



YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF LAW

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW RESOURCE CENTRE

PROGRESS REPORT

2009
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Environment and Security Initiative - ENVSEC

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Name: **“Environmental Law Resource Centre” Law department,
Yerevan State University (YSU)**

Region: **Yerevan**

Country: **Republic of Armenia**

Cluster: **Dr. Aida Iskoyan, Mr. Gor Movsisyan, Miss Heghine Hakhverdyan**

Project Coordinator (Person Responsible): **Aida Iskoyan**

Location of Project: **Yerevan State University, Law department**

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Report Submitted By:

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Signature: 

Date: **07. April 2009**

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Introduction

Environmental Law Resource Centre of Law Faculty, Yerevan State University in accordance with its mission and tasks carried out different programs, events, researches and other venues aimed to support the implementation of the international environmental agreements of RA and to increase the quality and execution of RA environmental legislation. On the basis of half-year experience the Centre has expanded its potential in the fields of public hearings, international cooperation, research activities, student involvement and etc.

Referring to the number of participants in public hearings (*in each case approximately 20-30, totally 80-90 person*), lectures on various topics (*in each case approximately 20, totally 130-140 person*), MA degree *students (each year special course is held for 20-25 student and 1-3 student are writing MA degree paper on the special topics of environmental law)*, PhD students (*4 PhD student are making there research on the basis of the Centre*) we may state that compared with previous year the involvement in the Centre activities of various interested groups increased to 15-20%. This increase can be doubled in case of profound and consecutive activities and the guaranties for further growth are the cooperation with three branches of state power (in particular local state governance authorities), business and scientific research work and publications.

A.1. Project activities completed in the reporting period

Activities and events of Environmental Law Resource Centre by subject:

I. Strengthening the capacity of the Law Department as a resource and research hub.

1. LECTURES

1.1 Lecture on Enterprise activities and Environment Protection in RoA

Date: 03 March 2009
Lecturer: Taniel Barseghyan - Head of Civil Law Chair of YSU Law Department
Participants (beneficiaries): about 35 students, lecturers, representatives of NGOs and public authority.

1.2. Lecture on Economic mechanisms of Environment Protection

Date: 13 March 2009
Lecturer: Ashot Harutyunyan - Head of the Division of Nature Protection and Environmental Economics
Participants (beneficiaries): about 35 students, lecturers, representatives of NGOs and public authority.

1.3. Lecture on Theological aspects of Nature Protection

Date: 20 March 2009
Lecturer: Ter Minas Martirosyan - Vice-Inspector of Vazgenian Spiritual Seminary of Sevan.
Participants (beneficiaries): about 35 students, lecturers, representatives of NGOs

1.4. Lecture on “Transboundary movement of hazardous waste: International Legal Instruments and Practice”.

Date: 14 May 2009
Lecturer: Dmytro Skrylnikov - Head of “Environmental Investigation Bureau”, International Legal Expert of OSCE
Participants (beneficiaries): about 35 students, lecturers, representatives of NGOs and public authority

1.5. Lecture on Legal Regulation of Demonstrations within the context of Decisions adopted by European Court of Human Rights.

Date: 26 May 2009
Lecturer: Dr. Szabo Mate – Ombudsman of Hungary, Professor of Political Science
Participants (beneficiaries): about 35 students, lecturers, representatives of NGOs.

1.6. Lecture on Crimes against Natural Environment.

Date: 03 July 2009
Lecturer: Anna Margaryan - PhD in Law, docent of the Chair of Criminal Law, YSU, Law Department

Participants (beneficiaries): about 35 prosecutors, lecturers, students, representatives of International organizations, representatives of NGO.

1.7. Lecture on Risk Analysis and Environmental Impact Assessment

Date: 03 November 2009.
Lecturers: Peter John - Director of Fridtjof Nansen Institute (Oslo, Norway)
Steinar Andresen - senior research fellow.

Participants (beneficiaries): about 35 students, lecturers, representatives of NGOs and public authority.

