

# Economic Cooperation Organization Clean Energy Centre



**CECECO**

## **Activity Report** **September–December** **2025**

**WWW.CECECO.ORG**

**Overview**

**Institutional Setup & Governance**

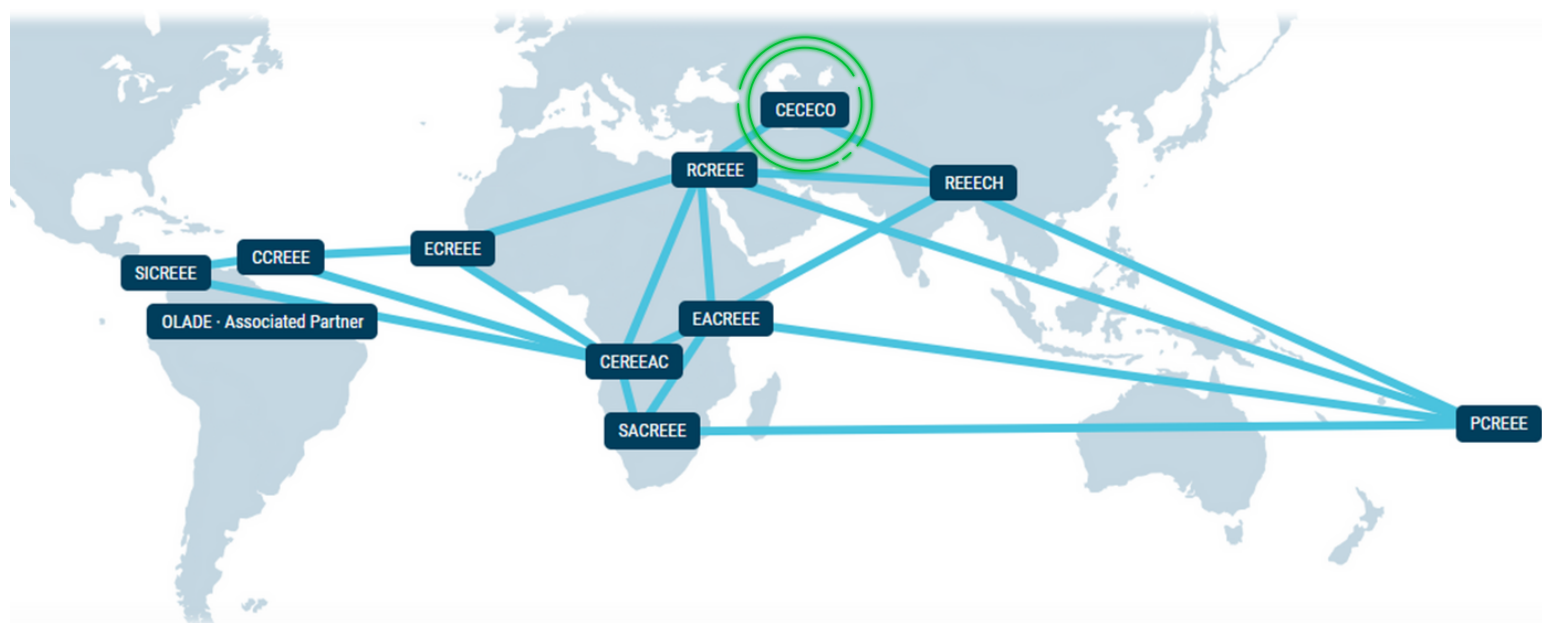
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# Overview

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) is established as the regional hub for clean energy cooperation across ECO member states, with its headquarters located in Baku, Azerbaijan. As a part of UNIDO's Global Network of Regional Sustainable Regional Energy Centres (GN-SEC), CECECO is a platform for South-South and triangular cooperation.



The Centre's mission is to promote Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) initiatives, contribute to inclusive economic growth, strengthen regional capacities for sustainable energy, and facilitate research, innovation, and knowledge exchange in RE and EE. CECECO also aims to foster youth engagement, and encourage regional collaboration to accelerate the clean energy transition.

CECECO Charter provides the Centre with legal personality as an ECO Regional Centre. As a newly established regional platform, CECECO is tasked with coordinating joint initiatives, mobilizing technical and financial resources, and supporting member states in implementing sustainable energy projects, while serving as a forum for sharing best practices and fostering partnerships across the region.

# Institutional Setup & Governance



The governance structure of CECECO is composed of the Board of Governors, the Executive Board, the Technical Committee, and the Secretariat.

The Board of Governors, as the principal policy-making body consists of the Ministers of Energy or officials of the same rank from the Member States, the ECO Secretary General and the Executive Director of the Center.

The Executive Board oversees work programs, budgets, and project approvals, ensuring that all activities align with CECECO's objectives.

The Technical Committee provides technical guidance, monitors project progress, and reviews operational performance.

The Secretariat, headed by the Executive Director carries out the general policies and decisions of the Board of Governors and the Executive Board, and prepares and implements the approved programmes of the Center, manages day-to-day operations and ensures coordination across all CECECO activities.



## Establishment & Operational Setup (September – December 2025)

### 1 Establishment & Operational Setup

During the reporting period, CECECO Secretariat focused on laying the foundations for its operational activities. The headquarters in Baku, Azerbaijan, was fully set up, including identification and furnishing of the office space, installation of IT infrastructure, and establishment of communication systems supported by financial and in-cash contribution of the Government of Azerbaijan.

### 2 Recruitment & Staffing

Key positions for the Secretariat were filled, comprising the Executive Director, technical staff, and administrative personnel, ensuring the Centre was adequately staffed to commence its work.

### 3 Procurement of Essential Resources

Essential resources, such as office equipment, IT tools, and communication systems, were procured to support daily operations.

### 4 Institutional Onboarding & Training

Institutional onboarding was conducted, providing staff with training on CECECO's objectives, the Charter, Rules of Procedure and operational procedures.

### 5 Internal Operational Frameworks

Internal operational frameworks were established to manage day-to-day activities effectively, covering financial management, human resources, and project tracking systems.



# Key Milestones

## First Meeting of the Board of Governors – 9 September 2025



The first meeting of the Board of Governors under Azerbaijan's Chairmanship was held in virtual mode, bringing together representatives from signatory states - Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, ECO Secretariat and CECECO.



Key outcomes of the meeting included the adoption of the Rules of Procedure and the appointment of Ms. Aysel Yagubova as the Executive Director, providing leadership for the Centre's activities and guiding its operational planning. The Board also discussed strategic priorities and operational modalities to ensure effective coordination among member states.



# Key Milestones

## Host Country Agreement Signing – 2 December 2025

On 2 December 2025, the Host Country Agreement (HCA) between the Government of Azerbaijan and CECECO was signed. HCA was signed by H.E. Mr.Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Ms.Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director. This agreement formally established the legal and operational framework for the Centre's activities in Azerbaijan, confirming its status as an ECO Regional Centre with full legal personality.



## Activity

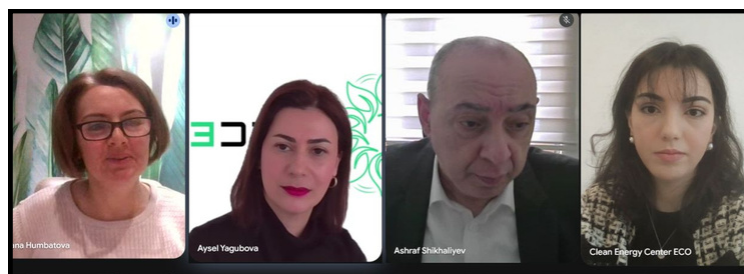
## Meetings with officials of signatory states

CECECO engaged with key national stakeholders to explore future collaboration opportunities and to identify areas of partnership, sharing expertise, and aligning efforts to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. These meetings help defining CECECO's initial work program, ensuring that the Centre's activities complement national energy priorities and contribute effectively to regional sustainable energy development.



## Republic of Azerbaijan

- H.E. Mr. Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy
- H.E. Mr. Hafiz Pashayev, Rector of ADA University
- Ms. Rana Humbatova, Deputy Director of Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency
- Mr. Ashraf Shikhaliyev, Director for International Cooperation, Ministry of Energy



# Activity

## Meetings with officials of signatory states



### Kyrgyz Republic

- H.E. Mr. Taalaibek Omukeyevich Ibraev, Minister of Energy
- H.E. Maksat Mamytkanov, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Republic of Azerbaijan

### Republic of Uzbekistan

H.E. Bahrom Ashrafkhanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Azerbaijan



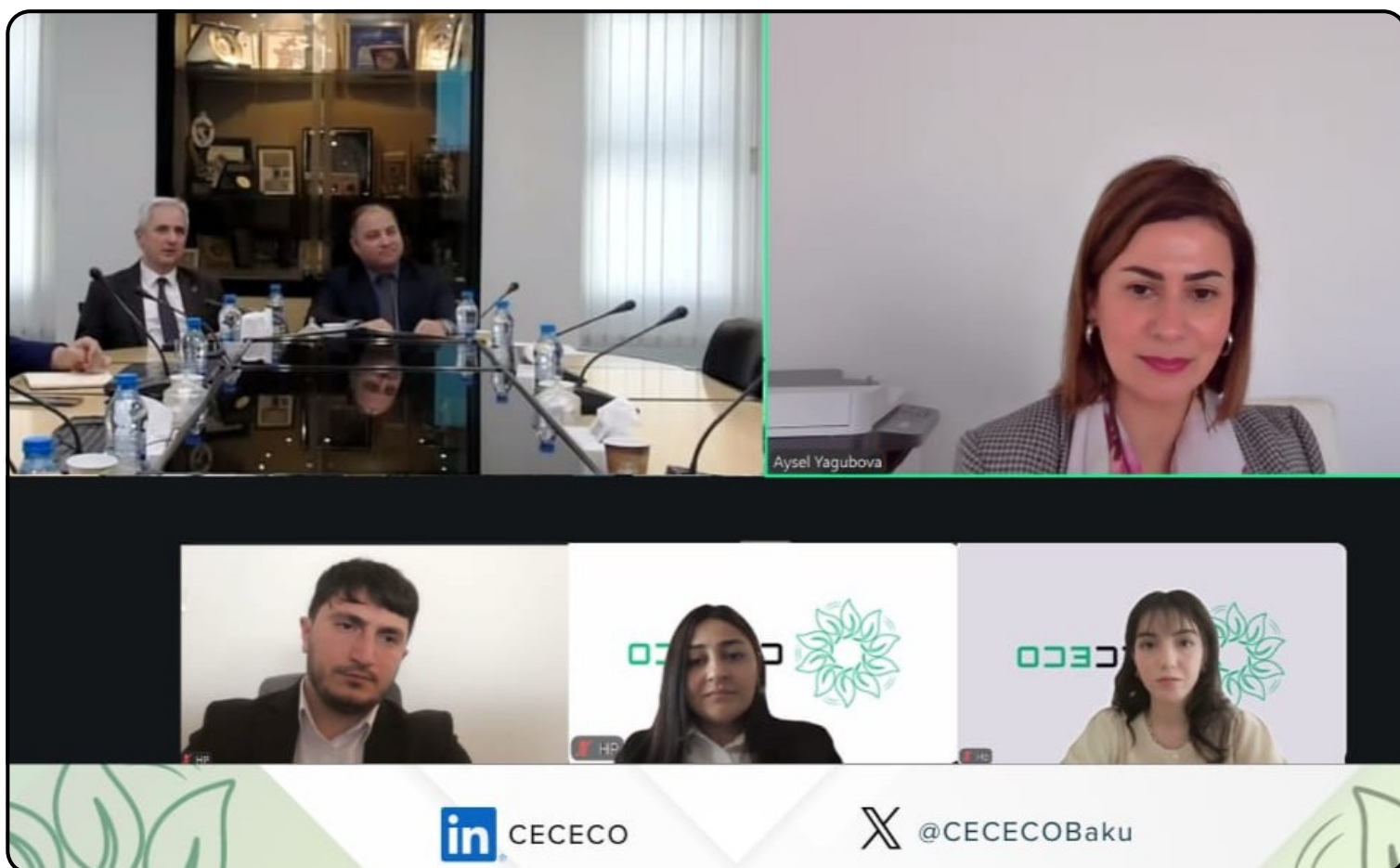
## Institutional Coordination and Strategic Engagements

## Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)



During the reporting period, CECECO maintained close coordination with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). A series of meetings were held to follow up on decisions taken during the inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors and to discuss the Centre's initial operational progress.

These exchanges provided an opportunity to brief ECO Secretariat on the establishment, early operational arrangements, and planned activities of the Centre.



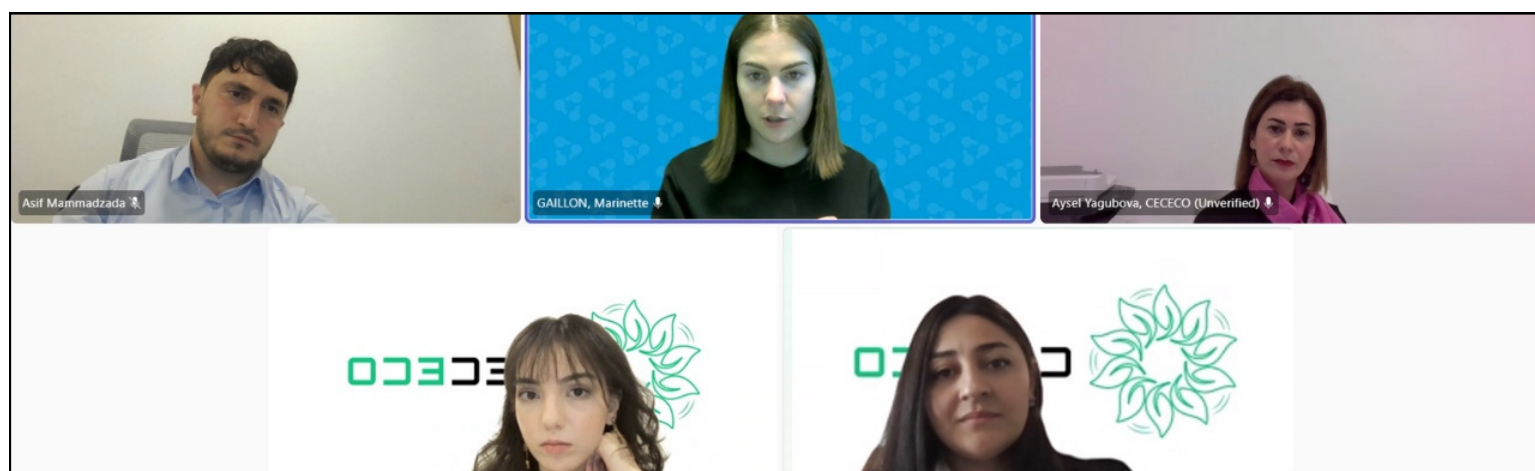
Discussions also focused on CECECO's mandate, its role within the ECO institutional architecture, and areas where the Centre could add value to ongoing and future ECO energy-related initiatives. Coordination with ECO further supported alignment with upcoming ECO events and priorities, contributing to coherence between CECECO's work and broader regional objectives.

