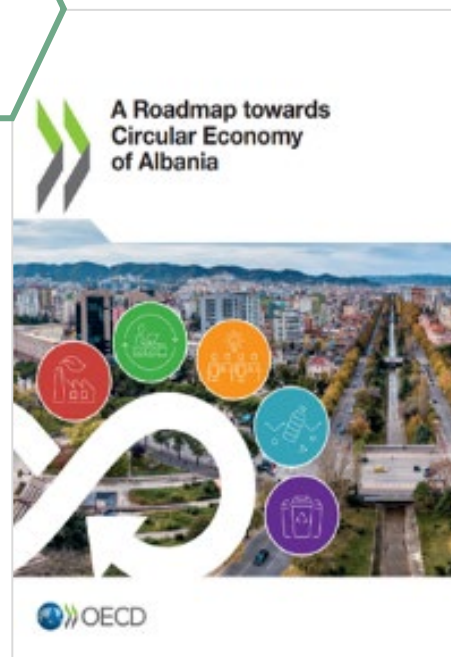
Albania



3 selected priority areas:

- **Economic instruments**
- **Circular business models for SMEs**
- **Plastics, with a focus on marine litter**

Comprehensive set of recommendations (**35 total**) for each priority area, categorised into short-, medium- and long-term measures.

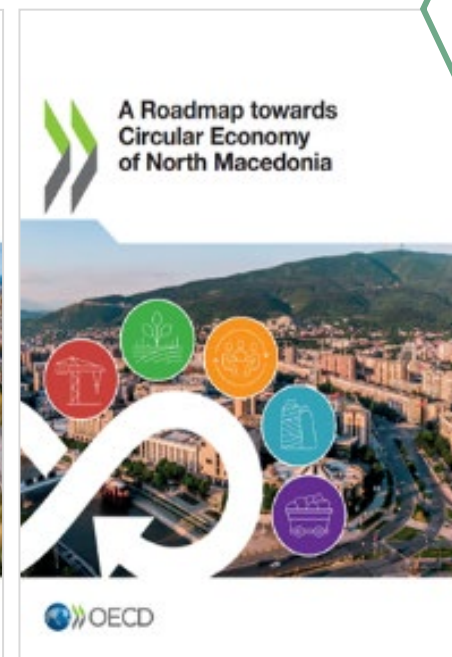


North Macedonia

5 selected priority areas:

- **Circular business models for SMEs**
- **Textiles**
- **Construction**
- **Biomass and food**
- **Mining and metallurgy**

Comprehensive set of recommendations (**41 total**) for each priority area, categorised into short-, medium- and long-term measures.





Main project features – support for implementation

2023 regional events

Facilitate exchange among government authorities, private and civil sectors and academia in the Western Balkan region and OECD countries on how to design, implement and monitor progress in CE transition efforts, promote OECD standards and foster peer learning.



- **Event** at the OECD Istanbul Center on **“Combating plastic pollution”** in April 2023
 - Presentations of good practices from Italy, Hungary and Türkiye
- **An on-site visit** to the Elif Packaging solutions production plant in Istanbul



- **Regional Circular Economy Peer Dialogue platform formed**, led by the OECD team, consisted of the CE co-ordinators and representatives from their respective CE working groups, supported by the OECD/EU member countries.



Main project features – support for implementation

2024 regional events

Participation in World Circular Economy Forum 2024 plenary and accelerator sessions in April 2024.

- **Events** as part the World Circular Economy Forum on **“industrial symbiosis”** and **“private sector involvement in the circular transition”**
 - Presentations on good practices from Italy, Denmark, Slovenia and EU-led initiatives.
 - Panel discussion on circular businesses in enlargement regions (the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership, and the Southern Neighbourhood).



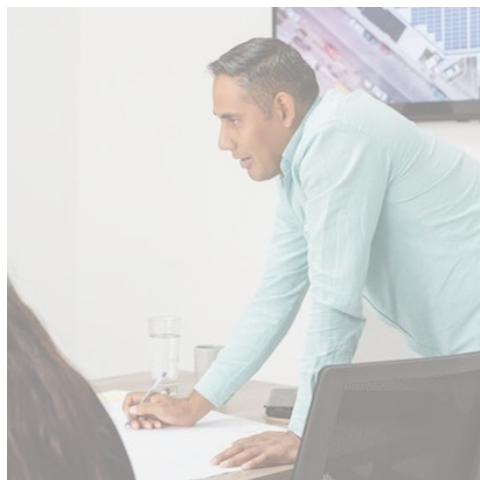
Key findings on circular economy in the Western Balkans





Circular economy in the Western Balkans – key advancements

CE is gaining traction as a model for sustainable production and consumption:



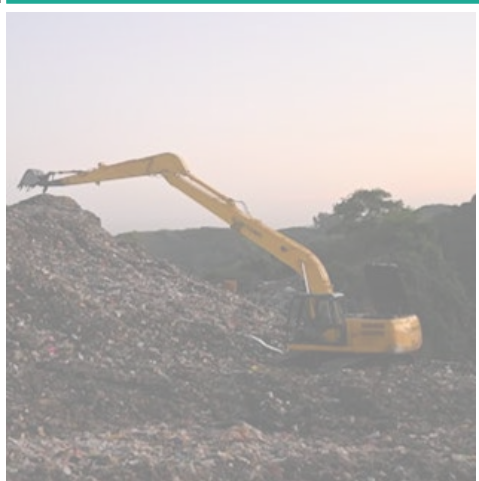
New measures to boost CE:

- Green public procurement
- Technical & financial support to private sector
- Information-based tools
- Multi-stakeholder collaborations



Resource productivity on the rise, though still low (0.57 EUR/kg in 2021 vs. 2.27 EUR/kg in the EU).

Relevant legislative frameworks are being revised: waste, public procurement, extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes.



Waste management infrastructure improved in some economies (new recycling plants, new sanitary landfills).

