

# Newsletter

Issue 1, September 2024

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## 1. FOREWORD

*Dear Partners, Colleagues, and Friends,*

*We are delighted to introduce the first issue of the EU-funded Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Central Asia (SECCA) project's Newsletter. This Newsletter aims to keep you informed of the latest developments related to our project.*

*In this issue, we highlight the project technical assistance to the countries of Central Asia, events, and publications that took place during the period from March to August 2024.*

*We encourage you to stay connected with us as we will continue to provide you with updates on our activities in Central Asia.*

*Sincerely,*

*The SECCA Project Team*

## 2. PROJECT NEWS & EVENTS

### 2.1 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

#### 2.1.1 Energy efficiency

##### Increasing Energy Efficiency in Budgetary Institutions and Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises in Focus of SECCA–EEDI Regional Workshops in Kazakhstan



More than 350 representatives of line Ministries and local government bodies, principals of public schools and representatives of business attended the regional workshops on energy efficiency (EE), which were held in Aktau, Shymkent, and Turkestan from 22 to 26 July 2024.

These workshops were organised by the European Union funded SECCA project and the Institute for Development of Electric

Power and Energy Saving (EEDI), with the support of the Ministry of Industry and Construction of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In each city, SECCA and EEDI hosted two workshops: one focusing on energy efficient budgetary (public) institutions and the other on increasing EE of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

> Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## Workshop materials pages:

- > Energy efficient budgetary institutions of Aktau city (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))
- > Increasing energy efficiency of SMEs in Mangistau region (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))
- > Energy efficient budgetary institutions of Shymkent (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))
- > Increasing energy efficiency of SMEs in Shymkent (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))
- > Energy efficient budgetary institutions of Turkestan (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))
- > Increasing energy efficiency of SMEs in Turkestan region (in [English](#) and [Russian](#)).

## SECCA Continues to Support Kyrgyzstan in Improvement of Buildings Energy Efficiency

The Public Buildings Inventory and Energy Management System (EMS) were the main topics of discussion at a round table “Energy efficiency in public buildings – from inventory to implementation of measures” in Bishkek on 16 July 2024. The event was organised jointly by the Ministry of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the European Union (EU) funded SECCA project.

At the round table, the SECCA experts presented the approaches of the EU, its Member States, and Energy Community Contracting Parties to promotion of EE in buildings and implementation of EMS for municipalities.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Round table materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## ESCO Fundamentals and Implementation Practices in Focus of Regional Technical Workshop in Uzbekistan

Experts from the countries of Central Asia (CA) and the European Union (EU) attended the Regional Technical Workshop “ESCO – from theory to implementation practice”. Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) play a pivotal role in promoting sustainable energy by enhancing energy efficiency and integrating renewable energy solutions. This workshop was organised jointly by the Agency for Strategic Reforms under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Fund for Reconstruction and Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the EU’s SECCA project.

The participants reviewed and discussed the main elements of the ESCO&SuperESCO, including examples from different industries, and the experience and lessons learned of the EU Member States, Energy Community Contracting Parties, and CA countries in promoting the ESCO concept and practical implementation of projects.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Workshop materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## Uzbekistan Considers Perspectives of ESCO at a Round table Organised with European Union Support

The round table “Perspectives of ESCO in Uzbekistan” was organised with the aim to help national stakeholders address the level of effort required to implement the ESCO mechanism. This event was organised jointly by the Agency for Strategic Reforms under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Fund for Reconstruction and Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the European Union’s SECCA project.

The discussion focused on assessing the resources needed to start developing a comprehensive roadmap.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).



## First 100 Public Schools in Kazakhstan to Receive Energy Efficiency Labels with the European Union's support



Based on the European Union experience, the SECCA project in close cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Construction of the Republic of Kazakhstan work on a wider dissemination of building energy efficiency labelling in Kazakhstan, which has been implemented in the country since 2012, when the Law on Energy Saving was adopted.

At the Second Interregional Forum of Environmental Initiatives "SAF AUA" organised jointly by the ECOJER Association and the SECCA Project in Temirtau on 4 June 2024 within the EU–Kazakhstan Sustainable Energy Days, representatives of the EU and the Ministry of Industry and Construction presented the Energy Efficiency Labels to two schools – the Kossy School Gymnasium and the Kazakh School Lyceum in the town of Qonayev. These two school buildings scored the highest on energy efficiency among other analysed 100 new public schools and received "A" and "B" ratings accordingly.

> Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## SECCA visit to Turkmenistan: European Union experts shared best practices in implementation of innovative energy efficiency technologies

The SECCA project team visited Turkmenistan from 11 to 20 March 2024 and held a series of meetings with the state and international partners in Ashgabat, as well as the workshop and the international conference in Mary. As part of the visit, the training workshop "International practice in implementation of innovative EE technologies and Energy survey" was held in Mary on 13-19 March 2024. On 18 March 2024, the International Conference "Prospects for introduction of green innovative

energy efficiency technologies in the electric power industry of Turkmenistan" took place with participation of the industry professionals from Turkmenistan, the EU, and other countries of Central Asia.

> Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

> Training workshop materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

> Conference materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

### 2.1.2 Renewable energy

#### EU Support to Small Hydropower Development in Kyrgyzstan: SECCA Experts Visit Karakol-1 Project Site



The experts of the European Union funded SECCA project and a representative of the Green Energy Fund of Kyrgyzstan visited

the Karakol-1 Small Hydropower Plant (SHPP) project site. This visit followed the kick-off meeting on conducting a pre-feasibility study of a SHPP.

The Karakol-1 SHPP project was proposed for a model pre-feasibility study by the Green Energy Fund. It is to be developed on the site of the former Karakol HPP.

> Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).



## Small Hydropower Plant Pre-Feasibility Study to Kick-Off in Kyrgyzstan with EU's SECCA Project Support

A kick-off meeting “Conducting a Pre-Feasibility Study – the First Step to Develop Small Hydropower Projects” was held in Bishkek and gathered the national and international experts. The meeting was organised jointly by the Ministry of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Green Energy Fund under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the European Union (EU) funded SECCA project.

At the kick-off meeting, the representatives of SECCA presented their latest activities and plans in the field of SHP development. The experts considered the experience of the EU, the Kyrgyz Republic, and other Central Asian countries. The SHP team members presented their plans for the pre-feasibility study.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Meeting materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## European Union's SECCA Project Presents Results of Assessment of Biomass Potential for Kyrgyz Republic

Representatives of the Ministry of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic, international and regional organisations, as well as the experts of the European Union (EU) funded SECCA project gathered at the Round table “Assessment of biomass potential for the Kyrgyz Republic”. The event was organised jointly by the Ministry of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the SECCA project.

At the Round table, the participants reviewed and discussed the results of the assessment of biomass potential for Kyrgyzstan conducted by SECCA's Biomass Energy Expert.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Round table materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## SECCA Experts Take Part in International Scientific Conference on Renewable Energy in Turkmenistan

The International Scientific Conference “Renewable Energy Sources Transition – the Energy of the Future” was organised by the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan, and the State Energy Institute of Turkmenistan. Held in the hybrid format, the event gathered representatives of the academic and expert communities.

of renewable energy sources, having delivered, in particular, presentations on practical application of the EU best practices in promoting sustainable energy in Central Asia, energy efficient building certifications, energy service companies and energy performance contracting, and the experience of Kazakhstan in renewable energy development.

The SECCA experts contributed to the plenary session discussion, as well as to the sessions on innovative technologies in the field

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## Regional Conference Reviews Prospects for Renewable Energy Development in Tajikistan

The representatives of the government bodies, science and research institutions of Tajikistan, the European Union (EU) and international organisations gathered at the Regional Conference “Prospects for Renewable Energy Development in the Republic of Tajikistan”.

During the presentations and discussions at the Conference, the delegates reviewed ongoing RE and green economy initiatives in Central Asia, the challenges faced by the region and the energy sector, as well as the prospects for deployment of RE projects, including their technical, economic and financial aspects. The SECCA project moderated Session IV – Prospects for the development of rooftop solar installations in Central Asian countries.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan, National Academy of Science of Tajikistan, and Association of Renewable Energy of Tajikistan, in partnership with the EU, GIZ, UNDP, and USAID.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Conference materials in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

### 2.1.3 Carbon regulation

#### Improvement of Legislation for Carbon Regulation in Kazakhstan

On 1 March 2024, an Expert Seminar on “Improvement of the Legislation for Carbon Regulation in Kazakhstan” was held in Astana, with the participation of heads of state bodies, international and national experts. The event was organised by the Research and Educational Center “Green Academy”, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of

Kazakhstan, with the support of the OECD SIPA project, the European Union through its SECCA project, and GIZ.

