

Economic Cooperation Organization Clean Energy Centre



CECECO

Activity Report

January-March

2026

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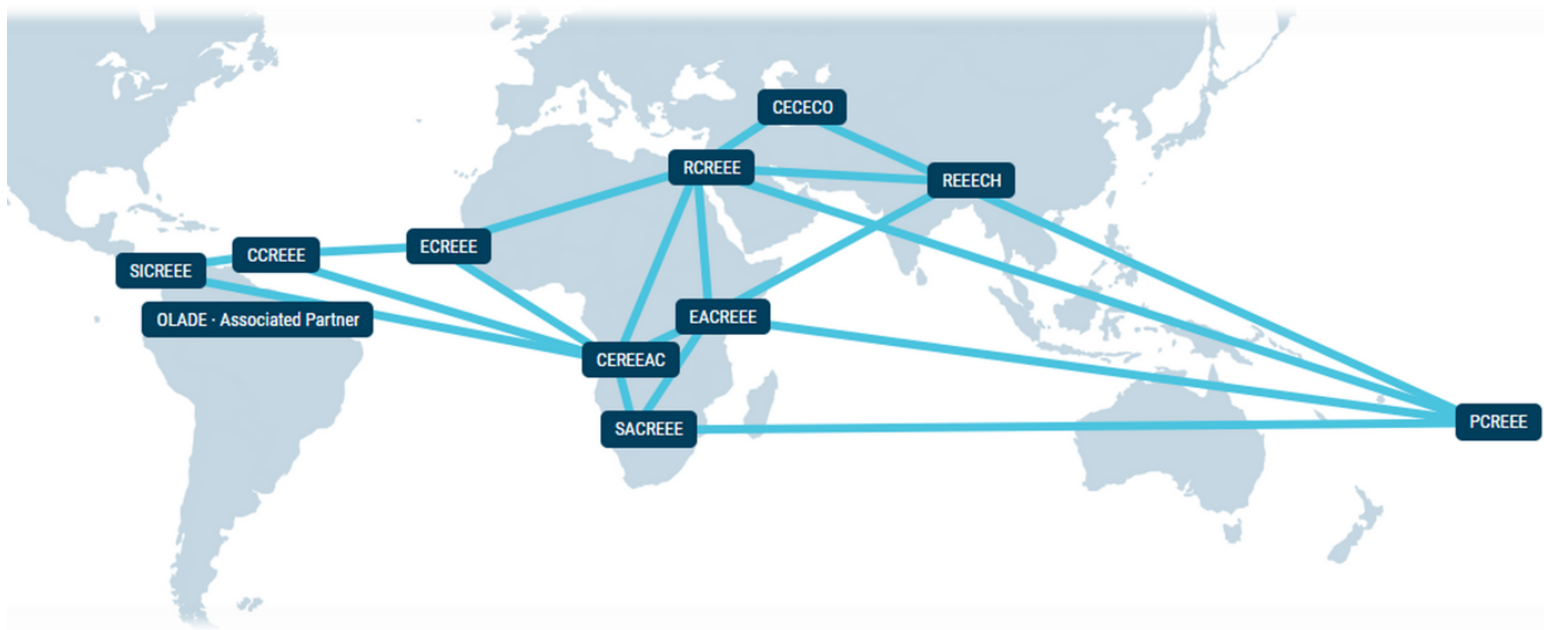
Executive Summary

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Executive Summary



Between January and March 2026, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) reinforced its role as the regional platform for sustainable energy cooperation across signatory states. The Centre advanced initiatives in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and emerging clean energy technologies through strategic partnerships, high-level engagements, and targeted regional activities.

During this period, CECECO actively engaged with national authorities, international organizations, and development partners, participating in regional and global forums, formalizing collaboration through Memorandums of Understanding with Baku State University and Brussels Energy Club ASBL, and advancing flagship initiatives such as the CECECO Clean Energy Hackathon and the Regional Clean Energy Compendium. These efforts strengthened stakeholder engagement, facilitated knowledge exchange, and promoted dialogue on clean energy policies and best practices across the ECO region.

