



## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

A VEHICLE FOR BUILDING GOVERNANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EIP

### COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EIP COLOMBIA

A preliminary policy analysis indicated that the integration of Eco-Industrial Park (EIP) approaches in relevant national policies and regulations would significantly improve the competitiveness and sustainability of industrial parks in Colombia.

Therefore, the UNIDO GEIPP Eco-Industrial Program in Colombia aims to increase the role of EIP in relevant policies at the national level, aligned with the National Circular Economy Strategy.

The assessment and analysis of the national policy framework was undertaken with an active participation of the key national strategic stakeholders. During this process, the need for a national EIP framework with a more formal strategic approach was identified.

For developing and operationalizing the national EIP framework development in Colombia, an EIP Community of Practice (CoP) was established.

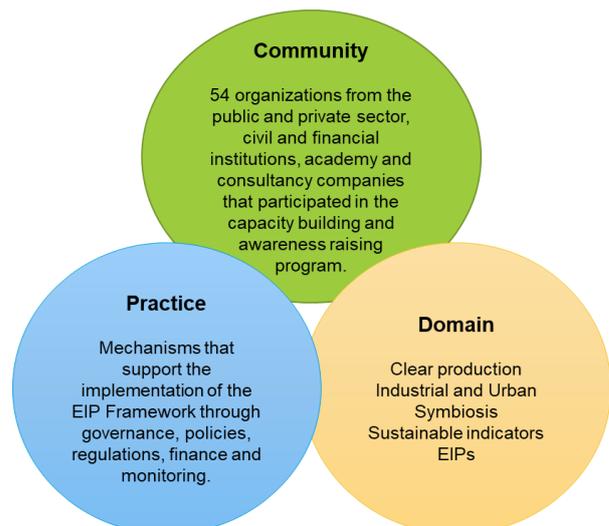
The Community of Practice became a very efficient vehicle for generating concrete proposals that address the gaps in the institutional framework and showcase the benefits of EIP to Industrial Parks and companies.

The objectives of the EIP CoP are to:

1. Promote interaction of relevant national stakeholders for ensuring development of initiatives fostering EIP development.

2. Contribute to developing proposals to improve the national EIP framework through joint initiatives by national and sub-national institutions.
3. Improve national capacities and consolidate EIP framework progress in issues related to (i) capacity building, (ii) financial and non-financial incentive and policies (iii) monitoring, information and communication systems contributing to the development of the National Framework for EIPs in Colombia.

**Figure 1.** Components of the CoP



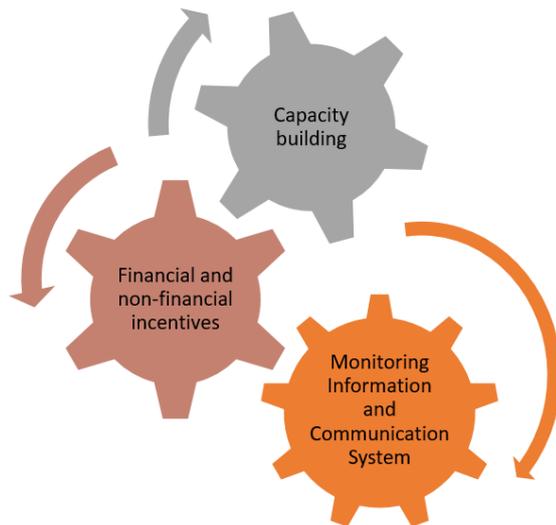
### ROUND TABLES

During the second half of 2020, The Community of Practice (CoP) activities started with the creation of three roundtables to address the needs for the

establishment of a national framework for EIPs in Colombia.

In addition to addressing the gaps identified in the EIP policy and capacity analysis, the Roundtables aim at increasing the cooperation among the engaged stakeholders.

**Figure 2.** Roundtables of the CoP



### Capacity building

The main objective of this roundtable is to promote the strengthening of business, technical and commercial capacities of the EIP community in Colombia through the design, and implementation of collaborative learning programs and a creating a knowledge platform for these.

The learning programs (online and face-to-face) carried out through the Community of Practice aim at formulating and implementing projects aimed to generate environmental, social and economic benefits. The action will also increase the attention to sustainability of business as well as expand the national and international network on this.

### Financial and non-financial incentives

This Roundtable aims at increasing the support to EIP opportunity implementation from existing and emerging incentive schemes. This is done by providing information on incentives to support investment in EIP projects and building the capacity for accessing them. The capacity-building is focusing on the specific

information required by the incentive schemes and on developing economic feasibility of the EIP opportunities.

The work of this Roundtable will generate practical mechanisms to facilitate access to incentives, increase access to financing for companies, IPs, or FTZs as well as bridge the collaboration between government institutions and businesses.

### Monitoring, information, and communication system

The objective of this roundtable is to develop a centralized national information system on EIPs by developing standardized indicators for monitoring the performance of Industrial Parks and Free-Trade Zones (Zona Francas) in their transition to EIPs.

The monitoring system will include a set of indicators for EIPs performance tracking, adapted to the national context. A platform for demonstrating the results and progress of the EIPs will be available as the results of implementation is compiled.

The work of the CoP roundtables will generate a roadmap to integrate the current and the development of new EIP initiatives into the national EIP framework. Additionally, the development of new EIP initiatives and projects will enable the CoP to serve as a mechanism to institutionalize and sustain the EIP program implementation in the long term.

## CONCLUSION

The CoP has emerged as a response to the needs to enhance the communication and coordination among key EIP Stakeholders in Colombia.

The results of the CoP, elaborated through the thematic Roundtables, will serve as key inputs for the development of a national EIP framework and will provide a roadmap to engage stakeholders in the collaborative construction and implementation of the EIP agenda in Colombia.

The success and interest generated by the Community of Practice in Colombia underlines the importance of institutionalizing EIP implementation. This will keep-up the momentum and sustain the EIP roll-out in the years to come.