

**YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY
LAW DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
RESOURCE CENTER**



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**YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LAW
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW RESOURCE CENTRE**

PROGRESS REPORT

**January –December
2010**



Environment and Security Initiative - ENVSEC

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Project 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

Project Start and End Dates (as originally set): 16 Sep 2008 – 25 Dec 2010

Changes in Dates (if any): _____

Period Covered by Report: January 2010 - December 2010

Report Submitted By:

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Title: Coordinator of Environmental Law Resource Centre

Signature: 

Date: December 2010

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Introduction

For two and half years of its existence Environmental Law Resource Centre of Law Faculty of YSU has outlined own, specific way of research, educational and awareness-raising activities. The consequence of gained experience is the fixed kind of activities which are completed by everyday work of the Centre.

Within the reporting period ELRC has elaborated new course of "Mining law", implemented discussions of drafts of legal acts, and published two e-newsletters covering various issues of environmental protection in Armenia. It is also worth to mention the research activities of the Centre which are mostly aimed at analyzes of law drafts and submission of suggestions to the developers of the drafts. One of the regular dimensions of Center activities are trainings for different stakeholders in the sphere of environmental protection, which are preceded by training programs development for the particular audience.

Center will continue to keep the course of strengthening its capacities mostly in the filed of research and educational activities.

I. STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY, IN PARTICULAR LAW FACULTY AS A RESOURCE AND RESEARCH HUB.

1. INVOLVMENT OF STUDENTS, LECTURES AND ASSISTENCE TO THE EDUCATIONAL PROECESS.

1.1 Round-table discussion with Faculty of Biology.

Date: 15 January, 2010,

Reporters: Students of faculty of Biology.

Participants (beneficiaries): about 35 students, lecturers.

1.2 Development of the “environmental law” new course program.

Date: May, 2010.

Beneficiaries: Students of Law and other faculties of YSU.

1.3 Meeting at the centre with Gavar branch students.

Date: 25 May, 2010.

Partners: Gavar branch of YSU.

Beneficiaries: Students of Gavar branch of YSU.

1.4 New course "Mining law" for the Faculty of Geography.

Date: May, 2010.

Partners: Faculty of Geography of YSU.

Beneficiaries: Students of Faculty of Geography.

1.5 Lecture by professors of Fridtjof Nansen institute.

Date: 4 September, 2010

Reporters: Mr. Peter Joan Shei and Mr. Steinar Andresen.

Participants (beneficiaries): Students of YSU.

1.6 Preparation of examination tests on "Environmental law" course.

Date: October, 2010

Developers: H. Hakhverdyan, G. Movsisyan.

Beneficiaries: Bachelor Students of Law Faculty.

1.7 Students scientific conference.

Date: November, 2010.

Partners: Student scientific Association of Law Department.

Beneficiaries: Students of Yerevan State University, Slavonic University of Armenia, Armenian State Agrarian University

1.8 Lecture on ESPO Convention for the Students of Minsk State University conducted by Ms. A. Iskoyan.

Date: 6 December, 2010.

Partners: OSCE office in Belarus, Dmytro Skrylnikov (Expert of Environmental law).

Beneficiaries: Students of Law Faculty of Belarusian State University.

1.9 Third Moot-court competition on "Environmental law".

Date: 15 December, 2010 (Planned).

Partners: Student scientific association of Law Faculty.

Beneficiaries: Students of different faculties of YSU.

II. CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVEMENT OF LAW-MAKING AND LAW-ENFORCEMENT PRACTICE

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

1.1 Round table discussion devoted to World water day.

Date: 22 March, 2010.

Partner(s): «Global Water Partnership, «Sustainable water sphere» NGOs and «Jinj» engineering-technical company.

Beneficiaries: Public authorities, scientific institutions, international organizations and NGOs, water supply companies.

1.2 Nubarashen 'Landfill Gas Utilization Project'.

Date: May, 2010.

Partners: Ministry of nature protection of RA.

Beneficiaries: Public authorities, scientific institutions, international organizations and NGOs.

1.3 Public discussion "On Law draft on amendments and addendums to the law on environmental impact expertise".

Date: 17 September, 2010.