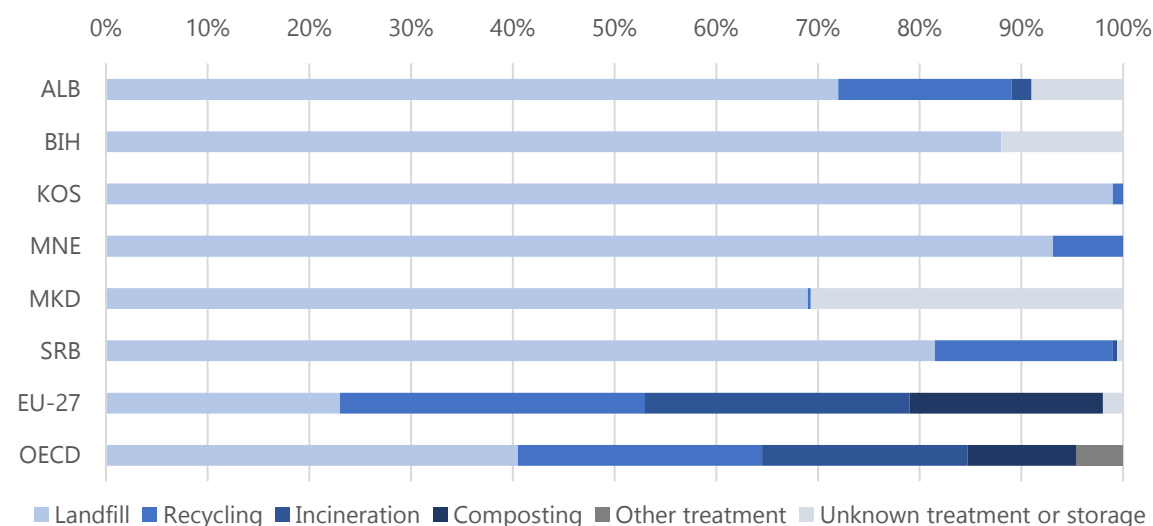




Circular economy in the Western Balkans – main challenges

Potential for improved resource efficiency and the circular economy transition remains untapped:

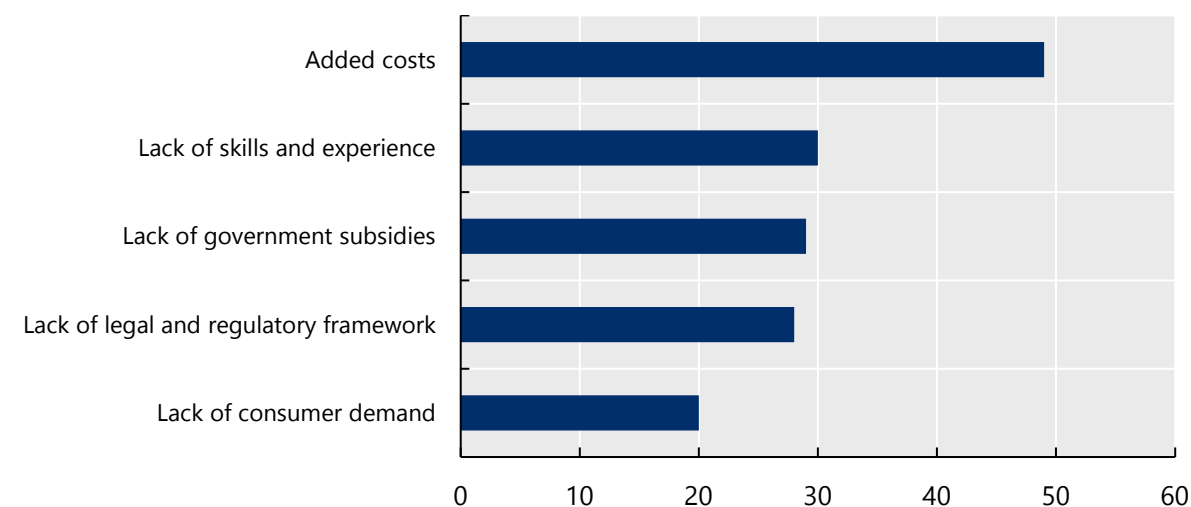
Municipal waste treatment, 2021



Source: Respective Statistical Offices of WB6 economies, EEA, 2022 for BIH and OECD.Stat, 2023.

- Increased waste generation, with more than 83% of waste disposed of in landfills
- Very low recycling rates: 6.4% compared to 49% in the EU
- Illegal waste disposal in dumpsites or unsanitary landfills widespread

Barriers to adopting circular practices in businesses across the region, in %



Source: Regional Cooperation Council, 2023.

- Challenges in adopting circular economy practices by the business sector
- Suboptimal availability and reliability of waste data hinders informed policy-making and investments in necessary infrastructure



How to reinforce the circular economy in the Western Balkans?

A holistic and collaborative approach is key to a circular economy transition.



Thank you for your attention!

Learn more about our work:

- Website of the OECD South East Europe Regional Programme
<https://www.oecd.org/south-east-europe/programme/>
- Western Balkans Competitiveness Outlook 2024
<https://westernbalkans-competitiveness.oecd.org/>
- Greening Workstream
<https://oe.cd/greentransition-westernbalkans>
Circular Economy Roadmaps:
Albania: <https://oe.cd/il/alce>
North Macedonia: <https://oe.cd/il/nmce>

For additional information, please contact:

Ms. Jovana Pavlovic Djukic

Team Lead – Green Economy and Sustainability
OECD South East Europe Regional Programme
Jovana.PAVLOVICDJUKIC@oecd.org



Q&A

Option 1

Open your microphone and present yourself in 10 seconds

Ask your question / make your comment in 60 seconds

Option 2

Write your question / comment in the chat

Add your name, affiliation and country you are currently based



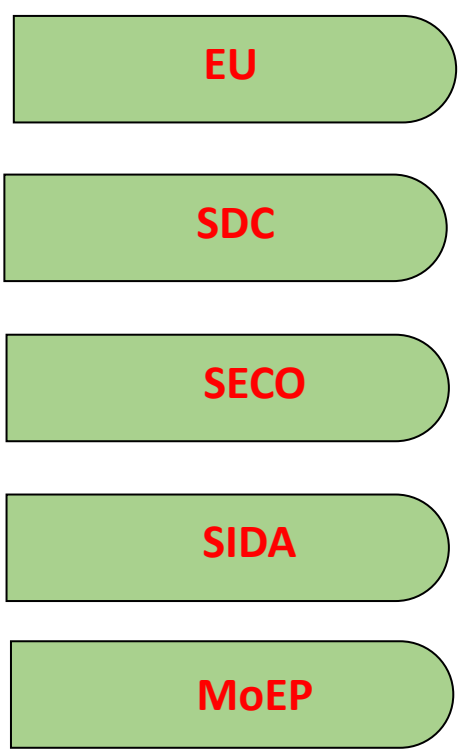
Thematic Input: GAWB implementation of circular economy at national level – EU for Green Agenda in Serbia

Vladimir Jovanovic
Project Coordinator
Environment and Climate Change Portfolio
United Nations Development Programme



