

# SWITCH-Asia Multi-stakeholder Consultation in Kyrgyzstan

## MEETING REPORT

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

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# ACRONYMS

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

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 Kyrgyzstan'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 June 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 a technical assistance to eligible countries, 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 Multi-stakeholder consultation was opened by **Avtandil Alybaev**, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economy Kyrgyz Republic who noted that the demand to shift towards more sustainable approaches in production and consumption is dictated by the increase of population and the growing needs for food, water, energy, and other resources in the country. Mr. Alybaev highlighted that the theme of the Green Economy in Kyrgyzstan is becoming more and more popular with major yearly events. There is a gradual increase of activities in various areas in public policy, the introduction of green technologies and principles in the private sector, hence, the SWITCH-Asia Programme was launched in the Central Asian region at the right time. It's a great opportunity to expand the participation of all stakeholders for more

active promotion of the green economy in the country and joint activities in this direction with stakeholders from the private sector and civil society.

Referring to the major policy frameworks the EU has developed towards SCP such as the directives on resource efficiency, green economy, circular economy and plastics, Mr. **Eduard Auer**, Head of the EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan, also stressed the importance of the SWITCH-Asia programme in further supporting the country's ongoing work and achievements. Governments can play an important role by developing more sustainable and greener public procurements codes for SMEs driving them to more eco-friendly products, said Auer.





## INTRODUCTION SESSION

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

Arab Hoballah, Team Leader of the EU SWITCH-Asia 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. There are many policies and programmes of activities in Kyrgyzstan related to consumption and production including Green economy concept, Green economy programme. 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 and explained that in Kyrgyzstan there is an enabling policy environment for the uptake of SCP practices and shifting towards a green economy. Main ministries concerned with these issues include: the Ministry of Economy, the State Agency of Environment and Forest under the Government of Kyrgyz Republic, the State Committee of Industry, Energy and Subsoil Use, and the State Agency of Architecture, Building and Housing.

Current policies and legislations related to green and circular economy, and waste management include: the National Development Strategy of Kyrgyzstan till 2040, the country's programme on "Stability, Trust and new Opportunities", the Green Economy Concept adopted by Zhogorgy Kenesh "Kyrgyzstan – Green Economy Country", and the Green Economy Programme for 2019-2023 that was approved by the Government during the green economy week in 2019.

Significant results have been achieved on the implementation of Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) with an expected increase of the proportion of SPP to 30% in 2023, and 50% in 2040 accordingly.

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; lack of resource management in agriculture and industrial sectors; and low competitiveness of domestic producers, especially in the food industry.

**Priority areas** for technical assistance in Kyrgyzstan were also identified: the development of eco-tourism; waste management action including safe management of chemicals and integrated waste management throughout the whole life cycle; using a circular economy approach in the agri-food sector; promoting responsible consumption behaviour; supporting green procurement and eco-labelling programmes; energy efficiency in the construction and housing sectors.



## KEY MESSAGES

1

The importance for Central Asia in general and Kyrgyzstan in particular to join the global SCP movement;

2

Recognising national challenges and finding innovative ways to overcome them;

3

National priorities for technical assistance should be further defined, so as to better inform the work of SWITCH-Asia in the next few years.





## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY RELATED TO SCP IN KYRGYZSTAN



The first speaker, **Aibek Kadyrov**, SWITCH-Asia National Focal Point from the Department of Regional Development Policy, Ministry of Economy, provided information on how the government and relevant stakeholders are enforcing current policies related to SCP and Green / Circle Economy in Kyrgyzstan. Emphasis was put on the Green Economy Concept

which was approved by Zhogorgy Kenesh, the Green Economy Programme for the period on 2019-2023 and its seven “green” priorities: clean transport, organic products, green cities, green industry, green energy, sustainable tourism, and waste management.



**Asad Naqvi**, Head of Secretariat, UN Page subsequently outlined key priority areas UN Page is working on in Central Asia and how these can be linked to SCP. Naqvi explained how UN Page is supporting Kyrgyzstan in the preparation of the Green Economy Programme, the establishment of an inter-ministerial group, and the preparation of training programmes on green economy modelling and training on environmental and social risks for banks.



Finally, **Meder Seitkasymov**, CAREC Representative in Kyrgyzstan showcased the NEXUS project funded by the EU and announced that final results would be discussed in Turkmenistan the week following the MSC.

## KEY MESSAGES

- 1** The need for a regional policy related to SCP, taking into account relevant 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, such as the Green Economy Strategy;
- 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 in agri-food sector
2. Clean/low carbon transport
3. Energy Efficiency in the Building sector

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

### Group discussion

#### Circular Economy in the Agri-food Sector

The group was moderated by **Indira Zhakipova**, representative of the Ecois network. Active discussions focused on the quality of soil, the creation of a certification system, greening the supply chain, SCP and circular economy awareness raising among farmers and suppliers.

