

Day: 13 June: 16:00-17:30 – 14 June 9:00-10:30

Track I: Renewable Energy

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16.00-17.30

Workshop: **From Renewable Energy Pipeline Projects to Matchmaking**

Organizers: UNECE, EU TAF

Target group: Public institutions, private sector, financial and international organizations interested in developing, promoting and investing in renewable energy projects in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe.

Investments in renewable energy (RE) in countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus amounted to USD 400 million in 2015, less than 0.2% of the global total, and decreasing¹. This stands in striking contrast to renewable energy investments made elsewhere, and despite existing and emerging renewable energy strategies in these countries, huge renewable energy potential is untapped. Many barriers exist at the normative, regulatory, institutional and financing levels. Capacities in these fields need to be strengthened and a platform for RE investments in the region is therefore needed.

UNECE together with the EU Technical Assistance Facility (EU TAF) for the SE4ALL Initiative organizes a matchmaking event focused on **Renewable Energy Investment Show Cases and Prospects (REISCPs)** split in two sessions on 13 and 14 June. The overall objective is to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange information and insights on specific RE projects and RE investments potentials in these sub-regions, create awareness about approaches to tackle the known risks for RE project development in this region, and explore how to collaborate to raise investors' interest to channel investments in these countries. The event will include the presentation and discussion of existing RE projects as well as prospects for RE upscaling from the perspective of the national governments from five to six selected countries. Participants will be informed about each country's investment potential and opportunities for renewable energy project development, as well as the existing normative, regulatory, policy and financing framework, and existing risks and barriers.

The RE project and country presentations will eventually be followed by a round table discussion among the different involved stakeholder groups on how to tackle together existing risks, match respective needs of project developers and financing institutions, and how to work together to upscale investments. Bringing national governments together with project developers and investors for an open discussion will help to understand the specific barriers in the region and how these can be addressed. The dialogue shall further help to identify the type of projects that can be developed using existing potentials, the type of innovative financing mechanisms that could be applied in these countries, as well as the roles and needs of main stakeholders in creating a vision towards a common and shared interest.

Guiding questions:

- *What is the status of renewable energy investments and project development in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe?*
- *Which EU programmes and financing facilities exist to support renewable energy project development in this region?*
- *Which support mechanisms, investment incentives exist to upscale renewable energy uptake?*
- *What are country's experiences and lessons learnt of renewable energy project development and financial flows? What works? What does not? Why?*
- *Which approaches did country's chose to deal with known risks for renewable energy upscaling?*
- *How to strengthen local capacities to identify, develop and submit bankable project proposals?*

¹ UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017, jointly published with REN21, available at <https://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/unece-renewable-energy-status-report.html>

Time	Content	Resource person
16:00 16:05	Introduction	Moderators: Gianluca Sambucini, UNECE Anca-Maria-Simion, EC
16.05 16.20	Overview on EU initiatives EU Programmes and Financing Facilities on Renewable Energy Investment	Anca-Maria-Simion, EC EU TAF
16.20 17.20	Renewable energy investment opportunities in the region / panel discussion	Mr. Deltcho Vitchev, Consultant Moderators + panellists Participants + audience
17.20- 17.30	Wrap-up and Concluding Remarks for workshop	