

## FLASH REPORT

# UZBEKISTAN NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



### Background

On 3 March 2020, the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility supported by the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Uzbekistan organised the first Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). The event brought together 50 stakeholders, including policy makers, representatives of grant projects, practitioners and civil society to discuss challenges and identify national priorities on SCP, ultimately strengthening Uzbekistan's work towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and shifting towards a green and circular economy.

The meeting was opened by Ambassador Eduards Stiprais, Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Uzbekistan and Khurshed Rakhmatullaev, Head of Division, Ministry of Economy and Industry.

The SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility key expert explained then the importance of SCP and the outcomes of Uzbekistan's national SCP assessment. Representatives from the Government shared insights on the current policies related to SCP and Green Economy in Uzbekistan. Presentations focused on the implementation of the Strategy towards the Green Economy, SDGs implementation and reporting, digitalisation of green economy targets, implementation of green standards and eco-labelling.

Representatives from the private sector, CAREC and the grant projects also shared their ongoing activities related to green economy and SCP. Presentations focused on the implementation of best practices in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy, development and implementation of "Green Hostel Model", minimisation of resource consumption and GHG reduction in the Tourism sector using a smart metering system.

These were then followed by an interactive discussion between the different stakeholders on current challenges, needs and opportunities, before the participants split in groups focusing on consumers' culture in the field of waste management, creation clusters approach, eco-labelling implementation, access to information/education/training programmes, and legislations. Each group structured the discussions around three key issues: needs and challenges, priority actions and partnerships, way forward and recommendation for action.

## Key Observations

Participants agreed on the need to improve legislation on sustainable consumption and production, mainstreaming SCP into national policy, and developing related thematic strategies and action programmes. Discussions have encompassed the implementation of green standards, the adaptation of European good practices and the use of the Global Green Economy Index as a guidance tool for government officials, experts, and practitioners. Of critical importance was the general understanding of the need to develop green solutions such as renewable energy, reducing consumption of resources and carbon footprint.

## Recommendations and Next Steps

Among other outcomes, the following could be highlighted:

- The government, together with concerned stakeholders, must work towards the improvement of legislation on SCP;
- The government, together with concerned stakeholders, is encouraged to prepare a SCP Action Plan to strengthen SCP mainstreaming in the country.
- MSMEs and SMEs working in identified priority sectors are encouraged to implement resource efficiency and energy efficiency measures throughout their value chain.

## Follow-up Activities

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

- Mainstreaming SCP into current policy, programmes, strategies, through the preparation and implementation of a national SCP Action Plan;
- Develop an integrated agricultural value chain through greater involvement of the private sector through public–private partnership schemes, and development of the agriculture and agribusiness sectors concentrated around major economic corridors;
- Support MSMEs to adopt resource efficiency measures to reduce water consumption in the textile industry and manage polluters during textile processing processes;
- Support stakeholders in the tourism sector to implement SCP practices, including resource efficiency, eco-standards, smart metering system, among others.

Please find a few [photos](#) and the [press release](#) issued at the event, as well as [presentations](#), the [Brochure](#), including the Agenda, some background information and an overview of speakers.