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**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

**Seminar on institutionalising  
Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)  
methodology for manufacturing enterprises and experts in  
Azerbaijan**

**AGENDA**

**Date:** 26 September 2023

**Time:** 10:00 - 16:30

**Venue:** Park Inn Hotel, Baku, Azerbaijan

**Language:** Azerbaijani and English (with simultaneous interpretation)

Action implemented by:



## AGENDA

**Moderator:** Mrs. Asya Chalabova, ACE Group Consultants, the National Implementation Partner of UNIDO in Azerbaijan

Time	Item
9:30 – 10:00	<b>Registration</b> (welcoming coffee)
10:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Welcoming remarks</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Umid Agazada</b> Deputy Head of Department of Cooperation with International Organizations, Ministry of Economy</p> <p><b>Mr. Faig Mutallimov (TBC)</b> Head of Department of Ecological Policy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources</p> <p><b>Mr. Elmar Isayev</b> Head of Secretariat, SMBDA</p>
10:30-10:40	<p><b>EU4Environment Action: overview of SME greening activities</b> <i>Mr. Kamran Rzayev, EU4Environment National Coordinator in Azerbaijan</i></p>
10:40– 11:15	<p><b>Introduction to RECP practices and benefits for manufacturing SMEs</b> <i>Dr. Johannes Fresner, Senior Technical Advisor, UNIDO</i></p>
11:15-11:25	<b>Questions and Answers</b>
11:25 – 11:45	<p><b>Introduction of experience from the RECP Demonstration Companies and RECP trainees under the EU4Environment programme</b> <i>Ms. Asya Chalabova, Director of ACE Group Consultants, RECP National Implementation Partner (NIP) of UNIDO in Azerbaijan</i></p> <p>(video on RECP in Azerbaijan)</p>
11:45 – 12:15	<p><b>RECP training and demonstration programme: milestones, roles, and responsibilities</b> <i>Dr. Johannes Fresner, Senior Technical Advisor, UNIDO</i></p>
12:15-12:30	<b>Questions and Answers</b>
12:30-13:30	<b>Networking Lunch</b>
13:30 – 13:55	<p><b>RECP Clubs in Baku and Ganja: lessons learned and future perspectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Mirlazim Dadashov, Education specialist, Member of Project Team of UNEC Sustainable Development and Green Economy Center</i></li> <li>- <i>Ms. Laman Hasanova, RECP Clubs Facilitator, Leading researcher, Azerbaijan Scientific-Research and Design-Prospecting Power Engineering Institute</i></li> </ul>
13:55-14:10	<p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p> <p><b>Institutional support to SMEs greening in Azerbaijan: Existing Initiatives, Requirements and Future Expectations</b></p>

14:10 – 14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SMBDA initiatives on greening SMEs: regional programs and opportunities</b></li> </ul> <p>Speaker, SMBDA (TBC)</p>
14:30 – 14:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>UNIDO experience of introducing RECP under the EU4Environment Program</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Ms. Asya Chalabova, Director of ACE Group Consultants, RECP National Implementation Partner (NIP) of UNIDO in Azerbaijan</i></p>
14:45-14:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Promoting Access to the EU Single Market for Green Products (SMGP): perspectives of introducing Product Environmental Footprint in Azerbaijan</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Mr. Yashar Karimov, UNIDO National Partner on SMGP promotion, Director of REC Caucasus Baku Office</i></p>
14:55 – 15:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Energy Efficiency in buildings. Compulsory energy audits in Azerbaijan</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Dr. Nurmammad Mammadov, PhD, associate professor at the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction</i></p>
15:25-15:40	<b>Questions and Answers</b>
15:40-16:10	<b>Moderated discussion on the institutional support to SMEs greening in Azerbaijan: focus on RECP</b> <i>Moderator: Ms. Asya Chalabova</i>
16:10-16:30	Wrapping up and closing the event <i>Dr. Johannes Fresner</i>

### Seminar objectives, expected outputs, and outcomes

The one-day seminar on institutionalising Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) aims to promote a green and circular economy through the application of the RECP methodology in Azerbaijan. Concretely, the seminar will help participants to know how to develop practical in-plant assessments for RECP (using self-assessment and external auditing by experts as a basis for new projects in the future). In particular, the key elements of the UNIDO RECP training program include:

- What RECP is
- How to assess the efficiency of production processes and identify opportunity areas
- Good RECP practices in energy efficiency, water, and material management
- RECP project development
- Business planning and RECP financing
- Review of compulsory energy audits (to be implemented in Azerbaijan)

At the end of the seminar, the team from ACE Group Consultants, together with the UNIDO experts, will determine the training needs and topics, and will provide recommendations on the institutionalisation of the RECP methodology and RECP in the next stages, focusing in particular on the SME Development Centers of SMBDA in Azerbaijan.

