



## **Online Workshop/Webinar on Role of Standards & Policy in Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Transition in India and the EU**

**Date:** January 21, 2022

**Time:** 14:00 – 17:00 Hrs. (IST) / 10:30 – 13:30 Hrs. (CET)

**Venue:** Zoom

### **Background Note**

Circular Economy (CE) & Resource Efficiency (RE) is gaining increasing traction among key actors including government, non-government, industry, civil society, and academia. The EU-India Joint Declaration on Resource Efficiency (RE) and Circular Economy (CE) - adopted in July 2020<sup>1</sup>, aims to support and strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the EU and India in enhancing resource efficiency and moving towards a more circular economic model that reduces primary resource consumption, striving towards non-toxic material cycles, and enhances the use of secondary raw materials and contribute to the implementation of the '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' and to the Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs). The implementation of this partnership can provide opportunities for creating an enabling ecosystem, synergies, and symbiosis for fostering cooperation and achieving desired objectives agreed through "India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025"<sup>2</sup> and India-EU Connectivity Partnership<sup>3</sup>.

While the environmental and resource use until last decade focussed mostly on the waste management and its final disposal, there is an increased focus and understanding of the value of sustainable management of the materials along with the entire value chain than only and simply minimizing pollution at the end of life. The very concept of 'waste' requiring disposal is being challenged by the potential and actual benefits of moving from a linear to a more circular economic model, through strategies designed to reduce material use, eco-design, increasing the durability of products and ensuring re-use of materials via redistribution, reuse, remanufacture and recycling.

Both in the EU and India, for the greater adoption of circular processes and secondary raw materials, will demand the development of various cross-cutting technologies, tools, instruments, processes, and relevant measures. Standards based implementation along the stages of a product life cycle can exert the highest impact on the resource-saving potential of products and promote circular economy and resource efficiency. Standards can also support market development and adoption of circular products, processes, materials, and models by

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/32829/EUIndia\\_Joint\\_Declaration\\_on\\_Resource\\_Efficiency\\_and\\_Circular\\_Economy](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/32829/EUIndia_Joint_Declaration_on_Resource_Efficiency_and_Circular_Economy)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/32828/IndiaEU\\_Strategic\\_Partnership\\_A\\_Roadmap\\_to\\_2025](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/32828/IndiaEU_Strategic_Partnership_A_Roadmap_to_2025)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33854/IndiaEU\\_Connectivity\\_Partnership](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33854/IndiaEU_Connectivity_Partnership)



engendering greater trust between the buyers and sellers. The reliability, reassurance, and confidence in use of the products made with the secondary raw materials can also be greatly enhanced and to achieve this Eco-design, reuse, recovery, and recycling also need to be considered.

In July 2019, MoEFCC<sup>4</sup> had released the Draft National Resource Efficiency Policy<sup>5</sup>, which seeks to create a facilitative and regulatory environment to mainstream resource efficiency across all sectors by fostering cross-sectoral collaborations, development of policy instruments, action plans and efficient implementation and monitoring frameworks. It also highlights the importance of awareness generation and enhancing competences and facilitate the uptake of RE & CE concepts amongst Indian stakeholders.

The constitution of 11 Circular Economy Committees by NITI Aayog<sup>6</sup> in March 2021 underlines that circular economy offers a new paradigm that emphasizes the need to take a comprehensive view of products and processes and is aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources. The committees are aiming at adopting circular economy measures including fiscal incentives, stricter regulations, extended producer responsibility framework, deposit refund options, and standards. The idea is to strengthen compliances without affecting ease of doing business.

Implementation of Standards developed or adopted by the standard setting organizations is led by the industries and it can happen in two ways - Voluntary Implementation where industries take a lead by themselves, or through a Government Regulation. There is also a need to think of various innovations, strategies, and policies in laying down acceptable standards for the industries. These standards and benchmarks harmonized with global standards are needed to be communicated to all segment of the economy, importantly to consumers who by using such products help promoting the industries involved in the business of secondary material.

European Union's Resource Efficiency Initiative (EU-REI) along with the Seconded European Standards Experts in India (SESEI), European Standards Organizations CEN-CENELEC in partnership Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) are organizing a webinar to exchange on the role of standards & policy in to realize resource efficiency (RE) and circular transition (CE) in India and the EU.

The panel discussion and presentation in the two sessions will focus on the following key points:

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://moef.gov.in/en/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Draft-National-Resourc.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1705772>



- Perspectives, learnings and experience from India and EU on standards for fostering resource efficiency and circular economy in India including on eco-design and use of secondary raw materials in products.
- How can the strategic cooperation and policy support mainstreaming of international standards?
- Explore opportunities for adopting RE&CE standards in India to enable market transition to CE/RE?
- How can life cycle perspective be used for development of RE and CE standards in India and their role for Indian Businesses?
- What will be the role of RE&CE standards in post COVID era?
- What are some of the key factors that need consideration for uptake and implementation of standards by the main actors and stakeholders?

## **About Organisers:**

### **European Union's Resource Efficiency Initiative (EU-REI):**

EU's Resource Efficiency Initiative India (EU-REI) (2017-2023) aims to work together with India on the implementation of the United Nations global Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) agenda by way of adapting international standards and best practices in business on resource efficiency and fostering the efficient and sustainable use of natural resources. It is implemented by an international consortium led by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and adelphi.

### **SESEI**

Project SESEI ([www.sesei.eu](http://www.sesei.eu)) is a standard focused project established by the three European standardization bodies namely CEN, CENELEC and ETSI along with EFTA (European Free Trade Association) and European Commission – DG GROW.

### **CE-CENELEC**

CEN (European Committee for Standardization) and CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization) are recognized by the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as European Standardization Organisations responsible for developing standards at European level, as per European Regulation 1025/2021. The members are the National Standards Bodies (CEN) and National Electrotechnical Committees (CENELEC) from 34 European Countries. European Standards (ENs) and other standardization deliverables are adopted by CEN and CENELEC, are accepted and recognised in all these countries. These standards contribute to enhancing safety, improving quality, facilitating cross border trade, and strengthening of the European Single



Market. They are developed through a process of collaboration among experts nominated by business and Industry, research institutions, consumer and environmental organisations, trade unions, and other societal stakeholders. CEN and CENELEC work to promote the international alignment of standards in the framework of technical cooperation agreement with ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) and IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission).

## **BIS**

BIS is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016 for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. BIS has been providing traceability and tangibility benefits to the national economy in a number of ways – providing safe reliable quality goods; minimizing health hazards to consumers; promoting exports and imports substitute; control over proliferation of varieties etc. through standardization, certification, and testing.