

Circular economy in practice: preparing Moldova for EU integration



Circulearth

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Independent consulting to close the loop on circular economy policy





Why circular economy matter for Moldova ?

Moldova imports **77.5% of its primary energy**, with renewables at only 3% of electricity generation - circular practices can drastically cut this dependency.

90% of waste is landfilled or dumped illegally - meaning huge untapped material value.

Circularity could cut industrial emissions by 30% and create 10,000–15,000 new jobs

Key levers: modern waste management, circular agribusiness, waste-to-energy, and green product exports.



Circular economy

=

energy security

+

competitiveness

+

EU alignment.



The EU circular economy framework



First Circular Economy Action plan in 2015



Second Circular Economy Action plan in 2020



Upcoming Circular Economy act next year

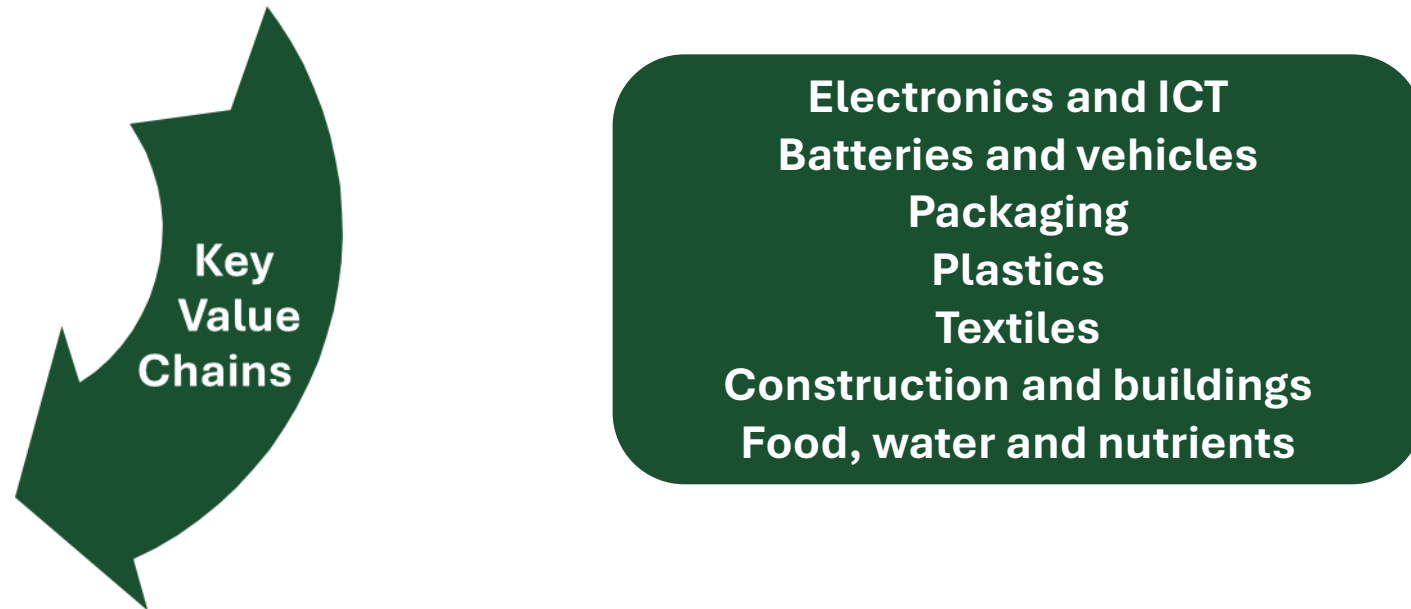


The EU circular economy framework



**Make sustainable products the
norm in the EU
Empower consumers and public
buyers
Sustainable production
processes**

The EU circular economy framework

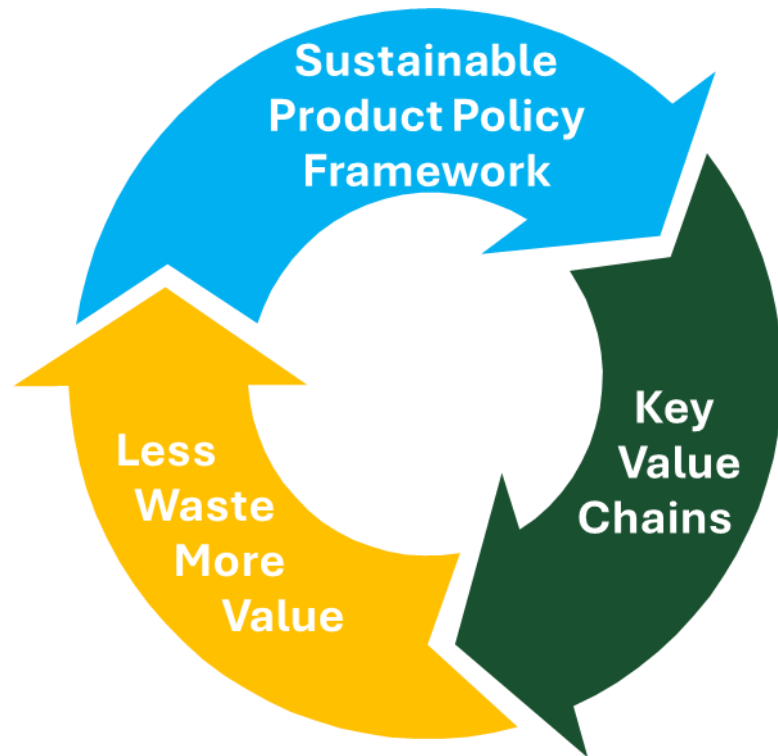


The EU circular economy framework



Reduce Waste
Reduce Waste Exports
**Boost market for high quality and
safe secondary raw materials**

The EU circular economy framework



Make sustainable products the norm in the EU
Empower consumers and public buyers
Sustainable production processes

Electronics and ICT
Batteries and vehicles
Packaging
Plastics
Textiles
Construction and buildings
Food, water and nutrients

Reduce Waste
Reduce Waste Exports
Boost market for high quality and safe secondary raw materials

The EU circular economy framework

From the upstream of the value chain...



The EU circular economy framework

...to the downstream of the value chain...

	Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulation	Battery regulation	EU Taxonomy
Revision of the urban wastewater treatment directive		Revision of the waste framework directive & Revision the waste shipment regulation	IEED
Green claims initiative and empowering consumers directive	Single Use Plastics directive implementation	End-of-life vehicles Regulation	Construction product regulation

The EU circular economy framework

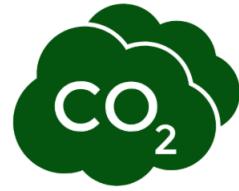
...and the overall value chain to change the system...

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation	Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulation	Battery regulation	EU Taxonomy
Revision of the urban wastewater treatment directive	CSRD & CSDDD	Revision of the waste framework directive & Revision the waste shipment regulation	IEED
Green claims initiative and empowering consumers directive	Single Use Plastics directive implementation	End-of-life vehicles Regulation	Construction product regulation

**Moldova must
progressively
adopt these
standards as part
of Chapter 27
(Environment and
Climate) of the EU
acquis.**



Moldova's circular reality : the untapped potential



CO₂ emissions per capita



5,5 t



17t



