

# 2024 International E-Waste Management Network (IEMN) Meeting

Leila Devia, Project Coordinator

# Definition and background

- There is no specific definition for E-waste in Argentina
- The definition of WASTE It has been recently modified by national Decree 591/2019 (previous national Decree 181/1992):
  - **Article 3: Waste is considered to be any substance or object to which disposal is carried out, it is proposed to proceed or is obliged to proceed.**
  - **Article 4: Likewise, it will also be considered waste, any material, substance or object that is intended to be imported or introduced in the same state in which it was discarded by the generator, and / or offered to our country either free of charge or by paying a fee for recycling, treatment or final disposal.**
- WEEE materials regulated as hazardous wastes: **wastes resulting from the dismantling of EEE containing hazardous constituents according to Law 24.051 of hazardous wastes Categories Controlled: batteries (Y26 Ni /Cd, Y35 basic solutions and Y42 Ion/Li) and printed circuit board-PCB (Y20 Be, Y21 hexavalent Cr, Y22 Cu, Y23 Zn, Y25 As, Y26 Cd, Y27 Sb, Y29 Hg and Y31 Pb)**
- Secretariat of Environmental Control and Monitoring (SECM) of the Secretariat of Government of Environment and Sustainable Development (SGESD) is in charge of WEEE management together with the competent local environmental authorities (23 provinces and Buenos Aires City-CBA)

## Latest Regulations News 2019

- **SGESD 407/2019 (published 21 October):** ESM of plastics throughout their life cycle, to mitigate the progress of contamination of water bodies due to plastic and microplastic waste, guideline **Annex I**
- **Joint Resolution SGESD and Ministry of Production and Labor 3/2019 (published 12<sup>th</sup> November):** procedures regulating the import of plastics, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal for recovery, among other wastes, and the transit
- **SGESD 451/2019 (published 28th November):** prohibits the production, importation, formulation, trade and use of chemicals achieved by the Stockholm Convention on POPs – **PFOs flame retardants in plastics**
- **SGESD 453/2019 (signed 28th November, probably published 1st or 2nd December) GIRO SYSTEM**
  - ✓ Create the Integrated Waste Management System
  - ✓ Gradually replace the previous Manifest Online System (SIMEL)
  - ✓ Establish a trial period with operators
  - ✓ For ones located in different jurisdictions, which are registered in the National Registry of Generators and Waste Operators Law 24.051

# Statistics

- There are no official statistics in Argentina of generation in quantity and quality of WEEE Report “eWaste in Latin America Statistical analysis and policy recommendations November 2015”: **University United Nations Institute for the Advance Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and prepared by GSMA Latin America together with the Inter-American Development Bank**
- Argentina ranks third in WEEE generation after Brazil and Mexico with 292.000 tons in 2014 (computers, cell phones and many other technological devices in disuse); **expected to reach almost 0,5 millions tons in 2019**
- **6.9 kg/person 2014; expected to reach 10 kg/person in 2019**
  - Export of PCB as HW under the BC: 90-100 tons annually
  - In the best case: **dismantling and recovery of 5% of the total generation**
    - **The data is dispersed and in some cases held by local environmental authorities**
    - **There is no harmonized system for collecting and analyzing data and statistics**
    - **Not having national legislation makes it very difficult to have statistical data**

# E-Waste/WEEE Policies and Regulation

- Since 2008, bills have been discussed in the National Congress, some with the endorsement of the Executive power. Only one came to have a half-sanction in Senators in May 2011 and lost parliamentary status in November 2013 as it was not approved by deputies
- Resolution Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development 522-E /2016: **objectives, definitions and guidelines for the development of a National Strategy referred to the Sustainable Management of Special Generation Waste (waste from mass consumption: REGU): [Annex I WEEE](#)**
- Resolution SGESD189/2019 implements the **National Sustainable Management Strategy of REGU** established by Resolution 522/2016 through the creation of a **Management Systems** (documentation for movements between provinces and CBA and export)
- 2019-2020 implement **[WEEE Management Systems](#)**
- **2023 – 2024** Draft Laws on Minimum Standards for Environmental Protection, in accordance with the provisions of Article 41 of the National Constitution, for the management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) throughout the national territory. One of these draft laws was presented by Juan C. Romero and Pablo D. Blanco, and another by Gladys González.

