

SWITCH-Asia Multi-stakeholder Consultation in Kazakhstan

MEETING REPORT

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The Multi-stakeholder Consultation in Kazakhstan has been organised by the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility with the support of the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan.

ACRONYMS

10YFP	10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (One Planet Network)
DG DEVC0	European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EUD	Delegation of the European Union
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
MSC	Multi-stakeholders Consultation
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NFP	National Focal Point
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SCPF	SWITCH-Asia Sustainable Consumption and Production Facility/ SCP Facility
SPP	Sustainable Public Procurement
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UN Page	The Partnership for Action on Green Economy
U4E	United for Efficiency

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BACKGROUND

This report summarises the presentations and discussions that took place at the SWITCH-Asia first Multi-stakeholder Consultation (MSC) on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Kazakhstan, organised by the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility in collaboration with the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan.

The event brought together about 30 stakeholders, including policy makers, universities, practitioners and civil society to discuss challenges and identify national priorities on SCP, ultimately strengthening Kazakhstan's work towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and shifting towards a green and circular economy.

With nearly EUR 280 million in funding since its launch in 2007, SWITCH-Asia is the largest SCP programme supported by the European Union. The second phase of SWITCH-Asia was launched in 2018, and in July 2019, the programme was extended to the five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The Central Asian countries have participated in the grants programme in 2019 and the selection process will be completed soon.

The support of the programme in Central Asia is framed around two strategic components:

- A **Grant scheme** supporting EU-Asia/Central Asia partnerships interested in testing and developing new sustainable consumption and production approaches. The last call for proposals was launched in January 2019 for a total budget of EUR 45.7 million. The results of the call will be announced by the end of 2019.
- A **Sustainable Consumption and Production Facility (SCP Facility)** implemented through

by a consortium based in Bangkok and Almaty, and composed by GIZ-Leader, adelphi and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). The SCP Facility aims at providing technical assistance to eligible countries, through technical assistance supporting them in the elaboration and implementation of their national policies related to SCP and green economy. Through the analysis of the results of the pilot projects, the Facility aims at providing guidance in improving the access to finance and to private-public investments in order to replicate and/or scale-up SCP approaches in the region. Finally, it aims at creating an internal dialogue between the components of the programme ensuring coherence and synergies of activities.

The objectives of this Multi-stakeholders consultation were to:

- Bring the concerned stakeholders together including ministries, business, academia, universities and other key actors at national and sub-national levels and create a productive exchange on needs and priorities;
- Discuss national SCP needs, priorities, challenges and opportunities for action;
- Identify support needed from the SWITCH-Asia programme to address priorities;
- Define concrete next steps on how to implement the demand that will result from this consultation in further supporting SCP delivery;
- Establish a consultation platform between key stakeholders including the ministries, business, civil society actors, National SCP Focal point, and the EU Delegation to further mainstream and address SCP related issues in the country.



OPENING SESSION

The MSC was opened by **Johannes Stenbaek Madsen**, Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, who first explained the significant benefits of shifting to more sustainable consumption and production models and green economy, and then introduced the **European Green Deal** as a top priority for the EU in the next years.

The **EU Strategy for Central Asia** adopted last June was also highlighted by Mr. Madsen as critical to support Central Asia in engaging in higher environmental standards encouraging the region to move away from linear production models to a circular economy, in which value of products is retained as long as possible and where waste and emissions of carbon are minimised.

Bekbergen Kerey, SWITCH-Asia National Focal Point, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources spoke on behalf of Vice-Minister Akhmetzhan Primkulov

and emphasised the importance of EU Delegations' assistance in the transition to a green and circular economy through the implementation of SCP tools and practices such as eco-labelling, green procurement, waste minimisation, and energy efficiency. Mr. Kerey also noted that the starting period of implementation of the SWITCH-Asia programme in Central Asia coincides with new developments in Kazakhstan's environmental legislation, particularly, the updated version of the Environmental Code and the preparation of an action plan for the implementation of the Concept on transition to a green economy.

Finally, participants were encouraged to follow on next calls for projects by the EU and to submit projects to SWITCH-Asia grants scheme in support to further promoting SCP in Kazakhstan through relevant pilot projects in the country.

“Technical support provided by SWITCH-Asia is timely and much needed in the transition towards a green economy.”

