



# Project *Unwaste*

Tackling Waste Trafficking to Support a Circular Economy

Period: August 2021 – April 2025 (45 months)



Since 2018, Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, have become the top regional destinations for the inflow of both legal and illegal waste. Despite existing national and international legal frameworks, waste trade bans and the restrictions put in place by governments in the region in recent years, problematic waste is still reaching these countries.

The Unwaste project is dedicated to fight waste trafficking between the EU and Southeast Asia by promoting enhanced EU-ASEAN Member States partnerships in support of ongoing efforts towards a circular economy transition in line with the relevant policy frameworks.

## Unwaste implementation partners in Indonesia are:

- Ministry of Environment and Forestry
- Directorate General of Customs and Excise
- Ministry of Trade
- Attorney General's Office
- Ministry of Industry
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Unwaste** is a regional programme implemented in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Activities conducted in Indonesia took place in Jakarta.



## The project objectives are:

1

To better understand waste flows between Europe and Southeast Asia, with an additional focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on medical and hazardous waste movements.

2

To promote cooperation through national dialogues to combat illicit waste movements from the EU towards Southeast Asia.

3

To facilitate intra- and inter-regional dialogues at the policy and enforcement level to promote partnership between the EU and Southeast Asian countries, in support of the circular economy approach.



## KEY RESULTS

**Unwaste report series: on the links between waste trade, illegal waste traffic, corruption, organized crime and the use of online platforms for the illegal trade.**

- **Turning the Tide: A Look into the European Union-to-Southeast Asia Waste Trafficking Waste.**
- **Web of Waste: Investigating the Risk of Waste Crime in Cyber-Space.**
- **Legal Framework to Address Waste Trafficking in the ASEAN Region – Review and Gap Analysis.**
- **Cash in the Trash: The role of corruption, organized crime, and money laundering in waste trafficking.**

**Promote national cooperation by facilitating interagency discussions aimed at preventing and combating waste trafficking.**

- Working group sessions and consultation meetings involving regulatory, judicial and law enforcement agencies aimed to facilitate the exchange of information on waste trade along with policies aimed at preventing and combating waste trafficking
- Key stakeholders visit of an Indonesian port to observe Indonesian Customs control measures, to foster a mutual understanding of the existing challenges, and develop a strategic approach.

**Dialogue and partnership between Europe and Southeast Asia region to encourage a holistic response to waste trafficking.**

- Study visits to EU institutions and ports for delegates from SEA countries to increase cooperation and raise mutual awareness on waste trafficking issues in origin and destination countries.
- Expert group meetings gathering specialists and key stakeholders from the EU and ASEAN regions, aimed to exchange on initiatives related to waste crime and illegal waste traffic, to foster shared perspectives and establish collaborative strategies to combat such criminal activities in support of circular economy initiatives.



Learn more about  
**Unwaste** project here  
[bit.ly/unwasteproject](https://bit.ly/unwasteproject)