



Country Report

International Workshop Series on E-waste Statistics

Online, September 10th, September 17th, 2025

Bangkok, Thailand, October 29th – October 30th, 2025

As part of the European Commission funded project on *Enhancing countries' capacity for measuring progress on the transition towards a circular economy, 2024-2026*

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1. Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2015, has brought with it the need for enhanced monitoring of the environmental dimensions of development. In line with this, the UN Environment Assembly's Resolution 5/11 (2022) on "*Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production*" invites UN Member States to integrate circular economy approaches into national and regional strategies and action plans.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) project *Enhancing countries' capacities for measuring progress on the transition towards a circular economy* (2024 – 2026), takes a multi-level approach to strengthening global capacity on circular economy data and statistics. Its main areas of focus include:

1. Developing and improving statistical methodologies at the global level such as through the preparation of the third edition of the *global E-waste Statistics Guidelines*;
2. Supporting regional capacity building and facilitating 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 bolster global monitoring of progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and evidence-based policymaking at the national level. Funds for the project originate from the European Union.

International Workshop Series on E-waste Statistics

Delivered under the UNEP project *Enhancing countries' capacities for measuring progress on the transition towards a circular economy*, the 2025 *International Workshop Series on E-waste Statistics* aims to reinforce institutional and technical capacities of authorities in selected countries to regularly collect, compile, and publish authoritative statistics on electronic waste (e-waste)—one of the fastest-growing waste streams globally. In addition, the workshop series provides a forum to pilot test and refine changes proposed in the third edition of the *global E-waste Statistics Guidelines* drafted in 2024.

The target audience for the workshop series is 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 resources and waste. Through the workshop series, participants are sought to be equipped with the knowledge and capabilities to:

- Describe key concepts relating to monitoring e-waste and its relevance as part of tracking progress against the SDGs, particularly SDG 11.6.1, the proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities, 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, and SDG 12.5.1 on national recycling rate, tons of material recycled; UNEA Resolution

- Explain how selected waste indicators are calculated, identify relevant data sources, and apply tools developed by United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to produce statistics on e-waste; and
- Address common challenges countries face in compiling e-waste statistics and identify practical actions and strategies to overcome these as part of a national statistics implementation plan.

In addition, an output of the workshop is the joint production of a *National E-waste Monitor*. This is intended to capture statistical outputs of the training workshop and help benchmark national performance.

2. General workshop information

The International Workshop Series on E-waste Statistics comprised (i) two online training sessions, (ii) multiple self-paced online courses, (iii) a two-day in-person workshop, and (iv) ongoing follow-up engagement activities.

The two online training sessions were delivered on 10 and 17 September 2025 for 2.5 hours each. These sessions provided an overview of the escalating global e-waste challenge, outlined the statistical principles underpinning e-waste measurement, and introduced the UNITAR toolkits designed to support such work, including an overview of the status of e-waste in Thailand, as well as the available data sources. During the second session, participants' interest and availability was assessed for an in-person applied computer workshop to provide advanced training in the application and customisation of the UNITAR toolkits, with additional focus on complementary variables within the broader measurement framework. Approximately 57 participants attended the two online workshop sessions, of which, around 63% were women and 37% were men.

Building on the content of the online sessions, the in-person workshop was held at the *Thai National Statistical Office*, located in The Government Complex, Bangkok Thailand, between 29–30 October 2025. The training was delivered by UNITAR, with active participation from representatives of both public and private organizations in Thailand.

The in-person workshop was attended by 20–22 participants each day, representing a diverse range of organizations from both the public and academic sectors. Participants included representatives from the Chulalongkorn University, Thai Customs Authority, Electrical and Electronics Institute (EEI), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC), National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), Thai National Statistical Office (NSO), Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Pollution Control Department (PCD), Silpakorn University and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Approximately 57% of attendees were women and 43% were men.

The workshop combined presentations, interactive Q&A sessions, and group exercises, building on knowledge gained through the introductory online content. The online component provided participants with an overview of the global e-waste challenge, its linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the principles and methodologies for producing e-waste statistics based on the *E-waste Statistics Guidelines*.