## Institutional Coordination and Strategic Engagements

### UNIDO Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC)



In parallel, CECECO engaged in regular discussions with the UNIDO Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), of which the Centre is a member. 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.



The discussions aimed at aligning CECECO's operational approaches with those of peer regional centres, sharing experiences and good practices, and identifying opportunities for collaboration within the GN-SEC framework. The engagement also contributed to assessing the Centre's technical and operational needs and reviewing ongoing initiatives from a regional and global perspective.

### UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



CECECO held a substantive meeting with UNESCAP representatives to explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation, with a particular focus on capacity-building projects and the establishment of regional knowledge hubs. These initiatives aim to support countries across the region in advancing sustainable energy transitions and in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).

Overall, the meeting underscored UNESCAP's comprehensive approach to sustainable energy planning, policy development, and technology deployment across the region, and identified concrete areas for potential collaboration with CECECO.

# Conferences & Regional Engagements

## Baku Climate Action Week 2025 (30 September-2 October 2025, Baku, Azerbaijan)



CECECO was represented at the Baku Climate Action Week 2025. Executive Director presented on the mission and objectives of the newly established Centre, as well as shared CECECO's perspective on green transition and the regional cooperation. At the Youth-Led Climate Forum the importance of youth engagement, inclusivity, and clean energy for sustainable urban development was particularly highlighted by the Executive Director.

## Kazakhstan Energy Week (2 October 2025, Astana, Kazakhstan)



Executive Director participated at the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Ministerial Roundtable on "Accelerating Partnership for Renewable Energy in Central Asia". During the implementation session, Ms. Yagubova joined EBRD and national grid stakeholders to explore international partnerships and improved access to climate finance (green bonds, carbon markets, etc.), emphasizing the key role of public-private partnerships and insights from UNIDO GN-SEC.

## Conferences & Regional Engagements



### Conference on "The Role of Universities in Green Energy and Sustainability" (2-3 December 2025, Baku, Azerbaijan)

Executive Director was invited as a speaker on the panel "Green Transitions in Asia". She shared insights on the ECO region's renewable energy landscape, opportunities and challenges, and highlighted the role of regional platforms, like CECECO, in accelerating sustainable energy cooperation.



### 5th Meeting of Ministers in Charge of Energy of the OTS (10 December 2025, Istanbul, Türkiye)



ECO's observer status at the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) provided for the CECECO representatives to attend the 5th Meeting of Ministers in Charge of Energy of the OTS. Executive Director had a meeting with H.E.Kubanychbek Omuraliev, the Secretary General and Mr.Omer Kocaman, Deputy Secretary General of the OTS and discussed potential cooperation between two organizations. Current status of the work, and upcoming CECECO plans were brought to the attention of CECECO signatory states delegations attending the meeting.

# Initiatives & Projects

## CECECO Clean Energy Hackathon 2026

The CECECO Clean Energy Hackathon 2026 is a regional competition engaging youth from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan to develop digital and data-driven solutions promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainability. It aims to raise awareness of clean energy and empower youth to address real-world energy challenges.

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



On the Occasion of International Clean Energy Day

## CLEAN ENERGY HACKATHON

MORE INFO:



Submission deadline: December 30, 2025



secretariat@cec-eco.net



CECECOBaku



CECECO

Participants, aged 16–35, include students, recent graduates, and young professionals in energy, environment, IT/AI, or entrepreneurship, with strong encouragement for women's participation.

Proposals are submitted online under the themes of Digital Awareness & Behavioural Change or Data for Policy, Planning & Implementation. Winners will be invited to the Award Ceremony in Baku on 26 January 2026, organized in celebration of the International Day of Clean Energy. The Hackathon is part of CECECO's broader efforts to foster youth engagement, innovation, and regional clean energy cooperation.

