



CECECO

September
2026

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
CLEAN ENERGY CENTER



ACTIVITY REPORT

Advancing clean energy.
Building a sustainable
future together.



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01 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During August and September 2026, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Clean Energy Center (CECECO) advanced its agenda through strategic partnerships, regional engagement, and capacity-building initiatives supporting clean energy cooperation across the ECO region.

One of the major achievements was the launch of the Clean Energy Academy Programme in Azerbaijan in partnership with Renewables Academy AG (RENAC), alongside the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding establishing cooperation in capacity building, training, and consultancy.

CECECO also contributed to regional dialogue on climate resilience, innovation, and energy transitions during Baku Climate Week.

Publication of the Hydrogen Knowledge Guide: Key Terms and Definitions by CECECO aims to advance knowledge development and capacity building in an emerging area of the clean energy transition,

During the reporting period, CECECO strengthened engagement with stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), RENAC, ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), H2Global Foundation, Uniper, Eurogas, VNG AG.

Jointly with ECOSF Foundation, CECECO co-organized a regional webinar on sustainable transport and electric mobility and participated in UNECE Sustainable Energy Week in Geneva, where CECECO and UNECE held a side event on green energy connectivity and energy security.

These activities further strengthened CECECO's role as a regional platform for dialogue, expertise, capacity building, and partnership, while creating new opportunities to advance clean energy cooperation across the ECO region.

CECECO and RENAC Sign Memorandum of Understanding

On 15 September 2026, CECECO and Renewables Academy AG (RENAC), Germany, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a framework for cooperation in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The MoU provides for cooperation in capacity building, consultancy, and the development and delivery of training programmes and structures covering renewable energy and energy efficiency. Areas of cooperation also include capacity needs assessment, curriculum development, study visits, trainer assessment, Train-the-Trainer programmes, and joint project development.

The partnership provides an institutional framework for the implementation of the Clean Energy Academy Programme and further strengthens cooperation between CECECO and RENAC in developing professional capacities and supporting knowledge exchange in renewable energy and energy efficiency.



Meeting with Azerbaijan's Minister of Youth and Sports

On 28 September 2026, H.E. Mr. Farid Gayibov, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan, received Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director.

During the meeting, Ms. Yagubova presented CECECO's mandate and highlighted the Centre's youth-focused initiatives, including the Clean Energy Academy and CECECO Clean Energy Hackathon. The discussion explored opportunities to engage young people and university students in clean energy, sustainability, innovation, and climate-related initiatives.

The meeting also addressed potential areas for joint activities and cooperation, with an emphasis on creating opportunities for youth to develop knowledge and skills and participate more actively in the clean energy transition.



CECECO Holds Meeting with the Ambassador of Tajikistan to Azerbaijan



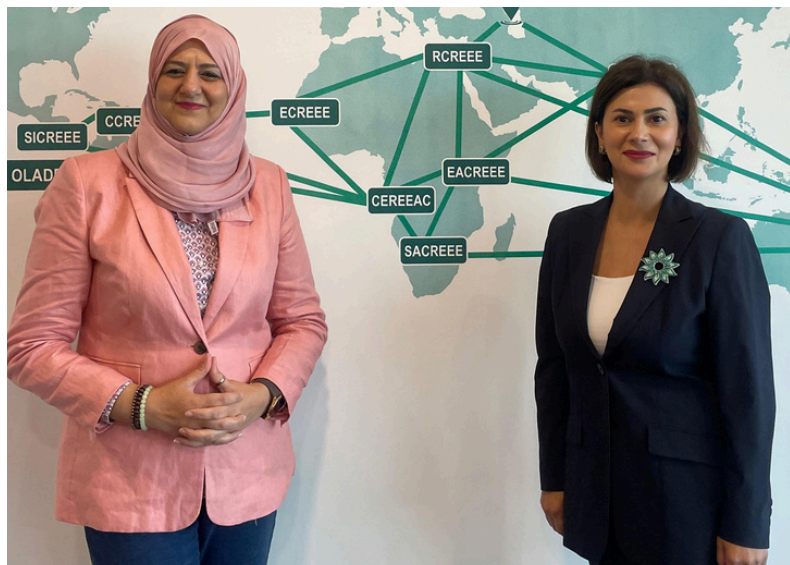
On 16 September 2026, CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova met with H.E. Mr. Ilhom Abdurahmon, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Azerbaijan, to present CECECO's mandate and activities and discuss opportunities for Tajikistan's engagement with the Centre. Ms. Yagubova highlighted CECECO's role in promoting regional cooperation on clean energy and invited Tajikistan to participate in the Centre's programmes and initiatives. The discussion covered regional energy connectivity, climate resilience, clean energy development, capacity building, and knowledge exchange, as well as opportunities for strengthening institutional cooperation.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss Tajikistan's hydropower potential and the climate and water-security challenges facing Central Asian countries. Parties exchanged views on potential areas of cooperation and agreed to maintain communication on future engagement.