The first day of the onsite training focused on strengthening participants' capacity to use the UNITAR Excel-based toolkits for calculating core e-waste indicators. Participants carried out applied computer exercises using three UNITAR toolkits. Two toolkits were for use in estimating electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market, including a specific module on photovoltaic panels. This was followed by a session on calculating e-waste generated accompanied by a discussion on extending the measurement framework to include material composition and associated hazardous substances. The day ended with group discussions exploring the availability of material composition data and pathways for generating subnational e-waste generation estimates.

The second day addressed the e-waste management pathways, including formal and informal collection and treatment routes, and wider disposal. This was followed by an in-depth session on measuring the transboundary movement of e-waste, highlighting the importance of trade and customs data in monitoring international flows of used electronics and e-waste. The final session focused on mapping data producers and users to identify key institutional roles and establish routes for ongoing e-waste statistics production. Participants also engaged in planning exercises for developing a *National E-waste Monitor* and defining post-workshop training and coordination activities.

Throughout the workshop, calculation methods and data sources were examined for the following key variables along the electronic product life cycle:

- Electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market, including a specific module on photovoltaic panels
- E-waste generated
- Environmentally sound management of e-waste (formal collection and treatment)
- Other e-waste disposal routes
- Transboundary movement of used EEE and e-waste

The workshop concluded with the development of a roadmap and action plan for producing national e-waste statistics and linking them to relevant SDG indicators, as a foundation for Thailand's National E-waste Monitor and continued capacity development.

3. Key observations and recommendations

The availability of e-waste and related data

Thailand is currently in the process of developing a draft Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Act, which is grounded in the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principle. The Pollution Control Department (PCD) is the focal agency for this draft.

Each year, the PCD compiles and reports on national waste generation statistics, which include e-waste as part of the reporting framework as outlined in the [Pollution Control Department, Thailand – National Waste Report](#). According to the PCD, estimates of e-waste generation are based on data collected from municipalities. It was noted that only about 10% of household e-waste is formally collected and treated, primarily through take-back schemes and other official collection programmes.

Routes for constructing estimates of e-waste generation using the lifespan-based modelling approach covered in the workshop were discussed. In relation to the input data required for this method, the following observations were made:

- **Import and export data:** Data classified by Harmonized System (HS) code is readily available through national databases (<https://tradereport.moc.go.th/en>), Ministry of Commerce trade reports, as well as the UN Comtrade database.
- **Domestic production:** Data on domestic production is reported by the Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) classified by Thai Industrial Standard (TIS) number. Each number is correlated to the HS codes. Potential drawbacks at present include that not all electronic product types are included in this data, and some categories combine several products (for example, televisions). For large appliances, information from the Energy Label No. 5 program can be used, as it provides data on the number of units placed on the domestic market.

A further discussion point was the need for data that goes beyond the material composition of electronics/e-waste to also include substances of concern. Substances such as refrigerants, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and polyurethane foam were identified as hazardous components that should be accounted for in data on e-waste management. Participants noted that information on material composition of electronic goods is typically derived from disassembly and sampling conducted at recycling facilities, though proper reporting and compliance systems are key to ensuring the data is accurate and consistent. This information can be added to national reports or local research studies that look at product composition and recycling practices. Participants noted that it is likely not possible to get detailed product composition data (i.e. 'Bill of Materials') directly from manufacturers because this information is kept confidential for business reasons.

Discussions as part of the workshop addressed the pathways through which e-waste enters formal collection and treatment systems in Thailand and possible measurement points. In this context, "formal collection and treatment" refers mainly to waste managed in authorized recycling facilities. When e-waste is generated by factories, the entirety of it must be formally collected and treated as factories are regulated under the Department of Industrial Works (DIW), which enforces strict control regulations on waste management and disposal. In contrast, if e-waste is generated from households, only about 10% goes to formal collection and treatment, mainly through take-back schemes or other official collection programmes. This is because there is no specific regulatory framework governing household e-waste management at present.