Hence, the main purpose of the seminar is to explore the potential support of SMBDA to ensure further institutionalisation and supply of RECP services for SMEs in Azerbaijan in the upcoming future. This will involve the training of technical experts in the UNIDO RECP methodology as a part of the EU-funded EU4Environment program. The initiative also corresponds to paragraph 1.1.3 of

the "Socio-economic development strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2022 - 2026" approved by the presidential decree No. 3378, dated July 22, 2022, to support the expansion and promotion of educational opportunities for SMEs.

This seminar will cover UNIDO's approach to reducing environmental impact of industry through measures that improve both economic and environmental aspects in enterprises. It will introduce the RECP methodology, the efficient use of resources and water based on the needs of enterprises, the application of energy efficiency and energy audits in production processes, safe management of chemicals, and waste reduction. As a result, participants will be able to understand the principles of the RECP methodology and its benefits for manufacturing enterprises and be aware of upcoming changes in the local legislation

At the same time, the training program also supports the framework established by the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Effective Use of Energy Resources and Energy Efficiency", on conducting a mandatory energy audit, conducting promotional measures on the efficient use of energy resources and energy efficiency, evaluating the efficiency potential, and applying energy management system trainings.

### **Participants**

The seminar is addressed to specialists working in environmental management, energy efficiency, engineering (chemical, industrial, environment, or related fields) and/or in manufacturing companies in Azerbaijan, as well as Government and SMBDA representatives, members of academia and industry professionals. Enterprises and experts who were involved in the implementation of RECP activities under the EU4Environment programme are also invited to participate. The tentative number of participants is 50 persons.

### **Registration**

To participate in this in-person event, please complete this online registration at least a day before the event: <https://bit.ly/3LkzyhV>

### **Background**

Currently, one of the most important approaches to improving the production and environmental activities of enterprises is the introduction of [Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production \(RECP\)](#). This approach is based on an ongoing assessment of the potential for saving resources, energy, and materials to prevent overspending, reduce emissions and discharges of pollutants into the environment, and reduce waste generation, which will, above all, contribute to reducing the economic costs of enterprises. RECP is used as an umbrella term for the application of preventive environmental strategies to achieve the triple aims of production efficiency, environmental management and human development. The RECP programme builds the national capacity, fosters dialogue between industry and government, and facilitates investments for the transfer and adaptation of Environmentally Sound Technologies. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has developed the RECP methodology, which is used by specialists of enterprises and experts in the field of environmental management to identify sources of losses from all types of resources, identify the root causes of such losses, and develop and assess the feasibility of activities aimed at reducing or completely eliminating the identified losses.

It is worth noting that, according to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Effective Use of Energy Resources and Energy Efficiency", which entered into force on July 1, 2022, regardless of the organizational-legal and ownership form (with annual energy consumption exceeding 1000 tonnes of oil equivalent) economic entities and non-residential buildings (with a construction area

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of at least 10,000 square meters or annual energy consumption of more than 250 tonnes of oil equivalent) must conduct a mandatory energy audit every three years.

Taking into account these mandatory procedures to be followed by enterprises, the RECP training programme also explains the criteria and requirements established by the legislation on mandatory energy audits for local enterprises while covering the possibilities of increasing energy efficiency. As an information database on public awareness activities related to the implementation of economically efficient energy efficiency measures is planned to be introduced in the near future, the importance of such RECP training programme for manufacturing enterprises is increasing. In order to further promote RECP and ensure awareness and the compliance of the local enterprises with the required legislation, the SMBDA support is critical in institutionalising RECP for manufacturing enterprises building on the capacities established under the EU4Environment Action.

#### **About the EU4Environment Action**

The “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment – Green Economy) Action helps the Eastern Partnership 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. It is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations - OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO, and the World Bank – over the 2019-2024 period, with a budget of EUR 20 million. For more information about the Action, please visit: [www.eu4environment.org](http://www.eu4environment.org)

For more information about RECP in Azerbaijan, please visit: <https://recp.aceconsultants.az/en>