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EU4GREEN RECOVERY EAST

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
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REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA · CIRCULAR ECONOMY · PROGRESS UPDATE, OCTOBER 2026

EU support for Moldova's circular economy

The European Union supports the Republic of Moldova in its transition towards a circular economy. Through the EU4Green Recovery East programme, ministries, companies and business associations are building the evidence, tools and partnerships to use resources more efficiently and compete in EU markets.

The programme's circular economy work is implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in close cooperation with the Environment Agency Austria (UBA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). It helps Moldova develop evidence-based policies, strengthen business capacities and advance circular value chains.

Industrial waste mapping field visit, Bălți, September 2026 · Photo: e-Circular

What is the circular economy? A way of producing and consuming goods that rethinks how we design, make and use products, so that they last longer and waste less. Materials are kept in the economy by reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling them. Circular economy approaches help businesses reduce costs, improve resilience, create new market opportunities and meet evolving EU market requirements.

86 **institutions** mapped in Moldova's circular economy ecosystem

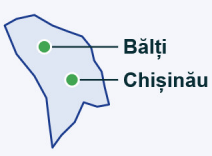
4 **priority sectors** identified for circular economy action

Agri-food · Textiles · Plastics · Construction

2 **value chains** selected for pilot activities

Wine **Clothing**

2 **priority regions** selected for industrial waste mapping



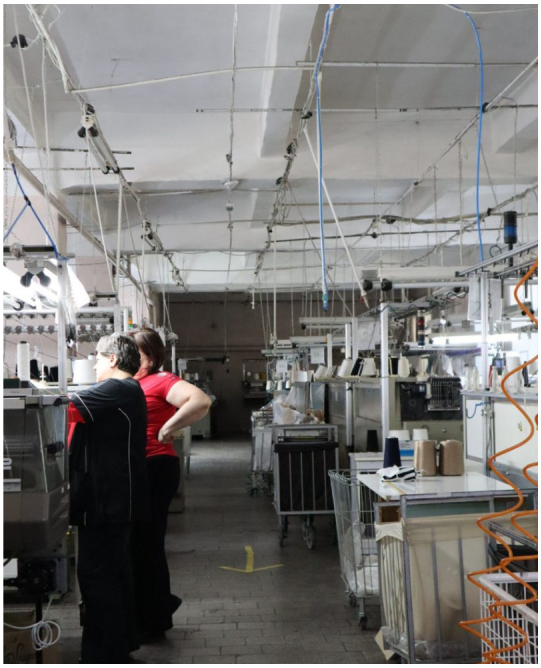
Where Moldova stands

The programme mapped 86 institutions active in Moldova's circular economy. Public institutions and development partners currently play an important role in advancing Moldova's circular economy agenda, while **engagement from businesses continues to grow**.

Packaging and construction are more advanced. Batteries and vehicles are collected, but repair, refurbishment and component recovery remain weak, and only a limited share of electronic waste appears to be formally collected.

This is where **companies and business associations** have a key role to play: many already apply circular practices without calling them so. EU support helps them gain recognition, scale up and reach new markets.

A national priority. Moldova has integrated the circular economy into its Environmental Strategy 2024–2030. The programme's priorities are discussed with national partners to align them with the National Industrial Development Programme 2024–2028.



Textile production in Chișinău. Textiles are one of Moldova's four priority sectors. Photo: e-Circular

Why it pays: a Moldovan example

The Bons Offices printing house in Chișinău applied five energy and resource efficiency options identified under an earlier EU-funded programme (EaP GREEN). Seven years later, the results speak for themselves:

~€40,000
saved per year, for an initial investment of just under €30,000

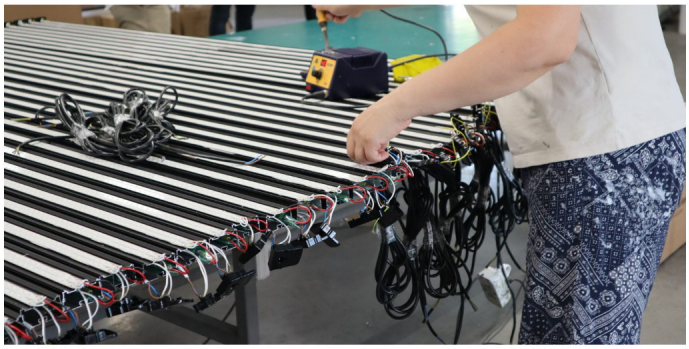
-23%
electricity consumption

-10%
materials used, with higher productivity

Source: EU NEIGHBOURS east, "The circular economy: how consumers, business and government can work together", December 2025.

Closer to EU rules and markets

The EU has one of the world's most advanced frameworks for circularity. It sets a clear order of priorities for waste: first prevent it, then reuse, recycle and recover, and dispose only as a last resort. It also asks producers to take responsibility for the waste their products generate (Extended Producer Responsibility), and encourages public authorities to buy sustainable goods (Green Public Procurement). Aligning with these rules helps Moldovan companies stay competitive as the country integrates with the EU.