Bekbergen Kerey,
SWITCH-Asia National Focal Point





INTRODUCTION SESSION

SWITH-Asia programme and SCP approach as enabler to green economy and sustainable development

Arab Hoballah, Team Leader of the SCP Facility

In this session, Arab Hoballah introduced the importance of switching to SCP and the uniqueness of the SWITCH-Asia programme in addressing current environmental challenges and raising people's awareness on the benefits of switching to SCP practices. As economic growth continues to increase, particularly in Asia, efficiency is yet to be achieved. Joint efforts, context-sensitive solutions and strategies for the implementation of SCP are needed. Without naming it as such, there are many policies and programmes of activities in Kazakhstan related to consumption and production, but these are either not well implemented, not in an integrated manner or not well connected from a system perspective so as to have more impact. Moreover, since SCP is by essence cross-cutting, all relevant stakeholders should be associated with the elaboration and the implementation of any SCP Action Plan. A remark was also made on how media usually focus on reporting about disasters rather than achievements and opportunities related to good practices on

greener production and responsible consumption. This greatly affects people's understanding of specific issues, as well as consumers' behaviour.



Outcomes of the SCP assessment, status, challenges and needs

Zulfira Zikrina, Key Expert for Central Asia, EU SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

In this session, Zulfira Zikrina introduced the outcomes of the SCP assessment initially prepared in June 2019.

In Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of National Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure Development are working on issues relevant to SCP. The Concept on transition towards a green economy was adopted in 2013 and the national Green Economy Action Plan for the next decade is under development. A series of programmes related to SCP such as the roadmaps "Business 2020" and "Business 2025", "Agribusiness 2020", "Industrial-innovation Development Program" have also been initiated. At the institutional level, a Council for Green Economy was created with dedicated groups working on priority economic sectors. In addition, Kazakhstan has adopted several policies and standards related to SCP, including: Extended Producer Responsibility in the waste management sector, a Green Public Procurement (GPP) policy that includes criteria on products made with secondary/recycled materials; a policy on Private-Public Partnerships (PPP) focusing on water and waste, as well as a national green buildings standard.

From a desk assessment, the following challenges were identified: a lack of understanding of the SCP concept and experience in its implementation; limited

inter-ministerial coordination, as well as insufficient expertise for guiding and framing needs for change; limited capacity for project development and relevant budget. Currently, the national Green Economy Action Plan for the next decade is under development, as well as a Low-carbon Development Strategy.

Priority sectors were also identified, including: agriculture, industry, and construction. It was suggested that the SCP Facility could provide technical assistance in the elaboration of a SCP Action Plan and also consider common regional Central Asia priorities such as green public procurement and eco-labelling.

SWITCH-Asia can also help raise awareness on SCP in the region and in Kazakhstan through stronger communications efforts, including building the capacities of relevant stakeholders on digital storytelling and writing effective stories for the media.



KEY MESSAGES

1

Kazakhstan and Central Asia should actively join the global SCP movement

2

Recognising national challenges and finding innovative ways to overcome them

3

Clearly defining national priorities for promoting SCP in general and sectors for needed technical assistance in particular

4

Mainstreaming SCP in other national policies in support to their delivery, aiming at impactful transformation with the support of the EU SWITCH-Asia programme in the next few years



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY RELATED TO SCP IN KAZAKHSTAN



The first speaker, **Bekbergen Kerey**, National Focal Point, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources introduced participants to the current enabling environment for the implementation of SCP in Kazakhstan. An overview of existing legislation, policy and regulations, as well as ongoing governmental programmes was provided. Policy documents related to SCP include the new version of the Eco-code, the Concept to transition to green economy till 2050, and the Concept of the development of fuel-energy sector. At the institutional level, the Green Economy Council was also established. Important to note is that Kazakhstan is a country with a large reserve of energy sources; the renewable energy sector is rapidly developing, with targets set for 10% of total energy generation in 2030 and 50% in 2050, respectively.



The second speaker, **Aidai Kurmanova**, Head of Central Asia Office, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), explained the SCP related activities undertaken by UNEP relevant programmes, including the Secretariat of 10YFP/ One Planet Network, UN PAGE and the United for Efficiency (U4E).

These programmes have been very active in Central Asia. U4E has been invested in informing policy makers of the potential environmental, financial and economic savings of a transition to high-efficiency products; identifying and promoting global best practices in transforming markets; and offering tailored assistance to governments to develop and implement national and regional strategies and projects to achieve a fast and sustainable market transformation. Moreover, the Secretariat of 10YFP

has organised several workshops on SCP with a focus on sustainable public procurement and sustainable food systems. A regional project on Sustainable Public Procurement for three Central Asia countries – Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan was also initiated.



Finally, **Shynar Toilybayeva**, Country Director of CAREC in Kazakhstan, shared information about the UNEP/CAREC Clean Transport Project. Main objective of this project is to reduce CO₂ emissions coming from the transport sector with as key identified priority the development of proper regulatory measures.

KEY MESSAGES

- 1** The importance of a regional policy related to SCP and taking into account regional initiatives
- 2** The need to further work on SCP, either through the preparation of an action plan on SCP and/or by actively mainstreaming SCP in other relevant policies and action plans
- 3** Awareness raising on existing ongoing projects related to SCP in Central Asia



FRAMING SCP NEEDS AND ACTIONS OF THE TOP THREE SELECTED PRIORITIES

Priorities:

1. Circular Economy and Industry 4.0
2. SCP Action Plan
3. Energy Efficiency in the Construction Sector

Participants were divided into three groups for deep-diving discussions on chosen key priorities. Each group presented outcomes, key messages and way forward.

