



Towards Circular Economy in South East Europe

Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) for

Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)



WEDNESDAY

8

JUNE

2016

18:15-20:00
Radisson Blu Batumi Hotel,
Meeting room 2
Batumi, Georgia

How circular is your
economy?

By 2030, three billion extra middle-class consumers are expected to enter the global market, driving demand for goods and services and putting additional pressure on resources and energy supplies. It is therefore urgent that countries move towards a circular economy model of sustainable production and consumption patterns that covers entire product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use, and brings benefits for both the environment and the economy.

Through the adoption of new technologies and processes, the circular economy can increase competitiveness, and bring benefits for business, industries, the environment and citizens. Estimates suggest that by shifting towards a circular economy the EU would see an improved trade balance of \$90 billion, the creation of 160,000 jobs and net material cost savings worth up to \$630 billion per year by 2025. At a global level, the circular economy could avert the worldwide shortage of jobs - predicted by the International Trade Union Confederation to be as much as 600 million by 2030.

In South East Europe (SEE), the circular economy can boost countries' competitiveness and help create new business opportunities. It can create jobs, foster youth employment and gender mainstreaming. At the same time, it can lead to energy savings and reduce the use of natural resources.

The Side Event will bring together experts from international organizations and the South East Europe regional network National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) to showcase examples and best practice of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production with a focus on sustainable tourism, chemical leasing and low carbon production. The regional network promotes the increased application of a sectoral RECP approach and innovative business models in established NCPCs in the region. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), together with the NCPCs, is promoting the application of RECP and innovative business models to accelerate the transition towards the circular economy in SEE, helping countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development and realise the Sustainable Development Goals.

Speakers:

- Günter Liebel, Director-General for Environment and Climate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria
- Carolina Gonzalez, Industrial Development Officer, UNIDO
- Aida Szilagyi, Chairman, National Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption, Romania
- Johannes Fresner, Managing Director, Stenum Environmental Consultancy and Research, Austria
- Branko Dunjic, Director, Cleaner Production Centre, Serbia
- Emina Alic, Deputy Coordinator for RECP projects in Eastern and Central Europe, UNIDO

Moderator:

- Mariana Assenova, Chairman of the Board, Social and Environmental Responsibility Centre, Bulgaria

SEE Regional Network:

- Albania, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Serbia