

2025 International Workshop Series on E-waste Statistics

Project: *Enhancing countries' capacities for measuring progress on the transition towards a circular economy*

Thailand, 2025

Concept Note

BACKGROUND

The 2025 International Workshop Series on E-waste Statistics is being held as part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) project *Enhancing countries' capacities for measuring progress on the transition towards a circular economy*. The project (running between 2024 and 2026), takes a multi-level approach to building global capacity around data and statistics on the circular economy, with a focus on:

1. Developing and strengthening statistical methodologies at the global level;
2. Supporting regional capacity building and dialogue between data users and producers; and
3. Enhancing, through tailored national activities, the technical capabilities of country-level institutions to regularly publish datasets on the circular economy and waste.

These activities are intended to support improved global monitoring of progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), circular economy indicators more generally, and evidence-based policymaking at the national level.

OBJECTIVE

The 2025 International Workshop Series on E-waste Statistics is being implemented as part of the UNEP project *Enhancing countries' capacities for measuring progress on the transition towards a circular economy*, by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme in partnership with UNEP. Since 2015, UNITAR SCYCLE has been engaged in measuring environmental-related SDG indicators and developing global datasets, training material, and statistical guidelines such as the widely drawn on global *E-waste Statistics Guidelines*.

The objective of the 2025 *International Workshop Series on E-waste Statistics* is to support relevant authorities at the national level in developing the technical knowledge and capacities to regularly produce datasets on electronic waste (e-waste). E-waste is a rapidly growing waste stream across many countries. Better data and statistics have a critical role to play in tackling the escalating challenges related to e-waste. Participants in this workshop series can expect to:



- Be introduced to e-waste and its management as a global and national challenge alongside links to the SDGs
- Discuss data and capacity needs for producing statistics on e-waste at the national level and key data gaps to fill
- Receive an overview of the general principles underpinning the production of e-waste statistics, recommended calculation steps, and data sources to populate an e-waste statistics framework based on international guidance in the global *E-waste Statistics Guidelines* developed by UNITAR
- Become familiar with how to use UNITAR e-waste toolkits designed to support country-level measurement and access hands-on sessions on calculating key statistics on e-waste aligned to country data needs
- Obtain guidance on developing a national statistics implementation plan, including covering how to improve data collection, and integrating waste statistics into national analysis and decision making such as the development and implementation of Thailand's draft WEEE Act
- Contribute to global e-waste statistics development by being at the forefront of testing changes proposed in the draft E-waste Statistics Guidelines Edition 3
- Plan desired areas of focus for remote training as a follow-up to the workshop and input to the production of a national E-waste Monitor collating evidence on e-waste and benchmarking performance at the national level

TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience for the in-person workshop are representatives from country National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and ministries involved in the production of statistics on the environment (e.g., Environment, Industry and Economy), particularly those relating to e-waste and resources and waste more broadly. In addition, bodies with an interest across the life cycle of electronics in Thailand, including (the regulation of) imports, exports and domestic production of electronic goods, ICT and telecommunications, and the management of e-waste and waste more generally.

OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

The workshop series aims to equip government officials with the necessary knowledge to:

- Describe key concepts related to monitoring e-waste and its relevance as part of tracking progress against the SDG indicators, particularly SDG 12.4.2a on Hazardous waste generated per capita, SDG 12.4.2b on the proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type

of treatment, SDG 12.5.1 on national recycling rate, tons of material recycled, and SDG 11.6.1, the proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated by cities

- Explain how selected waste indicators are calculated alongside relevant data sources, and be able to use UNITAR tools to produce statistics on e-waste
- Tackle challenges countries may be facing in compiling statistics on e-waste and actions and strategies that can be taken to address them as part of a national statistics implementation plan

In addition, and in collaboration with a hired national consultant, an output of the workshop will be the joint production of a National E-waste Monitor. This will capture outputs of the training workshops and engagement and help benchmark national performance.

SCHEDULE, FORMAT AND LANGUAGE

The engagement will take a hybrid format, consisting of two introductory online sessions (10th & 17th September 2025), followed by an on-site workshop (29th & 30th October 2025), and 10 days of optional remote training as national officers progress in developing statistics on e-waste, reporting on relevant SDG indicators, and as part of jointly producing a National E-waste Monitor. The working language of the sessions will be English and Thai.

RESOURCES

In preparation for participating in the workshops, participants are recommended to complete two self-paced online courses:

- [An introduction to the e-waste challenge | ITU Academy](#)
- [Addressing the e-waste challenge through data and statistics | ITU Academy](#)

These courses introduce participants to the importance of effective e-waste management and the role of data and statistics in tackling the growing e-waste challenge. The following steps should be taken to sign up to the ITU Academy and complete the required courses:

1. Training site registration

- To be able to register for the course you must first create an account in the ITU Academy portal at the following link: <https://academy.itu.int/user/register>

2. Training course registration

- When you have an existing account or created a new account, you can register for the courses at the following links:
 - <https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/introduction-e-waste-challenge>

- <https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/addressing-e-waste-challenge-through-data-and-statistics>
- You can also find these courses (and others) in the training catalogue: <https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue>

Participants should contact the course coordinators at UNITAR: Cornelis (Kees) Baldé (balde@unitar.org) and Oliver Lysaght (oliver.lysaght@unitar.org) for further information or if any difficulties are encountered while registering. Other courses and reference material include:

➤ **SDG Online Course**

➤ **Environmental SDG Indicators Online Course**

This e-learning course is a self-paced course with individual 10 modules developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP), and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). This course provides an overview of the importance of monitoring the environmental dimension of development, the linkage with existing statistical frameworks (FDES and SEEA), and how to use environmental statistics in decision making. The modules will also provide a brief overview of all 25 SDG indicators under UNEP custodianship. The online course is also available in French and [Russian](#).

➤ **Technical Manuals**

➤ **Global Chemicals and Waste Indicators Review Document**

The Global Chemicals and Waste Indicator Review Document aims to strengthen the knowledge base of chemicals and hazardous waste and enhance the capacity of selected countries to track progress towards related SDG indicators across sectors. With the purpose of enhancing evidence base as well as the science policy interface, this review document responds to the need for better information to empower decision makers and stakeholders to act and support policy making for sound management of waste to minimize risks to public health and the environment associated with chemicals and hazardous waste. The Document is available in Arabic, English and Russian.