

Regional E-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans Launching Event



Background

E-waste constitutes one of the fastest growing streams of physical waste in today's global environment and a threat to sustainable development. 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 level.

As in the rest of the globe, e-waste is also on the rise in the Western Balkan countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. Technological innovations, brief product lifespans, and an increased purchasing-power due to a growing middle class are among the key drivers for the increase of e-waste in the region. A joint ITU-UNEP-UNITAR project – the Regional E-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans – started in January 2022 with the aim of collecting internationally comparable e-waste statistics and data in the region. This initiative has resulted in the development of a Regional E-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans Report, which provides an assessment of statistics, legislation, transboundary movement, and management infrastructure of e-waste in the five project beneficiary countries.

Objectives:

This event marks the final milestone of the project with the launch of the Regional E-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans Report.

The event aims to:

1. Present the regional and national findings of the project.
2. Contextualize the findings from the report with interventions from National Focal Points (NFPs) on the e-waste landscape in each project beneficiary country.
3. Provide a platform for discussions on the report findings and possible steps forward at both regional and national levels.
4. Generate momentum for policy action on e-waste challenges in the Western Balkans region.



Agenda

December 11th 2023, 10:00 – 11:45, Virtual event

Programme		Speaker
10:00 – 10:05	Housekeeping and welcome	Facilitated by: Yondeen Sherpa Circular Economy Associate, Environment Division, ITU
10:05 – 10:15	Opening Remarks	Cosmas Zavazava (Video recording) Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU Arnold Kreilhuber Regional Director and Representative, Regional Office for Europe, UNEP Ruediger Kuehr. Head, UNITAR Bonn Office Manager, Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme
10:15 - 10:20	Background to the report	Jaroslav Ponder Head of the ITU office for Europe, ITU
10:20 – 10:40	Presentation: Findings from the report	Giulia Iattoni Assistant Programme Officer, UNITAR
10:40 – 11:10	Country Presentations	Ševala Korajčević Head of Environment, Energy and Regional Statistics Department Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
		Ružica Brnović Independent adviser, Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism of Montenegro



		Luka Starčević Head of Department Department for the management of special waste streams, Serbia
11:10 – 11:20	On the ground perspective – PRO	Elma Babić Džihanić Assistant Director ZEOS eko-sistem Bosnia and Herzegovina
11:20 – 11:35	Q&A	Facilitated by: Yondeen Sherpa Circular Economy Associate, Environment Division, ITU
11:40 – 11:45	Closing Remarks	Tomas Marques Regional Sub-programme Coordinator for Science-Policy and Air Quality, UNEP