

Report of the Online Training Workshop on Guidelines and Best Practices in the Republic of Moldova for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment

The Online Training Workshop “Guidelines and Best Practices in the Republic of Moldova for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment” was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and held online on 8 June 2022. The workshop was attended by 22 participants, of which 10 women.

UNECE developed Guidelines and Best Practices for Micro-, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Delivering Energy-Efficient Products and in Providing Renewable Energy Equipment. The Republic of Moldova is one of the pilot countries for which customized Guidelines and Best Practices have been developed. This study served as a basis for this training workshop.

The overall objective of the study was to develop an assessment of the situation of the MSMEs in the Republic of Moldova as result of Covid-19 crisis, as well as to provide recommendations on improvement of the investment environment for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies during the crisis and the recovery periods.

The study concludes that in the Republic of Moldova, the severe health crisis caused by COVID-19 has forced the Government to introduce drastic measures such as lockdown, quarantine, and restriction to mobility, which in turn affected the business environment. Most of the MSMEs had a significant impact from the pandemic and struggled to keep their operations. Immediate measures were necessary since the companies were not ready and were insecure about their response due to lack of relevant knowledge and uncertainty in the planning.

The report recommends a set of policy actions for the Government, among them: continue to support MSMEs via national financial programmes through loans and credit guarantees on loans; introduce temporary tax breaks; integrate the energy certificate of the building in business model on the market; involve the National Bank in creating financial instruments for commercial banks for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects; provide specific incentives for improving compliance with new demand imposed by markets; raise awareness on the benefits of introducing energy efficiency measures and use of renewables both at individual and community level; offer development programmes for MSME employees; secure future innovations through mid- or long-term policy measures linked to larger policy objectives; promote development of new technologies by start-up of new MSME; continue ESCO market development and financial instruments; provide funding support through grants and low- or no-interest loans to MSMEs working in the clean energy sector; develop dedicated financial instruments for energy related companies for commercial banks, including for MSMEs in the area of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The study for the Republic of Moldova has been developed by the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (consultant Sergiu Robu) in the framework of the UN Development Account

project “Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector” led by UNCTAD and UN ESCWA (UNECE is one of the implementing partners). The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity and resilience of MSMEs in developing countries and economies in transition to mitigate the economic and social impact of the global Covid-19 crisis.

At the opening segment of the workshop, Nicolae Magdil, Deputy Chief, Energy Policy Directorate, Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD) of the Republic of Moldova, and Oleg Dziubinski, Regional Adviser for Energy, UNECE made welcome remarks. Mr. Sergiu Robu also presented welcome remarks on behalf of Mr. Mihai Tirsu, Director, Institute of Power Engineering.

Nadejda Khamrakulova presented the regional study with Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment as well as some examples of recommendations from the customized studies in Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and North Macedonia.

The training course was presented by Sergiu Robu, UNECE consultant, who focused on the results of the survey of Moldovan business in the face of pandemic and measures taken by enterprises in response to Covid-19. The best practices for MSMEs in the Republic of Moldova in energy generation, energy efficient equipment in the industry sector, and renewable energy equipment were presented. The presentation continued with recommendations to the Government of the Republic of Moldova in creating enabling environment through appropriate policies and legislation for MSMEs to encourage delivery of energy efficient products and services and provision of renewable energy equipment.

Victoria Ivancioglo, Project Manager at UNDP Moldova, made presentation on energy efficiency and renewable energy with MSMEs in the context of gender and climate nexus. The presentations were followed by interventions by Lilia Vrabie, MAIB, on access to financing for the green economy; and Galina Mereuță, ODIMM, on supporting tools for the business environment. Sergiu Robu, UNECE consultant, moderated a discussion among participants and speakers.

All workshop materials are available at: <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/events/online-training-workshop-guidelines-and-best-practices-micro-small-and-2>, including the agenda, recording of the workshop, presentations, and study Guidelines and best practices for micro-, small and medium enterprises in the Republic of Moldova in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment.