



How should the recommendations produced by the project be implemented?

Recommendations to address the escalating plastic pollution crisis in Armenia

<p>Recommendations to improve existing legislation regulating the production of plastic and plastic products, plastic waste generation and management</p>	<p>In light of the requirements of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement between Armenia and the European Union (CEPA), the legislation should incorporate the European concept of waste hierarchy and circular economy. The list of Armenia's waste management commitments under CEPA includes the following item: "by 2024, to establish a mechanism for full cost recovery in accordance with the "polluter pays" principle and the principle of extended producer responsibility". The draft law on the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system is currently under active discussion; AWHHE and other stakeholders are involved in the process.</p>
<p>Recommendations to relevant government agencies to promote safe plastic production, recycling and disposal</p>	<p>The process is slow, and there is a need to accelerate the establishment of safety standards for the disposal of plastic waste. Prioritize waste management, particularly Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which promotes producer responsibility for the ultimate fate of their products. EPR will also help build infrastructure to collect and recycle plastic waste. A considerable gap exists in health safety and the involvement of the Ministry of Health.</p>
<p>Recommendations to producers for promoting safe alternatives to plastic products</p>	<p>Producers remain passive, awaiting suitable directives, although there is widespread support for the need to promote alternatives; only a limited number of producers take the initiative, but there is a risk of "false" solutions, such as biodegradable plastic.</p>
<p>Recommendations for consumers</p>	<p>Generally, as the experience of this project indicates, consumers have a positive perception of the recommendations, particularly among urban youth. However, this experience does not accurately reflect reality; our work with consumers reveals that changing stereotypes in behaviour takes considerable time and</p>

	resources. Broad awareness-raising programs are necessary, especially in rural areas.
Recommendations for the public sector	Unfortunately, widespread visibility and public sector involvement are often limited to waste issues. There is a need to enhance the capacity of the public sector to address issues related to the consumption of products with hazardous chemical additives and their recycling, the promotion of alternatives, as well as ensuring transparency and accessibility of information regarding chemicals in products. In this respect, the information and work under this project in Armenia are unique.

Gathering feedback from various stakeholders (according to a pre-designed plan)

- Events on the topic of chemical pollution and plastic issues, to which AWHHE experts were invited, provided opportunities to meet and discuss recommendations with representatives of various stakeholders:
- - Round table on "Solid Waste Management in Yerevan, Landfills" (held at "EcoLur" Press Club)
- - Series of discussions organized by Yerevan Aarhus Center as part of the preparatory work for the National Report on the Aarhus Convention
- - Workshop on Expanding Commitments to Implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in Armenia, organized by the Ministry of Environment. Preparing a recommendation email, developing a list of possible recipients, sending out the email, and compiling feedback
- Organization of a webinar to summarize the results of work on the practical implementation of the project recommendations