

Circular Economy Policy Dialogues with the Parliamentarians' Platform in Central Asia



WHERE WE ARE

Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are key drivers of the triple planetary crises, climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The Central Asian region, with its abundant natural resources and rapid economic transformation, faces mounting sustainability challenges. The region's high dependence on resource extraction industries, combined with increasing climate vulnerabilities such as water scarcity, desertification, and extreme weather events, underscores the urgency of integrating sustainability principles into economic and climate policies.

The countries of Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, have acknowledged the significance of transitioning to a “green growth” model that is based on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and circular economy (CE) principles. Governments have strategically committed to sustainable development, including national strategies and incorporating, to different degrees, SCP and CE objectives and approaches into their climate strategies.

Central Asia's ecosystems are intricately interconnected, shaped by shared natural resources and geographic features that transcend national boundaries. A shared understanding of the urgency of the sustainability challenge and relevance of key concepts, including CE, is therefore instrumental for moving forward. Not only nationally specific action towards SCP and CE, but also coordinated activities to effectively address common challenges and leverage shared opportunities are of high importance for the region.






WHAT WE ARE DOING

This Technical Advisory (TA) project aims to engage with parliamentarians of all countries. As they hold the legislative power to drive transformative policy changes and advocate for integrated approaches to SCP, a shared understanding of where the region stands and what opportunities it holds is of high relevance. The collaborative approach ensures that identified topics are relevant and their approaches tailored to the specific needs of Central Asian countries.

By engaging parliamentarians in this dialogue, the region can ensure that policies are not only environmentally sound but also socially inclusive, bringing communities together and promoting a shared vision for a sustainable future. This collective effort can enhance regional cooperation, reinforce climate resilience, and pave the way for a prosperous and sustainable Central Asia.

The TA aims to analyse practices in each country, providing insights to inform regional dialogues while also offering crucial support to parliamentarians in shaping national actions. By identifying key challenges and opportunities, the TA will strengthen policy discussions and legislative efforts, ensuring more effective strategies for advancing circular economy and sustainable consumption and production at the national level.

This initiative will :

-  Equip members of parliament with conceptual and practical knowledge and context about Circular Economy principles and their benefits.
 -  Facilitate dialogues for the Parliamentarians on Circular Economy and related themes, including climate change, fostering a collaborative understanding and discourse on CE principles.
 -  Identify impactful Circular Economy topics in Central Asian countries, aligning with regional and national priorities and initiate parliamentarians' engagement.
 -  Support parliamentarians in legislative initiatives promoting or relevant to CE principles.
-  Five countries were selected for this work: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

WHERE WE WISH TO BE


- Members of parliament understand CE principles, and have a shared understanding of the importance of effectively implementing environmentally sustainable policies.
- Dialogues among parliamentarians on CE and related themes, such as climate change, established the base to build a shared understanding of sustainability challenges and collaborate on specific issues.
- Impactful CE topics have been identified and worked on, aligning regional and national priorities.
- Parliamentarians have been supported in developing and promoting legislative initiatives that advance CE practices, strengthening the legal framework for a sustainable and circular economy transition.
- There is integration of CE principles into national policies and regulations, inspiring innovative legislative frameworks that support sustainable development.

SYNERGIES

The initiative will capitalize on the synergies with other EU SWITCH-Asia circular economy related projects implemented in the region including:

 [Enhancing Climate Ambition through Sustainable Consumption and Production \(SCP\) and Circular Economy in Central Asia](#)

 [Building for a Circular Future: Policies and Partnerships for the Construction Sector](#)

 [Identifying Enablers for Effective Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\) systems](#) in Asia Pacific Region: Drawing Lessons from Developed and Developing Countries in the EU and Asia

WHO WE ARE

switchasia



Funded by
the European Union

SWITCH-Asia is a programme funded by the European Union (EU). Active since 2007, it seeks to promote Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in the region. Through its 2019 EU Green Deal and Global Gateway, the EU has further committed to supporting the transition of countries to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular economy.

The SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component provides direct support to regional organisations, national governments and related implementing agencies in charge of policies and regulatory frameworks relevant to SCP. This is done in the form of on-demand advisory on scaling up SCP policy and implementation as well as through creating a platform for knowledge exchange, and building capacities of regional institutions. All activities rely on the strong engagement of partner countries and organisations in co-creating the requested policies, processes and other deliverables.

CONTACT



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