

CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: FIRST STEPS IN DEVELOPING WASTE-TO-RESOURCE VALUE CHAINS

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the development of the circular economy in Bosnia and Herzegovina by analysing the first concrete steps away from a linear, landfill-dependent model and towards more resource-efficient waste and material management. It builds on a comprehensive study of waste management systems, secondary raw materials and investment opportunities. Starting from low recycling rates and the predominance of landfilling, while gradual alignment with European Union policies and regulations is underway, the paper analyses the institutional, infrastructural and market preconditions for the development of circular value chains. Particular emphasis is placed on glass, plastics, waste tyres and construction and demolition waste streams, where specific investment models (e.g. facilities for glass cullet processing, tyre granulation, and mobile C&D waste crushing) and indicative ranges of required capital investments and operating costs are identified. By examining the role of extended producer responsibility schemes, local public utility companies and the private sector, the paper identifies “low-hanging fruit” of the circular economy that can be implemented relatively quickly through a combination of regulatory measures, targeted public support and private investments. Finally, the proposed approach underlines the importance of phased development, from pilot projects and modular facilities to the scaling-up of regional capacities, as a realistic pathway to reducing dependence on landfilling, increasing material circularity and retaining more added value within the domestic economy.

Keywords: Circular economy, waste management, secondary raw materials.