Funded by the European Union

EU4Circular Economy and Livable Cities



Duration: 01.10.2023 - 31.05.2027

Countries:
Albania

EU contribution: € 10 600 000

Total budget: € 14 600 000

Implementer:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)

Website(s): Circular Hub Albania

Project description:

The EU4CELC project supports Albania’s transition from a linear to a circular waste management system and empowers today’s municipalities to build the cities of tomorrow with sustainable and climate-neutral infrastructure standards and public services to protect the environment. Commissioned by the EU and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ Albania in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the project strengthens national and local capacities to align with the EU acquis (Chapter 27), the European Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan.

Nationally, it advances EPR schemes for packaging, WEEE, and batteries; enhances digital, gender-sensitive data collection and enforcement by the National Environmental Agency; and establishes PROs with procedures and guidelines. Locally, it collaborates with 15 municipalities to improve service delivery through waste prevention, high recycling rates and composting. The project mobilises a Financing Mechanism for LGUs and grant schemes for private sector participation to stimulate green services and circular business models to extend the lifecycle of products, reduce the demand for resources and minimise environmental impacts. EU4CELC improves the living conditions of Albanian citizens and creates employment opportunities in the urban context along circular value chains for a prosperous Albania.

Expected results:

- EU-aligned regulatory and economic framework adopted and operational, including measures for waste prevention and source separation.
- EPR schemes for packaging, WEEE and batteries launched, with at least one functioning PRO and clear producer/operator procedures.
- NEA and AKUK operate professionalised, digital and gender-sensitive data systems for monitoring, reporting and enforcement.
- Municipal service delivery improved in 15 municipalities with higher recycling/composting rates and reduced residual waste.
- Financing Mechanism and grant schemes deployed with at least 70 SMEs, start-ups and NGOs supported; 120 new green jobs created, of which 62% are women and 36% youth.