2. INVOLVMENT OF THE STUDENTS

2.1 Formation of the Group of Young Environmentalists

Date: 13 February 2009
Mission: Organization of awareness-raising events related to nature protection, raising scientific interest in student circles on environmental matters, organization of environmental actions.

Participants (beneficiaries): about 20 motivated students of different Higher Education Institutions of RoA.

2.2 Further Development of the course for MS degree students of YSU Law Department.

Course: “Environmental Law of EU”
Input of the Centre: - Preparation of educational materials;
- Development of examination tests;
Participants (beneficiaries): about 35 MS degree students of Law Department (each year)

2.3. Researches on various topics of Environmental Law

Participants (beneficiaries): about 50 students from Departments of Law, Chemistry, Biology, Geography and Geology.

2.4. Presentation of Student Research Studies

Date: 16 April 2009
Participants (beneficiaries): 15 law students from Yerevan State University

2.5. Student Scientific Conference on “Environment Protection Issue”

Date: 29 May 2009
Partners: Ministry of Nature Protection of RoA, Marzpet of Syunik, Aarhus Centre of Goris
Place: Aarhus Centre of Goris
Participants (beneficiaries): 20 students of different HEI of Yerevan and Goris, representatives of Peace Corps (presented reports), Major of Goris, lecturers from Goris branch of University, representatives of local NGOs and State authorities

2.6. Round Table devoted to International Day of Environment Protection

Date: 05 June 2009
Participants (beneficiaries): 30 students from different HEI of Armenia (10 students presented reports on hotspot Environmental Issues), Lecturers, Representatives of NGOs and State authority

Participants (beneficiaries): about 50 students from Departments of Law, Chemistry, Biology, Geography and Geology

2.7. Moot-Court Competition on Environmental Law

Date: 20 November 2009
Participants (beneficiaries): 7 law students from Yerevan State University and French University of Armenia.

2.8. Student Scientific Conference

Date: 03 December 2009
Participants (beneficiaries): 15 students of different HEI of RoA.

3. EXPANSION OF COOPERATION

3.1. Meeting with Barbara Siebert: (Program Director of Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC)).

Date: 12 March 2009.
Outcomes: Cooperation within the project of environmental education for pupils (in process).

3.2 Meeting with Ni Vadim Pavlovich and Robert Atkinson: Experts working on a model Practical Guideline for Aarhus Centres

Date: 12 March 2009.
Outcomes: Cooperation in developing Practical Guideline for Aarhus Centres.

3.3. Meeting with Manya Gevorgyan: Environmental Education Program Manager of ATP (Armenia Tree Project) Charitable Foundation.

Date: 19 March 2009
Outcomes: Development of a new module on “Environmental Law” in environmental education handbook (still in process).

3.4. Meeting with Arvydas Lebedys and Johan Lejeune: Forestry Officers of FAO: National Forest Programme Facility.

Date: 13 May 2009
Outcomes: Preliminary agreement on cooperation in the field of Developing National Forest Program

3.5. Meeting with Coordinators regional Aarhus Centre in Astana. Principal Environmental Advisor of EBRD

Date: 20 November 2009

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. Head of the Centre Mrs. Aida Iskoyan has been re-elected a member of International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL) for two year period.

4.2. Head of the Centre Mrs. Aida Iskoyan as a legal expert participates in Parliamentary working group “On Research of environmental problems of Yerevan”.

II. Contribution to improvement of law-making and law-enforcement practice.

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1.1. Public hearing of the draft of Governmental decision “On Approval of the Concept on Formation of an integrated national system of Environmental Education and Awareness”.

Date: 08 September 2009
Participants (beneficiaries): about 20 lecturers, representatives of NGOs, public authorities students,
Outcomes: Submission of proposals and remarks to Ministry of Nature Protection of RoA.

1.2. Public hearing of the Law Draft “On Amendments and Addendums to the Forest Code of RoA”.

Date: 30 November 2009
Participants (beneficiaries): about 25 lecturers, representatives of NGOs, public authorities, students.
Outcomes: Submission of proposals, remarks and legal analysis on the Law Draft to Ministry of Agriculture of RoA.

