

Towards Energy-efficient Homes in the UNECE region

Draft outline

Rationale

Improving energy efficiency in residential buildings comes with multiple benefits: refurbished housing stock and, hence, improved standard of living and health of occupants; reduced occupants-related expenses and energy poverty, increased energy security through lower national energy demand as well as mitigated levels of greenhouse gases emissions and support of a green transformation of the economy through the creation of green jobs¹.

The *Action Plan on Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE region*² outlines policy areas and recommends actions for national governments to remove existing barriers for improved energy performance of buildings.

According to the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management Programme of Work, a series of energy efficiency training workshops in different regions of the UNECE will be organized in 2013-15 to disseminate the Action Plan and help governments implement it in national legislation and set-up the legal and financial institutional framework for more energy-efficient homes.

Objectives

This Training Workshop specifically addresses challenges and opportunities of improving the energy-efficiency of homes and condominiums in two sub-regions of the UNECE region, specifically Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus. It will also underline similarities within countries in the subregions and encourage the exchange of experiences and lessons learnt.

Different thematic sessions will:

- Present and review existing policy guidelines at UN and EU level, EU directives and regulations on residential buildings;
- Illustrate region specific challenges and opportunities to realize an energy-efficient housing sector, including condominiums and solar energy use;
- Learn about financial instruments and potential sources of funding for SEE countries;
- Provide the opportunity to share and exchange of good practices on energy-efficient housing;
- Allow enough time for networking and exchange with other stakeholders of the region.

Guiding Questions

Discussions of the training workshop will evolve around the following questions to guide the discussions:

1. Priority actions – what are the initial steps to set-up a legislative and financial framework for improved energy-efficiency in housing?
2. One region, similar challenges, transferable solutions? - What we can learn from each other in creating a clear path for policy reforms?
3. Shout it from the rooftops – What is your good practice example of energy-efficient homes? How was it realized?

¹ UNECE (2009): Green Homes: Towards energy-efficient housing in the UNECE region. <http://bit.ly/yN5z37>

² UNECE (2011): Action Plan for Energy-Efficient Housing in the UNECE region. <http://bit.ly/yxkPa7>