



Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI) – Phase II

With the growth of the global economy and the digitalization of today's businesses and society, electrical and electronic equipment (e-waste) has become the fastest growing waste stream worldwide.

Due to the presence of toxic substances in many products on the one hand, inappropriately managed e-waste can cause health risks and environmental damage. On the other hand, e-waste also contains valuable materials, such as metals, and is therefore an important source for secondary raw materials. Industrialized countries have regulated e-waste management based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility. This has led to the establishment of take-back schemes and the growth and professionalization of an e-waste recycling industry.

Rationale

SRI Phase II builds up on key outcomes and lessons learnt from the first programme phase and takes reference to the recommendations related to the end-term evaluation. As a logical response to the remaining challenges and with the objective to consolidate achievements from the previous programme phase, the programme will intervene in the areas policy and legislation, normative requirements, technology and business development and problematic waste fractions. The foreseen programme has a direct link to the climate change topic as the planned activities will lead to a reduced use of energy by collecting and reusing secondary raw materials.

Objectives and activities

The overall development objective of the programme is to contribute to favourable framework conditions that enable the development of a sustainable recycling industry for e-waste and related waste streams in selected SECO partner countries.

SRI Phase II contributes to the following development outcomes:

- An adequate policy and legislative framework enables the implementation of a sustainable e-waste management system.
- Normative requirements and performance measure ensure a level playing field.

SECO country/region

Colombia, Egypt,
Ghana, Peru and
South Africa

Executing agency

Swiss Federal
Laboratories for
Materials Sciences &
Technology (Empa)

Duration

2019-2023

Total budget

CHF 6,500,000

SECO contribution

CHF 6,500,000



Empa

Materials Science and Technology

- Optimized and sustainable value chains and skilled businesses advance the professionalization of the recycling industry.
- Locally adapted concepts provide solutions for the safe treatment of hazardous waste fractions.
- SRI concepts and methods are strengthened in exchange with the international community of practice and have proliferated globally.

Results so far

The first phase of the SRI programme (2014-2018), enabled Egypt, Ghana, India, Peru, Colombia and South Africa to obtain and develop appropriate instruments and guidance for environmentally and socially responsible e-waste management systems.

In Colombia and Peru, SRI activities contributed to the adoption of Extended Producer Responsibility (ERP) and the formation of take back schemes.

In Egypt SRI activities supported the initiation of a legislative process, the development of technical standards and the training of auditors. Furthermore, the activities contributed to the development of an e-waste management ecosystem. In Ghana, SRI contributed to the adoption of mandatory technical guidelines as well as to the introduction of a conformity assessment and monitoring system.

Governance Structure

The Programme Management runs under the responsibility of the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science & Technology (Empa).

The SRI Steering Committee is comprised of SECO WEHU, the country coordinators and the technical coordinators, who will physically meet twice a year. The country coordinators will be recruited from Empa. The SRI SC's main role will be to provide strategic guidance and monitoring of progress towards established outcomes, outputs and activities.

SECO HQ will be regularly and directly involved in the overall strategic steering, above all with regard to the preparation and the approval of the full-fledged interventions in the Country Component (country projects / special country measures) and the interventions under the Knowledge Component.

In each country a National Steering Committee will be setup and provide guidance for the implementation of single country-specific interventions. They will be comprised of the main governmental stakeholders, the local SECO field office (Swiss Embassy), and a representative of Empa. The national SC will meet at least one month ahead of the scheduled SRI SC to prepare an update of the progress of country performance.

Further information

Website: www.sustainable-recycling.org

Sustainable Recycling Industries at SECO:

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