#### Identified challenges:

- Insufficient monitoring of the quality of soil;



- Lack of understanding of a circularity in the agri-food sector;
- The environmental impact of trading raw products.

#### Identified opportunities:

- Availability of water resources for the agri-food sector and linkages with the production of organic products;



- Income could be redirected towards the development of a circular economy;
- SMEs play a key role in the production of organic products.

#### Actions to be taken:

- Embedding SCP into sectoral policy and national plans;
- Laboratories have to be equipped to meet quality of analyses of soil and organic products;
- Creation of a certification system for organic products.

#### Recommendations:

- Management of waste on the whole life cycle of the products, branding of the national products;
- Development of value chain for organic products to ensure regional trade growth;
- Information campaign for all stakeholders/ supply chain actors.

## Clean Transport



The group was moderated by **Nargiza Basylbekova**, Ministry of Transport and Roads.

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has recognised clean transport as one of the seven priorities in the Green Economy Programme for the period of 2019-2023. The group recognised that one of the most urgent issues facing big cities in Kyrgyzstan is air pollution caused by the increasing number of cars. After technical inspections, diagnostic centres assessed that most cars do not meet the standards set by the Ministry of Transport and Roads.

#### Identified challenges:

- Streets are overloaded with vehicles, affecting people's livelihood;
- Citizens' health is at risk from elevated air pollution;
- Vehicles are not being properly inspected.

#### Identified opportunities:

- Government and municipalities are committed to create infrastructure and services for electro-cars;
- Citizens demonstrate willingness to shift from driving cars to riding bicycles, scooters and using public transportation.

#### Actions to be taken:

- Transition to electro-cars, as a pilot project spearheaded by the Government;
- Development of a system for charging electro-cars;
- Creation of infrastructure for services/ maintenance of electro-cars;
- Increasing park of trolleybuses;
- Installation of a separate lane for buses, scooters and bicycles.

#### Recommendations:

- Improvement of legislation/regulation to increase environmental requirements for private transport;
- Conversion of public transport to cleaner fuels.

## Energy Efficiency in the Buildings Sector

This group was moderated by **Nurzat Abdyrasulova**, Head of UNISON Group. Many new buildings do not meet energy efficiency standards; this leads to emissions, especially of polluting particles. Using green technologies in the construction sector and improving the culture of conservation and energy efficiency among the population will have a direct impact on the reduction of energy consumption and, ultimately, a reduction of emissions. With insulation being promoted and implemented for the houses in the country, efficiency of energy use can be increased and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduced; these will result in active involvement of the private sector since related market activities will become economically interesting for them.

## Identified challenges:

- The energy consumption sector (30%) represents one of the largest sectors for GHG emissions;
- The housing and construction sectors are rapidly growing, yet, there is still a lack of regulations on energy efficiency.

## Identified opportunities:

- The construction sector in Kyrgyzstan is one of the most dynamic sectors of the economy;
- Coordination Council on energy saving, energy efficiency and renewable energy has been established;
- Availability of domestic natural construction materials including isolation materials for buildings.

## Actions to be taken:

- Creation of a separate Entity on energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- Development of a national programme on buildings renovation and identification of relevant financing mechanism.

## Recommendations:

- Ensure that energy efficiency in buildings is duly registered;
- Revise and update green building standards, together with clear indicators and a follow up mechanism
- An independent system of expertise on the whole cycle of materials and energy consumption should be developed and established





## CONCLUSIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

Referring to 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 Kyrgyzstan could focus, as well as the expected technical assistance that the EU SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility could consider providing.

### Recommendations and Next Steps

Among other outcomes, the following could be highlighted:

- The need to further work on SCP and the shift towards a more Circular Economy, in particular in the agri-food and building sectors;
- The need to invest and boost innovation in clean and low carbon transportation;
- With regards to the building sector, legislation needs to be better implemented and an independent system for assessing energy efficiency should be established.

### Follow-up Activities

The Ministry of Economy will prepare a detailed demand to be addressed to the EU Delegation to provide technical assistance on:

- Mainstreaming SCP in the Green Economy strategy and prepare if necessary a SCP NAP
- review and updating of green building standards, procedures and certification, that will set the energy efficiency requirements for new buildings;
- Opportunities for transitioning to green and low carbon transports will be explored;
- Greening the supply chain in support to SMEs for the promotion of circular economy approach in the agri-food sector will also be spearheaded.



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# ANNEXES

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



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