

## Meeting of partners in Armenia

On April 7-9 of 2014, Georgian partners visited the city of Ararat (Armenia), with the participation of Ketevan Tskhakaia, Project Coordinator, and Merab Baratashvili, expert.

A meeting of Georgian and Armenian partners was held in the Ararat City Hall with the Mayor of Ararat, Haik Haikyan, City Hall staff, project executives and representatives of the non-governmental, mass media, education and health care sectors.

In his statement, the Mayor of Ararat, Haik Haikyan, emphasized the importance of this project for the city of Ararat, and noted that Ararat has experience in waste sorting and collection - there are special dust bins for plastic bottles in the city.

K. Tskhakaia, Project Coordinator talked about the project's main goals and objectives, topicality of project ideas, and emphasized the long cooperation between Kutaisi and Ararat for environmental improvement in the countries of the South Caucasus region.

The project co-coordinators Dshkhuhi Saakyan Haikanush Hovanesyan, Evelina Hukasyan talked about activities that are already underway and the readiness of the project team. They noted that Ararat has the environment action plan, within which lots of activities have been carried out. There exists a readiness for sharing and introducing innovative waste management methods not only in Ararat, but contributing to the introduction of acquired knowledge and experience in other Armenian cities as well.



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## In Ararat there have been laid the foundations for organic waste composting

During the course of the project activities, considerable attention was attached to carrying out preparation works for the introduction of organic waste composting in the city of Ararat. To that end, there were implemented a number of measures, in particular, the pilot school N3 was selected, in the yard of which the compost pit was organized.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, under the leadership of Karine Manukyan and Merab Baratashvili the school teachers and pupils have organized the first filling of this compost pit with organic waste. It should be noted that pupils collected organic waste in advance, by which the compost pit was filled in the certain sequence and order. It is also important that further supervision of the compost pit will be carried out by the school together with their Armenian partners. The final product compost will be ready in 6-8 months, and will be used for fertilizing the school land plot.

A practical workshop was conducted for school teachers and pupils on the methods for organic waste recycling and composting. The workshop was conducted by M. Baratashvili. The audience received exhaustive information on the advantages of composting and producing organic waste.

At the end, the school pupils organized a concert for guests.

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, a workshop on "Organic Waste Composting" was organized in the city of Ararat, which was attended by representatives of local authorities, non-governmental organizations, schools and farming enterprises.



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## “Individual Composting” - a brochure for target groups and beneficiaries

The brochure “Individual Composting” was prepared and printed in the Armenian language. It describes the essence of compost and composting, including: composting stages and materials required for compost producing. The brochure also discusses simple composting methods and rules for using the final product. The brochure was distributed among workshop participants, target groups and the citizens of Ararat.



## The first steps in the development of the Waste Management Action Plan for Kutaisi have been taken

The stakeholders group was created with the participation of representatives of Kutaisi local authorities, NGOs and Kutaisi society, to develop the waste management action plan for Kutaisi. The meetings for stakeholders were held on April 4 and May 7, 2014, during which the current state of waste management in Kutaisi was discussed, problems were identified and strategic goals were set. There was great interest and high participation of Kutaisi public representatives.



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## Attitude of the population of Kutaisi towards waste sorting

Within the project "Introduction of innovative waste management practices in selected cities of Georgia, Moldova and Armenia, GMA-WMP", the population survey for studying the attitude towards sorting and collection of domestic waste was organized in Kutaisi.

Waste products, as is known, are the main contaminants of environment. In many countries they are used as secondary raw materials, collected and sorted by using different methods and recycled into new products.

In the near future, the first steps of sorted waste collection in Kutaisi will occur. The attitude towards the mentioned activities was expressed by people in their answers to the survey's questions.

The survey was conducted with citizens over 18 years of age from all 12 municipalities, 34% of questioned people are men, and 66% - women.

Information provided by the population on waste collected in their families was of high importance. In particular:

The question *"What sort of domestic waste products are collected in your family?"* was answered as follows:

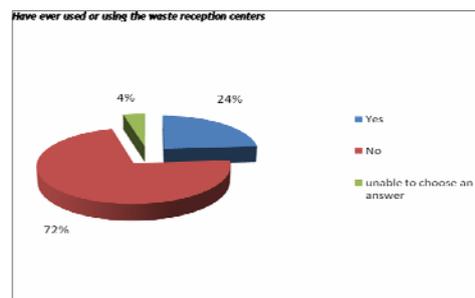
- Food waste - 47,5%
- Plastic bottles and bags - 24,8%
- Waste paper - 12,4%
- Textile (old clothes and fabrics) - 7,3%
- Glassware (cans and bottles) - 6%
- Scrap metal - 1,2%
- Outdated equipment (electric appliances and their elements) - 0,8%

The question *"By which method do you get rid of domestic waste in your family?"* was answered as follows:

It was found out that the major part of the collected waste (62%) is placed by population in special containers on the streets and is taken out by special sanitation trucks, a considerable portion (32%) is burned in the yards, some (1,3%) is thrown out into the rivers, and 4.7% of questioned respondents have no answer.

The question *"Have you ever used or are you using the waste reception centers(waste paper, plastics, metal, glass, used accumulators, etc)?"* was answered:

72% - are experienced in using the waste reception centers;  
24% - have not used such centers;  
4% - unable to choose an answer.



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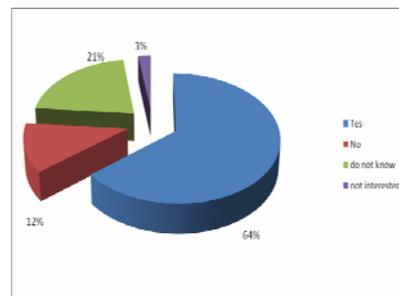


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The question “Are you going to take part in sorting collection of waste if it will be started in Kutaisi?” was answered as follows:

- 58% - Expressed a desire
- 20% - Declined to participate
- 21% - Do not know
- 1%-1 - Not interested



The question “Which method of waste sorting collection is the most acceptable to you?” was answered as follows:

- Sorting at home and placing them in special dust bins - 46,4%;
- Disposal of sorted waste to the waste reception centers and receiving a certain compensation - 12,2%;
- Preparation of compost from organic waste in home conditions, and disposal of other waste to waste reception centers - 2,5%;
- Placing of mixed (unsorted) waste in special dust bins for their further sorting in sorting centers - 12,8%;
- Do not know - 10,3%;
- Not interested - 1,6%.

Thus, it should be noted that *more than half of questioned respondents (58%) support waste sorting in the city of Kutaisi. It is also important that the majority (46,4%) are ready to sort waste at home and then to place them in appropriate rubbish bins.*



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## Introduction of innovative waste management practices in selected cities of Georgia, Moldova and Armenia, GMA-WMP



Self-Government of City Kutaisi, Georgia



Ungheni City Hall, Moldova



Regional Centre of Sustainable Development, Moldova



Ararat Municipality, Armenia



Environmental Survival, Armenia



Eco-Counselling Centre GALATI, Romania



Imereti Scientists' Union "Spectri", Georgia

The Black Sea Program is co-financed by the European Union through the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of the Imereti Scientists' Union "Spectri" and in no way reflect the views of the European Union.



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