

EaP GREEN
Partnership for Environment and Growth



Forum 2

Main topic: Efficient Material Use

22th December 2015, Conference Hall of “Hyatt Place” Yerevan, Armenia

The forum was attended by the Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of RA, Mr. **Khachik Hakobyan**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of RA, Mr. **Armen Harutyunyan**, Deputy Minister of Urban Development, Ms. **Ruzan Alaverdyan** and Deputy Head of SME department of the Ministry of Economy, Ms. **Gayane Gevorgyan**, Head of UNIDO Operations in Armenia, Ms. **Anahit Simonyan**, RECP National Coordinator, Ms. **Nune Harutyunyan**, SME representatives involved in RECP assessment, UNIDO RECP national experts from the project first and second phases, NGOs and International organization representatives and RECC team members, more than 40 participants were present.



UNIDO RECP National Coordinator Ms. **Nune Harutyunyan** presented the key activities leading to green economy, introducing RECP project, RECP Techniques, methods and tools. UNIDO RECP Communication and Advocacy Expert Mr. **Tigran Sekoyan** presented the need and the importance of the Primer for the SMEs. He presented the main short report that promoted debates about RECP domestication (comprising scaling up and mainstreaming) policy and strategy. Activities were presented and SME involvement in RECP Green clubs by the UNIDO RECP Project National Facilitator Ms. **Dshkhuhi Sahakyan**. RECP Experts Mr. **Areg Karapetyan** and Mr. **Vardan Tserunyan** made presentations about efficient use of materials in SMEs.



All participants were given opportunity to express their positions, their experiences and share their information on RECP application, challenges faced by SMEs. Discussions were held to outline questions and answers, as well as recommendations provided by stakeholders during the forum among the representatives of different sectors about efficient material use, cleaner production, state level policies, technologies, financial and economic tools, certificates, etc. Opinions were also expressed by forum participants: Ms. **Aida Iskoyan** “Environmental Law Resource Centre NGO”, Ms. **Arevik Hovsepyan** “NGO Sustainable Water Environment”, Ms. **Tamara Babayan**, R2E2 Foundation Director, Ms. **Astghine Pasoyan**, Director of Alliance to Save Energy, Mr. **Georgy Arzumanyan** Advisor, UNDP Environmental Portfolio, Mr. **Edik Grigoryan** “ARGEL” CJSC.

During the second forum, key topics and proposals for the talks are presented below (without commentary):

- *The RECP must be as accessible and understandable for SMEs.*

- *Law for the cooperatives has been adopted by the National Assembly of RA, according to which the development of organic economy must be stimulated.*
- *Issue of illegal use of resources (materials, energy and water) is one of the major concerns which we need to pay attention to and to develop mechanisms to withdraw those SMEs out of the shadow.*
- *Mechanisms must be implemented through cooperation with ISO5001.*
- *Changing the financial loans given to SMEs into green loans, eco-design, etc.*
- *Mandatory and voluntary Energy and RECP Audits, confidentiality and trust that should be created during the audit process, trade secrets, soft loans for RECP.*
- *Informing and awareness rising for organic farming. Awareness rising activities are going to be held in all the regions of RA on green economy. Mechanisms need to be created for the development of green economy and organic agriculture to promote it in Armenia and have more farmers involved in organic production.*
- *Suggestion to provide a page in a foreseen agriculture magazine for continuous demonstration of RECP Achievements, Primer introduction and domestication strategy illustration.*
- *Creation of a green educational center.*
- *Insuring synergy, to make SME believe and consider RECP as their own tool and methodology for production improvement, and competitiveness elevation.*
- *Creation of a legal background for the Primer, set up legal norms, standards, technical regulations are very important. There are many issues containing trade secrets and confidential information, but ecology may not be considered as confidential or private.*
- *There is a need to create a platform with the cooperation of technological companies in Armenia to think about innovative solutions to be offered to business companies for the development of more productive and effective business.*
- *Possibilities were discussed for co-operation with banks and finding RECP solutions for SMEs to green and improve production cycles.*
- *Flexible financial tools must be created for crediting of RECP.*
- *Setup is already done, and targets are identified.*
- *Additional privileges should be foreseen for SMEs; energy efficiency crediting precedent already exists and may be used in RECP case.*
- *Legal consultation and advice are also very important.*
- *Other suggestions and recommendations included social advertisements, rising awareness on material efficiency through newsletters, booklets, educational programs,*
- *Importance to state control for the quality of imported raw materials, canned food production, along with the control over the natural gas calorific value, legal system limitations and corruption risks.*
- *RECP implementation will create a favorable situation regardless of the political environment, legal system imperfections and corruption risks.*