1.3. Public hearing of the draft of Governmental decision “On Approval of the Concept on Formation of an integrated national system of Environmental Education and Awareness”

Date: 08 September 2009
Participants (beneficiaries): about 25 lecturers, representatives of NGOs, public authorities, students.
Outcomes: Submission of proposals and remarks to Ministry of Nature Protection of RoA.

2. PUBLICATIONS

2.1. Elaboration and publication of textbook “Environmental Law of RoA” (Special Part) for students.

Date: November-December, 2009
Beneficiaries: about 200 students of Law Department (each year).

2.2. Elaboration and publication of “Environmental Law: Collection of legal acts” (in the process of publication).

Date: October-December, 2009
Beneficiaries: law students, practical lawyers, NGOs, international organizations, other interested parties.

2.3. Elaboration and publication of “Environmental Law: Collection of legal acts” (in the process of publication).

Date: October-December, 2009
Beneficiaries: Law students, practical lawyers, NGOs, international organizations, other interested parties.

2.4. Preparation and publication of Aarhus Convention “On Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters” in Armenian.

Date: September-October, 2009
Beneficiaries: Law students, practical lawyers, NGOs, international organizations, other interested parties.

2.5. Publication of Second National Report on Implementation of Aarhus Convention.

Date: September-October, 2009
Beneficiaries: Law students, practical lawyers, NGOs, international organizations, other interested parties.

2.6. Development of module on “Environmental Law” in Handbook of Environmental Education for Secondary Schools(Published).

Partner: Armenian Tree Project (ATP) Charitable Foundation.

3. AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGNS

3.1. EARTH HOUR in Armenia (turning off the lights for one hour to save the Planet)

Date: 28 March 2009 (20:30-21:30)
Participants (beneficiaries): Group of Young Environmentalists, Environmental Law Resource Centre, Aarhus Centres, YSU, NGOs, Business sector, Public Authority, citizens.

3.2. EARTH DAY in Armenia. Meeting with Mr. Aram Harutyunyan - Minister of Nature Protection of RoA and Mr. Sergey Kapinos - Ambassador of OSCE in Armenia and tree plant at University garden

Date: 22 April 2009
Partners: Ministry of Nature Protection, OSCE office in Yerevan, Foundation for Preservation of Wild Nature and Cultural Assets (FPWC).
Participants (beneficiaries): students of different HEI of Armenia, Lecturers, Representatives of NGOs and State authority, Mass Media (about 40 participants).

3.3. Tree Plant in Goris

Date: 29 May 2009
Partners: Ministry of Nature Protection of RoA, Marzpet of Syunik, Major of Goris, Aarhus Centre of Goris

3.4. Environmental Film Shows and Discussions.

Dates: 27-29 November, 2009
Partners: OSCE, “Foundation for Preservation of Wild Nature and Cultural Assets”
Participants: about 130 students, professionals in different fields, representatives of state authority, NGOs, international organizations and citizens.

3.5. Periodical meeting with the pupils of secondary schools of Yerevan

Purpose: Environmental film shows and discussions
Period: each month
Participants (beneficiaries): about 60 pupils (for reporting period).

4. LEGAL ANALYSIS

4.1. Legal Analysis of monitoring and reporting system under the provisions of three global Conventions (UN Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Convention to Combat Desertification) (2009 February-March) .

5. INFORMATION ABOUT ELRC

5.1. Activities of the Centre are covered by Division of Public Relations and Information of Yerevan State University.

5.2. Interviews to Mass Media on the activities of the Centre.

5.3. Opening of a new window on the web-page of the Centre devoted to researches.

III. Trainings on Environmental Law

1. Training on Environmental Law for representatives of NGOs.

Title: Environmental Law: Law and Practice
Partners: Ministry of Nature Protection, OSCE office in Yerevan
Dates: 10-12 June 2009
Participants: 18 Coordinators of 14 Aarhus Centers

2. Training on Environmental Law for Coordinators of Aarhus Centers.

Title: Environmental Law: Law and Practice
Partners: Ministry of Nature Protection, OSCE office in Yerevan
Dates: 10-12 June 2009
Participants: 18 Coordinators of 14 Aarhus Centers