## E-wastes recycling systems

- There is no national system implemented
- There are establishments licensed by the national and provincial authorities that dismantle, recover, value and dispose of WEEE components: batteries, PCB, metals and alloys (ferrous, aluminum, copper and steel, scrap in general), some plastics
- The materials that encourage the implementation of dismantling and recovery systems are the prices of metals, alloys and scrap, PCB which are exported to countries in Europe
- The technology implemented is generally manual or semi-automated, it is valued exclusively by physical treatments recovering the materials in the same state or crushing them or by grinding to minimize volume. Metals and alloys melting for reuse
- A maximum of 15 establishments licensed for dismantling and monitoring

## Challenges and policy aspects

- Implementation of the **Management Strategy and systems**
  - ✓ **Poor information and education of the inhabitants for the take-back activities**
  - ✓ **Long distances for collection and transport**
  - ✓ **High costs of investment in technology for recovery**
- Development and implementation of an adequate national **Financial Mechanisms**
- Difficulty in accepting and applying the principle of **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** by the regulated import, producer and retailing sector
- Internalize to the formal system monetary transactions from the informal to the formal sector
- There are only 8 provincial initiatives for WEEE management standards; however, there **is still no national framework law for the management of used EEE and WEEE**

## Relevant Projects

- **BCRC Argentina November 2018**
- **Latin American and Caribbean Regional Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of E-wastes and Forum on their Transboundary Movements**
  - In the frame Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; funded by EU
  - Sharing experience and disseminating good practices for the ESM of e-waste in GRULAC Region
  - Based on guidance and guidelines developed by the Mobile Phone Partnership (MPPI) and the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE), and relevant technical guidelines and manuals on e-waste under the BC
- **BCRC Argentina Project 2021 for South American countries**
- **Promote Public-Private regional Partnerships (PPP) to implement EPR schemes or systems on wastes, particularly in plastic wastes, WEEE and lead-acid batteries. Lead by countries with experience**
- **BCRC Argentina Project 2022 for South American countries**
- **Implement a “Technician of Re-functional Managers Program”, officially recognized, to promote the training of workers in the proper management of WEEE (all employees linked to EEE, WEEE and Urban Solid Wastes-USW)**

# UNIDO Project 2018-2022

## BCRC Argentina



- Strengthening of national initiatives and improvement of regional cooperation for the ESM of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in WEEE in Latin American countries
- **Component 1: Strengthening National Initiatives:**
  - ✓ Review or drafting of a National Policy, a National Strategy and a Financial Tool based on the EPR principle
  - ✓ Curricula and research programs in universities; training program for relevant actors especially national
  - ✓ National Information Systems for collection and processing data, prepared for the exchange of regional information
  - ✓ Informed and aware society, including the media sector, through a National Communication Strategy
- **Component II: Strengthening National Infrastructure**
  - ✓ Development of Sustainable Business Models
  - ✓ Infrastructure Survey for improvement or expansion (scale-up) of two licensed establishments of WEEE management
  - ✓ Segregation of plastics with POPs: **target 135 tons/year**, total 535 tons in 5 years of plastics with brominated POPs. Possible disposal in cement kilns by co-processing conforming directives of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions

# PACE Basel Convention

## BCRC Argentina Chair of the Working Group



### Decision BC-14/19 Basel Convention Partnership Programme

#### Follow-up partnership to the PACE

- Document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/30
  - **Annex I Concept Note**
  - **Annex II Terms of Reference including Financing**
  - **Annex III Programme of Work 2020-2021**
- Starting with the following priority activities:
  - **Translation of the current guidance documents into additional languages**
  - **Dissemination activities**
  - **A Model Workshop for Authorities, Economic Operators, Manufactures and Importers, Schools; Toolkits**
- Update the technical guidelines of the Mobil Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) and PACE partnerships considered the recent amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention regarding the new **Y48 of Plastic Waste**