Moldova's circular reality : the untapped potential



Municipal waste generated per capita



513 kg / year



354 kg / year



Moldova's circular reality : the untapped potential



Recycling rate



44%



10%



Moldova's circular reality : the untapped potential

Past strategies and policies:

- **Environmental Strategy 2014-2023** – set the basis for sustainable development and environmental protection.
- **Low Emission Development Strategy 2030** (updated 2023) focused on decarbonisation and energy efficiency.
- **Road Map on Green Economy 2018-2022** – introduced early circular economy measures and resource efficiency initiatives.

A new programme for the promotion of green and circular economy 2024-2028 was adopted in July 2024



**From waste to
wealth: circular
transition**

=

**environmental
necessity**

+

**economic
opportunity.**



Challenges in aligning with EU standards

Institutional and administrative capacity: aligning laws, enforcement, monitoring regimes.

Financing and investment: circular economy needs upfront investment in infrastructure, models, innovation.

Data, metrics and infrastructure: you can't manage what you don't measure. Current recycling, waste-stream data remain weak.



Challenges in aligning with EU standards

Industry readiness (especially SMEs): many firms not yet geared for circular business models, eco-design, secondary materials.

Coordination and governance: cross-sectoral (industry, waste, environment, energy) collaboration remains fragmented.

Regulatory complexity: EU acquis is extensive-Moldova needs clear roadmap, prioritisation, sequencing.



Challenge
=
capacity and
investment, not
ambition.



Opportunities and data driven gains

Economic boost: green / circular economy could raise GDP by **1.5–2% by 2030**

Jobs: up to 15,000 green jobs

Green demand: EU market for eco-products > €700 billion/year - **Moldova's access depends on compliance.**

Donor and EU green funds support pilots in Moldova's energy and waste sectors.



Circular economy

=

**Moldova's bridge to
a low carbon,
high-value EU
market**



Practical steps for transition

Implement the programme on the **promotion of green and circular economy 2024-2028**

Align legislation with EU directives: waste, EPR, eco-design, recycling targets.

Pilot circular projects in high-potential sectors such as agribusiness and packaging

Build public-private partnerships for investment and innovation.

Strengthen skills, awareness, and data monitoring frameworks.

Incentivise circular business models **via tax breaks and green procurement.**



Regulatory and policy readiness

Implement **EPR schemes for producers.**

Integrate **circular criteria into public procurement.**

Strengthen **compliance and enforcement.**

Establish an **inter-ministerial coordination body for circular economy.**

Align **monitoring/reporting with EU frameworks.**

Leverage **technical support from the EU and UNDP**



**Let's make Moldova's circular
economy a reality today, for
jobs, growth, sustainability
and EU alignment**

Thanks for your participation

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