## Public Awareness & Campaigns

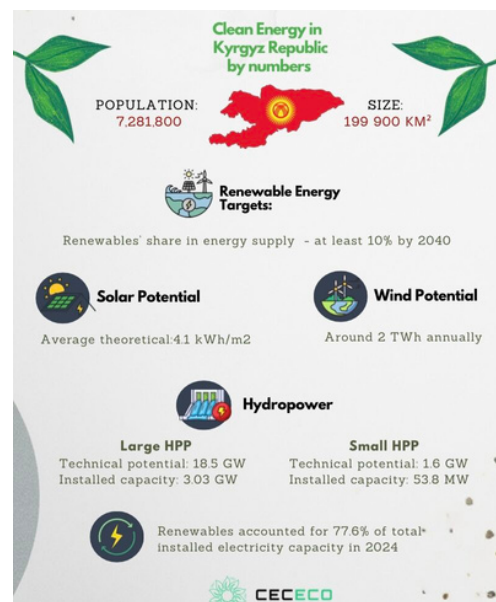
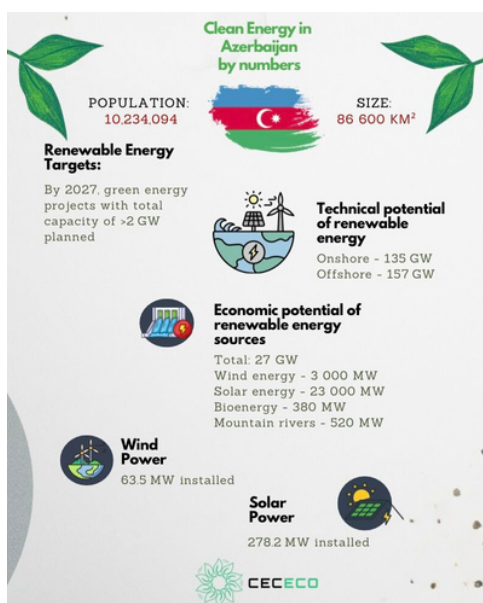
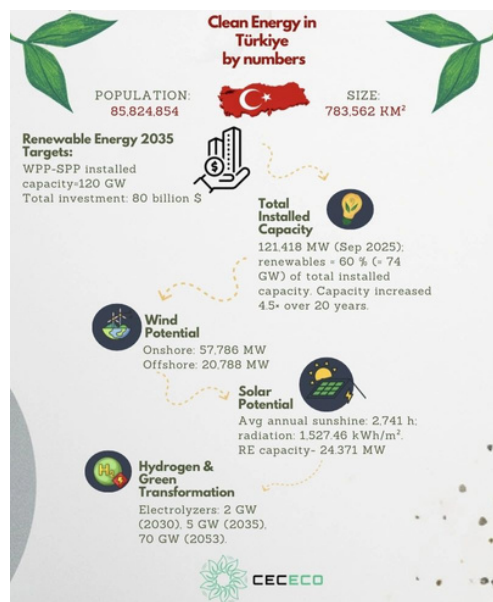
### #SwitchoffandWin

CECECO supported #SwitchoffandWin (#SöndürvəQazan) campaign of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Centre introduced an animated video emphasizing simple, everyday actions everyone can take to reduce energy consumption. The campaign encourages individuals to share their own experiences with energy-efficient practices, fostering community participation and raising awareness about sustainable energy use. This initiative complements CECECO's broader youth engagement and regional cooperation efforts, reinforcing the Centre's commitment to promoting energy efficiency across the ECO region.