THE PROJECT SETUP

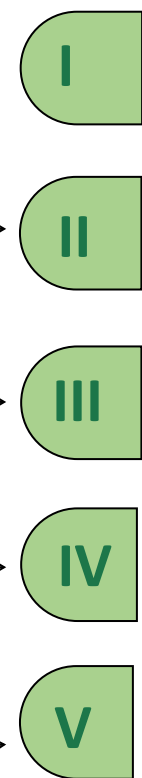
Donors:



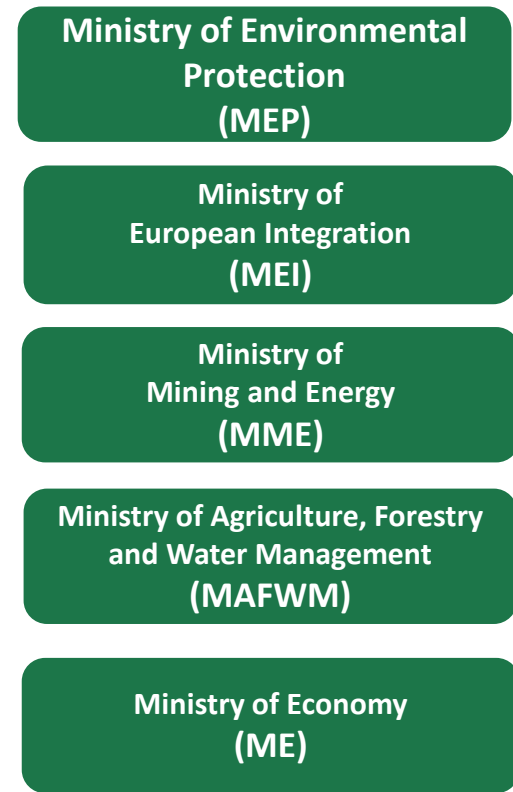
Implementing
partners:

UNDP
Sweden
EIB

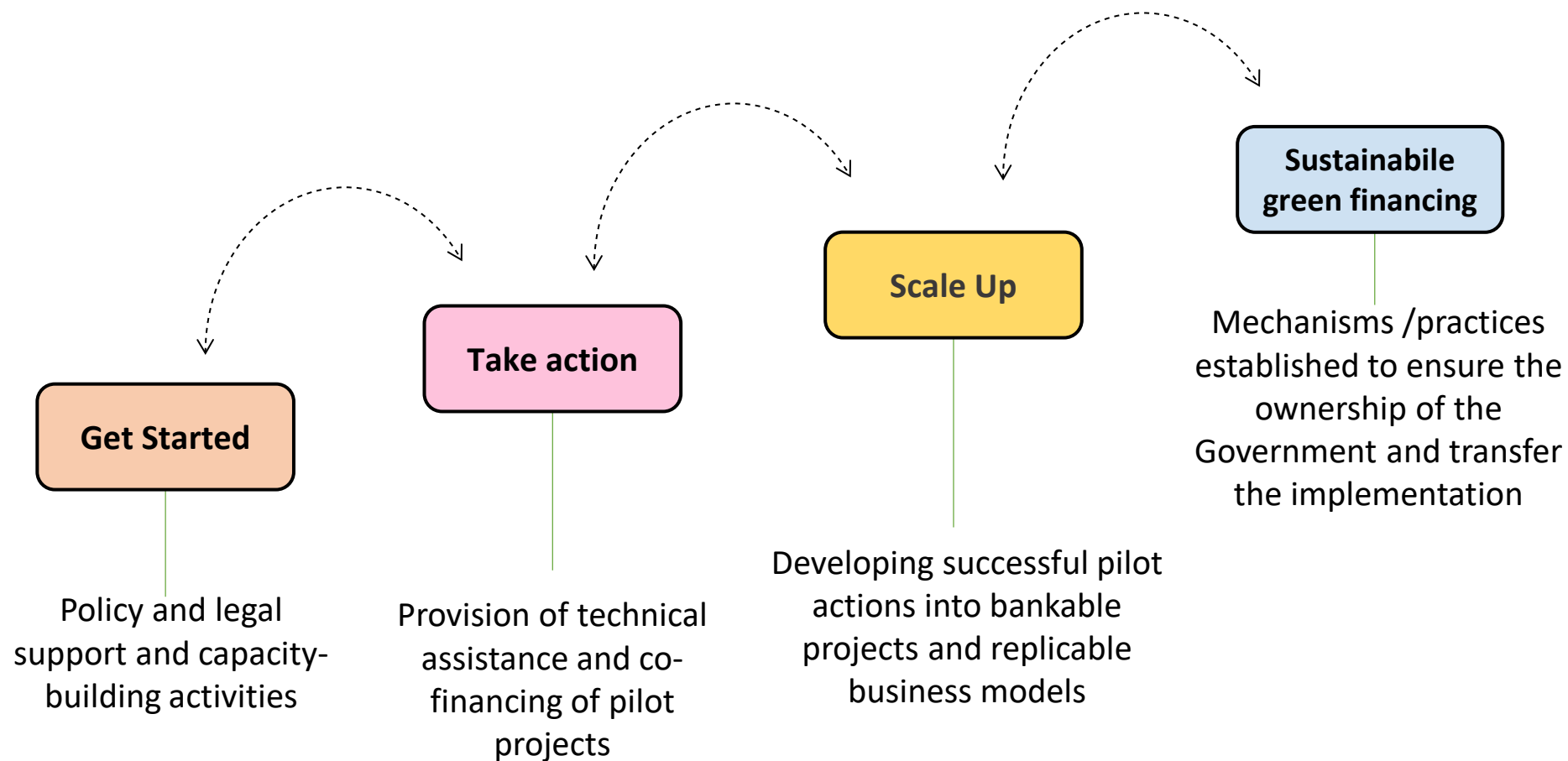
Pillars



National partners,
members of the
Steering
Committee:



THE PROJECT STRUCTURE





GET STARTED: policy/regulatory support – Circular Economy

Development of the pillar-specific Roadmaps and the Green Agenda Strategy

- The Project supported the development of the **Environmental Protection Strategy - Green Agenda 2024-2030**
- The Project also supported the development of the Action Plan for the Strategy, as well as the Strategic Environmental Assessment of this document.