## IEMN Contributions

The past IEMN workshops provide to the BCRC Argentina:

- Relevant exchange of information shared with actors and Competent Authorities of countries that BCRC Argentina serves
- Knowledge and expertise to properly assist Competent Authorities and legislative bodies in the South American region for developing their used EEE and WEEE management strategies, plans and policies
- Provided expert advice, among others international organizations, to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on technical rules and normalization
- Be up to date with the latest and better technologies for handling WEEE



***Project “Strengthening of National Initiatives  
and Enhancement of Regional Cooperation for  
the Environmentally Sound Management of  
POPs in Waste of Electronic or Electrical  
Equipment (WEEE) in Latin American  
Countries”***



## UNIDO Project 2018-2022



**13 Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)  
participating countries  
Launched: Quito, Ecuador, March 2018**



## UNIDO Project 2018-2022

- ❖ **Main issues:** strengthening national capacities for national e-waste management with focus on POPs (particularly in plastics of EEE). Aligning national policies, knowledge and information about POPs in e-waste among government, technical staff and civil society.
  
- ❖ **At National level it will help:**
  - ✓ Strengthen policies and train technicians and public officials, developing information and awareness.
  - ✓ Scale up existing infrastructure or establish new infrastructure where needed
  - ✓ Tailoring a ESM and final disposal strategy for brominated plastics considering (a) national, (b) regional and (c) BAT/BEP criteria.
  - ✓ Involve private e-waste dismantling/recycling facilities To upgrade technical standards in accordance to the SC/BC and other relevant criteria
  
- ❖ **At Regional level:** enhancing regional cooperation on e-waste management with emphasis on POPs in e-waste policies, knowledge and information management systems, and South-South cooperation. It will work towards harmonizing key aspects of e-waste policies, strengthening regional cooperation, knowledgemanagement and information exchange systems.



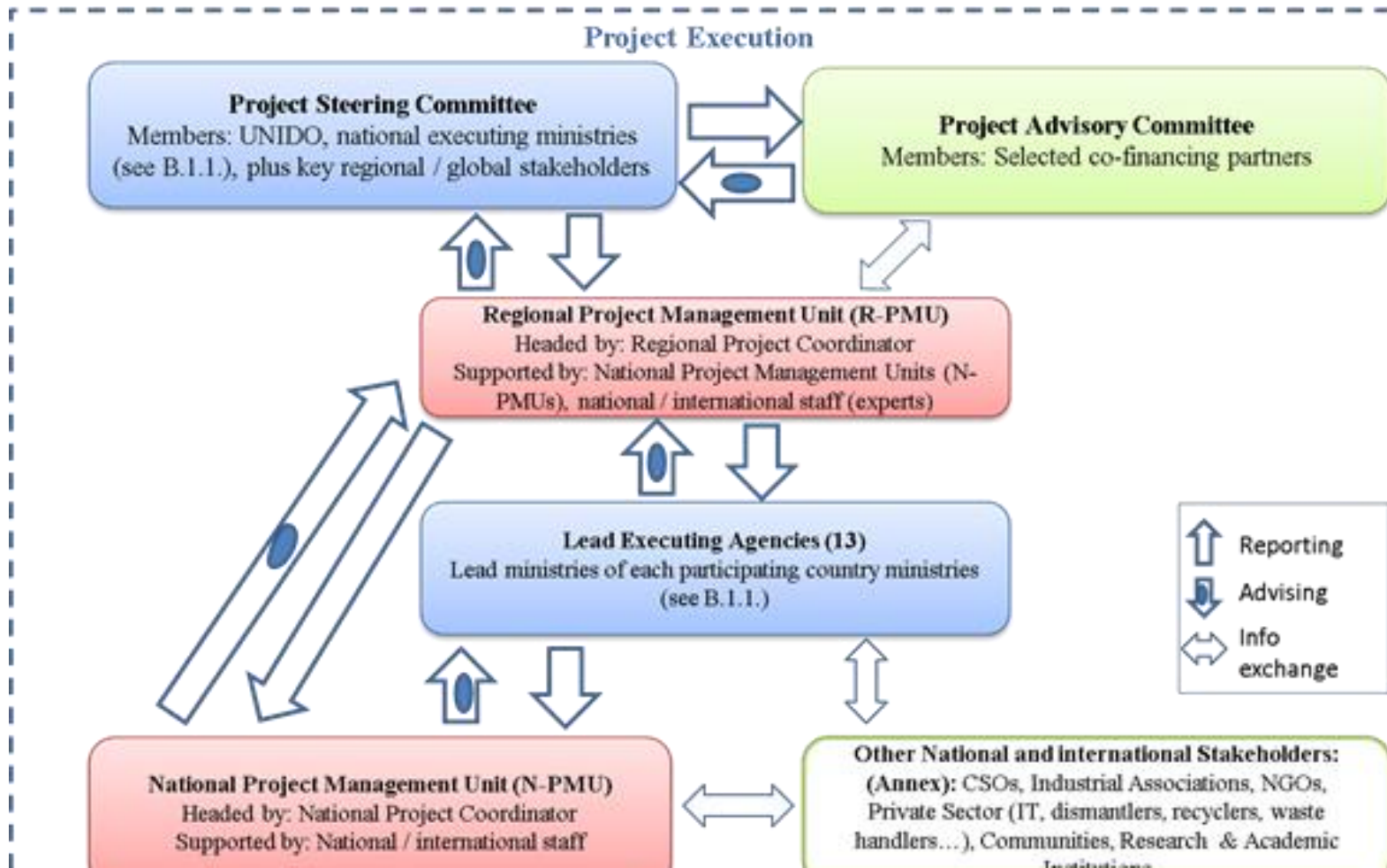
# UNIDO Project 2018-2022 Financials and Components