CECECO also expanded its network, through CECECO signatory states, international organizations, such as IRENA, UN-Habitat, UNECE, Global Green Growth Institute, EU, regional organizations, like Hydrogen Europe, Solar Europe, and multi development banks. These engagements focused on regional energy priorities, capacity building, sustainable project support, and the exchange of technical expertise to advance the clean energy transition.

Looking forward, CECECO will continue to consolidate regional coordination, support collaboration, and promote innovation in clean energy initiatives, thereby contributing to a more sustainable, energy-efficient, and interconnected ECO region.

Meetings with the Officials of Signatory States

The Republic of Azerbaijan

Meeting with Mr. Hikmet Hajiyeu

During the meeting with Mr. Hikmet Hajiyeu, Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, CECECO's activities and upcoming projects were presented. Discussions focused on the Centre's mission to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as its cooperation with national and international stakeholders.



Meeting with Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev

A bilateral meeting was held with Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to exchange views on climate change, clean energy, and regional cooperation. Priority areas and potential directions for cooperation were analyzed.

Meeting with Mr. Elmar Mammadov

A bilateral meeting was held with Mr. Elmar Mammadov, who at the time held the position of Director of the Economic Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The discussions addressed regional priorities, upcoming regional and international events, and collaboration on mutually interesting areas.

The Republic of Kazakhstan

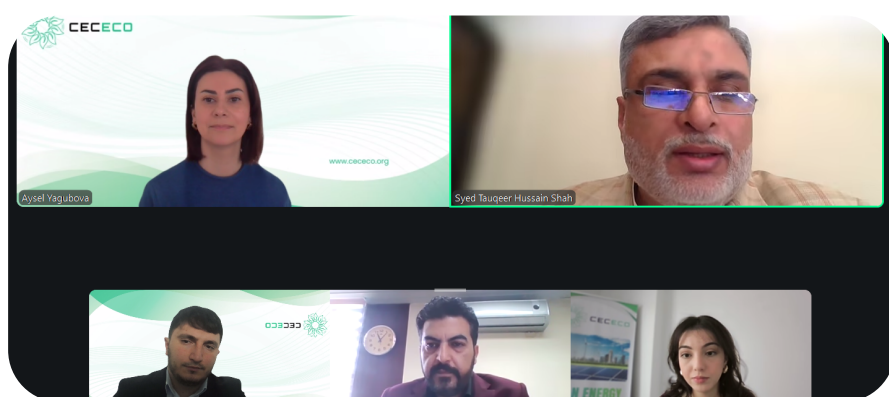
Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director, held a meeting with H.E. Alim Bayel, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Azerbaijan, to discuss CECECO's role in advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region, as well as Kazakhstan's priorities in these areas.



Meetings with the Officials of Signatory States

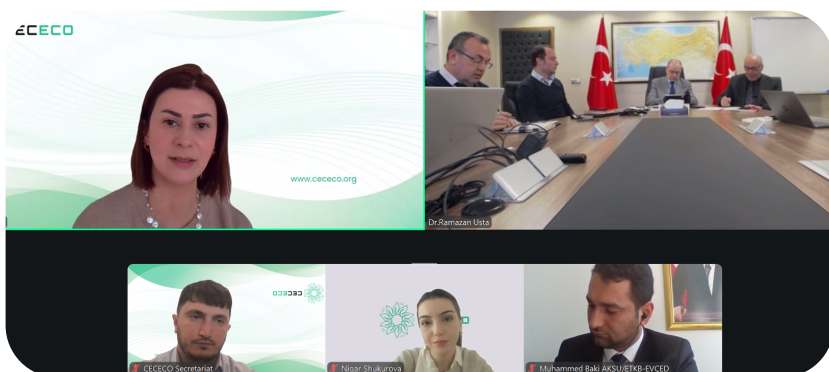
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

- Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director, held a meeting with H.E. Qasim Mohiuddin, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of Azerbaijan to discuss CECECO's mission in promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives, as well as strengthening regional capacities for sustainable development.
- CECECO team met with Mr. Syed Tauqeer Hussain, Joint Secretary (Development), Power Division and Member of Pakistan's Executive Board, and Mr. Sheeraz Anwar Khan, Director General (Solar), PPIB and Member of Pakistan's Technical Committee. The discussion focused on regional energy priorities, renewable and solar energy development, energy efficiency, and opportunities for technical and policy collaboration.