During the last two years, the following regulatory acts were developed by the Project:

- Adopted **Rulebook on Use of Waste for R&D purposes, December 2023;**
- **Adopted Rulebook on End-of-Waste Status Registration, March 2024;**
- **Adopted Rulebook on By-products, April 2024.**
- **4 Local Circular Economy Roadmaps for: Pančevo, Sombor, Bujanovac and Medveđa;**
- **Methodology for Mobile Recycling Facilities for Construction & Demolition Waste**



Innovation Challenge Call - Projects supported so far (2022-2024)

	Decarboni zation	Circular Economy	Air Pollution	Biodiversity/ Afforestatio n	Sustainable food production	Total
Selected so far for co-financing	13	18	14	15	6	66
Total investment value (\$)	14,690,467	7,850,347	1,469,327	1,121,102	249,630	25,380,873
Required co- financing (\$)	1,572,876	1,346,443	635,437	490,541	123,538	4,168,837
Co-financed / total investment ratio	11%	17%	43%	44%	49%	16%



SOLUTIONS FOR GREEN TRANSITION OF SERBIA



PRODUCTION OF CHITIN AND CHITIN NANOPAPER FROM SECONDARY PRODUCTS...

"Ekofungi" LLC

The company has a wealth of experience in implementing innovative ideas in processing various secondary products for the purpose of growing mushrooms....

ONGOING



CIRCULAR FARM

"Gralo" LLC

Gralo is an innovative agricultural holding model organised according to the principles of circular economy. It installed a wastewater treatment plant for treating...

FINISHED



PROTECTION OF THE BOTANICAL GARDEN "JEVREMOVAC"

Faculty of Biology University of Belgrade

The waste from three medicinal herbs: immortelle, lavender and heather, generated by "Sanicula" company in their essential oil manufacturing, will be treated by...

ONGOING



FROM BIOWASTE TO PROTEIN FLOUR

"MDM Solutions" LLC

This solution involves starting a pilot biowaste treatment facility to grow black soldier fly larvae. They decompose collected organic waste and create protein flour...

ONGOING



BUILDING MATERIAL FROM USED TEXTILE, RUBBER AND PLASTIC

"Euromiteks" LLC

For its raw material, this innovation uses materials that are hard to recycle - textile, rubber and plastic - to manufacture construction blocks. Apart from these recycled...

ONGOING



FROM WASTE SLUDGE TO MORE FERTILE LAND

Subotica Regional Landfill

This solution deals with the issue of managing large quantities of waste sludge generated in Serbia through wastewater treatment. The opportunities of utilising waste...

ONGOING



ORGANIC FERTILIZER MADE OF AGRICULTURAL WASTE

"Vočar Bogosavac" Cooperative

The "Vočar Bogosavac" agricultural cooperative cooperate with "Profi Agrar" cooperative and "Natura Balcanica" from Dobrič on collecting agricultural waste from...

FINISHED



POROUS CONCRETE SLABS FROM WASTE ASH

"Promobet" LLC

Thermal power plants generate large amounts of ash from burning coal, posing environmental pollution and public health risks. "Promobet" aims to utilize this as...

ONGOING



CIRCULAR FARM

"Gralo" LLC

Gralo is an innovative agricultural holding model organised according to the principles of circular economy. It installed a wastewater treatment plant for treating...

FINISHED



ORGANIC FERTILIZER MADE OF AGRICULTURAL WASTE

"Vočar Bogosavac" Cooperative

The "Vočar Bogosavac" agricultural cooperative cooperate with "Profi Agrar" cooperative and "Natura Balcanica" from Dobrić on collecting agricultural waste from...

FINISHED



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ONGOING



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For its raw material, this innovation uses materials that are hard to recycle - textile, rubber and plastic - to manufacture construction blocks. Apart from these recycled...

ONGOING

CIRCULAR FARM

“GRALO”

Location: Divci, Valjevo

Project: Green Agenda in Serbia

Donor: Government of Switzerland

Budget: overall \$553,130 (\$114,350 form GA project)



Gralo – an innovative agricultural holding model organized according to the principles of circular economy.

Focus: wastewater treatment plant for treating wastewater discharged from its accommodation capacities, and the recycled water is used to water the green areas within the complex and the ‘energy willows’ –

Biomass obtained from energy willows in the form of woodchips is used to produce pellets that in turn heat greenhouses and hotbeds

The estate’s hotbeds grow vegetables, with irrigation from a well and fertilization with locally generated manure and compost made of the estate’s biowaste.

9,000 l

Quantities of processed
wastewater discharged into
recipient

65,700,000 kg/t

Quantity of waste
reduced/reused and/or
recycled in 20 years or
during project life cycle

ZERO-WASTE POROUS PAVEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR FLOOD RESILIENT CITIES

“Promobet”

Location: Mladenovac

Project: Green Agenda in Serbia

Donor: Government of Switzerland

Budget: overall \$2,425,940 (\$132,440 form GA project)

Thermal power plants generate large amounts of ash from burning coal, posing environmental pollution and public health risks.

“Promobet” aims to utilize this ash as a raw material for producing waterproof concrete slabs, comprising up to 30% of the total required material.

These slabs are utilized for paving and flood protection in urban areas.

This innovative approach holds a significant potential for widespread application in the construction industry.



Impact achieved



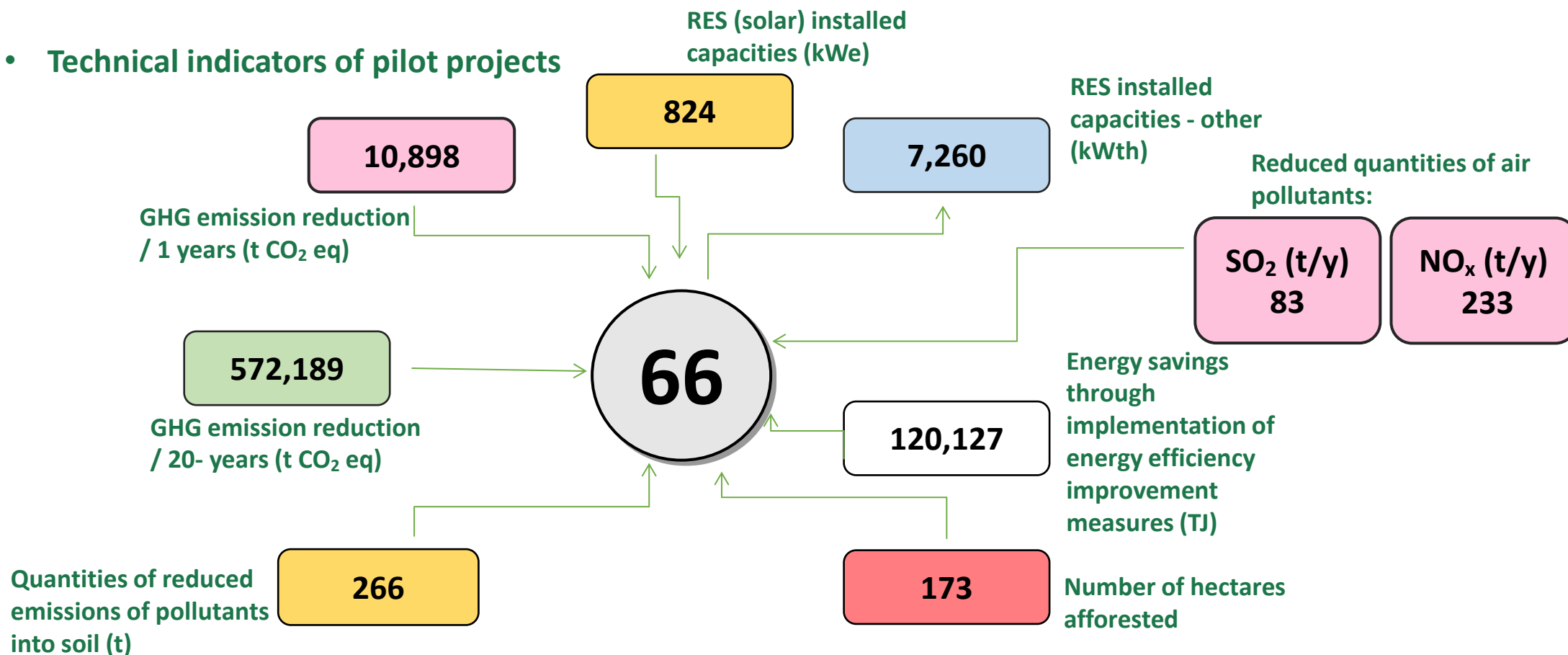
19,280 t CO₂ eq
GHG emission reduction
over 20 years