As a result of the Expert Seminar, participants adopted a draft recommendation on improving legislation on the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

## 2.2 PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE



The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is the project’s governing body, which reviews the progress and provides guidance on the trajectory of the project activities. The PSC meeting, convened once a year, is an important event for the stakeholders to come together and discuss the project progress and the way forward.

On 19 April 2024, the Second PSC meeting convened in Astana, Kazakhstan. Officials from the countries of Central Asia, members of the PSC designated by their respective governments, and representatives of the EU attended the event.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Meeting materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## 2.3 HORIZON EUROPE

#### Kazakhstan Appoints National Contact Point for European Union’s Horizon Europe Climate, Energy and Mobility Cluster

Kazakhstan appointed Ms Malika Tazhmuratova as a National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Union’s Horizon Europe programme cluster 5, which focuses on “Climate, Energy and Mobility”. She will serve as a primary point of contact for inquiries related to participation in the Horizon Europe initiatives and projects in the areas of climate change, sustainable energy, and sustainable mobility.

The EU’s SECCA project assists the countries of Central Asia to create pre-conditions and build capacities for more active participation in the Horizon Europe programme. It has been working closely with the Science Fund of Kazakhstan to establish this NCP and will provide capacity building support to Ms Tazhmuratova to ensure she can effectively fulfil her role.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

#### Horizon Europe in Central Asia: Regional Workshop Highlights Opportunities for Sustainable Energy Development

More than 120 researchers, scientists, representatives of research institutes, universities and other organisations working in the field of sustainable energy gathered at the regional

workshop “Horizon Europe in Central Asia: Promoting Research Excellence and Collaboration for Sustainable Energy”.

The event was organised jointly by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network of Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev University, Science Fund of Kazakhstan, the European Union's SECCA project, and Chevron.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness about the programme and, in particular, its Cluster 5 "Climate, Energy and Mobility", as

well as opportunities it offers for the research community in the region. It showcased funding schemes, projects and initiatives that match the priorities of stakeholders in Central Asia.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#)
- > Event materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## Sustainable Development Solutions Network Conference Takes Place in Astana

Representatives of the academic and research community from the countries of Central Asia, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as of the European Union (EU) gathered at Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Conference, which was held at Nazarbayev University.

The event was organised by SDSN Kazakhstan jointly with the Science Fund of Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev University, the EU through its "Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Central Asia

(SECCA)" project, and Chevron.

The participants discussed research priorities and collaboration opportunities within the EU's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, Sustainable Development Goals localisation and climate action, public opinion research on sustainability.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## 2.4 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAYS 2024

Every year, the SECCA project hosts the EU–Central Asia Sustainable Energy Days (SEDs) campaign in the beneficiary countries. SEDs are a regional edition of the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), the largest annual event dedicated to renewables and efficient energy use in Europe, initiated in 2007 by the European Commission. SEDs have become an important

EU initiative across the region to enhance awareness about the significance and benefits of sustainable energy, the relationship between energy and climate change, as well as to promote clean energy and energy efficiency, and contribute to the implementation of climate-neutral solutions for communities, businesses and industries.

### 2.4.1 European Union - Kazakhstan Sustainable Energy Days

#### II Interregional Forum of Environmental Initiatives "SAF AUA": ways to solve environmental problems of industrial regions

The Forum took place in Temirtau. The goal of the event was to draw attention to the environmental problems of industrial regions and find ways to solve them. It was organised by the Kazakhstan Association ECOJER with the support of the European Union (through its SECCA project), the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and local executive bodies.

The Forum discussed issues of energy transformation of industry, strategies for increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and the introduction of green technologies in construction.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Forum materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).



## Karaganda Industrial University Receives the EU Award



The SEDs campaign events at the Karaganda Industrial University took place on 3-4 June 2024 and involved more than

80 students and faculty members. The students attended the lectures on energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions delivered by the European and Kazakhstani experts and, at the Students' Debate, they argued on the best sustainable energy solutions for Temirtau.