The Republic of Türkiye

- Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director, held a meeting with H.E. Birol Akgün, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the Republic of Azerbaijan, to discuss regional energy priorities, renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives, and opportunities for enhanced cooperation between Türkiye and CECECO signatory states.
- CECECO team met with Executive Board and Technical Committee members from the Republic of Türkiye, including Mr. Mustafa Çalışkan, Head of Energy Affairs Department; Dr. Ramazan Usta, Deputy Director General of Energy Affairs; and Mr. Muhammad Baki. The discussion focused on regional energy priorities, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and opportunities for technical and policy collaboration to support sustainable energy initiatives across CECECO signatory states.



Collaborative Engagements and Institutional Coordination

The Republic of Korea

At the meeting with H.E. Kang Kymgu, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of Azerbaijan the parties exchanged views on potential areas of collaboration and agreed to explore opportunities to strengthen cooperation through government institutions, relevant authorities, and international organizations in advancing clean energy initiatives.



The Republic of Austria



Bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr Thomas Schuller-Götzburg, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria, focused on the renewable energy potential of the region and CECECO's mission. The discussion also explored collaboration with relevant Austrian institutions.

Economic Cooperation Organization

Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, ECO Director for Energy, Minerals, and Environment, visited the CECECO office. He got acquainted with the Office and interacted with the CECECO team. Mr. Farzalibeyov was briefed on current projects and upcoming plans of the Center.



European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan

At the meeting with H.E. Ms. Marijana Kujundžić, Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan CECECO's current and planned activities were presented and CECECO-EU cooperation opportunities were explored.

UNIDO Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres

CECECO continued regular discussions with the UNIDO Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) colleagues. These meetings served as a platform to exchange information on CECECO's recent activities and to present preliminary plans for short- and long-term projects. Meetings in February-March mostly focused on preparations for the upcoming UNIDO Hydrogen Conference, International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum and GN-SEC Steering Committee meeting to be held in April in Vienna and Graz, Austria.

Collaborative Engagements and Institutional Coordination

The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States



Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director, held a meeting with Ambassador Ramil Hasan, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA), to discuss potential avenues for collaboration. The discussion covered CECECO's mandate and activities in promoting energy efficiency, clean energy transition, and regional cooperation. They also exchanged views on supporting legislative frameworks in the energy sector, including potential cooperation on Model Laws related to clean energy and energy efficiency.

BP Azerbaijan

Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director held a meeting with Mr. Bakhtiyar Aslanbayli, Vice President for the Caspian Region at BP Azerbaijan, to discuss potential collaboration supporting capacity building, knowledge exchange, and initiatives in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable energy development. The discussion also covered CECECO's institutional role in Azerbaijan's energy transition, opportunities for training and workshops, policy dialogue, and public awareness activities aimed at fostering local expertise and innovation in emerging energy sectors.



Europe-Uzbekistan Association for Economic Cooperation

CECECO representatives held an online meeting with the Europe-Uzbekistan Association for Economic Cooperation, represented by Mr. Atabek Alimdjanov, Secretary General of EUROUZ, to explore avenues for future engagement and exchange perspectives on shared priorities. The discussion focused on identifying potential joint activities and strengthening cooperation in support of sustainable development goals in the region.

Collaborative Engagements and Institutional Coordination

Team Lead for "Azerbaijan National Hydrogen Strategy Implementation Plan" project

The meeting held with Ms. Ilka Lewington, Team Lead for "Azerbaijan National Hydrogen Strategy Implementation Plan" project funded by EBRD and Ms Rana Humbatova, deputy director of the Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency (AREA) focused on cooperation opportunities within the Azerbaijan National Hydrogen Strategic Outlook. Taking into account CECECO's role identified as one of enablers in the document discussion explored next steps of the development of the Strategy.