Impact - indicators

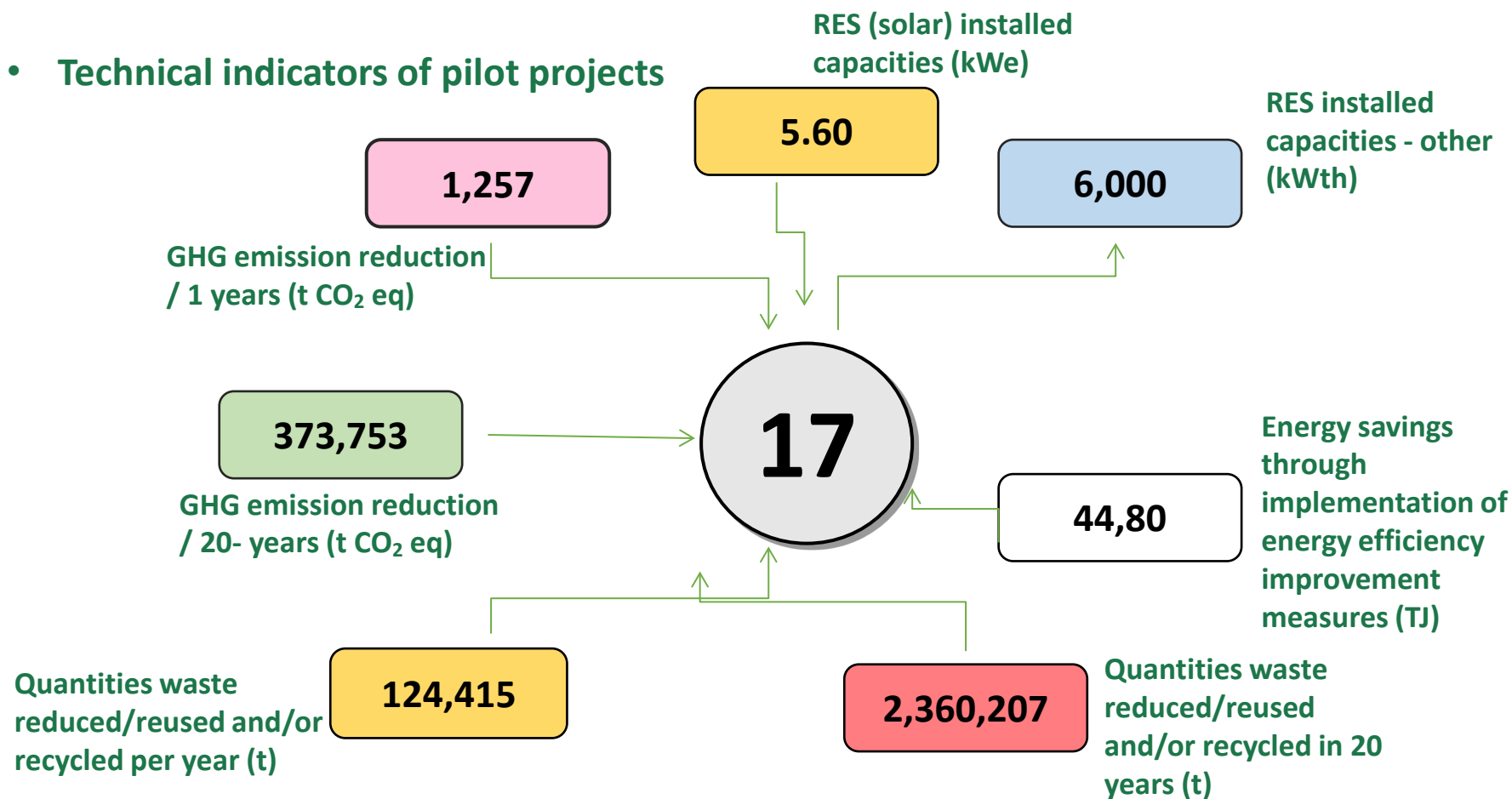
- Technical indicators of pilot projects





Impact – indicators for CE projects

- Technical indicators of pilot projects





Thank you for your attention

More about our support and projects:

- <https://zelenatranzicija.undp.org.rs/en/>
- <https://www.cirkularnezajednice.rs/>

Contact: vladimir.jovanovic@undp.org

Thematic Input: Global Eco-Industrial Park II

Programme and Sustainable Recycling Industries II

Philipp Ischer

Programme Manager in Economic Cooperation
and Development Switzerland



Why are we promoting the topic circular economy? A few thoughts.

- By using and re-using resources as water, materials or energy in an efficient way, companies strengthen their productivity and their overall competitiveness and reduce their environmental footprint.
- Widespread adoption of the circular economy concept is not only beneficial for climate, biodiversity and environment, but also improves the market position of companies and entire industries. Since energy, water, and other resources are important cost factors for many companies, adopting resource-efficient and cleaner production methods makes manufacturers not only greener, but often more productive and competitive.
- It also leads to positive social impacts in the form of new jobs and income, as well as improved health and working conditions.



