



Ukrainian Voices – Lecture Series

“Circular Economy as a Strategy of Sustainable Development in Ukraine”

Kateryna Nesterova

16 December 2025

9:45-11:15 CET

Link to the meeting:

MS Teams: <https://tinyurl.com/462e32p5>

Meeting ID: 388 343 221 455 40

Passcode: ca6xV3pE

The circular economy is an essential strategy for sustainable development in Ukraine, addressing the country’s growing environmental and economic challenges. Ukraine generates over 10 million tons of municipal solid waste annually, yet only about 6% is recycled, leading to excessive landfill usage and environmental degradation. Industrial waste comprises nearly 70% of total waste production, making the shift to circular practices critical. The European Green Deal and Ukraine’s commitment to EU environmental regulations have accelerated efforts to implement circular economy principles. The National Waste Management Strategy aims to increase recycling rates to 70% by 2030, with cities like Kyiv and Lviv leading in waste sorting and composting initiatives. Ukraine’s renewable energy sector, which accounted for 12% of total energy consumption in 2023, plays a key role in reducing dependence on fossil fuels. The steel industry is increasingly using recycled scrap metal, reducing carbon emissions, while sustainable agricultural practices such as bio-based fertilizers and crop rotation improve soil health. Ukrainian fashion brands like Ksenia Schnaider are promoting upcycled clothing, helping reduce textile waste. The circular economy could generate up to 500,000 new jobs in sectors such as waste management and green energy. However, challenges remain, including outdated infrastructure, low public awareness, and insufficient investment. Future policies should focus on stricter waste regulations, extended producer responsibility, and incentives for circular business models. Transitioning to a circular economy is not just a necessity but an opportunity for Ukraine to enhance economic growth, energy independence, and environmental sustainability for future generations.



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