Islamic Development Bank Office

Meeting with Ms. Lala Yusifova, Head of IsDB Azerbaijan office, focused on possible support from IsDB to CECECO's projects, particularly through the technical cooperation programme and reverse linkage mechanism. CECECO Clean Energy Hackathon, renewable energy legislation compendium were identified as projects of particular interest.

UN Habitat Country Office

The upcoming 13th session of the World Urban Forum to be held in Baku, and CECECO's participation in the session were thoroughly discussed in the meeting with Ms. Anna Soave, UN Habitat Country Office Director in Azerbaijan. The parties elaborated on the CECECO's planned projects aimed at supporting sustainable and energy-efficient development in the ECO region, opportunities for collaboration on energy efficiency in buildings and smart city projects.

Global Green Growth Institute

Meeting with Mr. Jaeseung Lee, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and Mr. Bahtiyor Rajabov, Senior Officer, Green Growth Policy and Government Liaison explored synergies and opportunities for future cooperation on clean energy development across the region.

UNECE and SPECA Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Meeting with the Energy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), represented by Mr. Dario Liguti, Director of the Energy, Housing and Land Management Division; Ms. Denise Marie Mulholland, Chief of the Energy Systems Section; as well as Ms. Kamala Huseynli, Head of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Multi-Partner Trust Fund, focused on regional priorities, areas of mutual interest, and opportunities to advance sustainable energy initiatives across the ECO region.

Visits and Bilateral Engagements

Abu Dhabi, UAE – 11–12 January 2026

16th session of International Renewable Energy Agency

CECECO representatives attended the 16th session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), under the theme “Powering Humanity: Renewable Energy for Shared Prosperity.” Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director, delivered a statement highlighting CECECO’s commitment to sustainable energy solutions, energy efficiency, and regional cooperation across the ECO region.

The session brought together global leaders and energy decision-makers to discuss emerging trends and challenges, including renewable energy integration, energy security, and policy measures for a cost-effective energy transition. It also provided an opportunity for CECECO to engage with international partners, exchange experiences, and explore potential collaboration in clean energy initiatives.



Meeting with Turkish Wind Energy Association

On the sidelines of the 16th session of IRENA, Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director, met with Mr. Ibrahim Erden, Chairman of the Turkish Wind Energy Association (TÜREB). The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on renewable energy, regional cooperation, and possible areas for collaboration, including facilitating the sharing of Türkiye’s experience with other CECECO signatory states.



Visits and Bilateral Engagements

Bilateral Meetings with IRENA Leadership

During the meeting with Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), areas for coordination and collaboration between CECECO and IRENA were explored. Discussions with Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Director, Country Engagement and Partnerships at IRENA, and Mr. Zafar Samadov, Head of Partnerships at IRENA, focused on knowledge exchange, capacity building, and joint initiatives to advance renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency, and sustainable energy practices across ECO member states.



Bilateral Meetings with the representatives of CECECO signatory states

During the Abu Dhabi visit, bilateral meetings were also held with the representatives of CECECO signatory states, including Mr. Ilyas Bakytzhan, Vice Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ms. Rana Humbatova, Deputy Director of Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency, and Ms. Halime Semerci-Kushchu, Head of Department at the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Türkiye. The discussions focused on CECECO's current and planned activities.

Visits and Bilateral Engagements

Brussels, Belgium – 15–18 March 2026

UNIDO Brussels Office

Meeting with Mr. Christophe Yvetot, Head of the UNIDO Representation to the European Union, focused on CECECO's mandate, advancing clean energy cooperation, and low-carbon industrial development across the ECO region.



Energy Charter Secretariat

CECECO's mandate, its role in promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region, and current initiatives were presented at the meeting with Ms. Atsuko Hirose, Acting Secretary-General of the Energy Charter Secretariat. Potential avenues for collaboration in energy governance and sustainable development were also explored.

