

Assistance to raising knowledge on industrial safety at universities in Armenia



Gold refining plant in Armenia (Photo: Winkelmann-Oei, UBA)

Background

Like many countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Armenia has obsolete industrial structures as well as new industrial activities. Armenia intends to permit and monitor these plants according to western standards in future. Corresponding technical safety standards are to be established in particular at plants having high potential risks. However, in many cases, both the competent authorities and plant operators lack the requisite know-how and professionals. Therefore, passing on knowledge of methods to improve plant safety to junior engineers at universities is of major importance.

Project

The aim of the project was to better mainstream the issue of industrial safety at universities in Armenia and to incorporate it into engineering training in order to improve the availability of local specialists in this field.

During a “training of trainers” German experts trained lecturers from universities and specialists from the Ministries of Nature Protection, and Emergency Situations as well as the Yerevan Aarhus Centre in the “Checklist method for reviewing and assessing safety at installations relevant to water pollution control”. This method was developed by the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA). The trained lecturers imparted their knowledge during the following theoretical courses to university students. Jointly they adapted the methodology and the package of checklists to local requirements and translated them into Armenian. They are available now at relevant departments of several universities. During supervised internships at six industrial enterprises the students evaluated the plants’ technical safety measures using the checklist method. During an UNECE Workshop in Yerevan, operators, international experts, representatives of Armenian ministries and international organizations stressed the usefulness of the project results. The project was also presented at the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. Representatives of all UNECE countries acknowledged it as a new, efficient and sustainable approach to know how transfer. All project information is available at www.ecopeace.am and www.unece.org/env/teia/mtgs/Yerevan2013.

- Target country/region: Republic of Armenia
- Duration: 02/2012-06/2013
- Beneficiaries: Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Yerevan Aarhus Centre, Armenian State Engineering University, Yerevan State University of Architecture and Construction
- Implementing organisation: Armenian NGO “Eco Peace”
- Project number: FKZ 380 01 283