

Workshop: **Overcoming barriers to improving energy efficiency and renewable energy**
(in the framework of the fifth session of the UNECE Groups of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) and Renewable Energy (GERE))

Organizers: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Target group: Open to all participants

A number of legislative, policy, economic, and financial barriers to significant improvements in energy efficiency and increased uptake of renewable energy remain. It is important to identify policies and measures in the UNECE and ESCWA regions that reduce barriers to increasing investment and financing flows to energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, with an emphasis on commercial projects and private financing, as well as possible public-private partnership arrangements. A valuable aspect is transferability of successful measures in selected countries to other UNECE and ESCWA member States. Particular attention needs to be given to the reasons why energy efficiency improvement and uptake of renewable energy are lagging behind what is necessary to achieve climate goals and sustainable development goals.

For the UNECE region, findings from the study of selected UNECE member States from South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia sub-regions will be presented. The study aims at identifying and analyzing policy, regulatory and institutional reforms; capacity of stakeholders in the countries (national and local authorities, project developers and owners, and financial institutions); best practices developed and introduced; and awareness raising. It looks at the processes in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energy at the international and national levels, which are particularly beneficial for the countries and which can be recommended for replication and scaling up. It also highlights existing gaps in the countries of the region related to energy efficiency and renewable energy in the areas of policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks, financial environment, and education and awareness.

For the ESCWA region, conditions that are specific to the region will be highlighted, indicating the nature of the barriers to investments in upscaling energy efficiency programs and the dissemination of small scale renewable energy systems. The role that Super ESCOs can play in overcoming such barriers in the Arab region will be presented, showing how such a set-up managed to stimulate the ESCO market and investments in energy efficiency in one of the countries in the region. Other issues pertaining to financing energy efficiency and renewable energy in the region will also be presented and discussed.

Participants will be invited to discuss the outcomes of the study, policies and actions that increase financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and propose next steps for energy efficiency and renewable energy finance options in the region.

Guiding questions:

Panel 1

- What are the main drivers for improving energy efficiency and renewable energy in the region?
- Which ongoing developments in the policy area are aimed at promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy?
- What best practices are introduced to increase investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy? How can they be transferred to other countries of the region?

Panel 2

- What are the key challenges and barriers that countries face in improving energy efficiency and renewable energy?
- What are the main lessons learned in the process of improving energy efficiency and renewable energy?
- What can be the next steps for increasing investments into energy efficiency and renewable energy?

Time	Content	
Panel 1: Policies and Measures to Overcome Barriers to Improve Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy		
9:00-9:05	Introduction	Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski , Chair of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Mr. Nazir Ramazanov , Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy
	Moderator	Mr. Kostiantyn Gura , State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Savings of Ukraine
9:05-9:20	<i>Progress in the Areas of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Selected Countries of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and in Russian Federation</i>	Ms. Nadejda Khamrakulova , Consultant, UNECE
9:20-9:30	<i>Improving energy efficiency and renewable energy in Ukraine: EBRD experience in policy dialogue and financing</i>	Mr. Sergiy Maslichenko , Associate Director, EBRD
9:30-9:40	<i>Role of Super ESCOs in overcoming barriers to investments in energy efficiency and small scale renewable energy systems in the Arab region</i>	Mr. Mongi Bida , First Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA
9:40-9:50	<i>Unlocking Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Finance for Higher Impact</i>	Mr. Hussein Mogaibel , Global Lead Energy Specialist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
9:50-10:00	<i>Tackling Central Europe's energy efficiency challenges</i>	Mr. Matija Vajdic , Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Joint Secretariat
10:00-10:10	<i>The role of green standards and guidelines to help move capital towards energy efficiency solutions in the region</i>	Ms. Serena Vento , Head of Partnerships and Commercial Relationships, Climate Bonds Initiative
10:10-10:20	<i>De-Risking and Scaling Up Energy Efficiency Retrofits in Armenia</i>	Mr. Vahram Jalalyan , Manager, UNDP-GCF Project, Armenia
10:20-10:30	<i>Energy Performance of Buildings Legal Framework in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine</i>	Ms. Svitlana Karpyshyna , Deputy Head of Unit / Renewables and Energy Efficiency Expert, Energy Community Secretariat
10:30-10:40	<i>Energy Efficiency Reform in Ukraine</i>	Ms. Ima Khrenova-Shymkina , Deputy Project Director, GIZ
10:40-10:50	<i>Experience with innovative financing mechanisms on Energy Efficiency in Buildings in Central Asia</i>	Mr. Paata Janelidze , UNDP
10:40-11:00	Coffee break	
Panel 2: Sub-regional Perspectives for Improving Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy		
	Moderators: Mr. Nazir Ramazanov and Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski	
11:00-11:25	<i>Perspectives for Improving Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Countries of South-Eastern Europe</i>	<u>Panellists:</u> Mr. Artan Leskoviku , Albania Ms. Branka Knezevic , Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Dimitar Dukov , Bulgaria

		Mr. Zlatko Pavicic , Croatia
11:25-11:50	<i>Perspectives for Improving Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and in Russian Federation</i>	<u>Panellists:</u> Mr. Vahram Jalalyan , Armenia Mr. Andrei Miniankou , Belarus Ms. Tea Avazashvili , Georgia Mr. Mihail Lupașcu , Republic of Moldova Mr. Vitaly Bekker , Russian Federation Mr. Valerii Kotsiuba , Ukraine
11:50-12:15	<i>Perspectives for Improving Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Central Asian Countries</i>	<u>Panellists:</u> Ms. Baltugan Tazhmakina , Kazakhstan TBD, Kyrgyzstan TBD, Tajikistan Ms. Irina Atamuradova , Turkmenistan Mr. Romen Zakhidov , Uzbekistan
12:15-12:30	Conclusions of the Workshop	Moderators: Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski , Mr. Nazir Ramazanov , and Mr. Kostiantyn Gura