03 MEETINGS

CECECO and RCREEE discuss bilateral cooperation

Ms. Nadia Chioukh, Director of International Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships at the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) visited CECECO office in Baku. Ms. Chioukh and Ms. Yagubova exchanged views on ongoing developments in the clean energy sector and discussed potential areas of cooperation between the two regional centres of the UNIDO's Global Network of Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC).



The discussion focused on regional cooperation, renewable energy, energy efficiency, knowledge exchange, and capacity building, as well as opportunities for strengthening collaboration between CECECO and RCREEE.

CECECO Hosts Meeting with Ms. Marinette Gaillon of UNIDO

CECECO hosted Ms. Marinette Gaillon, Project Administrator at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), at the CECECO office in Baku. Building on previous online engagements, the meeting provided an opportunity to further familiarize Ms. Gaillon with CECECO's work and the Centre's newly established office. Ms. Gaillon was informed of the current status of ongoing activities and developments in line with the CECECO's Work Plan for 2026. The discussion also covered regional clean energy initiatives, the role of sustainable energy centres and GN-SEC, as well as collaboration in the framework of the upcoming 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) to be held in Antalya, Türkiye.



CECECO Engages with German Stakeholders on Green Hydrogen and Energy Transition

CECECO Project Coordinator Ms. Nigar Shukurova joined representatives of the Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency (AREA) in a series of meetings and knowledge-exchange sessions with key stakeholders in Germany, focusing on clean energy, green hydrogen, and the energy transition.

The meeting with the representatives of the Hamburg Port Authority (HPA) on August 31 focused on opportunities for cooperation in green hydrogen and clean energy connectivity, including the role of ports in the international trade of green hydrogen, clean energy corridors, knowledge exchange, and regional cooperation. On the same day, the delegation also met with Mr. Timo Bollerhey, Co-Founder of the H2Global Foundation, to exchange views on green hydrogen and related developments.



On 1 September, the delegation met with Uniper in Düsseldorf, where representatives shared their experience in green hydrogen development. Ms. Shukurova presented CECECO, its mandate, and key initiatives. An online knowledge-exchange session with officials from Eurogas provided insights into EU regulatory developments related to hydrogen, including the evolving regulatory framework for hydrogen and energy imports into the European Union.

On 3 September in Leipzig, Ms. Shukurova represented CECECO at a workshop hosted by VNG AG on “The Hydrogen Economy & Its Challenges.” Discussions covered Germany’s hydrogen policy, green hydrogen projects, hydrogen demand, import corridors, and hydrogen derivatives, including Sustainable Aviation Fuel, green ammonia, green fertilizers, and e-methanol. The programme also included a visit to the Energy Park Bad Lauchstädt, providing insights into hydrogen projects and underground hydrogen storage.