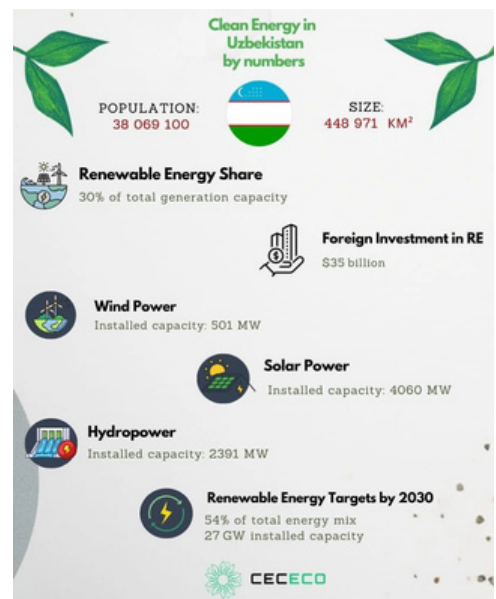
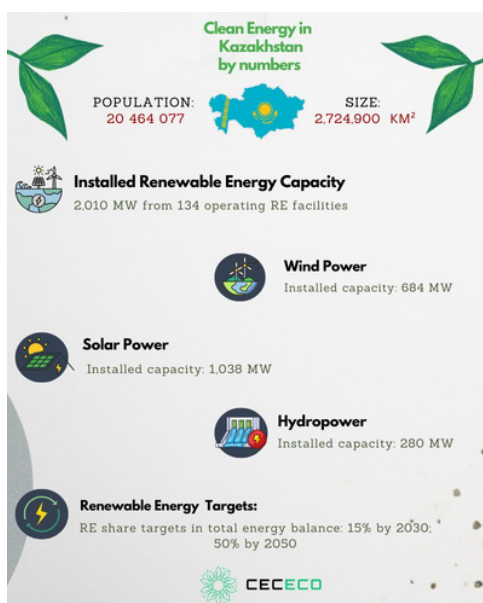
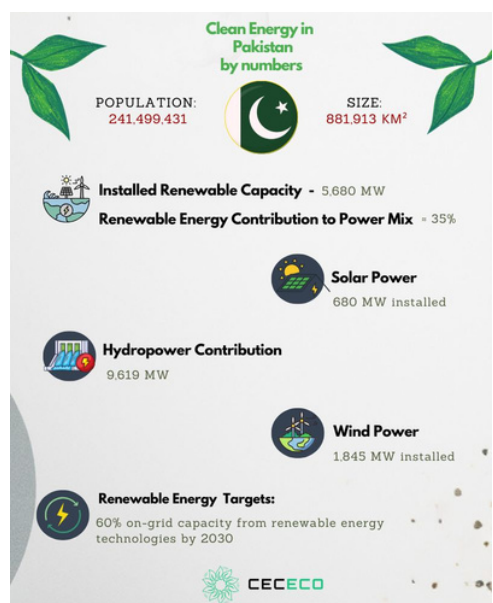


## Initiatives &amp; Projects

## “Clean Energy by Numbers in CECECO countries” series



The "Clean Energy by Numbers in CECECO countries" series was launched on social media, providing country-specific insights on renewable energy and energy efficiency for each CECECO signatory state—Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan. The series aims to raise public awareness, promote informed engagement, and highlight the clean energy progress and potential in each country.



# Outlook / Next Steps



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In the coming period, CECECO will continue strengthening its role as a regional platform for clean energy cooperation across the ECO region. The Centre plans to further expand its participation in regional and international forums related to renewable energy and energy efficiency, contributing to policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and experience sharing among member states.

# Conclusion

During the reporting period, CECECO successfully completed its initial operational setup and established governance structures. Key milestones included Board of Governors inaugural meeting held on 9 September 2025, the appointment of the Executive Director, and the signing of the Host Country Agreement, which collectively provided a foundation for the Centre's activities. The Centre actively participated in regional and international dialogues, contributing to knowledge exchange and fostering collaboration among member states. Flagship initiatives, such as the CECECO Clean Energy Hackathon 2026 and awareness campaigns in support of energy efficiency, were launched to engage youth and promote sustainable energy practices. While the Centre remains in its early phase, these steps have set the groundwork for future projects, partnerships, and regional cooperation. CECECO is positioned to continue supporting renewable energy development, capacity building, and inclusive climate action across the ECO region in the months ahead.

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