At the Award Ceremony, the main prize was announced – an online study course on climate, sustainable energy, and solutions for energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment for the students and faculty members of the Karaganda Industrial University.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Lectures materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## High-Level Hydrogen Diplomacy Forum Identifies Synergies for Regional Cooperation

The Hydrogen Diplomacy Office Astana, serving as an international exchange platform between Kazakhstan and Germany on the topic of green hydrogen, organised this event in cooperation with the EU-funded SECCA project. Considering both exports and domestic use of green hydrogen, the event aimed at facilitating a common understanding of synergy potentials and challenges for regional cooperation and raising awareness about the significance and benefits of sustainable energy.

The SECCA project moderated Session 2 of the Forum titled

“Decarbonisation: support for the development of renewable energy and hydrogen in Central Asia”. This session was organised as part of the EU–Kazakhstan Sustainable Energy Days. SECCA experts presented and shared the European experience on promoting small-scale renewable energy and guarantee of origin for electricity from RES.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Forum materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## 2.4.2 European Union - Tajikistan Sustainable Energy Days

### Event highlights sustainable energy awareness and community engagement in Khatlon region



The second European Union – Tajikistan Sustainable Energy Days (SEDs) took place in the Khatlon region on 28-29 May 2024. The event emphasised promoting sustainable energy and sustainable mobility awareness, while engaging local communities, and especially focusing on the youth in the region.

The campaign took place in two educational institutions: the Energy College of Jaloliddin Balkhi District and the Institute of Energy of Tajikistan in Kushoniyon. More than 150 stakeholders, among them students and faculty members of the two institutions, energy policymakers and professionals from the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, representatives of the Khatlon region and Bokhtar city administrations, as well

as the EU representatives and experts, took part in the event. The dynamic agenda included lectures, debates, awards, cycling action and the Vaksh riverside cleaning action.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Energy College lectures materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Institute of Energy lectures materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## 2.4.3 European Union - Turkmenistan Sustainable Energy Days

### International Conference in Turkmenbashi Presents Solutions for Sustainable Energy Promotion

More than 70 delegates from Turkmenistan, the European Union and other countries of Central Asia gathered at the International Conference “Climate change – challenges and solutions for sustainable energy” to share experiences in the implementation of sustainable energy policies in practice.

The Conference was organised jointly by the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan, Turkmenbashi city administration, the EU through its SECCA project, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project “Sustainable Cities in Turkmenistan: Integrated development of green cities in Ashgabat and Avaza”.

The event gathered energy experts, policy makers, researchers, representatives of civil society, international organisations, and international financial institutions. It provided an action-oriented forum to share experiences and best practices, including based on the lessons learned by EU Member States and Energy Community Contracting Parties.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Conference materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Ashgabat lectures materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).
- > Turkmenbashi lectures materials pages in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

### EU Awards Most Energy Efficient School in Turkmenbashi



School № 10 was recognised as the most energy efficient among the public schools of the city. The School teachers, students, parents, the representatives of the EU, the UNDP in Turkmenistan, Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan, Ministry of Education of

Turkmenistan, and Turkmenbashi city administration gathered at the Award Ceremony on 1 May 2024 to celebrate the School's achievement.

The Award Ceremony was followed by the environmental action for schoolchildren. It involved an introductory lecture titled “Nature is our common home”, mini-sports competitions and a bicycle ride to promote environmentally friendly mobility, and the tree planting ceremony, during which children and the esteemed guests planted trees together, thus, doing their bit to greening Turkmenistan and contributing positively to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

- > Read more in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

## 2.5 SECCA AT EUROPE DAY FESTIVALS



The Europe Day celebrations were organised under the auspice of the Delegations of the European Union to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan. Organised in the spirit of unity, diversity and friendship, these

events introduced participants to the rich culture of the EU countries, celebrated the cooperation between the EU and the Central Asian states, as well as highlighted the programmes and initiatives implemented by the EU in the region and each country.

At the project stand at these events, SECCA experts engaged the event attendees in an informative and playful interaction to raise awareness about the EU's support to the countries of the region in their current energy transition efforts and to promote clean and renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Find out more about these events here:

- > EuroFest2024 in Kazakhstan (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))
- > EU Festival in Uzbekistan (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))
- > Europe Day Celebration in Turkmenistan (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))

## 2.6 UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

The present calendar informs of the project's regional and country-specific events and activities planned to take place during the period from September 2024 to February 2025. This is a tentative planning, and changes may occur.

