

WECCOOP and SECCA study tour

“Renewable Energy – state of the art”

**The Netherlands
20-26 November 2022**

The Central Asian (CA) region has abundant renewable energy resources; it possesses an estimated 5 % of the world’s natural capacity for wind and solar energy capture. The CA countries have committed to be part of the global energy transition from fossil-based energy sources including oil, natural gas, and coal to renewable energy sources (RES), like solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, hydropower, and bioenergy.

Carbon neutrality is on the agenda of sustainable development of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. At the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26), the five countries of Central Asia voiced their consolidated approach to decarbonisation and their common strive to create new opportunities for sustainable growth and wellbeing of future generations.

In line with the European Green Deal and the EU Strategy on Central Asia, the European Union (EU) is committed to support CA countries in their current energy transition efforts by “building upon the region’s potential in solar, wind and hydroelectric energy” in order to “contribute to strengthening the region's energy resilience, helping to meet its climate objectives, and creating jobs and business opportunities on both sides.”

In March 2022, the EU-funded project “European Union – Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation” (WECCOOP) launched a media contest among Central Asian journalists for the best journalistic materials to address the theme “Switching to renewable energy sources – our contribution to carbon neutrality”.

The purpose of this contest was to increase public awareness on the need of switching to renewable energy sources to reduce the environmental impact of fossil fuels, meet the rapidly growing energy demand, and tackle the challenges related to the energy security.

As a result of the contest, 6 winners were selected and invited take part in an international study tour to the Netherlands to learn about available technologies, best practices, and expertise in RE and EE. They will be joined by 2 more journalists, winners of the project’s 2020 climate contest. Thus, 8 journalists representing Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, will take part in this study tour.

The study tour is organized jointly by two EU-funded projects “European Union – Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation ([WECCOOP](#))” and the newly launched “Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Central Asia ([SECCA](#))”. The SECCA project aims to promote a sustainable energy mix in the Central Asia region in line with EU best practices.

The study tour is scheduled for 20-26 November 2022.

PROGRAMME

Time	Location	Description	Website / other additional information
Day 0 – 20 November 2022, Sunday			
From 10:40	Schiphol	<i>Arrival to the Schiphol Airport, pick up and transfers to the hotel.</i>	
From 12:00	Noordwijk	<i>Arrival to Noordwijk. Accommodation at Hotel Astoria.</i>	www.hotelastoria.nl
Day 1 – 21 November 2022, Monday			
09:00-10:00		<i>Travel to the Hague</i>	
10:00-11:00	The Hague	<i>Collecting per diems by the participants</i>	Western Union office
11:00-13:00	The Hague	<p>Introductions to the WECOOP and SECCA Projects and the study tour programme.</p> <p><i>Walk through the city and sightseeing.</i></p> <p>The Hague is the administrative and royal capital of the Netherlands and its seat of government, as well as the capital of the province of South Holland. It hosts the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. It has been described as the de facto capital of the Netherlands.</p>	https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/destinations/the-hague.htm
13:30-15:00	The Hague	<p>Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate</p> <p>The Ministry promotes the Netherlands as a country of enterprise with a strong international competitive position and an eye for sustainability. It is committed to creating an excellent entrepreneurial business climate, by creating the right conditions and giving entrepreneurs room to innovate and grow, paying attention to nature and the living environment, encouraging cooperation between research institutes and businesses. Senior policymakers of the Directorate-General Climate and Energy will inform about the latest developments in policies concerning hydrogen and wind energy.</p>	<p>https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-economic-affairs-and-climate-policy</p> <p>Bezuidenhoutseweg 73 2594 AC The Hague</p>
15:00-16:30	The Hague	<i>Late lunch</i>	
16:30-17:30		<i>Travel back to Noordwijk</i>	
Day 2 – 22 November 2022, Tuesday			
08:30-10:00		<i>Travel to Flevoland</i>	
10:00-12:30	Flevoland	Windpark Groen	https://windplanblauw.nl/
12:00-13:30		<i>Transfer to Lelystad</i>	
13:30-14:30	Lelystad	House of the Province	
14:30-15:00		<i>Transfer to Amstelveen</i>	
15:00-16:00	Amstelveen	<p>GIGA Storage</p> <p>GIGA Storage is the energy company that develops, realizes and deploys large-scale energy storage projects. To deal with green generated energy efficiently, peak moments in supply and demand must be balanced. By charging a battery during periods of excess supply and discharging it in the event of an energy shortage, the grid is stabilized without the need for fossil fuels.</p>	<p>https://giga-storage.com</p> <p>Amstelzijde 85A 1184 TZ Amstelveen</p>
16:00-17:30		<i>Travel back to Noordwijk</i>	

