



Stakeholder Forum 4

Main topic: Reduction and treatment of wastewater
Conference hall of Hrazdan municipality
19th of May 2016, Hrazdan, Kotayk Marz, Armenia

The forum was attended by: Head of Division of economic mechanisms, standards and technical regulations of environmental protection of the Ministry of Nature Protection of RA, Ms. **Lusine Avetisyan**, Hrazdan city Deputy Mayor Mr. **Gegham Tigranyan**, Head of UNIDO Operations in Armenia, Ms. **Anahit Simonyan**, UNIDO RECP Team Leader, Mr. **Tigran Oganezov**, SME representatives, Regional Government and Municipality Authorities, NGOs and International organization representatives, UNIDO RECP national experts and REC team members, more than 50 participants were present.



Presentations: UNIDO RECP Team Leader Mr. **Tigran Oganezov** mentioned the importance of “Reduction and treatment of wastewater” chapter in green economy and thus, the importance of domestication of RECP in Armenian SMEs. He gave the general description of RECP project, its objectives, progress and expected outcomes. RECP Communication & Advocacy national consultant Mr. **Tigran Sekoyan** (Presentation theme: RECP PRIMER introduction, RECP definition, the aim of RECP project, Resources, Efficiency, Clean production definitions for RECP, RECP project main Five Business Benefits, RECP Six Objectives and Environmental Profile, RECP Techniques, Eight Methods and Tools for Resource Efficiency and Clean Production, RECP Methodology, Measures proposed and implemented in RA enterprises during RECP pilot program).

UNIDO RECP Project National Facilitator Ms. **Dshkhuhi Sahakyan**. (Presentation theme: Construction of Water treatment plant in “Kashi” OJSC). Construction of treatment plant in “Kashi” OJSC created the opportunity to enter international markets and created sales opportunities for half-manufactured products and final goods. RECP Expert Mr. **Vardan Tserunyan** (Presentation theme: Example of Reduction and treatment of wastewater in Food Industry “Agricultural Association Lukashin” Consumer Cooperative Armenia, Armavir Marz, Lukashin town. RECP pilot project implemented several wastewater reduction measures in dry fruit producing “Lukashin agricultural association” cooperative company).



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 reduction and treatment of wastewater, cleaner production, state level policies, technologies, financial and economic tools, certificates, etc. Water Removal Director of Armenian Water and Sewerage Company Mr. **Sebough Berberian** answered the questions of the forum participants related to water

recycling, management, removal and sewage systems in Armenia. Chief Specialist at Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development Ms. **Hripsime Babayan**, Director of “Lukashin agricultural association” cooperative company Mr. **Vardges Davtyan**, Kotayk Marz Administration, Head of Environmental Division, Mr. **Kamo Tumanyan**, Hrazdan TPP Engineers, Ms. **Rosa Sargsyan**, other entrepreneurs and representatives of Hrazdan municipality actively participated in the discussions.

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

- *For creation of competitive product every business company operating in the market needs investment of ecologically safe methods, means and tools accepted by the world, and the RECP Primer is assisting for this objective*
- *Wastewater treatment is a rare luxury in rural areas of Armenia, and domestic wastewater is subjected to either direct disposal to water bodies or land*
- *License-to-operate was Business benefit of RECP in Kashi at the same time RECP environmental benefit was the Reduction and treatment of wastewater. Those terminology should be pronounced and used often and often to be domesticated and embedded for local SMEs*
- *Awareness campaigns and social advertisements are vital for advancement of the Primer and RECP in our country*
- *The implementation of the “Engage and learn” step in RECP domestication process in Armenia need targeted and mainstream efforts and consistent work for several years and forums are first and very successful steps for the purpose*
- *The aim of the forums is to demonstrate newly developed RECP introductory document “Primer” and discuss in what manner SMEs could benefit from RECP expertise, methods and tools application.*
- *RECP tools are necessary for every business in market economy and the methodology should be clarified to large amount of SME and that should be the “Engage and Refine” step in RECP domestication process*
- *It is very important to arrange discussions and increase the involvement of different private and public sectors in solving threatening problems*
- *Primer is an important tool in the hands of SMEs*
- *RECP Audits and Rapid assessments may be converted real business suggestions for SMEs*
- *Rising awareness on wastewater treatment through newsletters, educational open seminars have indirect influence on behavior and certain benefits*
- *In case if RECP is mainstreamed into business and production cycle it will become possible to support and achieve reduction of production and technology costs, increase of work effectiveness, possible improvement of the product quality, reduction of waste and air pollution costs*
- *SMEs need to trust the RECP project on the other hand RECP experts need to get accurate data on business performance of the particular SME to be able to make sure they offer the best solutions for the company. Already dozens of SMEs have agreed upon the cooperation considering the crucial importance of RECP audits*
- *There must be law on environmental payments for big companies, which harm surrounding areas by their performance*
- *Armenian Water and Sewerage CJSC has not built wastewater mechanical treatment plants, but they are maintaining the existing five plants. Only the half of the sewerage water is treated the rest is gone to Hrazdan River. By KfW financing a biological treatment plant is planned to be built for Lake Sevan Collector*
- *PH values should in the border of 6.5 and 9 is the limit for wastewater vented to Sewerage*
- *Laws and Norms for Clean Production and Environmental protection, as well as the sanctions and penalties are needed. Concerns about the threatening ecological problems because of the environmental impacts and ineffectively management, restriction of sanctions for those companies in Armenia.*