### SEPTEMBER 2024

Regional Workshop on Energy modelling

### OCTOBER 2024

Regional Workshop on Gender in Energy

Participation in Central Asian Regional Forum "Green Economy – 2024"

EU–Kyrgyzstan Sustainable Energy Days

### NOVEMBER 2024

Participation at International Energy Saving Forum

Series of Meetings with Youth on Gender in Energy

International Conference "Opportunities of the Horizon Europe programme"

EU–Uzbekistan Sustainable Energy Days

Horizon Europe info event

### DECEMBER 2024

Regional Workshop on Energy modelling and Statistics

Technical Workshop on Horizon Europe

Round Table on small-scale RE development

Round Table on Prospects of Geothermal Energy

International Conference "Sustainable Energy in defence of the Environment: Studying international experience"

### JANUARY 2025

Regional Workshop on Energy modelling and NECP

### FEBRUARY 2025

Round Table on Finalised Inventory of Public Buildings

Seminar on Pre-Feasibility Study for Small Hydropower Plant

Round Table on Prospects of e-mobility

Regional Workshop on ESCO financing

● Regional ● In Kazakhstan ● In Kyrgyzstan ● In Tajikistan ● In Turkmenistan ● In Uzbekistan



### 3. SUSTAINABLE ENERGY KNOWLEDGE HUB

The Sustainable Energy Knowledge Hub section of the SECCA website provides information and guidance for regional and national stakeholders and experts on the EU policies and regulations, EE and RE implementation practices, financing of the EE and RE projects, energy statistics and energy modelling, as well as participation in the EU's research and innovation programme Horizon Europe.

The new information was added to the Knowledge Hub pages during the period January-August 2024 to the following subsections:

EE and RE Implementation Practices:

- > Energy Efficiency Improvement (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))
- > Energy Performance of Buildings (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))
- > Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))

Financing EE and RE (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))

Horizon Europe (in [English](#) and [Russian](#)).

### 4. PUBLICATIONS

Development and publication of media and information materials is an important part of SECCA's communication. Between February and August 2024, the SECCA project team either initiated or contributed to the following publications, which marked the important occasions, such as the Sustainable Energy Days, 8 March International Women's Day, 6 March World Energy Efficiency Day, 11 February International Women and Girls in STEM Day.

> "Up to 60% of Energy in Kazakhstan Used for Buildings Maintenance. What to Do? – Experts" (in [Russian](#))

> "The EU Ambassador: Sustainable Energy Development Enhances EU–Kazakhstan Cooperation" (in [Kazakh](#) and [Russian](#))

> "Women Who Change the Future: 3 Stories on the Career in Sustainable Energy" (in [Russian](#))

> "Energy Efficiency First for Sustainable and Climate-Neutral Future" (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))

> "Towards Gender Equality in STEM in Central Asia and Europe" (in [English](#) and [Russian](#))

### 5. ABOUT SECCA & PROJECT CONTACTS

#### The European Union support to Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Central Asia (SECCA)

In line with **the European Green Deal, the European Union Strategy on Central Asia, and the Global Gateway Team Europe Initiative on Water, Energy and Climate Change in Central Asia**, the European Union (EU) is committed to support the countries of Central Asia (CA) in their current energy transition efforts by building upon the region's potential in renewable energy (RE) and capability for improving energy efficiency (EE), as well as promoting sustainable energy connectivity in the region.

The EU launched a four-year project "The EU Support to Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Central Asia (SECCA)" in March 2022. **The mission of this project is to promote a more sustainable energy mix in the CA region in line with the EU best practices.**

Specifically, the SECCA project aims to strengthen and enhance a more inclusive policy, regulatory and institutional framework for the transition to a sustainable energy system within a regional context and focuses on contributing to the fulfilment of international human rights commitments in the CA countries, including equal access to energy and supporting gender-responsive policies and legislation for EE and RE deployment.

**Priority areas for consultation and cooperation include development of RE, improvement of EE, regional cooperation in the field of sustainable energy, promotion and integration of gender and rights-based considerations into energy policy and targeted energy programmes.**

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