Electronics assembly in the Free Economic Zone, Chișinău. Photo: e-Circular

Progress so far

June 2025

Circular economy work starts

UNIDO launches the circular economy work of this EU-funded programme. National consultations identify promising areas for action.

January–February 2026

Technology foresight launched

Stakeholders explore the technologies and trends shaping a circular economy; an introductory webinar gathers 15 participants from Armenia and Moldova.

2 April 2026

Priority sectors and regions confirmed

Around 50 participants at a validation workshop in Chișinău confirm four priority sectors, and Chișinău and Bălți as priority regions for industrial waste mapping.

June 2026

Circular economy ecosystem mapped

Publication of a map of 86 institutions active in Moldova's circular economy.

Explore the map

June 2026

Circular economy monitoring

Launch of a monitoring initiative to measure circularity in Moldova, and development of a roadmap for long-term national monitoring.

8 July 2026

Technology foresight scoping phase

A focus group assesses the trends and drivers supporting the circular economy in Moldova.

21 July 2026

Wine and clothing chosen for pilots

Around 40 representatives of government, business, research and business associations select the two value chains for future pilot activities. These value chains were selected due to their economic importance, export potential and readiness to improve resource efficiency and circularity.

August 2026

Customisation of online training on the circular economy

Work underway to tailor online courses for decision-makers and businesses.

August 2026

Partnership for a Circular Economy Hub

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the national Circular Economy Alliance anchor institution to establish a Circular Economy Hub.

8–9 September 2026

Site visits for industrial waste mapping

For the first time at national level, experts visit companies in Chișinău and Bălți, with the Ministry of Environment and the Chamber of Commerce, to see where waste goes and how it could be reused.

10 September 2026

Findings discussed at policy level

The Inter-ministerial Working Group for promoting the Green and Circular Economy, Environment, Social and Governance reviews the mapping, priority sectors and foresight results.

23 October 2026

Future scenarios explored

At the Circular Economy Conference in Chișinău, stakeholders explore possible futures for Moldova's circular economy. This scenario workshop feeds into the technology foresight recommendations on circular technologies and business models.

Inter-ministerial Working Group meeting, Chișinău, 10 September 2026. Photo: e-Circular

> *For the Ministry of Environment, the transition to a circular economy is an important priority because it directly connects environmental protection, efficient use of resources and economic development. Industrial Waste Mapping and the analysis of priority sectors will help us identify which waste streams and products can be reintroduced into the economic cycle.*
>
> **Gabriela Capcelea**
> Head of the Circular Economy Policies and Economic Instruments Section, Ministry of Environment

What is industrial waste mapping? An exercise that shows where industrial waste is produced, where it goes and what it could become, for example a raw material for another company (industrial symbiosis).

Coming next: 2027

- **Pilots in key value chains:** pilot activities with companies in the wine and clothing sectors to demonstrate the business case for circular practices and resource efficiency.
- **Industrial waste mapping results:** data and insights to inform future demonstration projects and evidence-based policies.
- **Digital toolbox for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs):** an online resource enabling them to assess circularity opportunities and implement practical improvements.
- **Online training programme:** launch of tailored circular economy courses for decision-makers, hosted on the UNIDO Knowledge Hub.
- **Circular Economy Clubs:** local networks to strengthen stakeholder engagement, facilitate peer learning and support circular business models across Moldova.
- **Operational Circular Economy Hub:** a fully functioning platform to drive continuous stakeholder engagement, collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- **Study on behavioural barriers** to circular economy practices.
- **First national circular economy monitoring report**, providing data on Moldova's progress towards circularity.
- **Technology foresight roadmap** for the circular economy, to shape national strategy development and implementation.
- **EU alignment policy brief:** a strategic brief supporting Moldova's further alignment with EU circular economy policies and standards.

Field visit in Bălți, September 2026. Photo: e-Circular

> *Industrial Waste Mapping is, in fact, a strategic governance tool, not just a data collection exercise. It identifies waste sources, material flows, recovery pathways and opportunities for industrial symbiosis, helping to translate circular economy principles into concrete policies.*
>
> **Bruno Declercq**, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova

The EU4Green Recovery East programme is laying the foundations for a circular economy ecosystem in Moldova by generating evidence, mobilising stakeholders and testing practical solutions that can be scaled nationally.

For ministries and public institutions

Use the evidence from waste mapping, foresight and the stakeholder map to shape circular economy policies and investment priorities.

Contact: Tatiana Chernyavskaya, Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO
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For SMEs and business associations

Join the pilot activities in the wine and clothing value chains, test the digital tools and connect with EU partners.

Contact: Dona Scola, National Liaison Expert, UNIDO
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About EU4Green Recovery East. Funded by the European Union with EUR 21.3 million (2025-2028), the EU4Green Recovery East programme supports the Eastern Partnership countries on their path towards a greener, more resilient and competitive economy. More information: www.eu4greenrecoveryeast.eu

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