Group discussion

Circular Economy and Industry 4.0

The group was moderated by Gauhar Beiseyeva, Deputy Head of the International Green Technology and Investment Projects Centre. Active discussions focused on greening the industry and existing incentives and tools. Participants reflected on the ways in which the updated legislation can motivate businesses, in particular, getting permits for large companies working in the oil, gas, energy, and mining sectors.

Identified challenges:

- Lack of awareness of consumer behaviour;
- Low density of population and geographical challenges;
- Limited support from the government.

Identified opportunities:

- Income could be redirected towards the development of a circular economy;
- Strong political commitment and existence of strategic documents, active civil society, and international support.

Actions to be taken:

- Implementation of programmes on SCP and mobilisation of investment;
- Strengthening partnerships between ministries, institutions and stakeholders working on SCP.

Recommendations:

- The need to integrate SCP into current programmes and projects; exchange lessons learned and best practices; work on waste minimisation and increasing the volume of waste treatment.

SCP Action Plan

The group was moderated by Aidai Kurmanova, Head of UNEP Sub-Regional Office. Active discussions focused on the development of the SCP Action Plan.

Identified challenges:

- Risk of duplication of efforts and already existing documents. For example, the Low Carbon Development Strategy is currently being developed. The Regional Environmental Programme for Central Asia (2020-2030) has been adopted and includes SDG Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production.

Identified opportunities:

- The SCP Action Plan can build on existing strategic documents such as the Development Strategy of the Republic of Kazakhstan 2050 and the Concept on transition to green economy 2050.

Actions to be taken:

Several options on how to develop and implement the SCP Action plan were proposed.

- Option 1: Develop a separate action plan on SCP to be included as an Annex into the Green Economy Action Plan that is currently being developed for the next decade.
- Option 2: Map and examine all the current relevant strategies, concepts and plans developed at national and regional levels and identify SCP related themes. Assess and fill-in gaps and implement directly existing documents.

Energy Efficiency in the Construction Sector

This group was moderated by Zhumabek Bakhov from the Kazakh Agrotechnical University and active discussions focused on incentives for construction companies to switch to more energy efficient practices.

Identified challenges:

- In Kazakhstan, the residential sector is the third-leading energy consumer in the country after the energy and manufacturing sectors, and, therefore represents one of the largest sectors of GHG emissions;
- Residential buildings account for 13.5% of power and 24% of heat demand (UNDP data);
- Taking into account the expected fast growth of housing construction, energy efficiency became a national strategic priority for the country.

Identified opportunities:

- Big potential of using alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, heat of the earth, bio-fuel;
- Uptake of energy-efficiency technologies using heat pumps and solar collectors.

Actions to be taken:

- Energy audit service of the residential building and municipality sector;
- Implementation of green and energy-efficient technologies in construction sector.





CONCLUSIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

Based on the various presentations, the outcomes from the three working groups and related interactive discussions, the following recommendations and follow up actions should guide and structure policy actions and priority sectors on which the Government of Kazakhstan could focus, as well as the expected technical assistance that the EU SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility could consider providing.

Recommendations and Next Steps

- The need to further work on SCP, either through the preparation of an action plan on SCP and/or by actively mainstreaming SCP in other relevant policies and action plans such as green economy; an adequate governance mechanism will be necessary to ensure coordination and follow implementation;
- Circular economy and Industry 4.0 should focus on greening the production processes with particular importance to waste minimization and waste to energy or waste as secondary raw material;
- With regards to the building sector, legislation needs to be better implemented and an independent system for assessing energy efficiency should be established;
- Business sector and civil society representatives need to be better consulted and associated in

the decision-making process, through a well-established participatory approach so as to break the usual top-down approach;

- An effective incentive system and a responsive market to innovation will require due attention;
- Finally, targeted awareness raising is needed with adequate information made accessible to concerned stakeholders.

Follow-up Activities

Follow-up activities might include, but are not limited to:

- Ministry of ecology, geology and natural resources will prepare a specific request to be addressed to the EU Delegation to provide technical assistance on above issues, including the preparation of an SCP action plan if the Government wishes to further mainstream SCP in its Green Economy strategy;
- The SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility will then prepare related concept note and terms of references for a plan of activities, before moving to effective implementation with concerned partners;
- Of particular attention would be the need to exchange relevant experience and good practices from other middle income economies, and also consider regional Central Asia activities such as green public procurement and eco-labelling.

ANNEXES

- Annex 1: [Brochure and Agenda](#)
- Annex 2: [Press Release](#)
- Annex 3: [Presentations](#)
- Annex 4: [Photos](#)



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