Participants emphasized the importance of establishing a regulation that clearly defines data collection procedures relating to e-waste and its management. The PCD could act as the national focal point responsible for coordinating data collection from relevant stakeholders. Such a regulation should specify the types of data to be reported, the responsible reporting entities, and mechanisms for data submission. Participants also suggested introducing incentives for stakeholders to report e-waste data.

The discussion also covered the availability of data on e-waste management outside of the formal collection and treatment system. Currently, the PCD is conducting a survey of junk shops and waste pickers in Thailand. This survey collects information such as on the source of waste, quantities, the makeup of waste (including whether recyclable or non-recyclable), and onwards destinations. After the survey is completed, the NSO may be able to assist in compiling and reporting the collected data to improve the overall completeness of national e-waste statistics.

In relation to transboundary flows, Thailand submits an annual report to the ASEAN Committee on the quantities of waste imported, in accordance with the provisions of the Basel Convention. The country has officially banned the import of e-waste since 2020. Estimating illegal imports and exports nevertheless remains a significant challenge, as such assessments are resource-intensive and often require on-site inspections at ports of entry. Further research could be undertaken by universities, environmental inspection agencies, or through joint initiatives involving multiple institutions to enhance understanding of this issue.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is currently implementing the UNwaste Project, which provides bulletins and practical guidance for relevant authorities—including port officials, customs officers, the PCD, the DIW, environmental police, and prosecutors to strengthen cooperation and establish standard procedures for handling suspected cases of illegal e-waste imports. In Thailand, the full HS code consists of 11 digits, with the last three digits serving as national statistical codes used for specific Thai Customs purposes. The structure of the 11-digit Thai HS Code is as follows:

- **First 6 digits:** The international standard HS code set by the World Customs Organization (WCO), used globally.
- **Next 2 digits (7–8):** The ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) code, which provides a common classification standard among ASEAN member countries.
- **Last 3 digits (9–11):** The national statistical code, determined by the Thai Customs Department to further classify goods for domestic trade statistics, import/export control, and economic analysis.

The meaning of the last three digits is:

- **000** = New product
- **800** = Used or second-hand product
- **899** = Waste (classified under the Basel Convention)
- **999** = Completely Knocked Down (CKD) products, often used to identify semi-assembled or disassembled goods

With official trade statistics in Thailand including such detail, this offers an additional basis for measuring and monitoring trade in used equipment and e-waste.

Developing a national e-waste strategy

As part of the workshop, stakeholders were mapped to key roles in the e-waste data supply chain as a foundation to support ongoing e-waste statistics production in Thailand.

Technical support to statistics production	Data suppliers	Statistics compilers	Users
• POM • Target • Formal collected/recycled • waste generation • Waste treated	• Producer/Importer • PCD • DIW • Customs • Local government • Waste Processor • NSO • EEI/FTI EEC/Air-con	• PCD • NSO • DIW (reported IND waste)	• PCD • DIW • Researcher (Academia/MTEC) • PROs • NESDC • DCCE • ONEP

Cooperation between PCD, NSO, and DIW—with support from research institutions and industry associations—is anticipated to enable the production of more accurate and consistent e-waste data in Thailand. Such collaboration can also contribute to evidence-based e-waste policy development, SDG monitoring, and implementation of the forthcoming WEEE Act. Several short and long-term actions were defined as part of an e-waste statistics strategy for Thailand.

Short-term Actions for Developing National E-waste Statistics in Thailand

- Review current data availability, especially for import and export data. Agencies need to agree on which dataset will be used as the baseline for future calculations.
- The PCD will identify data needs to support the implementation of the WEEE Act.
- For international data exchange, Thailand will continue reporting annually through the ASEAN network under the regional cooperation framework.
- To further review routes to constructing domestic production estimates given challenges in obtaining data on electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market from producers.
- To select the data source, participants noted that there are many sources, and discussions and joint agreement are needed on which source to use, for example, domestic production data.
- To verify input data accuracy, for example, cross-check domestic production data from the Ministry of Commerce and the Revenue Department.
- At present, household waste data are collected from municipalities, while industrial waste data comes from a reporting system managed by the DIW.
- The draft WEEE Act includes requirements for data reporting, ensuring that related information will be accessible to the public and that stakeholders are regularly consulted in the process.