Components	GEF grant, USD	Co-financing, USD
Strengthening of national e-waste management initiatives	3,600,000	13,320,000
Strengthening of national capacities on e-waste dismantling and recycling facilities/infrastructure	3,900,000	43,340,000
Enhancement of Regional Cooperation on e-waste management	1,350,000	10,275,000
Project Monitoring and Evaluation	200,000	772,400
Project Management Costs	450,000	3,703,912
<b>TOTAL MILLIONS USD</b>	<b>9,5</b>	<b>71,5</b>



# UNIDO Project 2018-2022 Implementation Structure





# UNIDO Project 2018-2022

## BCRC Argentina

### Executing agency for Argentina and Ecuador National Environmental Authorities

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# UNIDO Project 2018-2022



- **Component III: Enhancement of Regional Cooperation on e-waste management**
  - ✓ Comparative analysis of existing national policies / regulations is conducted to identify key issues that need to be addressed at the regional level
  - ✓ A **Regional Policy Platform** is operating to facilitate policy harmonization on key issues, with involvement of MEAs officials
  - ✓ A regional **Knowledge / Information System** is integrated into the policy platform; National information ones are linked to the regional
  - ✓ Knowledge sharing leads to strengthened country cooperation within the region
  - ✓ Regional post-project action plans and initiatives are developed
- **Partners:** National governments, local WEEE recyclers, Regional Centres of SC and BC, the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as several other partners , such as Dell, RELAC and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA).

# Activities Carried Out in 2024 within the Framework of the RAEE Argentina - PREAL Project

- **Activities in National Policies and Training**
  1. **Development and Review of National Policies**
- **Activity:** Preparation of the consolidated REP (Extended Producer Responsibility) Law draft.
  - **Document:** Draft of the Law.
  - **Action:** Hiring of legal consulting services for preparation.
- **2. Training in E-Waste Management**
- **Activity:** Training on techniques for identifying brominated plastic resins.
  - **Details:** 2 training sessions for cooperative staff and technicians from the Ministry of Environment of Buenos Aires Province.
  - **Report:** Technical report on the development and execution of the training.
  - **Action:** Hiring of consulting services for coordination, preparation, and delivery of the training.

