

New legal solutions towards circular economy

Having in mind the EU recommendations on circular economy, Ministry of agriculture and environmental protection proposed additions and amendments to three laws in the area of environmental protection, including additions and amendments to the Law on waste management which was adopted by Serbian National Parliament in January 2016. The additions and amendments to the Law on environmental protection stipulate establishment of Serbian Green Fund as a budgetary fund which would, among other things, provide for financing of the waste management system.

The new legal solutions provide for:

- Support to the concepts of sustainable development and circular economy
- Opening of "green job positions"

Two new legal institutes are introduced:

- "Termination of the status of waste" - certain types of waste cease to be waste upon treatment and fulfilment of prescribed standards;
- "By-product" – utilization of production residue from the production process upon registration with the register of by-products.

New legal solutions strengthen the principle of hierarchy in waste management:

1. Prevention of generation of waste – it is envisaged to pass an waste prevention programme and establish prevention measures which have impact on general conditions for waste generation, design, production, consumption, and the stage of use of the product;
2. Preparation for re-use – a precondition for further promotion and development of the product repair system;
3. Recycling – implies the obligation to take measures to ensure high quality of recycling – introduction of separate waste collection;
4. Other operations after recovery of waste.
5. Waste disposal

Legal solutions relating to local self-government units:

- ✓ Selection and separate collection of waste for recycling
- ✓ Centres for collection of household waste
- ✓ Records of illegal dumps
- ✓ Records and rehabilitation and re-cultivation projects for the existing non-sanitary landfills - dumps
- ✓ Agreements with one or more local self-government units on sites for construction and operation of plant for treatment, storing, recovery, and disposal of waste on their territories.



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CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Closing the loop

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cirCOOLate!



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Don't waste waste.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Closing the loop

In the end of 2015, European Commission adopted a new legal framework for introduction of the circular economy model, so as to strengthen the economy and ensure sustainable economic growth through sustainable use of resources. The proposed measures, such as increased recovery and recycling of waste rather than its disposal at landfills “close the circle”, i.e. derive the greatest possible benefits from all raw materials, products, and waste, with increased saving of energy and reduced pollution of air, water, and soil.

Circular economy is a different economic model which tends to achieve long product life and return all waste materials in production processes, which implies efficient use of resources and reduced environmental pollution, alongside with financial savings and development of new business opportunities. Solutions offered by this concept are based on processes which occur in the nature on daily basis, with waste from one industry being raw material for another.

The role of economy

Waste prevention, eco-design, and recovery may contribute to net saving of 600 billion EUR, or 8% of annual turnover of EU companies, with simultaneous reduction of total annual emissions of GHGs by 2-4%. In the recovery, reproduction, and repair sector, costs of reproduction of mobile phones may be halved if these devices could be disassembled more easily. If 95% of old mobile phones could be collected, this could generate savings of more than one billion EUR.

If old cars in the EU were restored rather than recycled, annual costs of materials could be reduced by 6.4 billion EUR, while costs of energy could be reduced by 140 million EUR with reduction of GHGs by 6.3 million tons.

It is assessed that introduction of circular economy in Serbia could generate 30,000 new job positions and increase competitiveness of domestic economy, especially in the recycling sector.

Supported by the GIZ Project “Waste and wastewater management in municipalities – IMPACT” implemented by German organization for international cooperation (GIZ) GmbH, Serbian Chamber of Commerce launched the initiative to deliberate the possibility of transition of Serbian economy towards this model on strategic level. GIZ IMPACT project is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry in charge of environmental protection issues, and is aimed at creating preconditions for introduction of circular economy in Serbia on national and municipal level.

Role of CSOs in development of circular economy

Within GIZ IMPACT project and in cooperation with the OSCE – Mission to Serbia, Serbian Chamber of Commerce, and the Ministry in charge of environmental protection affairs, a series of round table sessions was launched throughout Serbia with the aim to promote circular economy, sustainable development, and new legal solutions in the area of waste management.

Thanks to the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, in the previous period a significant step ahead was made in strengthening of the civil society, especially in the area of environmental protection; in their capacity of promoters of advocacy and promotion of circular economy, civil society organizations provide a significant contribution to efforts aimed at familiarizing citizens with the concept of sustainable economic growth in an interesting manner.

Aarhus centres, as important CSOs, have capacities which institutions and organizations may engage in their efforts to

make information in this area more easily accessible. The new manner of production and utilization of products calls for innovative technologies, which opens up new possibilities for cooperation between educational institutions and the civil sector. The main principles of circular economy comprise all elements needed for strong economic and social progress with preservation of the environment. Based on the precious experiences of SCOs in awareness raising, these organizations are recommended as leaders in advocating for necessary changes.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