Long-term Actions for Developing National E-waste Statistics

Most long-term actions will be led by the PCD after the WEEE Act is implemented. The main activities include:

- Designing an e-waste module to be added to existing household and establishment surveys. *(Lead: PCD)*
- Developing a national e-waste database to store and manage data systematically. *(Lead: NSO)*
- Preparing specific regulations or laws to ensure regular data supply for e-waste reporting. *(Lead: PCD)*
- Planning data collection systems for recycled and disposed e-waste. *(Lead: PCD)*
- Planning for resource mobilization and capacity building to strengthen institutions and technical skills. *(Lead: PCD)*

Future follow-up engagement will focus on strengthening the use of the UNITAR toolkits and improving national data quality. The key areas to focus on include:

- Applying the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Placed on the Market toolkit.
- Using the E-waste Generated toolkit.

- Improving data on formally collected e-waste and calculating the formal collection rate.
- Collecting data on other e-waste recycling activities.
- Creating a mass balance for the entire electronics and e-waste system to understand material flows across the full life cycle.

Participants requested updates and additional training if there are any changes or new versions of the UNITAR toolkits in the future.

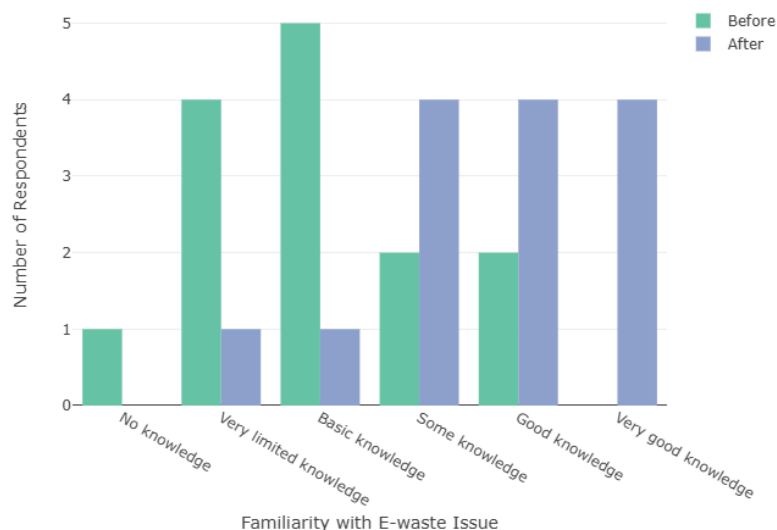
4. Workshop evaluation

The workshop evaluation survey provided insights into participants' knowledge levels before and after participating in the online and in-person workshops and their overall experience. The survey was issued to only those who attended the in-person workshop, however question 1 and 2 relate particularly to participants' experience of the content provided in the online sessions.

Out of the 22 in-person workshop participants, 16 (73%) completed the post-workshop survey. Of these, 38 % reported being women, 50 % reported being men, and 12% reported 'other'. Regarding the organisation they worked for, 50% of respondents reported being affiliated with a government ministry or agency, 38% reported being from the Thai NSO specifically, 6% reported being from the private sector and 6% reported 'other', specifically universities.

