



## EU 4 Environment

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

### The EU4Environment Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Project in Armenia

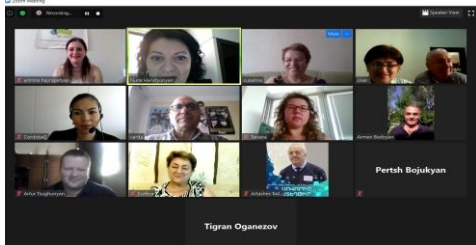
*This Newsletter covers the implementation actions of the EU-funded EU4Environment Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP) Project, including initial site visits to demonstrating companies working in the field of plastic, fish, and chemical production in the Gegharkunik and Shirak regions of the Yerevan area. The Issue reflects upon the capacity building exercises executed by regional and national experts and covers energy management and RECP Coaching Sessions performed by the National Implementing Partner (NIP) for RECP experts in the summer 2020. The next issue will cover the visits and initial assessments of the national RECP experts on companies partnering with EU4Environment Action in Armenia.*

The general objective of the EU4Environment Action is to help the partner countries preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts. The Action is implemented by a consortium of international partners, including OECD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNECE, and the World Bank. The EU-funded EU4Environment RECP Project, implemented by UNIDO with support of REC Caucasus Armenia branch – acting as a NIP, aims to support activities and advisory services on the application of RECP. The Project uses the RECP methodology and Circular Economy practices and principles to help increase the productivity, product quality, and competitiveness of national Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). Following the experience inherited from the EU-funded EaP GREEN RECP Demonstration Project implemented in 2013-2017, the Project focuses on the RECP assessments, measures, and results designed for the selected SMEs to strengthen awareness and demonstrate benefits and best practices of Circular Economy and RECP in Armenia.

#### RECP goals

- Resource Efficiency: optimization of the productive use of natural resources (materials, water, and energy)
- Waste Minimization: minimization of the adverse impact of production systems on the environment and nature through the reduction of wastes and emissions
- People's well-being: minimization of risks to people and communities whilst enabling their development

### COACHING SESSIONS FOR RECP EXPERTS



The EU-funded EU4Environment Action launched a series of coaching sessions on Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production for national experts in Armenia as a preparatory step for the RECP audits that are to be undertaken with pilot SMEs. The coaching was designed to assist and improve the environmental performance of SMEs in discovering more resource efficient ways to organize their production processes. Overall, the objective of the coaching sessions was to apply the RECP methodology and practices among national experts and to demonstrate its implementation in 15 selected companies, strengthening thus national expertise on resource efficiency and cleaner production. The coaching also provided hands-on assistance for local companies working in the plastic industry, fish production, textile, paper, metal processing, and food production to carry out RECP assessments and further develop their action plans to improve efficiency and environmental performance while reducing waste, using green technologies, boosting energy efficiency, and cutting material losses.

Hitherto, four coaching sessions have been conducted, covering national and international contexts: Introduction to RECP - CP basics - eco-design/life cycle analysis; Team, policy, motivation; Material flow analysis, energy flow analysis, innovation, creativity, and option generation; Chemicals and hazardous materials, indicators and environmental controlling, waste management and recycling, RECP audits, final reports, and RECP to environmental management systems and circular economy. The NIP Technical Experts, Dshkhuhi Sahakyan and Tigran Sekoyan, in close cooperation with the UNIDO RECP International Expert, Gabriela Cordoba, provided four half-day training sessions with three modules each.

More details: <https://recp.am/en/news/coaching-process>

### REGIONAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT TRAINING



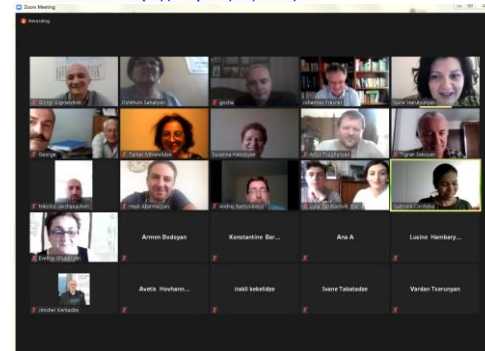
On 10-13 August 2020, professionals from the field of resource efficiency and energy efficiency from Armenia, Georgia, and Belarus have participated in the Regional Energy

