



**Workshop to support establishing a
State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Georgia
and
Stakeholder Consultations on project implementation
“Supporting increased energy security and resilience through energy transition”**

**Tbilisi, Public Service Hall, 2 Sanapiro St.
19-20 June 2024**

The imperative for sustainable energy practices has gained prominence globally in recent years, driven by concerns over climate change, energy security, and economic development. Many countries have established dedicated agencies to promote and facilitate progress in energy efficiency and renewable energy. These agencies serve as focal points for policy development, programme implementation, and stakeholder coordination, crucial in driving the transition to a more sustainable future and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7).

Establishing such an agency can have significant benefits, including fostering innovation, promoting investment in clean energy technologies, and enhancing energy security. By focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency, Georgia can reduce its carbon footprint, contribute to global climate goals, and create new opportunities for economic growth and environmental sustainability. Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (MoESD) has initiated efforts to establish an energy efficiency and renewable energy agency.

MoESD has requested the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to support the Government of Georgia in creating an agency that would be responsible for promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy in the country. The timing of the request following the Workshop on Renewable Energy in Transport in Tbilisi on 21 November 2023, underscores the importance of sustainable energy solutions in Georgia's development agenda. To assist Georgia in this endeavour, UNECE is developing a comparative study on existing agencies devoted to energy efficiency and/or renewable energy in other UNECE countries and providing recommendations on possible options for establishing such an agency in Georgia within the context of the existing strategies, policies, legislation, targets, and overall commitments within global processes (e.g. achieving Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG7, and the Paris Agreement), and potential for improving energy efficiency and increasing the uptake of renewable energy in Georgia. The study is an activity under the UNECE Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC).

The objectives of the Workshop are:

- Share case studies on structure and experience of dedicated renewable energy and energy efficiency agencies in selected UNECE countries
- Allow an open discussion among Georgian stakeholders on how a new agency should be organized, its objectives and activities
- Provide concrete recommendations for establishing the agency and stakeholder engagement
- Discuss a roadmap for the phased implementation of the agency, including short-term and long-term goals
- Identify potential challenges and barriers to establishing the agency and develop strategies to overcome them

Enhanced regional energy connectivity and a resilient and integrated power grid enables countries to: i) improve energy security by connecting countries or sub-regions which have energy deficit with markets that are in surplus, ii) enhance economies of scale of large green infrastructure projects translating into lower overall system investment and operating costs; iii) allow effective integration of renewable energy into an interconnected system that is more inclusive, flexible, effective, reliable, diversified, and decarbonized over time.

The Consultations aim to actively engage stakeholders in Georgia and gather expert opinion to shape the implementation of the UN Development Account project “Supporting increased energy security and resilience through energy transition” jointly implemented by UNECE and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The objective of this project is to help member States increase their policy design capacity to enhance energy security and system resilience through energy connectivity.

Agenda

19 June 2024

Time (Georgia time zone)	Agenda item
09:30 – 10:00	Registration and welcome coffee
10:00 - 12:30	<p>Opening and Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Margalita Arabidze, Head, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable Development Department, MoESD• Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE <p>Part I: Workshop in Tbilisi to support establishing a State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Georgia Session 1 <i>Moderator: Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE</i></p> <p>Empowering Georgia’s Energy Transition: The Need for an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Margalita Arabidze, Head, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable Development Department, MoESD <p>Introduction of the Study on Comparative Analysis of Existing Agencies Dealing with Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the UNECE Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE <p>Presentation of the Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Matija Vajdić, UNECE Consultant <p>Q&A, Open Discussion</p>
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 - 16:30	<p>Session 2 <i>Moderator: Mr. Matija Vajdić, UNECE Consultant</i></p>

	<p>Presentations of the best practice examples in UNECE member States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ukraine - State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine (SAEE) – Ms. Anna Zamazeeva, Head, SAEE (online) • Italy – Energy Services Manager (GSE) – Mr. Alberto Biancardi, Director of Studies and International Relations, GSE, Vice-Chair of GERE • Republic of Moldova – National Center for Sustainable Energy (NCSE) - Mr. Manole Balan, Deputy Director, NCSE • Albania - National Agency of Natural Resources (AKBN) – Mr. Artan Leskoviku, Director of RES, AKBN • Azerbaijan - Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency (AREA) - Ms. Rana Humbatova, Head of Hydrogen and Green Technology Department • Croatia – Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (EIHP) – Mr. Matija Vajdić, Head of Renewable energy sources and environmental protection Department <p>Q&A, Open Discussion</p>
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20 June 2024

Time (Georgia time zone)	Agenda item
09:30 - 12:00	<p>Session 3 <i>Moderator: Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE</i> Experience from the regional energy agencies within UNECE member States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slovenia – Energy Agency of Savinjska, Šaleška and Koroška region (KSSENA) – Mr. Boštjan Krajnc, Director (online) • Italy – Friuli Venezia Giulia Energy Agency (APE FVG) – Mr. Stefano Pagani, Consulting and Management (online) <p>Charting the Path Forward: Recommendations for Establishing Georgia’s Energy Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Matija Vajdić, UNECE Consultant <p>Key Takeaways and Next Steps: Establishing Georgia's Renewable Energy Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE Ms. Margalita Arabidze, Head, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable Development Department, MoESD

	<p>Q&A, Open Discussion</p> <p>Conclusions and Recommendations</p>
<p>12:00 - 13:00</p>	<p>Lunch break</p>
<p>13:00 - 17:00 with coffee break</p>	<p>Part II: Stakeholder Consultations on project implementation “Supporting increased energy security and resilience through energy transition”</p> <p>Scene setting presentation "Energy connectivity and the Green Power Corridor Framework"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Matthew Wittenstein, Chief of Section, Energy Connectivity Section, Energy Division, UNESCAP <p>Discussants: Representatives from Georgia</p> <p>Topics for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the perceived challenges and potential benefits from the development of connectivity projects • How do Georgian government agencies, civil society groups, and other stakeholders currently collaborate on power system development? • The GPC Framework has six building blocks: social acceptance, institutional framework, infrastructure backbone, political accord, regulatory framework, and enabling financing. Which building blocks are relevant to energy security and resilience in Georgia? • What are existing strategic plans and current measures for the development of cross-border power system connectivity, including grid infrastructure development and power trade? • In what ways can the shift towards renewable energy and improved connectivity drive economic growth and employment opportunities in Georgia? • What potential avenues can be explored for public-private partnerships to advance energy connectivity and resilience effectively? <p>Q&A, Open Discussion</p> <p>Conclusions and Recommendations</p>