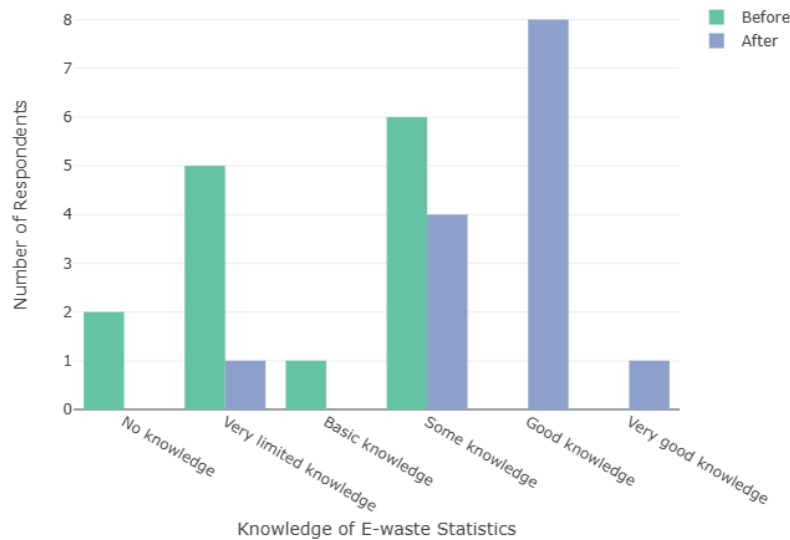
1. Familiarity with the e-waste issue

Prior to the workshop, 70% of respondents reported having only a 'basic', or less, level of familiarity with and knowledge of e-waste and its management as a global and national challenge alongside its links to the SDGs. Following the workshop, this share had fallen to 14%, with around 60% reporting having 'good' knowledge or greater.



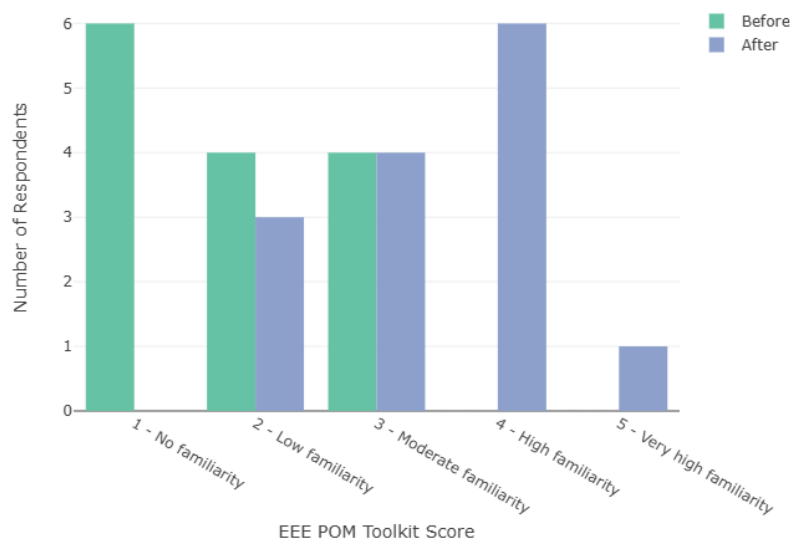
2. Knowledge of e-waste statistics

No respondent reported having more than 'some' knowledge of the general principles of producing e-waste statistics, required calculation steps, and data sources prior to the workshop. Following participating in the workshop, the percentage reporting having 'good' knowledge or greater had jumped to 64%. Across all respondents, an improvement was reported.



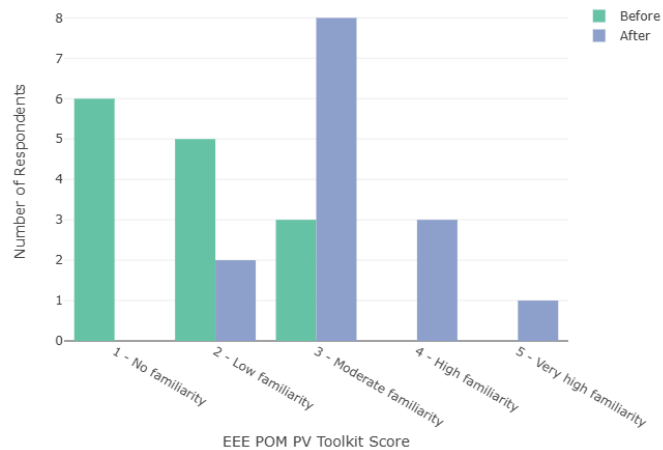
3. *EEE POM toolkit*

No respondent reported having a greater than ‘moderate’ familiarity with how to use the UNITAR toolkit for calculating electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market prior to the workshop and approximately half reported having no familiarity. Following participation, 50% of respondents reported having a ‘high’ familiarity or greater. Generally, respondents reported an improvement in their familiarity with the toolkit.