SolarPower Europe

CECECO's role in promoting solar energy in the ECO region, strengthening research, innovation, capacity building, and links with European expertise were broadly discussed at the meeting with representatives of SolarPower Europe.



Hydrogen Europe

CECECO held discussions with Mr. Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, CEO of Hydrogen Europe, focusing on the potential of hydrogen technologies and policy developments across the ECO region. The dialogue explored possible areas for collaboration between Hydrogen Europe and CECECO to advance clean energy solutions, promote regional knowledge exchange, and support emerging hydrogen initiatives.

Visits and Bilateral Engagements

Roundtable on Clean Energy in the Greater Caspian Region



The roundtable, jointly organized by the European Institute of Asian Studies (EIAS) and CECECO, gathered think tanks, academic institutions, energy experts, and NGOs from the region. The session provided a platform to exchange insights, share best practices, and explore collaboration opportunities in clean energy. CECECO presented its mission and ongoing initiatives, highlighting the Center's role in promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and emerging technologies in ECO member states. Discussions addressed regional renewable energy market development, stakeholder involvement, and strategies to enhance cross-border cooperation.

Briefing for the diplomats of CECECO signatory states



An event hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Belgium brought together diplomatic missions of CECECO's signatory countries, including Ambassador Vaqif Sadıqov (Azerbaijan), Ambassador Gayrat Fazilov (Uzbekistan), Ambassador Aidit Erkin (Kyrgyzstan), Counsellor Özgür Çakar (Türkiye), Counsellor Daniyar Seidaliev (Kazakhstan), and Second Secretary Hadeeqa Qureshi (Pakistan). Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director, briefed participants on the Centre's mandate, ongoing and planned activities to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

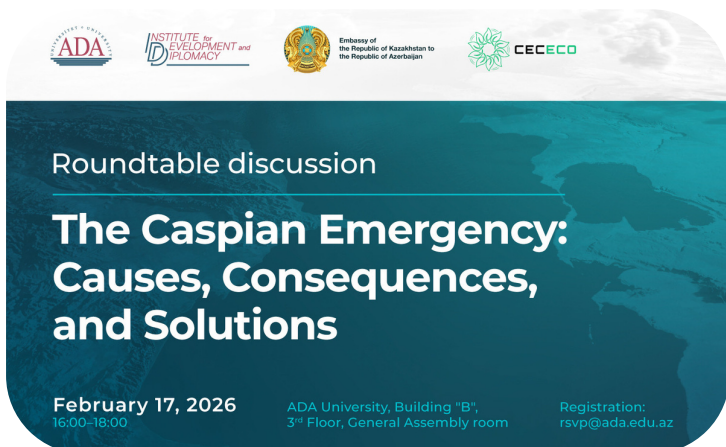
Conferences & Events Co-Organized by CECECO

High-Level Roundtable on Clean Energy



In the lead-up to the International Day of Clean Energy, CECECO, in partnership with the Committee on Natural Resources, Energy and Ecology of the Parliament of Azerbaijan (Milli Majlis) and ADA University, organized a high-level roundtable discussion. The event convened policymakers, academic representatives, industry leaders, international organizations, and youth innovators to explore strategies for accelerating the clean energy transition across the region.

The Caspian Emergency: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions



CECECO, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Azerbaijan and ADA University, co-organised a roundtable discussion titled “Caspian Emergency: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions.” The event brought together government representatives, experts, and academia to exchange views on the ongoing issues facing the Caspian Sea. Discussions focused on environmental challenges such as declining water levels, pollution, and depletion of biological resources, as well as their economic and regional implications, including energy security and sustainable resource management. Participants also emphasized the need for coordinated regional action and strengthened cooperation among Caspian littoral states and relevant stakeholders.

Events & Engagements

12th Southern Gas Corridor & 4th Green Energy Advisory Council Meetings



On March 3, CECECO participated alongside representatives from 27 countries and over 60 institutions and companies at the 12th Southern Gas Corridor & 4th Green Energy Advisory Council Meetings held in Baku, Azerbaijan. Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director, delivered remarks at the Green Energy Projects session, emphasizing the advancement of green energy development and the strengthening of regional collaboration in sustainable energy solutions.