# Activities Carried Out in 2024 within the Framework of the RAEE Argentina - PREAL Project



- **Activities in Infrastructure and Management of Brominated Plastics**

- 1. **Dismantling and Recycling Infrastructure**

- **Activity:** Support for trained cooperatives.
      - **Details:** Providing necessary supplies for identification tests and bromine measurement using XRF gun.
      - **Report:** Technical report with planning, development, and results of the activities.
      - **Actions:**
        - Purchase of supplies for the identification procedure.
        - Hiring of consulting services for XRF measurement and technical assistance.
        - Hiring of insurance services for XRF gun use/transport.

- 2. **Handling and Disposal of Brominated Plastics**

- **Activity:** Sending 100 tons of identified BFR (Brominated Flame Retardant) plastics for treatment.
      - **Report:** Technical report and receipt confirmation of the material by the operator.
      - **Action:** Commitment from the managing company and hiring of waste management services.

# Strengthening E-Waste Management Systems in Latin America through ITU-T Recommendations

- **Objective:** The project aims to strengthen national initiatives and improve regional cooperation for the sound management of POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) in electronic waste (WEEE) in Latin American countries.
- **Specific Goals:**
  - Enhance WEEE management systems by implementing ITU-T recommendations and promoting waste prevention strategies in the ICT sector.
  - Support the transition to a circular economy (CE) through electronic waste management practices.
  - Foster regional cooperation by sharing best practices based on ITU-T recommendations.

# Project Deliverables and Case Studies

## **Key Deliverables:**

- Establish a strategy to strengthen Argentina's WEEE management system using ITU-T recommendations.
- Document the development of new or revised ITU-T recommendations based on feedback from Argentina and Costa Rica.
- Encourage Latin American countries to adopt eco-friendly approaches in ICT production.
- Promote the circular economy and enhance regional cooperation in electronic waste management via international standards.

**Case Studies:** Implementation of ITU-T recommendations on e-waste and circular economy in Argentina and Costa Rica.

# Implementation of ITU-T International Standards for Sustainable Management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment: On the Path to a Circular Economy in Argentina – Case Study.

Published by  
Unión Internacional de Telecomunicaciones  
Ginebra 20 Suiza  
[https://bcrc-argentina.net.ar/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2400117\\_Circular-Economy-Argentina-S\\_compressed.pdf](https://bcrc-argentina.net.ar/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2400117_Circular-Economy-Argentina-S_compressed.pdf)

ITUPublicaciones

Unión Internacional de Telecomunicaciones  
Oficina de Normalización de las Telecomunicaciones

Implementación de los estándares internacionales del UIT-T para la gestión sostenible de aparatos eléctricos y electrónicos: En ruta hacia una economía circular en Argentina

Estudio de caso



# Gender Approach in WEEE Management

- **Promotion of Equality:** WEEE management provides opportunities to promote gender equality in a growing sector where female representation has traditionally been low.
- **Access to Opportunities:** Creating an inclusive environment allows women to access jobs in WEEE management and recycling, contributing to equal employment opportunities.
- **Capacity Building:** Training and networking for women in the WEEE sector can enhance their participation and leadership.
- **Social Impact:** An integrated gender approach not only improves workplace equality but also strengthens sustainability and efficiency in electronic waste management.

# Gender Perspective in E-Waste Management Projects



## Integrating Gender Perspectives in E-Waste Management

- Many projects related to e-waste management actively include diverse teams, recognizing the importance of various perspectives in effective implementation.
- The focus on gender in e-waste management involves considering how both women and men can contribute to and benefit from these initiatives.
- Addressing gender aspects can lead to more equitable opportunities and improved outcomes in managing e-waste.

## Gender Focus in the Manual:

- The manual “Integrated Management of E-Waste: E-Waste as a Source of Decent Work for Advancing Circular Economy” acknowledges the importance of integrating gender perspectives in the management of e-waste.
- It serves as a resource among other tools, emphasizing the broader context of gender inclusion in e-waste initiatives.



# Thank you!

Leila Devia

[ldevia@inti.gob.ar](mailto:ldevia@inti.gob.ar)

[bcrc-argentina@inti.gob.ar](mailto:bcrc-argentina@inti.gob.ar)

<https://bcrc-argentina.net.ar/>