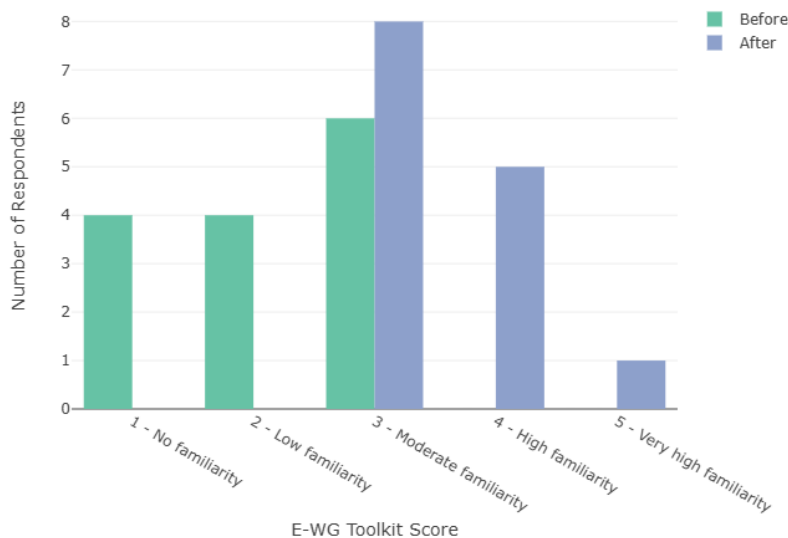
4. *EEE POM PV toolkit*

In relation to their familiarity with how to use the UNITAR toolkit to calculate electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market for photovoltaic panels, most participants (79%) reported having ‘no’ or ‘low’ levels of familiarity before the workshop. After the workshop, the equivalent share (79%) reported a ‘moderate’ or ‘high’ level of familiarity, with a few indicating very high familiarity. All respondents reported an improvement.



5. E-waste toolkit

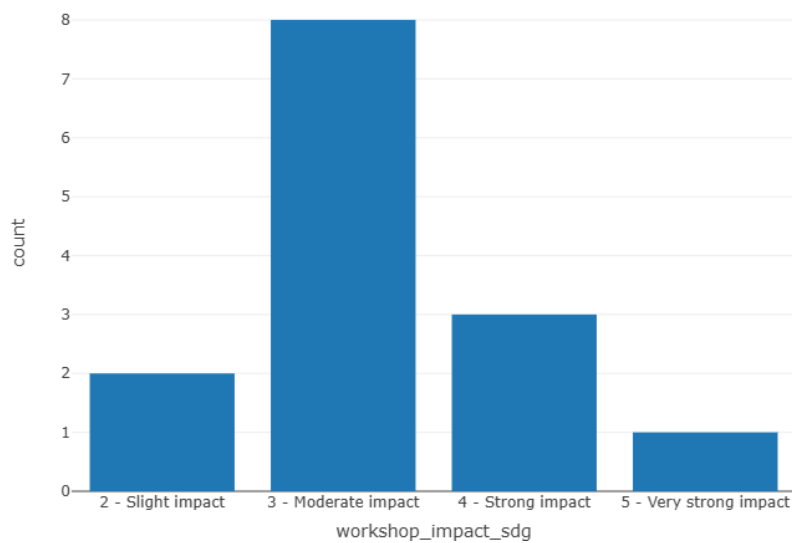
Prior to their participation in the workshop, 60% of survey respondents reported having ‘no’ or ‘low’ levels of familiarity with how to use the UNITAR toolkit to calculate e-waste generated, with the remainder reporting ‘moderate’ levels of familiarity. After the workshop, 43% of respondents reported having a ‘high’ or ‘very high’ familiarity, with the remainder reporting having a ‘moderate’ level of familiarity and no respondent reporting having a ‘no’ or ‘low’ level of familiarity any longer.