SUSTAINABLE RECYCLING INDUSTRIES (SRI)

The SRI project is helping to build a credible, transparent and robust framework for sustainable & inclusive recycling...



PEOPLE



GUARANTEEING
safe & equitable
working
conditions



BUILDING
local community
relations &
resilience

ENVIRONMENT



PREVENTING
pollution
from hazardous
substances



PROTECTING
the environment
& natural
resources

ECONOMY



CREATING
economic
value through
the recovery
of valuable
materials



PROVIDING
employment
opportunities
in developing
countries

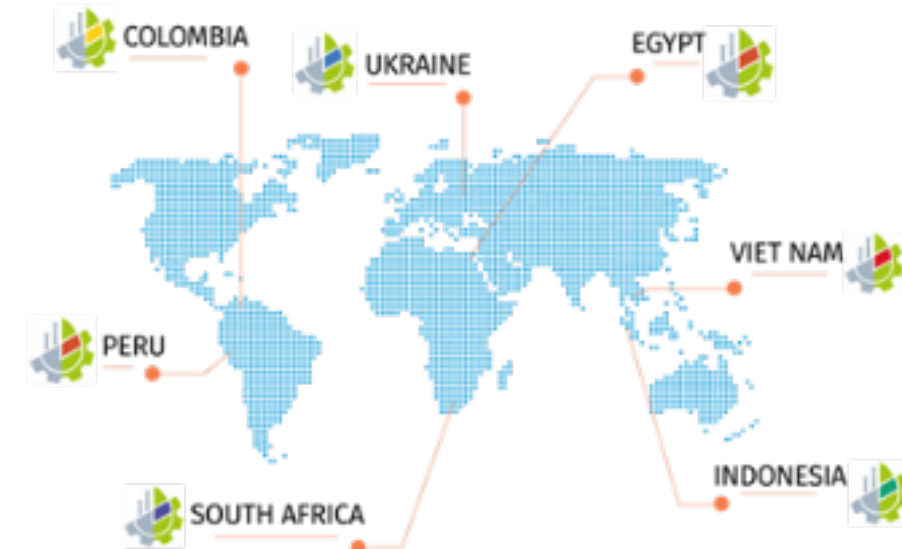
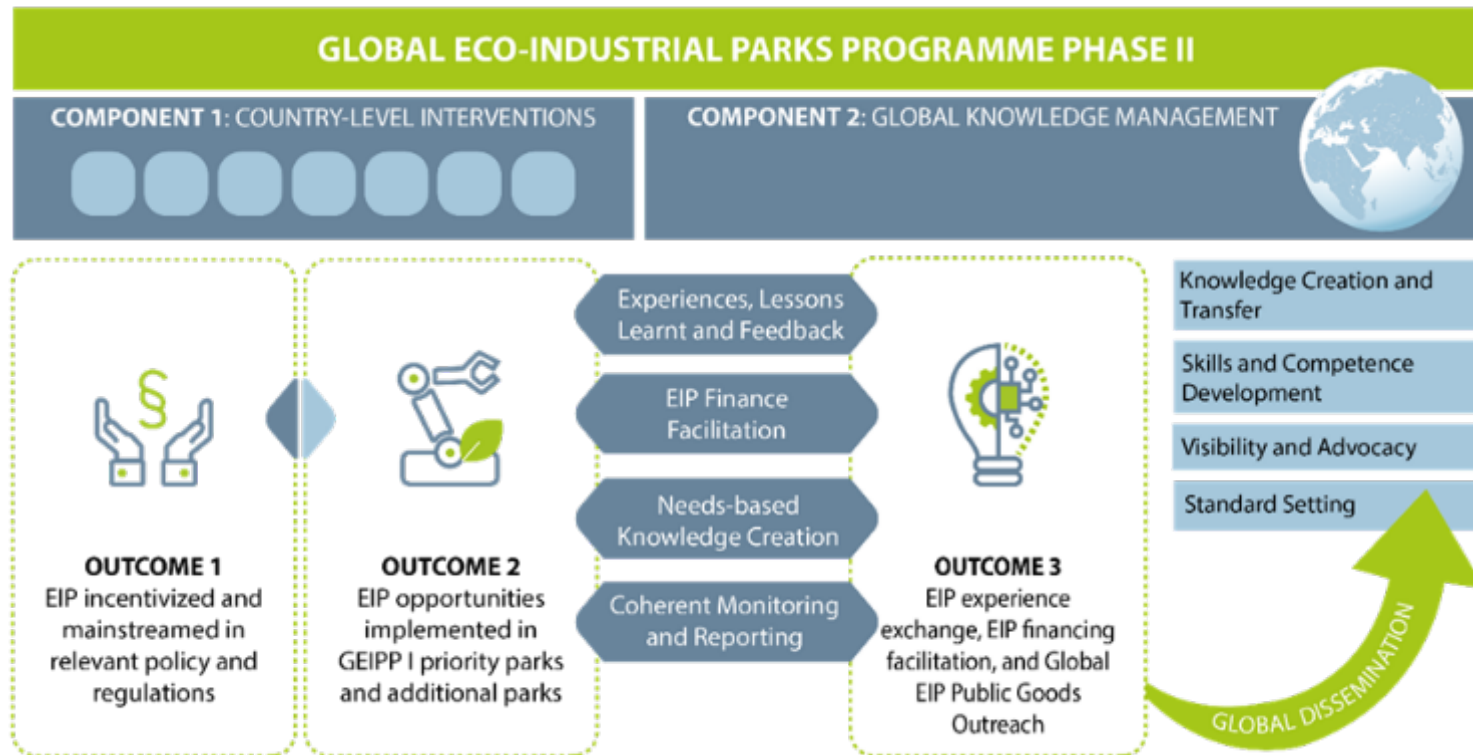
Beneficiary
Countries:
Egypt,
Colombia,
Ghana, Peru,
South Africa



Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme (GEIPP)

Overall objective of GEIPP:

“Demonstrate the viability and benefits of Eco-Industrial Park approaches in scaling up resource productivity and improving economic, environmental and social performances of businesses and thereby contribute to inclusive and sustainable industrial development.”



The Three Broad Strategies to Circularize an Economy

“**Narrow**” flows – require **less materials** to make & use products, deliver services:

- through **efficiency improvements**;
- by turning **wastes into by-products**;
- by “**intensifying**” use – extracting more use out of products (thus requiring less products), through sharing;

“**Slow down**” flows – **extend** the useful lives:

- of products through **maintenance, repair, second-hand use**;
- of product parts through **remanufacturing, refurbishing**.