Day 3 – 23 November 2022, Wednesday			
10:00-11:00		<i>Travel from Noordwijk to Delft by minivan</i>	
11:00-12:00	Delft	<p>Green Village</p> <p>At The Green Village, researchers, students, startups, entrepreneurs and government bodies work everyday on the innovation challenges of today and tomorrow. The focus lies on the following three themes: Sustainable building and renovation, Future energy system and Climate adaptive city.</p>	<p>https://www.thegreenvillage.org/en/</p> <p>Van den Broekweg 4 2628 CR Delft</p>
12:00-12:30		<i>Travel to Rotterdam</i>	
12:30-13:30	Rotterdam	Port of Rotterdam Authority	https://www.portofrotterdam.com/en/to-do-port/futureland
13:30-14:00		<i>Travel to the Port</i>	
14:00-16:00	Port of Rotterdam	<p>Futureland</p> <p>Maasvlakte 2 was built for the innovative, sustainable and deep-sea related port industry, such as container terminals, logistical service providers and the petrochemical industry. But there is also plenty of nature among the ships and industry. The area attracts a wide range of bird species, both breeding birds and migratory birds. Maasvlakte 2 Wind Farm at the Port of Rotterdam uses many nature friendly technologies to protect wildlife, especially birds, such as bird detection radar. They have agreed on "shutdown budget" to protect migratory birds. Another interesting object just around the corner is the largest wind turbine in the world – Haliade-X.</p>	https://www.eneco.com/wat-we-doen/duurzame-bronnen/windpark-maasvlakte2/
16:00-17:30		<i>Travel back to Noordwijk</i>	
Day 4 – 24 November 2022, Thursday			
08:30-10:00		<i>Travel to Apeldoorn</i>	
10:00-12:00	Apeldoorn	<p>SolarEis</p> <p>SolarEis directs and makes independent heating and cooling of (commercial) real estate. The SolarEis system combines the five natural energy sources for heating and cooling in the most economical way: sun, air, earth, water and ice. Heating and cooling facilities cannot be more efficient and environmentally friendly.</p>	https://www.solareis.nl
12:00-13:30		<i>Travel back to Noordwijk</i>	
13:30-		<i>Free time</i>	
Day 5 – 25 November 2022, Friday			
09:00-10:00		<i>Travel to Amsterdam</i>	
10:00-13:00	Amsterdam	<p>Afval Energie Bedrijf (Waste Energy Company)</p> <p>AEB is one of the largest waste processing plants in Western Europe. Every year, 1.4 million tonnes of waste are processed by the company. It works as cleanly and safely as possible and ensures a healthy financial basis. AEB is always focused on the most responsible solutions within the possibilities of the moment. Ensuring a clean society means that we recycling as much as possible and extract valuable materials from waste. What remains AEB incinerates efficiently and in doing so provides</p>	<p>https://www.aebamsterdam.com</p> <p>Australiëhavenweg 21 1045 BA Amsterdam or Postbus 58292 1040 HG Amsterdam</p>

		electricity and district heating for an increasing number of Amsterdam households.	
13:00-	Amsterdam	<p><i>Free time</i></p> <p>Amsterdam is the Netherlands' capital, known for its artistic heritage, elaborate canal system and narrow houses with gabled facades, legacies of the city's 17th-century Golden Age. Its Museum District houses the Van Gogh Museum, works by Rembrandt and Vermeer at the Rijksmuseum, and modern art at the Stedelijk.</p>	https://www.iamsterdam.com/en
Day 6 – 26 November 2022, Saturday			
From 05:00		Transfer from hotel to the Schiphol Airport	
From 07:40		Departures	