PROJECT:

Solar energy for low-carbon sustainable lifestyles in Solak, Aygavan and Malishka rural communities of **Armenia**

Implementing entity:
Armenian women for health and healthy environment, NGO

Project partners:
EcoLur, NGO; Municipalities of participating communities

Amount:
Budgeted: USD100,400
Spent: USD100,400

Duration:
14.04.2017 – 31.12.2018

Project objective:

The project's main objective was to contribute to the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme of the 10YFP by promoting the practical use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in rural Armenia for climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability. The project specific objectives were to: strengthen the target communities by providing them with modern mechanisms for solar energy use, opportunities to enhance local initiatives for improving quality of life and the environment; reduce energy costs (up to 50%) of the involved communities via implementation of renewable solar energy pilots.

Project status: **Completed**

In the three targeted communities the following results were achieved:

01 In Solak community: a solar water heater was installed in the local kindergarten and a photovoltaic panel was installed in Women's Resource Center to ensure the energy supply to centre's solar fruit dryer available for all in the community to use. In Malishka community: solar-powered street lights were installed as well as solar-powered lights for the local library. In Aygavan community: solar fruit dryers were purchased for women in the community and training on water heating and cooking with the use of solar energy was organized for the children in the community school.

02 Recommendations on solar energy use for sustainable rural development were developed for national decision-makers, as a contribution to national and international environmental policy programmes, strategies and plans.

03 At least 70% of the village population in three target communities increased awareness on solar energy use for sustainable rural development. The results of successful completion of the energy efficient street-lighting, water heating and fruit drying can be used by other communities and organizations promoting renewable energy use in Armenia.

04 For CO2 emissions calculation common efficiency methodology developed by UNFCCC was applied. In total it is estimated that up to 13.35tCO2eq per year was reduced as a result of the project. The calculations are based on the comparison with the source of energy prior to using solar power: gas for water heating; electric dryer for fruit drying; and conventional street lighting.