



Circular Economy Solutions Dialogues (CESD)

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) From Extended to Ultimate Producer Responsibility (UPR): The building blocks of a vision that needs to go global

October 2023 – January 2024, always between 12:00 – 13:30 CET

Concept Note

On behalf of the *German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)* the global project **Environmental Protection Worldwide** of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* continues the Circular Economy Solutions Dialogues (CESD) series with new thematic focus areas.

The first dialogue stream focuses on Extended and Ultimate Producer Responsibility (EPR and UPR), an environmental policy approach aimed at shifting the responsibility for managing the environmental impact of a product throughout its lifecycle from consumers and local governments to the producers and manufacturers, making the latter responsible for the entire life cycle of the products put on the market; this means from their design until end of life, including collection and recycling. Successful EPR systems have been implemented in many countries covering a variety of products, various sectors and industries, such as packaging, electronics and electrical equipment, batteries, textiles, end-of-life vehicles and tires. However, while EPR systems primarily focus on new products and their end-of-life management within a specific jurisdiction (typically established at national or regional level), second-hand products and trans-border trade are special cases that demonstrate limitations in these frameworks. Current EPR systems do not address the multiple product use cycle (second hand, refurbishing) and across borders (transboundary trade). This is where the [Ultimate Producer Responsibility \(UPR\)](#) comes into play. It expands the EPR concept by taking into account multiple cycles and border-crossing features as fundamental starting points for its design.

Methodology and Sequencing:

The CESD are designed as a four-month multi-stakeholder / multi-country dialogues, comprising of:

- four virtual meetings that employ a mix of dialogue methodologies and leadership impulses;
- e-collaboration to identify, draw out and co-create ideas in between via the [Green Tech Knowledge Hub](#)
- and a report on findings, solutions and success stories.

Participants include policy makers, businesses, civil society, academia, think tanks and international organisations. They are expected to take part in all meetings to ensure continuity and maintain a genuine team spirit. The dialogues will take place on **18 October 2023, 15 November 2023, 6 December 2023 and 17 January 2024** always between 12:00 – 13:30 CET.

The interactive, cross-sectoral and multi-country nature of this moderated dialogue seeks to identify the preconditions that are necessary to scale up circular economy solutions. We believe in an exchange that promotes the diversity of opinions and avoids criticism, that welcomes failures and unobstructed collaboration, that makes everyone feel safe sharing their personalised input, and that requires limited preparation effort with no or limited use of PowerPoint slides.

The sequence of the virtual meetings is as follows: after setting the scene in the first meeting, the following three sessions will aim to discuss the promises and limitations of EPR programmes (extending the discussion to UPR), notably:

- a) Enabling policy environments (policy, legal and regulatory frameworks; enforcement and compliance);
- b) Implementation and operational requirements (initiating the EPR system, establishing the system operator, take-back, collection, sorting, recovery / recycling infrastructure and equipment, consumer education) and;
- c) Costs, revenues and investments in the collecting and recycling system (EPR fees, deposit-refund systems that cover the costs of the deployment of an EPR programme, etc);

Aspects of behavioural change will be horizontally discussed during all sessions and on all various levels.

Prior to the CESD

Informational documents will be shared on the [Green Tech Knowledge Hub](#).

18 October 2023

EPR goes global – Are we getting closer?

1st plenary session

Participants will meet online for a) a first get-to-know and expectations sharing and b) to introduce their circular economy and EPR experiences. Setting the scene: An introduction to global EPR developments.

Topics: The GIZ and participants present their experiences - good practices, common pitfalls, conflicts and challenges with EPR systems.

15 November 2023

Designing successful EPR strategies: The first steps.

2nd plenary session

Participants share promising approaches on policy, legal and regulatory requirements for designing and / operationalising EPR systems. Solutions and critical success factors related to EPR design are investigated.

Topics: CESD participants present their expertise on EPR strategies design. What are the policy/legal prerequisites for the design of a successful EPR strategy (voluntary vs mandatory)? How to engage successfully with the producers / importers? Who needs to be on board and what are the roles?

6 December 2023

From EPR to UPR: Limitations and alternative approaches to EPR

3rd plenary session

Participants engage in discussions for the implementation of potential tools, solutions and approaches for EPR strategy deployment and governance and expansion to UPR.

Topics: What are the limits of the EPR approach? How to improve current EPR strategies and where do alternative models come into play (e.g., UPR, extended producer ownership, etc.)? How to deploy a successful EPR/UPR strategy including its governance structure? How to establish and choose between different types of system operators (state-led vs industry-led)? How can behavioral change be achieved within all involved parties? How can the informal sector be involved?

17 January 2024

Deep Dive – Financing EPR frameworks

4th plenary session

The group shares approaches on revenues and expenditures (financing participations, sales fees, funding and costs). Finally, the group translates their collective experience, revisits the promises and limitations of EPR systems, suggests how these can be resolved and discusses how to accelerate the CE transition.

Topics: What are the factors influencing EPR fees? What are important figures to consider?

Presentation to the public (tba)

The presentation aims to transport the messages from the dialogue sequence to the public, organised either in the context of a relevant event or digitally for a wider audience.