Finally, “**close loops**” – **recycle** back into manufacturing:

- **Still-working parts extracted** from used, waste products;
- The **base materials** “locked up” in used, waste products.



Industrial synergies (company collaboration) at core of EIPs are circular economy practices



Utility synergies and infrastructure sharing:

- Shared use of utility infrastructure
- Mainly on water and energy
- E.g. water recovery and energy cogeneration.

Supply synergies and co-location of suppliers and clients:

- Co-location and clustering of companies in the supply and value chains
- E.g. producers and suppliers of raw materials, manufacturing, business clients

By-product synergies and waste exchanges Industrial Symbiosis:

- The use of disposed by-product (as solid, liquid, or gas) from one facility by another facility to produce a valuable product.

Service synergies:

- Sharing of services and activities between industries in an industrial parks
- E.g. joint training of staff and sharing of maintenance contractors

Urban-industrial synergies:

- Collaborations between companies and cities/municipalities
- E.g. collection, processing and reuse of materials, wastes, energy and water streams.



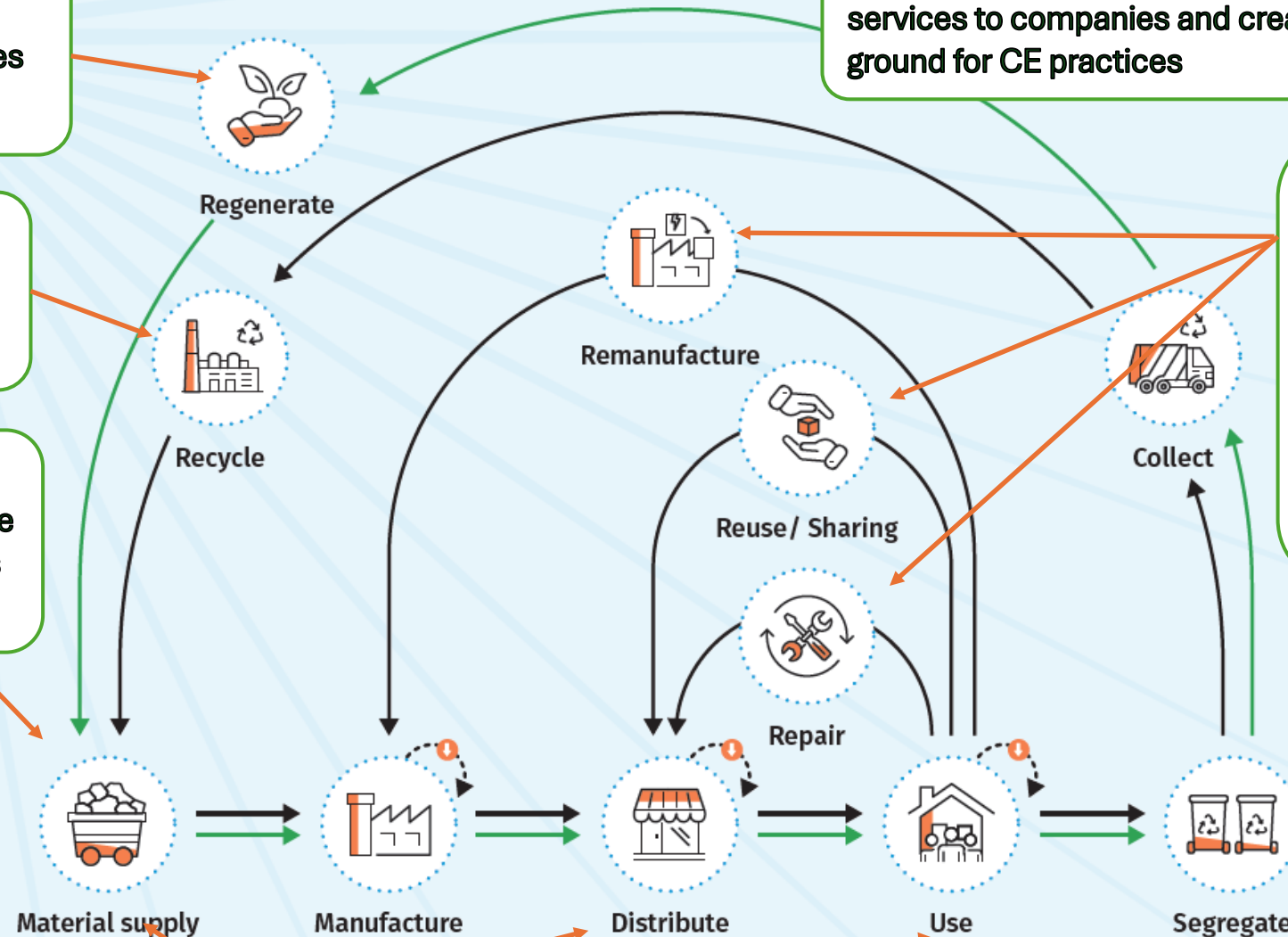
Waste exchanges and recycling facilities for park tenant companies and Urban-industrial partnerships

By-products regenerated in new, innovative, high-value added products by park companies

Resource efficiency and industrial synergies help reduce use of virgin natural resources and reduce waste generation

Overall, **park management** facilitates CE services to companies and creates testing ground for CE practices

Park cooperation and services sharing enable reuse, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and performance-based CE models

