

Draft Agenda for the Workshop

Mapping Albania's readiness for green and just transition in post-coal mining areas

Tirana, Albania

11 December 2023

DESCRIPTION

The project titled *Mapping Albania's readiness for green and just transition in post-coal mining areas* aims to assess Albania's readiness for green and just transition in local post-coal mining areas and to identify regulatory, social, technical, and financial barriers that the country will need to address to be able to successfully reclaim and repurpose its post-coal mining areas in accordance with the principles of green economy and just transition. The project is to assess the situation of various post-coal mining sites across the country and identify elements that are necessary to enable the start and to ensure progress in reclaiming and repurposing. It will build on recommendations provided by the recently completed study on mine closure in Albania and will develop recommendations and guidance on what should be done to successfully implement them.

The first part of the workshop will introduce to the Albanian stakeholders the results of the work that has been undertaken under the project so far. The draft findings and the recommendations will be presented and discussed with the local experts and decision makers, giving a particular attention to obstacles and opportunities for their implementation.

During the second part of the workshop participants will be presented with case studies of the transitions of the coal mining areas in other countries, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, and Serbia. The challenges faced and the mechanisms that were employed to respond to them will be presented and discussed to draw lessons learned applicable to the Albanian conditions.

In the third part the workshop will provide an opportunity for all participants to discuss the draft report, identify its weaknesses and the way in which they can be addressed. It will also offer a space for brainstorming on how to most effectively transform and repurpose the post coal mining areas in Albania, so that they contribute to the country's economy, meet their communities' aspirations, and align with the environmental requirements of the green economy.

The workshop is to be held at the premises of the National Agency of Natural Resources of Albania (AKBN). It is directed to experts and decision-makers from Albania interested and/or professionally engaged in post-coal mining land reclamation and repurposing, as well as just transition of the post coal mining areas in the country.

TIMELINE

Opening

11:00 Welcome by the host (The Director of AKBN)

11:10 Introduction to the workshop by UNECE (*Mr. Michal Drabik*, Secretary, UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, *Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski*, Regional Adviser, SED, UNECE, and *Mr. Raymond Pilcher*, Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition)

Part I: Presentation of the current findings

11:30 Presentation of the current findings (*Mr. Hans Rüdiger Lange*, UNECE International Consultant, and *Mr. Nevtan Kodhelaj* UNECE National Consultant)

Part II: Case studies of transitions of the coal mining areas in other countries

12:00 Bosnia and Herzegovina (*Ms. Aida Haracic*, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina)

12:15 Serbia (*Mr. Radoslav Vukas*, Senior Consultant, Serbian Geology Association)

12:30 North Macedonia (*Mr. Sashe Panevski*, Project Manager, Center for Energy Efficiency of Macedonia – MACEF)

12:45 Germany (*Mr. Hans Rüdiger Lange*, UNECE International Consultant)

13:00 Poland (*Mr. Jan Bondaruk*, Deputy Director for Environmental Engineering, Central Mining Institute in Poland - GIG)

13:15 **Break**

Part III: Brainstorming

14:15 Open discussion on the draft findings and recommendations presented in Part I, and on potential scenarios for effective transformation and repurpose of the post coal mining areas in Albania.

15:40 Summary of the discussion (*Mr. Hans Rüdiger Lange*, UNECE International Consultant)

Close of the workshop

15:50 Closing remarks by the host and UNECE

16:00 End of the workshop