Further functionality highlighted by respondents as being useful in the toolkits going forward included a way to track the e-waste collection and recycling rate. This functionality is covered in existing more advanced toolkits which can be introduced to participants as part of post-workshop engagement.

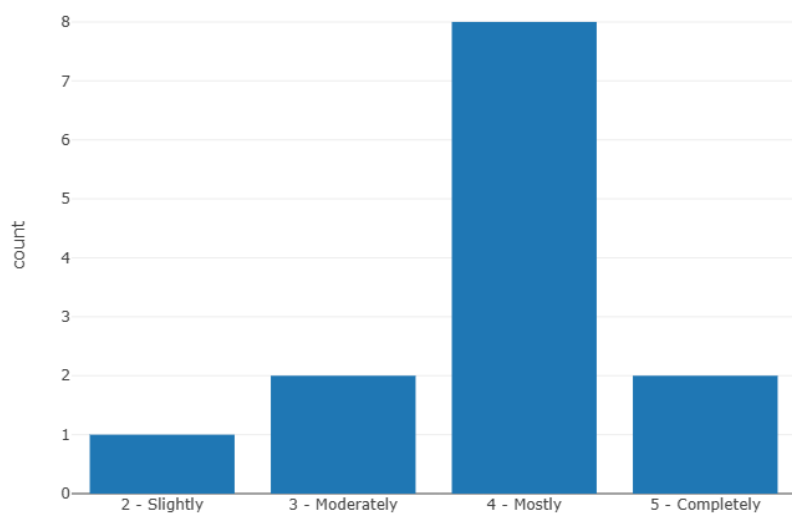
6. Workshop impact SDG

The majority (57%) of respondents reported that participating in the workshop had a moderate impact on their ability to produce e-waste statistics as part of SDG monitoring, while 21% reported a strong impact and 7% reported a very strong impact. 14% reported a slight impact and none reported ‘no impact’.



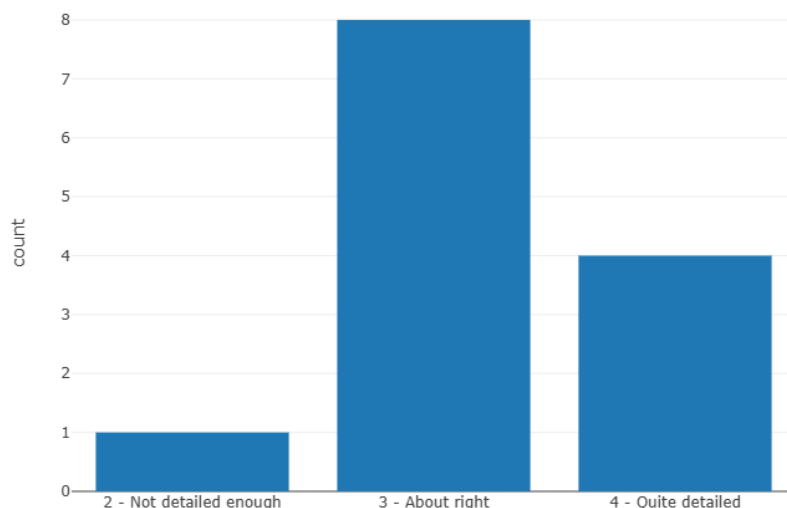
7. Workshop rating

Most respondents (62%) rated the workshop as “mostly” meeting their expectations, with 15% of respondents rating it as “completely” meeting expectations, and the remainder reporting “moderately” or “slightly”.



8. Information level

A large share of participants (62%) reported that the level of information and detail in the workshop was ‘about right’. 31% of respondents rated it as “quite detailed”, and 8% said it was “not detailed enough.”



Overall, the survey results showed that the workshop had a positive impact on participants' understanding of e-waste statistics and their ability to apply the knowledge as part of SDG reporting. Most participants indicated a moderate to strong impact with the related tools and concepts.

5. Workshop documentation

List of participants

Online session

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Agenda

Online sessions agenda

Session 1 – 10th September *All times are stated in ICT		
Time	Activity	Speaker(s)
09:00 - 09:15	Opening remarks - Overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) project <i>Enhancing countries' capacities for measuring progress on the transition towards a circular economy</i> - Objectives of the 2025 International Workshop Series on E-waste Statistics	UNITAR
09:15 - 10:15	Introduction to e-waste as a global and national challenge and links to the SDGs - Defining e-waste - Background on global and regional e-waste trends - Links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets, and indicators	UNITAR

10:15 -11:30	Principles of e-waste statistics and overview of the <i>E-waste Statistics Guidelines</i> (I of II) - Classifying electronic goods and e-waste - The e-waste measurement framework, mass-balance principle, and key variables	UNITAR
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Session 2 - 17 th September *All times are stated in ICT		
Time	Activity	Speaker(s)
10:30 - 10:45	Recap on Online Session 1	UNITAR
10:45 - 11:30	Principles of e-waste statistics and overview of the <i>E-waste Statistics Guidelines</i> (II of II) - Data sources and calculation steps to populate the measurement framework - Reporting e-waste statistics	UNITAR
11:30 – 12:15	Overview of UNITAR tools to support the production of e-waste statistics and fill data gaps - UNITAR datasets and resources: - Toolkit for the calculation of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) placed on the market (POM) - Toolkit for the calculation of EEE POM of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels - Toolkit for the calculation of e-waste generated	UNITAR
12:15 – 13:00	Discussion on data and training priorities - Discussion on status of e-waste statistics and data in Thailand - Potential areas of follow-up training	Round table

In-person workshop agenda

Day 1 – 29 October 2025		
Time	Activity	Speaker(s)
08:30 – 09:00	Workshop registration	
Session 1		
09:00 – 09:30	Opening remarks	Thai NSO

	• NSO opening remarks • Introduction to UNITAR trainers and participants	UNITAR
09:30 – 10:45	Applied computer session on: • Calculating electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) placed on the market (POM) using the UNITAR toolkit for the calculation of EEE POM • Statistical routines for use in processing EEE POM data	UNITAR
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
Session 2		
11:00 – 12:30	2. Applied computer session on: • Continuation of 'statistical routines for use in processing EEE POM data' • Calculating EEE POM of photovoltaic (PV) panels using the UNITAR PV panel toolkit	UNITAR
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
Session 3		
13:30 – 16:00	Applied computer session on calculating: • E-waste generated using the UNITAR e-waste generated (WG) toolkit • Extending the framework to account for the composition of e-waste, material resources and hazards	UNITAR
16:00	End of Day 2	

Day 2 – 30 October 2025		
Time	Activity	Speaker(s)
Session 4		
09:00 – 10:45	Working session on potential data sources and steps for calculating: • Formal e-waste collection • Other recycling of e-waste • E-waste entering the waste bin	UNITAR
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break	

Session 5		
11:00 – 12:30	Working session on calculating transboundary movement of e-waste • What we know about the transboundary movement of e-waste and used EEE • Mapping stakeholders and data holders, including areas of potential collaboration	UNITAR
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
Session 6		
13:30 – 14:45	Developing a national e-waste statistics implementation roadmap • Mapping data producers and users • Integrating the developed waste statistics for national analysis and decision making • Reporting e-waste statistics as part of SDG data collection	UNITAR Round table
14:45 – 15:30	Planning the production of a National e-waste Monitor and follow-up training • Planning the National e-waste Monitor • Planning remote follow-up training	Round table
15:30 – 16:00	Closing session • NSO closing remarks • Workshop summary	Thai NSO UNITAR
16:00	End of Day 2 and the on-site workshop	

Photos



