RECP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Resources Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Demonstration Project in Georgia is a part of the program “Greening Economies in the European Union’s Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN). The programme assists six countries of the European Union Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) in progressing faster towards a green economy framework. The EaP GREEN programme is mainly funded by the European Union and it is jointly implemented by four international organizations - OECD, UNECE, UNEP and UNIDO.

RECP Demonstration Project in Georgia is implemented by UNIDO. Additional funding of the project is provided by the Development Bank of Austria and Government of Slovenia.

The objective of the UNIDO-led demonstration project is to support Georgia in improving the resource productivity and environmental performance of industrial enterprises in the country in order to put the green economy into practice. This objective is accomplished through:

- The creation of human and institutional capacities for RECP;
- Demonstration, dissemination and replication of RECP in priority sectors (chemicals, food and construction materials);
- Transfer of and investments in RECP technologies.

WHAT IS RECP

RECP employs preventive environmental techniques and total productivity management practices to achieve:

- Productive use of natural resources – reduction of the use of materials, water and energy;
- Minimization of environmental impacts through reduction of generation of greenhouse gases and other emissions and wastes; and
- Promotion and protection of human health through improvements in occupational health and safety.

Several complementary RECP techniques or practices are possible to apply in industrial facilities, ranging from low or even no cost solutions to high investment, advanced clean technologies, including: good housekeeping; input material change; better process control; equipment modification; technology change; on-site recovery/reuse; production of useful by-products; product modification.

Further information is available at:

RECP project website: www.recp.ge
EAP GREEN program website: www.green-economies-eap.org
Implementation of the UNIDO’s RECP project in Georgia started in 2014. In the course of the project implementation significant results have been achieved in promoting resource efficient and environmentally friendly production practices in Georgian enterprises:

♦ **18 national experts** were trained in RECP methodology and now are capable to provide RECP advice to enterprises;

♦ **RECP assessments** conducted in 18 SMEs from food, chemicals and construction materials production sectors revealed a significant potential for increasing resource efficiency, improving environmental performance and enhancing workers’ safety in the enterprises. Some of the enterprises began to adopt RECP approaches and technologies. The in-depth techno-economic assessments of RECP options were carried out in seven companies. These assessments provided the basis for development of investment project proposals for these enterprises. Some of them have applied for loans to local financial institutions to obtain necessary resources for funding these investments.

♦ **RECP clubs** involving 35 SMEs were established in the Kakheti region and three municipalities of Georgia: Kaspi, Kutaisi and Rustavi. Representatives of club member SMEs were trained in RECP methodology and can apply the knowledge in their companies. Methodology for organization of RECP clubs was elaborated in Georgian and published;

♦ **Publication of manuals, methodological and promotional materials.** National RECP Primer in the Georgian language was developed and published in 2015; It was further discussed at six RECP stakeholders’ forums to allow better adaptation of RECP methodology to national conditions and to feed the second edition of RECP Primer published in 2017;

♦ **Media coverage of project’s major activities, events and accomplishments.**

A RECP center which will continue providing services to Georgian companies is planned to be established upon the project completion in 2017.

**Awareness raising activities include:**

♦ organization of RECP informational meetings, national conferences, consultative dialogues, RECP forums to provide information on RECP and the benefits of its application to SMEs, business associations, environmental authorities, local governments, NGOs, academia and media;