Management training (EnMT) initiated within the EU-funded EU4Environment RECP Project implemented by UNIDO and the RECP Caucasus Armenia. The purpose of the EnMT was to prepare energy auditors, RECP experts, and energy managers to ensure a practical approach to energy audits, enriching their knowledge with the knowledge needed for the typical hot spots for energy efficiency in SMEs, and the tools to identify the benefits in energy efficient actions. The training focused on:

- The basics of energy management and auditing: the planning of an energy audit, elements of an energy management system for SMEs, economic calculations, etc.

- Engineering aspects: energy-conscious building and renovation, heating and distribution of heat, process heat, compressed air, lighting, refrigeration, air conditioning, electric drives, etc.

More details on <https://recp.am/en/news/27>





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### The EU4Environment Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Project in Armenia Initial Site visits to producing companies and SMEs

The REC Caucasus, acting as a National Implementing Partner in Armenia, conducted initial visits to potential demonstrating companies. The aim of site visits was to collect basic information on the companies' production processes (e.g. production volumes, total costs for water and energy, management systems in place, investment plans and top management's motivation).

#### INITIAL SITE VISIT TO PAPER RECYCLING COMPANY "VAZGEN ABGARYAN" LLC

The company was founded in 1998, and it is working on recycling wastepaper and transforming it into hygienic paper. The factory is equipped with a modern paper-making machine and provides high-quality products. The visit took place on August 08, 2020, within the framework of the EU-funded EU4Environment Action. During the visit, the director of the company, Mr. Vazgen Abgaryan, presented the history of the enterprise, the machinery, and the means of production. After recycling the paper, the company produces several types of second-tier paper. Within the site visit, the team also attended various workshops where the whole production process was presented. Currently, the project audit experts are conducting the audit for the "VAZGEN ABGARYAN" company.



#### INITIAL SITE VISIT TO "SEVANIISHKHAN" CJSC

The second site visit took place at the "Sevani Ishkhan" CJSC on August 25, 2020. During the working visit, the project team met with the director of the organization, Tigran Vardanyan, and the staff of the company, who presented the production ranges and volumes

of the enterprise: currently, the company produces around 3 M fish annually, which is then transferred to a net farm.

The company management and RECP experts then discussed collaboration options, after which the team was invited to visit the fish production basins and to check out the fish growing process presented by Mr. Vardanyan. Sevanilshkhan" CJSC was founded in 2014, and since then, its main purpose has been the breeding, recycling and sale of Gegharkuni and Summer trout subspecies. The factory produces a wide range of fish products starting from fresh fish all the way to frozen ones, fillets, and canned fish.



#### INITIAL SITE VISIT TO "ARMENIA PLAST" LLC

"Armenia Plast" is a polyethylene bag manufacturing company founded in 1999. It has been a leading company in the market for over 20 years, as the company has a stable position in the production of polyethylene bags and containers, and in the printing industry. During the site visit, the national experts Ms. Sahakyan and Sekoyan, together with the National Project Coordinator Ms. Nune Harutyunyan, presented the aims of the

EU4Environment RECP project and the benefits of the RECP methodology in various industries. They also introduced the economic and environmental gains for companies to employ green solutions by showcasing the previous experiences of mainstreaming RECP among Armenian producers, as well as providing scientific and practical knowledge on the application of RECP.

Such examples included an improved energy efficiency, material efficiency, water recycling and other technical solutions which were already employed in other Armenian enterprises. During the visit, the acting director of the company, Mr. Edgar Abrahamyan, also took the opportunity to present the company's production. He then spoke about the problems they currently encounter due to the new plastic waste reduction strategy in Armenia which can possibly diminish their production.

Both the project team and company's representatives have agreed to collaborate and concentrate efforts on finding environmentally friendly options which fit the production processes of "Armenia Plast", by using resource efficient and clean production mechanisms.



*This Newsletter was prepared within the framework of EU-funded EU4Environment Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Project by UNIDO and the National Implementing Partner REC Caucasus Armenia, National Office*

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