NAM Youth Week Panel Discussion

Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director participated in the panel discussion titled “From Commitment to Action: Sustainability Across Civil Society, Industry, and Business” organized by the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization within the NAM Youth Week in Baku. The session highlighted the role of youth, industry, and civil society in driving sustainable development.



SDG7 Roadmap Workshop – Baku, Azerbaijan



CECECO was represented in the workshop jointly organized by the Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency (AREA) under the Ministry of Energy and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to support the development of Azerbaijan’s SDG7 Roadmap. The event presented preliminary results and key findings of the NEXSTEP analysis, providing stakeholders with the opportunity to offer feedback. CECECO contributed insights on presented scenarios, which will be incorporated to strengthen the overall Roadmap development process.

Memorandum of Understanding with Baku State University

CECECO and Baku State University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to advance collaboration in science, education, clean energy, sustainable development, and capacity building. The partnership establishes a framework for knowledge exchange, joint initiatives, and youth engagement, supporting regional clean energy solutions. Baku State University as Azerbaijan's first university founded in 1919, plays a central role in higher education development and contributes not only nationwide, but also to a broader region's education, research and development base.



Memorandum of Understanding with Brussels Energy Club ASBL

CECECO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Brussels Energy Club ASBL to establish a framework for cooperation in the fields of clean energy and sustainable development. The Memorandum aims to develop collaboration through joint initiatives, knowledge exchange, and research on renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency, and innovation, while enhancing regional and international cooperation.



CECECO Clean Energy Hackathon 2026



As part of its activities aimed at raising awareness on clean energy in the region, CECECO organized the Clean Energy Hackathon. The initiative aimed to encourage the youth from Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan to develop and present innovative solutions in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainability. Official information packages were shared with the Ministries of Energy and Foreign Affairs of CECECO signatory states to ensure national-level awareness about the Hackathon, while ADA University supported outreach through its institutional networks. A total of 207 applications were received, from a diverse group of participants, with the youngest aged 15 from the Kyrgyz Republic. Proposals were evaluated by an international expert jury including representatives from CECECO and UNIDO.

The Award Ceremony took place on 23 January 2026 at ADA University, celebrating the top projects:

- 1st Place: “EcoSense” – Uzbekistan
- 2nd Place: “Clean Axis” – Azerbaijan
- 3rd Place: “Sol-Scout Pro” – Kazakhstan

Special recognition awards were presented for technical excellence, energy efficiency solutions, and digital tools for policy analysis.

The Hackathon highlighted youth-driven innovation and regional collaboration as key drivers for accelerating sustainable energy solutions across the ECO region.

Regional Clean Energy Compendium

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Regional Clean Energy Compendium aims to establish a centralized repository of national laws, regulations, and policy frameworks related to renewable energy and energy efficiency across ECO Member States. The Compendium will compile legal and regulatory documents creating a structured and accessible knowledge platform for policymakers, investors, financial institutions, and other stakeholders.

Specific Objectives

- Collect and consolidate legal and regulatory documents in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency from all ECO Member States.
- Promote knowledge sharing and dissemination of best practices.
- Facilitate investment and project development through accessible legal information.

Scope

The Compendium will include:

- Primary Legislation: Renewable energy and energy efficiency laws.
- Secondary Legislation / Implementing Regulations: Ministerial or governmental regulations supporting law implementation.
- Government or Ministerial Decisions: Decisions relevant to clean energy projects and policies.

Project Phases



Project Initiation

- Send official requests to member states
- Identify national focal points



Data Collection & Translation

- Collect national laws, regulations, and policy documents from ECO Member States
- Translate documents into English (if needed) and organize them
- Prepare brief summaries of the collected laws and regulations
- Coordinate with national focal points to ensure completeness



Compendium Drafting

- Legal verification and classification of documents
- Creation of structured legal database
- Draft country chapters and regional overview



Finalization & Publication

- Final review and editing
- Graphic design and layout
- Publication and dissemination



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