Partners: Ministry of nature protection of RA.

Beneficiaries: Public authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders.

1.4 Public discussion of Subsoil code of RA.

Date: 24 September, 2010.

Partners: Ministry of energy and nature resources of RA.

Beneficiaries: Public authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders.

1.5 Organization of public discussions of the third national report on implementation of the provisions of Aarhus convention in Armenia.

Date: September 22, November 22, 2010.

Partners: Ministry of nature protection.

Beneficiaries: NGOs, public authorities.

2. PUBLICATIONS

2.1 Commentaries on the articles of Constitution of RA.

Date: January, 2010.

Author: A. Iskoyan.

Beneficiaries: students, professional audience and etc.

2.1 Publication of ELRC quarterly e-newsletter (1).

Date: April, 2010.

Author(s): A. Iskoyan, H. Hakhverdyan, G. Movsisyan.

Beneficiaries: Public authorities, scientific institutions, international organizations and NGOs, water supply companies.

2.3 Glossary on “Environmental- legal terminology”.

Date: Mid of April, 2010

Author(s): A. Iskoyan, H. Hakhverdyan, G. Movsisyan.

Beneficiaries: Scientific institutions, public authorities, international organizations and NGOs, water supply companies.

2.4 Publication of ELRC quarterly e-newsletter (2).

Date: September, 2010.

Author(s): A. Iskoyan, H. Hakhverdyan, G. Movsisyan.

Beneficiaries: Public authorities, scientific institutions, international organizations and NGOs, water supply companies.

3. AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGNS AND ACTIVITIES

3.1 Film show -“Uranium Phobia”.

Date: 25-26 February, 2010.

Partners: “EcoLur” NGO.

Participants (beneficiaries): MS degree students of Law faculty and other faculties, lecturers and etc.

3.2 Film show and discussion.

Date: 25-26 March, 2010.

Partners: Chair of Ecological chemistry of YSU.

Participant(s) (beneficiaries): About 30 students of different faculties of YSU.

3.3 Update of the information on the Aarhus centers internet site.

Date: May, 2010.

Partners: Yerevan Aarhus Centre.

Beneficiaries: Aarhus centers in Armenia, NGOs, Public authorities and etc.

3.4 Interview to the Public radio of Armenia.

Date: 28 September, 2010.

Partners: Public radio of Armenia.

3.5 New section in ELRC web-page on the suggestions and remarks of drafts of legal acts elaborated by the Centre.

Date: October, 2010.

Partners: Information-analytical center.

Beneficiaries: Aarhus centers in Armenia, NGOs, Public authorities.

4. LEGAL ANALYSIS AND PROPOSALS ON DRAFT OF LEGAL ACTS

4.1 Remarks and Suggestions on Law "On amendments and addendums to the law of the RA on nature protection and nature utilization payments".

Date: 12 February, 20.

Partners: Ministry of nature protection of RA.

Beneficiaries: Ministry of nature protection of RA, other public authorities, business sector and etc.

4.2 Development of the timetable of necessary measures which would be undertaken by RA Government to ensure realization of the provision of Aarhus Convention in Armenia.

Date: 20 February, 2010.

Partners: Ministry of nature protection.

Beneficiaries: Ministry of nature protection of RA, Secretary to the Aarhus convention.

4.3 Legal analysis of the current legislation and implementation practice regarding access to justice in environmental matters.

Date: February, 2010.

Partners: Ministry of nature protection.

Beneficiaries: Ministry of nature protection, Secretary to the Aarhus convention, Compliance Committee of the Aarhus convention.

4.4 Narrative report on the Communication from Armenia (ACCC/C/2009/43, Teghout case) with regard to the hearing of Aarhus CC on 18 March, 2010.

Date: 31 March, 2010.

Beneficiaries: Ministry of nature protection of RA.

4.5 Questionnaire of judge's opinion poll.

Date: April, 2010.

Beneficiaries: 50-70 judges of the Judicial system of RA.

4.6 Remarks and Suggestions "On Law draft on amendments and addendums to the Law on Environmental Impact Expertise".

Date: September, 2010.