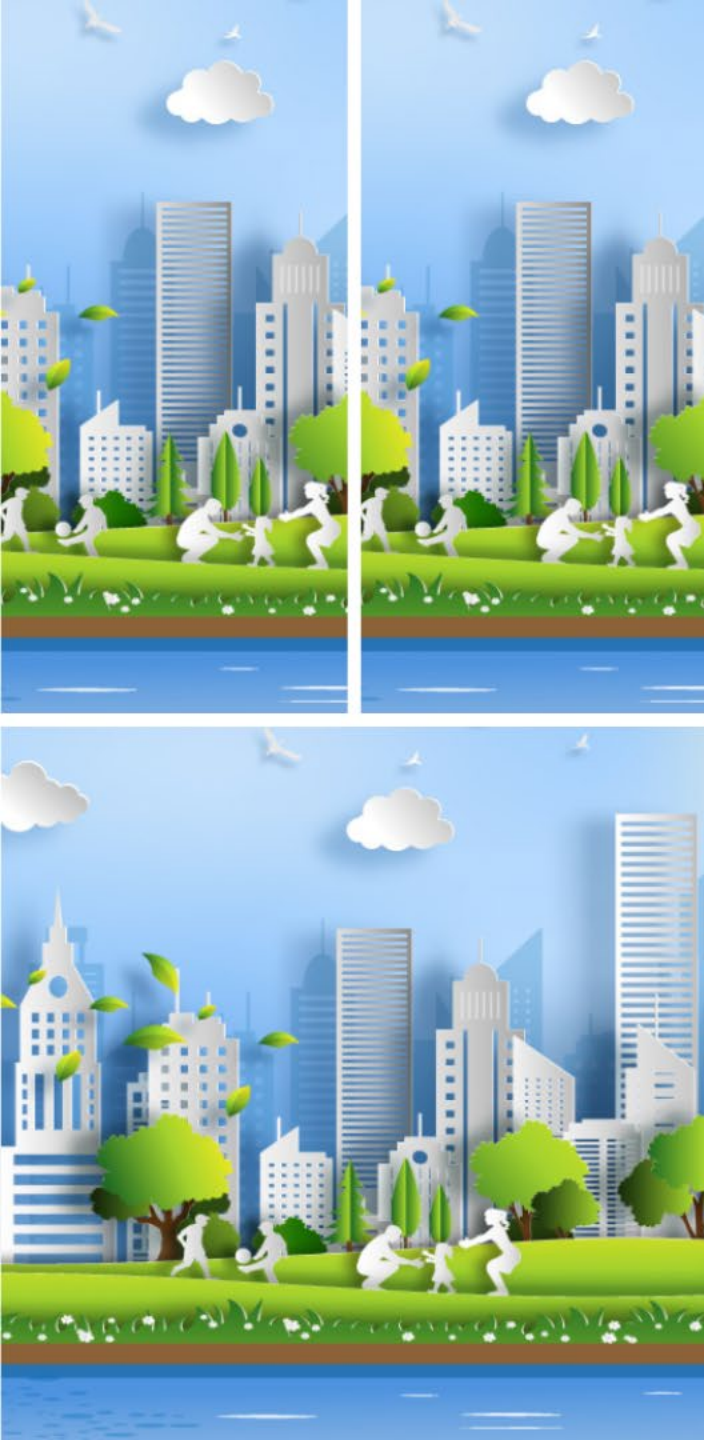


Joint learning on ecodesign, new market requirements, digitalization, CE business models offered as service to park companies and their suppliers



Further resources and readings

- Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme (GEIPP)
 - [Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme \(GEIPP\) Phase II](#)
 - [Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme | Green Industry Platform](#)
 - [International Framework for Eco-Industrial Parks](#)
- Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI)
 - www.sustainable-recycling.org



Discussion and reflection

Option 1

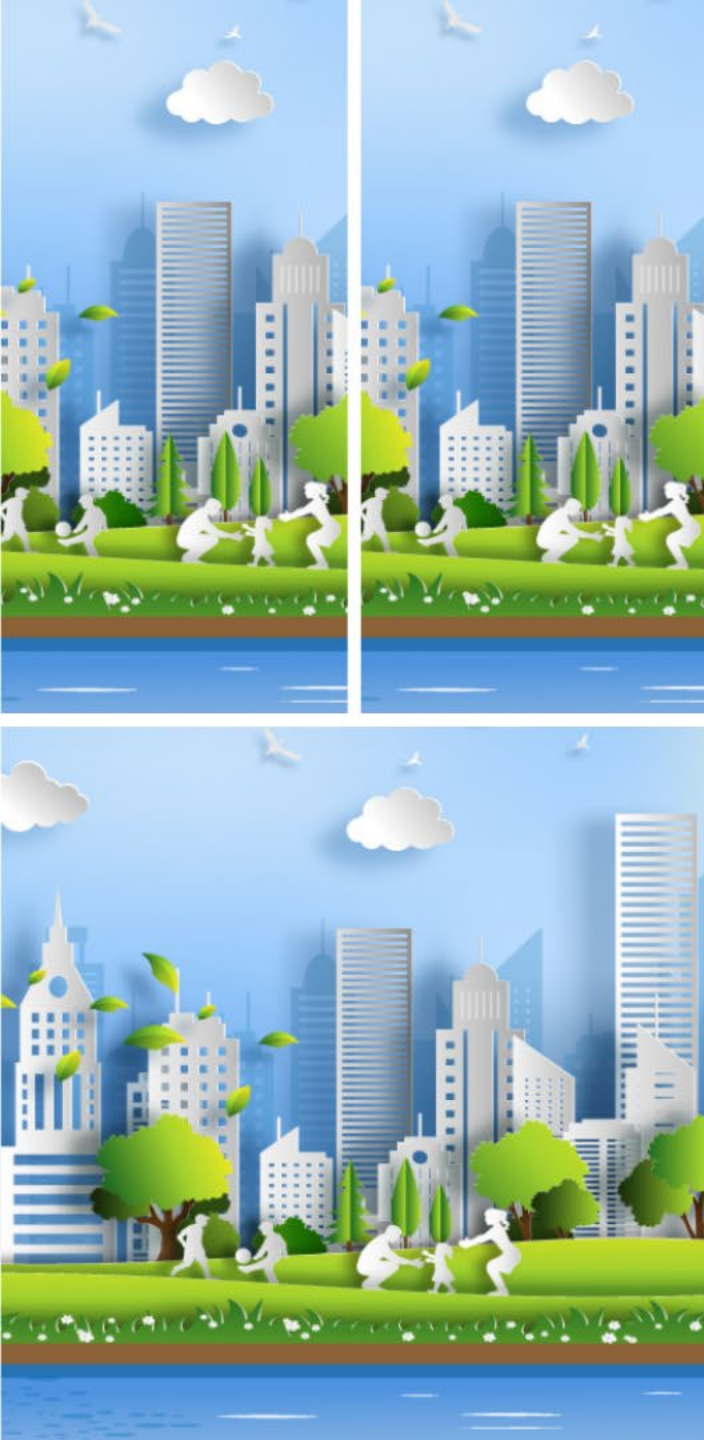
Open your microphone and present yourself in 10 seconds

Ask your question / make your comment in 60 seconds

Option 2

Write your question / comment in the chat

Add your name, affiliation and country you are currently based



Concluding Remarks

Jean-Christophe Favre

Regional Advisor for Economy and Employment in
the Western Balkans, Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation (SDC)



Thank you for your participation!

For **follow-up questions** about this webinar, please contact carmen.thoennissen@eda.admin.ch

Don't forget to join Swiss International Cooperations' knowledge networks:

- **Climate, DRR and Environment network:** <https://www.sdc-cde.ch/>
- **Water Network (RésEAU):** <https://www.sdc-water.ch/en>
- **Economy + Education Network:** <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/EI>

