



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Circular Economy in the Agri-Food Sector

1st National Policy Dialogue, 5 July 2022
Metropol Palace Hotel, Nikola Tesla Ballroom A

CONTACT

-  ece-trade4circularity@un.org
-  CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
-  [https://unece.org/trade/Circular Economy](https://unece.org/trade/CircularEconomy)

ABOUT THE PROJECT

- **Goal:** support the design and implementation of national policies, programmes, and strategies for promoting a circular economy
- **Source of funding:** United Nations Development Account
- **Implementation period:** 2021 – 2024

NATIONAL PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN SERBIA

- One gap analysis for the circular economy transition
- Two national workshops to strengthen the capacity of the national stakeholders
- One national road map or action plan to accelerate the transition to a circular economy in agriculture through waste reduction and prevention

LANGUAGES

- English
- Serbian

FORMAT

- In person (for national participants),
- Optional to present via MS Teams (for international speakers)

BACKGROUND

In spring 2021, at the 69 Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the 56 member States of UNECE took important decisions regarding the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources.

In relation to these decisions, the project “**Accelerating the transition towards a Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the UNECE region**” was launched in October 2021 to chart the way forward through in-depth discussions on the gaps, potentials and member States’ experiences in the transition to a circular economy.

The Republic of Serbia is one of the project's beneficiary countries.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP



Strengthen the knowledge of government officials and other participating stakeholders of the circular economy definition and its core principles. Raise awareness about the successful circular economy practices, positive economic, environmental, and social implications, as well as requirements for the circular economy transition. Address the applicability of these issues in the national context of the Republic of Serbia.



Identify relevant stakeholders in the Republic of Serbia from circular economy related ministries, statistical offices, national agencies, research institutes/academia, NGOs, and the private sector.



Take stock of the circular economy-related legislation and regulations that are currently in place in the Republic of Serbia. This includes action plans, national strategies, national circular economy-related goals, specific laws or policies or other governmental documents.



Discuss the preliminary findings of the national gap analysis developed by the national consultant to identify policy, regulatory and institutional limitations that hold back the circular economy transition in the Republic of Serbia and how this process can be accelerated by putting in place effective waste management with a focus on agriculture. Train on how policy recommendations that are derived from the gap analysis can be implemented.

8:30-9:00

REGISTRATION

9:00-9:30

OPENING AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome and short opening remarks:

- Ms. Sandra Dokić, Assistant Minister for the Sector for international cooperation, projects, and climate change, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia
- Ms. Françoise Jacob, UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia
- Ms. Marit Nilses, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE

Accelerating the circular economy in UNECE region – workshop agenda and objectives

- Ms. Roksolana Shelest, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE

9:30-10:30

CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN SERBIA

National roadmap in Serbia and agri-food sector management

- Ms. Aleksandra Vučinić, Head of Department for Circular and Green Economy, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia

Sustainable food systems in Serbia

- Ms. Vedrana Ilić, Assistant Minister, Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia

Existing initiatives on traceability of food

- Mr. Goran Simunovic, Portfolio Manager, UNDP

Existing initiatives on circular economy and food loss and waste

- Ms. Aleksandra Šiljić Tomić, Project Coordination Specialist, UNEP

Food loss and waste initiatives in the region

- Mr. Robert VanOtterdijk, Agro-Industry Officer, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, FAO (virtual)

Coffee break 

10:45-12:30

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSITION AND FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ITS RELEVANCE IN SERBIA

EU policy on the food waste management: perspective for a candidate country

- Ms. Agnieszka Sznyk, President of the Board INNOWO, Member of Coordinating Group of European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

National strategy document on prevention, reduction and monitoring of food Loss and waste in Turkey

- Mr. Burçak Yüksel, Acting Head of Monitoring and Evaluation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Republic of Turkey (virtual)

Addressing food loss and waste issues in Finland

- Ms. Hanna Mattila, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Environment of Finland (virtual)

Circular economy, agri-food value chains and trade - application of circular economy across the agri-food sector, recycling and valorization of agri-food waste

- Mr. Shane Ward, Professor of Biosystems Engineering, University College Dublin

UNECE training on circular economy

- Ms. Jessika Richter, UNECE consultant (virtual)

Practical Solutions in Waste Management

- Mr. Brian McCarthy, representative of the Resource and Waste Advisory Group (virtual)

Lunch break 

13:30-15:00

CHALLENGES IN FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SERBIA (GAP ANALYSIS)

Presentation of the gap analysis on circular economy and food waste management in Serbia

- Ms. Elena Jankovic, national consultant

Work in groups – mapping main challenges

Coffee break 

15:15-17:00

DISCUSSION ON KEY ISSUES AND GOALS AND DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS

National circular business models

- Nikola Stanojevic, CEO, SOMA, Serbia
- Ms. Marina Cvijanovic, Ecobionvest start up (virtual)
- Mr. Vojin Djurdjevic, owner, Ecoservis

Roundtable discussion

Closing remarks

- Ms. Roksolana Shelest