CECECO at Baku Climate Action Week 2026



CECECO participated in Baku Climate Action Week 2026, held from 7 to 11 September 2026 in Baku. During the event, CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova took part in Session 2, “Advancing the Green Energy Industry through Innovation, Digital Technologies, and Regional Collaboration.”

In her intervention, Ms. Yagubova highlighted the importance of connecting knowledge, expertise, technology, skills, and investment across borders to accelerate the development of the green energy sector. She also presented CECECO’s key initiatives, including the Clean Energy Academy, Clean Energy Hackathon 2026, Hydrogen Knowledge Guide, and the Centre’s regional webinar series.

The session brought together representatives from international organizations, the private sector, academia, and other stakeholders to exchange perspectives on innovation, digital technologies, and regional collaboration in advancing the green energy industry.

Youth-Led Climate Forum 2026

At the Youth-Led Climate Forum 2026, held during Baku Climate Action Week, CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and youth empowerment in advancing the clean energy transition across the ECO region.

Ms. Yagubova highlighted the CECECO Clean Energy Hackathon and Clean Energy Academy as platforms that support young people in developing skills, building professional networks, and contributing innovative solutions to regional clean energy challenges.



Regional Dialogue on Climate Resilience, Innovation and Energy Transitions

On 10 September 2026, CECECO and the UNIDO Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) jointly organized a Regional Dialogue on “The Role of Sustainable Energy Centres in Promoting Climate Resilience, Innovation and Energy Transitions.” Held on the sidelines of the Fourth Climate Week of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Dialogue brought together representatives of international organizations, regional sustainable energy centres, government institutions, and other stakeholders to discuss climate resilience, energy transition, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and regional cooperation.

At the opening, H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Climate Issues, highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in addressing climate change and accelerating the energy transition. Ms. Marinette Gaillon, Project Administrator at UNIDO, presented the UNIDO GN-SEC and Global Clean Technology Innovation Programme (GCIP), while Mr. Saken Kalkamanov, Chairman of the Board of IGTIPC of Kazakhstan, presented Kazakhstan’s experience with GCIP and highlighted the importance of energy efficiency for regional resilience.

The panel discussion on “Strengthening Regional Partnerships for the Energy Transition: Delivering the Sustainable Development Goals through International Cooperation” featured Mr. Dmytro Shlapachenko, UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan; Ms. Nigar Arpadarai, Member of Parliament and COP29 High-Level Champion; Ms. Nadia Chioukh, Director of International Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships at RCREEE; and Ms. Aysel Yagubova, Executive Director of CECECO. The discussion explored regional cooperation in renewable energy integration, cross-border energy trade, energy efficiency, technology transfer, climate resilience, innovation, and clean energy corridors.

The Dialogue provided a platform for exchanging regional experiences and highlighted the importance of partnerships, knowledge and technology exchange, capacity building, and regional cooperation in advancing climate resilience and the energy transition.



Clean Energy Academy Programme

CECECO in partnership with Renewables Academy AG (RENAC), an internationally recognised institution based in Berlin, Germany, launched the Clean Energy Academy Programme in Azerbaijan supported by bp and co-venturers. The programme aims to strengthen knowledge and technical capacities in the clean energy sector and contribute to increasing the number of qualified professionals supporting the country's clean energy transition.

The first phase of the Programme, running from September to December 2026, involves representatives from Azerbaijan in a Training of Trainers programme. The module consists of 50 hours of self-paced online learning followed by eight half-day live virtual training sessions, combining technical knowledge with modern teaching methodologies and international best practices. Participants who successfully complete the programme will receive trainer certification and will subsequently be able to design and deliver training programmes in coordination with CECECO based on the needs of relevant institutions.

Speaking at the launch, CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova highlighted the objective of establishing a sustainable national platform for professional education, technical training, institutional capacity building, and knowledge exchange in the clean energy sector in Azerbaijan.

Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Elnur Soltanov emphasized the importance of developing knowledge and skills in renewable energy and energy efficiency. He underlined that the energy transition is creating new employment opportunities and increasing the demand for skilled professionals.

Dr. Bakhtiyar Aslanbayli OBE, bp Vice President for the Caspian, Central Asia and Türkiye region, highlighted the importance of local capacity and skills development in supporting Azerbaijan's energy transition and the development of sustainable local training capacity.

Mr. Berthold Breid, CEO of RENAC AG presented the Clean Energy Programme and the role of RENAC in capacity building across the globe on renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.



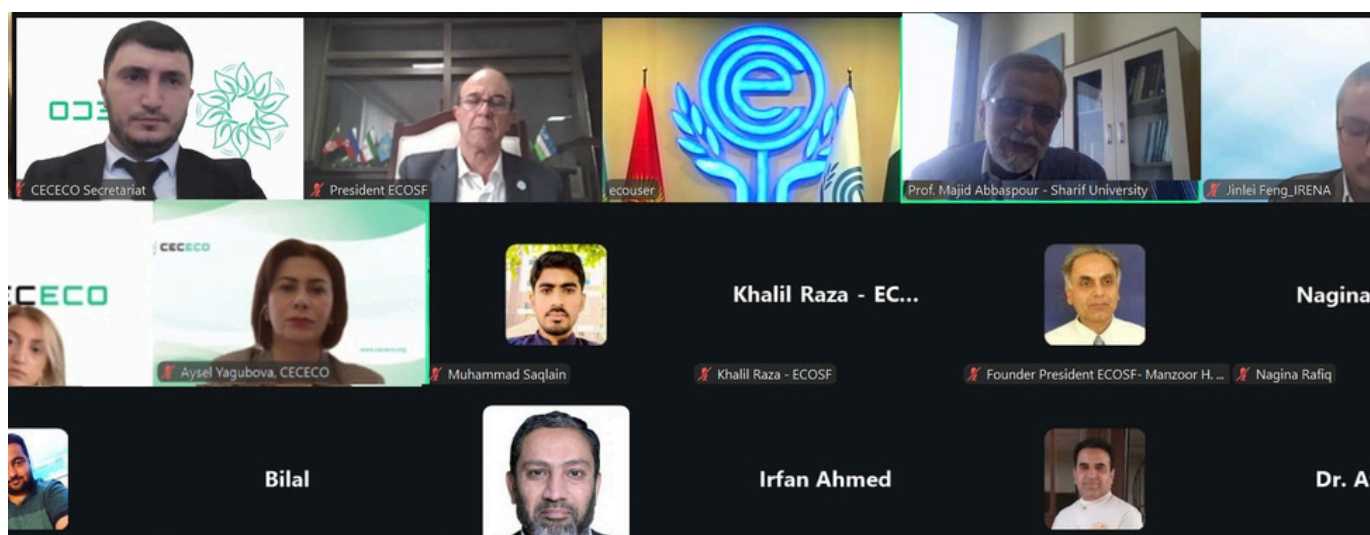
Sustainable Transport and Electric Mobility in the ECO Region

On 28 September 2026, CECECO and the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) jointly organized a webinar on “Sustainable Transport and Electric Mobility in the ECO Region,” bringing together policymakers, experts, researchers, and practitioners to discuss transport emissions, electric vehicle adoption, and the transition towards sustainable mobility.

In his remarks, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President of ECOSF, highlighted the importance of regional cooperation, experience sharing, common standards, and capacity building in advancing sustainable transport and electric mobility. Ms. Aysel Yagubova, CECECO Executive Director, emphasized the need to integrate electric mobility with the broader clean energy transition, including through renewable energy, reliable electricity grids, energy storage, and charging infrastructure. H.E. Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General of the ECO, underlined the role of sustainable transport and electric mobility in strengthening economic resilience, reducing environmental impacts, and promoting green innovation across the region.

