



**CLEEN**  
Civil society Local Energy Efficiency Network

## **CLEEN: Making local grassroots organisations stronger by working on energy efficiency**

### **WECF and partners organise regional network meeting and workshop in Georgia and Armenia**

The coming week WECF will organise with Georgian and Armenian partners a regional network meeting of grassroots organisations from 4 countries, working jointly on energy efficiency and climate change awareness. Only a few days later WECF and Armenian partners Ayrudzy and Tapan will organise a workshop on Energy Cooperatives.

Both events are organised as there is a strong need to establish a cooperation between local grassroots organisations to give them a stronger voice and to make them heard by local and regional politicians and policy makers.

**The network meeting**, which will take place September 19-21 in Bakuriani, Georgia, is organised by Georgian partners 'Students for Energy Efficiency' and by 'Society Development Centre of Akhaltsikhe'

**The workshop on Energy Cooperatives** will take place from September 26-28 in Ashtarak, Armenia. General objective of the workshop is to develop alternative and gender-sensitive business models for renewable energy and energy efficiency and to consider whether and how these forms in Armenia are feasible and useful, also with regard to current legal and economic conditions.

Aim of both meetings is to stimulate citizen's participation in decentralized energy production in the EECCA countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia).



*Interview with villagers for a baseline survey for the CLEEN Project*

The workshop meeting will emphasize the importance of Energy Cooperatives for a country like Armenia. Energy cooperatives not only create local jobs but can lead to increasing incomes for both women and men in the villages, while at the same time it diminishes carbon emissions and environmental pollution. An important added value of the switch to locally produced sustainable energy is the reduction of economic vulnerability, due to the fact that energy doesn't need to be imported from elsewhere anymore.

“Energy Efficiency measures and working on sustainable energy is of utmost importance in many of the EECCA countries who mainly depend on Russian gas” states **Olga Plekhanova, energy coordinator** at WECF.

**Anna Samwel, head of WECF branch office Georgia**, states: “We see grassroots organisations grow strong, self-confident and more professional with the CLEEN programme, working with the local governance and making a real difference in their communities. “

The meetings are seen as a next step within the CLEEN program. “Last year the grassroots organisations were trained on organisational development, now we'd like to take it a step further by supporting them in cooperating with each other, by establishing a strong network, to exchange experiences and share expertise and best practice” states Olga Plekhanova, CLEEN project leader.

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*CLEEN (Civil society Local Energy Efficient Network) is a 3-year EU project with the aim to build a partnership of civil society organizations (CSOs), as well as to strengthen CSO's capacities in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The project focuses on energy efficiency and cost savings, and increased accountability of local and national authorities on this issue. WECF coordinates this project, and provide technical expertise. The project is funded by the European Union, Auswärtiges Amt, GLS Bank and the RAJA foundation.*



[www.cleenet.org](http://www.cleenet.org)

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