

FLASH REPORT

TAJIKISTAN NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Background

On 6 March 2020, the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility in close collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the ministry responsible for the implementation of the Green Economy, organised the first Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Tajikistan. 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 Tajikistan’s work towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and shifting towards a green and circular economy.

The meeting was opened by Ashurboy Solehsoda, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade who stressed “the importance of SCP, aiming at greening the products life cycle, stimulating demand for more environmentally friendly production technologies and products, while assisting consumers in making informed decisions”.

In his remarks, Stefano Ellero, Head of Cooperation Section, European Union Delegation to the Republic of Tajikistan recognised the importance of this first National Multi-Stakeholder Consultation and the alignment of SWITCH-Asia’s objectives not only to urgent EU environmental priorities but also to those concerning Tajikistan.

The SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility expert explained then the importance of SCP and presented the outcomes of Tajikistan’s national SCP assessment. Representatives from the Government shared insights on the current policies related to SCP and Green Economy in the country. Presentations focused on sustainable development through the implementation of the green economy concept, supporting renewable energy and hydro power, and the implementation of green technologies in irrigation and food security to achieve a good quality of life.

Representatives from GERES, CAREC and the grant projects also shared their ongoing activities related to green economy and SCP in the waste management sector, the implementation of the 3R approach, and circular economy.

On the consumption side, several thematic issues were discussed, including resource efficiency in heating-cooling and lighting systems, sustainable agriculture, and tourism. These were then followed by an interactive discussion between the different stakeholders on current challenges, needs and opportunities, before the participants split in groups. Each group structured the discussions around three key issues: needs and challenges, priority actions and partnerships, way forward and recommendation for action.

Key Observations

Active participation from several key ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, and the Tourism Committee, together with concerned stakeholders from universities and experts from different sectors demonstrated the high interest of Tajikistan in further promoting SCP. During this Multi-stakeholder Consultation, specific attention was given to the need for more resource efficiency in all sectors, particularly agri-food, textile and tourism, with needed ISO and environmental standards throughout the production process with the support of green technologies, eco-labelling systems and adequate enabling capacity for a transformative implementation impact.

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, focusing on the adaptation of environmental standards in the agri-food sector;
- The government, together with concerned stakeholders, should set up a systematic cluster approach in the tourism sector in a manner that would assure the most efficient use of resources;
- The government should adequately represent the interests of MSMEs and SMEs in the tourism and textile sector in both national infrastructure development plans and economic policy measures.

Follow-up Activities

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

- Mainstreaming SCP into current policy, programmes and strategies;
- Improve the implementation of European standards and good agriculture practices for export-oriented products in the agri-food sector;
- Support selected MSMEs and SMEs in the textile sector by connecting them to markets and value chains.
- Set up a systematic cluster approach in the tourism sector in a manner that would assure the most efficient use of resources.

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