



# Concept Note

Regional E-Waste Monitor  
for the

# Western Balkans



## Project Overview: Regional E-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans

*Within the framework of the Global E-Waste Statistics Partnership, this project aims to train on how to make and collect e-waste statistics, make an assessment of e-waste statistics, e-waste management practice and e-waste legislation landscape in the Western Balkans to produce the Regional E-waste Monitor Report for the Western Balkans.*

### **Implementing Agencies:**

International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Office for Europe  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Europe Office  
and Vienna Programme Office  
UNITAR-SCYCLE Programme

### **Beneficiary Countries:**

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
North Macedonia, Montenegro,  
and Serbia

## **Introduction**

Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) offer great opportunities for sustainable development but also constitute one of the fastest growing streams of physical waste in today's global environment. A lot of e-waste, such as phones, laptops, TVs, power tools, and fridges, is not always recycled and treated in an environmentally sound manner and can end up in dumpsites. This can pose considerable risks to human health and the environment, and result in a loss of valuable resources such as gold and rare earth materials. To counter this, data and comparable overviews on e-waste are essential in all stages of the policy cycle, to evaluate developments over time, to elaborate national and international policies and to limit e-waste generation, to prevent illegal dumping, to promote recycling, and to create jobs in the recycling sectors. However, only a very limited number of countries collect internationally comparable e-waste statistics and comparable overviews on e-waste management at the regional and national levels.

Recent studies such as the [Global E-waste Monitor 2020](#) undertaken by UNITAR, UNU, ITU, and ISWA, the Regional E-waste Monitors for East and Southeast Asia, Arab States, Commonwealth of Independent States + Georgia, and 13 countries in Latin America, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) report on domestic and transboundary flows of used electronics, plus numerous studies financed by the European Commission on the situation in the European Union, provide a rather detailed overview on the e-waste situation in several regions of the world. However some information is only available in a non-harmonized way, and at a global scale still, many data gaps exist. Through producing internationally comparable data, this project aims to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 12 'Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns'.



# Project objectives

The overall goal of this project is to assist the beneficiary countries in making digitalization policies and strategies green and sustainable as well as based on evidence, with a particular focus on e-waste management. To reach the project goals, the “Regional E-waste Monitor for the Western Balkans” project will produce regional and nationally-comparable e-waste statistics for the five Western Balkan countries involved in the project. By using the widely accepted approach of the UN Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development and used for SDG monitoring, this data shall be intra-regional and internationally comparable. To this end, the project aims to improve both data quality and data availability, in addition to increasing regional capacities to produce e-waste data and statistics for government officials, statisticians and other relevant stakeholders such as industry essential for the sound environmental management of e-waste.

## **Against this, this project has the following key objectives:**

- 1** Enhance the understanding and interpretation of regional e-waste data for policymakers, industries, and businesses which in turn will allow relevant stakeholders and the general public to be better informed about the e-waste challenge in the region.
- 2** Train focal points of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of each of the five beneficiary countries to produce e-waste data for the SDG 12.5.1 monitoring.
- 3** Help to map key e-waste stakeholders, the status of e-waste legislation, and recycling opportunities from e-waste.
- 4** Evaluate the transboundary movement of e-waste by estimating quantities of imports and exports, as well as providing an overview of import and export legislation and policies.
- 5** It is envisaged that the project will contribute to the periodic development of internationally comparable e-waste statistics at the national level.

# Expected results



RESULT 1: **FIVE COUNTRY PROFILES ELABORATED**, WHICH INCLUDES AN ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF E-WASTE LEGISLATION AND E-WASTE MANAGEMENT USING DESKTOP RESEARCH, QUESTIONNAIRES AND FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEWS



RESULT 2: **FIVE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES (NSO) TRAINED** TO PRODUCE A REGIONAL E-WASTE DATA SET FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS, INCLUDING ESTIMATES WHERE DATA MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE.



RESULT 3: **VALIDATED PROFILES FOR THE FIVE COUNTRIES** BY NSO THROUGH ONLINE ONE-TO-ONE FOLLOW-UP WITH EACH OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES.



RESULT 4: **REGIONAL E-WASTE MONITOR FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS REPORT** FEATURING COLLECTED DATA AND PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE GLOBAL E-WASTE STATISTICS PARTNERSHIP.



RESULT 5: ONE **REGIONAL PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN** AND AN **ONLINE LAUNCH EVENT**, TO INFORM STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT THE E-WASTE SITUATION IN THE REGION.



RESULT 6: **FIVE NATIONAL E-WASTE AWARENESS WEBINARS**.



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