The panel featured contributions from Mr. Jinlei Feng, Programme Officer for Policy Advice at IRENA, who presented global perspectives on policies for the electrification of road transport; Prof. Madjid Abbaspour of Sharif University of Technology, who discussed challenges and opportunities for scaling up electric vehicle adoption in the ECO region; and Mr. Khalil Raza, Programme Manager – Energy & Climate at ECOSF, who presented an analysis of transport emissions and electric vehicle trends across the ten ECO Member States and outlined key policy priorities for accelerating electric mobility.

The discussions also addressed charging infrastructure, renewable energy integration, regulatory frameworks, investment opportunities, harmonization of standards, and the development of interconnected charging networks along regional transport corridors. The webinar provided a platform for sharing regional experiences and exploring opportunities for cooperation in research, technology, and knowledge exchange, supporting the integration of sustainable transport and electric mobility into the broader clean energy transition across the ECO region.



CECECO and UNECE Hold Side Event on Green Energy Connectivity and Energy Security in Geneva



On 30 September 2026, CECECO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, held a side event during UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2026 titled “Green Energy Connectivity and Energy Security: Advancing Cooperation for Sustainable Development.”

Opening remarks were delivered by H.E. Mr. Rovshan Sadigbayli, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, and Ms. Aysel Yagubova, Executive Director of CECECO. Mr. Sadigbayli stressed the importance of green energy connectivity for energy security and resilience, noting the role of cross-border electricity interconnections in integrating renewable energy and strengthening regional energy systems. Ms. Yagubova highlighted the complementary energy strengths of ECO countries and the importance of stronger interconnections, regional electricity trade, and cooperation in supporting energy security and renewable energy integration.

The high-level panel, moderated by Mr. Dario Liguti, Director at UNECE, featured Ms. Rana Humbatova of the Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency, Mr. Kanat Ayapbergenov of KEGOC JSC, Mr. Nikoloz Kholodov of Georgia, and Mr. Elmir Musayev, General Director of SOCAR Green. Discussions focused on strengthening energy connectivity across the Middle Corridor, renewable energy integration, energy security, and regional cooperation.



CECECO Publishes Hydrogen Knowledge Guide: Key Terms and Definitions

CECECO presented the publication, “Hydrogen Knowledge Guide: Key Terms and Definitions”, providing a structured reference to key concepts, terminology, and definitions related to the hydrogen sector. The Guide covers the main elements of the hydrogen technology value chain, supporting a clearer understanding of hydrogen technologies and their role in the clean energy transition.

The publication is structured across 12 chapters covering hydrogen basics, colours and classifications, production, storage, derivatives, equipment and infrastructure, transportation, safety, applications, and the wider hydrogen ecosystem. It also includes three international examples of hydrogen applications, highlighting practical approaches and developments in the sector.

Through the Guide, CECECO contributes to knowledge development and capacity building in an emerging area of the clean energy transition, providing stakeholders with an accessible reference for understanding key hydrogen-related concepts and technologies.



GN-SEC Young Professional Programme

As part of the UNIDO-supported GN-SEC Young Professional Programme, CECECO selected one Young Professional from among 90 applicants to join the Centre for a 12-month professional development programme.

Starting September 2026, the Young Professional will contribute to CECECO's work in research, project implementation, stakeholder engagement, communication, and knowledge management, while also participating in the wider GN-SEC cohort activities and regional knowledge-sharing initiatives.

The programme provides the selected Young Professional with hands-on experience in sustainable energy and climate resilience, while contributing to inter-regional activities and knowledge-sharing initiatives within the GN-SEC network.



CECECO Internship Programme

CECECO continues to provide university students and young professionals with practical experience in research, communications, and project coordination as part of its commitment to capacity-building and youth engagement.

During the reporting period, four interns completed their internship programmes at CECECO, contributing to the Centre's ongoing activities and gaining valuable professional experience throughout their time with the Secretariat.





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