Partners: Ministry of nature protection.

Beneficiaries: NGOs and public authorities.

4.7 Remarks and Suggestions "On draft of Governmental decree "On approval of the action program 2011-2015 under the concept of development of unified national system of environmental education and awareness".

Date: September, 2010.

Partners: Ministry of nature protection.

Beneficiaries: Ministry of nature protection.

4.8 Remarks and Suggestions on draft of the "Charter of the Assistance Foundation of Aarhus Centers".

Date: September, 2010.

Partners: Ministry of nature protection.

Beneficiaries: Ministry of nature protection, Aarhus Centers, OSCE office in Yerevan.

4.9 Analysis of legislation related to formation of "Gilan" state preserve.

Date: October, 2010.

Beneficiaries: NGOs.

4.10 Analysis of Land code of RA on the subject of provisions on monitoring, registration and cadastre.

Date: October, 2010.

Beneficiaries: Ministry of nature protection.

4.11 Remarks and suggestion of the Centre "On RA law draft on the addendums and amendments of RA law on Fauna".

Date: October, 2010.

Beneficiaries: Ministry of nature protection.

4.12 Development of the third national report on implementation of Aarhus convention in RA.

Date: September-December.

Beneficiaries: Ministry of nature protection, other public authorities, NGOs.

4.13 Remarks and suggestions on the draft of "Subsoil code" of RA.

Date: December 2010 (planned)

Beneficiaries: Ministry of energy and nature resources of RA, Ministry of nature protection of RA.

5. INFORMATION ABOUT ELRC

5.1 Publication about ELRC activities in the Journal of YSU Faculty of Journalism.

Date: May, 2010.

Beneficiaries: students of the Faculty of Journalism.

5.2 Publication about ELRC activities in the Monthly Journal of Yerevan State University.

Date: September, 2010.

Beneficiaries: Faculties and students of YSU.

III. TRAININGS ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

1.1 Two-day training for the representatives of Information –analytic Centre of the Ministry of nature protection of RA.

Dates: 03-04 February, 2010.

Title: Environmental Law: Information management.

Partners: Ministry of Nature Protection.

Participants: 18 Coordinators of 14 Aarhus Centers.

1.2 Training for Journalists.

Dates: 9-10 March, 2010.

Title: Basics of Environmental Law and Implementation of Aarhus Convention in Armenia (Access to information).

Partners: Centre of freedom of information.

Participants: 20 journalists from various media companies (Erkir Media, aysor.am, Ecolur” NGO and etc).

1.3 Training for Judges.

Dates: 26-27 April, 2010.

Themes: Human-nature relations and law, Development and system of RA Environmental legislation, Problems of legal liability for environmental infringements, Notion of Environmental Information and problems of accessibility, Realization of right of public participation in environmental decision making, Problems of legal regulation of Access to Justice in RA.

Partners: Judicial School.

Participants: Judges.

1.4 Development of training program, methodology and provisional curriculum.

Date: April, 2010.

Partners: Ministry of territorial administration.

Beneficiaries: Regional public authorities and authorities of local self-governance.

1.5 Training for the Coordinators of Aarhus Centers in Armenia.

Date: 10 May, 2010

Partners: Ministry of nature protection, OSCE office in Yerevan.

Beneficiaries: Coordinators of Aarhus Centers in Armenia.

1.6 Training for the Ministries of RA.

Date: 31 May to 1 June, 2010

Partners: Ministries of nature protection, energy and natural resources, agriculture, emergency situations, healthcare.

Beneficiaries: Civil servants of the ministries.

1.7 Prequalification trainings for the Ministry of nature protection (in the scope of prequalification state program of civil servants).

Date: 22 November – 15 December, 2010.

Themes: "Legal regulation of environmental monitoring in Armenia", "Mining law", "Problems of legal regulation of specially protected areas in Armenia", "System of nature utilization and nature protection payments in RA", "Licensing of nuclear energy use in RA" and etc.

Partners: Division of post-graduate education of YSU.

Beneficiaries: Civil servants of the Ministry of nature protection of RA.