

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
10 February 2011

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Programme

Twenty-third session

Geneva, 25 April 2012

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

Projects proposed for continuation or inclusion in the eighth three-year phase of the EE21 Programme (2012–2015)**Projects proposed for continuation or inclusion in the eighth three-year phase of the EE21 Programme (2012–2015)****Enhancing Synergies in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security**

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At the twenty-first session of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Programme in June 2010, the Russian Federation expressed its intent to continue support for energy efficiency activities in the UNECE and extend funding from the Government of Russian Federation for the period 2011–2013. One of the projects that receives this funding is “Enhancing Synergies in CIS National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security”. The project is based on the work undertaken in the framework of the project “Increasing Energy Efficiency for Secure Energy Supplies” implemented in 2008–2011 and also funded by the Government of the Russian Federation.

2. The activities implemented in 2011 and those planned for 2012 are primarily focused on exploring prospects for interregional cooperation and enhancing synergies in energy efficiency and energy saving in order to transfer the experience of the participating countries and learn from it.

II. Background

3. CIS countries with their enormous unevenly distributed energy resources, a common integrated system of land-based pipelines and power transmission lines offer substantial energy efficiency and energy saving opportunities, which are of critical importance for these countries. In view of the above there is no doubt that CIS countries are destined for mutually beneficial cooperation for a number of historical, economic and geographic reasons. Although political map has changed, geography and distribution of energy resources are still the same.

4. However after the breakdown of the Soviet Union, CIS countries, once having an integrated energy system, had to independently define the structure of their national energy sector and establish new national energy programmes.

5. Nowadays, where all energy producers are pursuing security of demand energy consumers are in need of security of supply. Support of reliable energy supply, efficient energy consumption, diversification of energy sources and investment into energy sector is a common framework for efficient, sustainable and secure energy market.

6. Therefore energy efficiency and energy saving measures are crucial for the CIS countries since they can reduce domestic energy consumption and release energy resources thus enhancing security of supply. Moreover energy efficiency improvements can help raise industrial productivity, diminish fuel dependency and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

7. Despite this potential, implementation of energy efficiency and energy saving initiatives is hindered by varying levels of economic development and a wide range of policy, regulatory, institutional and financial barriers. Regional cooperation can contribute greatly to overcoming these obstacles since many of the opportunities and constraints for the future development in the area of energy efficiency and energy saving are common among the CIS member states.

8. Thus synergies through development of common and mutually beneficial rules and norms in energy efficiency and energy saving would create energy security climate to accomplish transition period and achieve sustainable economic development.

III. Objective

9. The main objective of the project is to enhance synergies among the CIS countries promoting energy efficiency and energy saving improvements in order to strengthen countries' energy security and competitiveness.

IV. Expected accomplishments

10. The first expected accomplishment is to analyze existing national energy programmes and their application in CIS countries in the context of potential mutual cooperation.

11. The second expected accomplishment is to improve capacity of CIS countries to implement policies and practices on energy efficiency and energy saving improvements and to enhance regional energy cooperation.

V. Main activities

12. Specific activities implemented under the project are as follows:

(a) Establishing a functional network to serve as a forum for sharing information among appropriate partner institutions in CIS countries for identifying and developing energy efficiency improvements in the production, transportation and use of energy resources and enhancing energy cooperation;

(b) Conducting a study on energy policy, regulatory, institutional and financial conditions for energy efficiency and energy saving improvements in each participating country and making recommendations on the development and application of energy efficiency and energy saving measures in the CIS countries;

(c) Organizing a workshop on national programmes and potential cooperation in energy efficiency and energy saving for the government, industry, and academia representatives;

(d) Providing technical assistance to strengthen national and regional institutions in the policy analyses and regional cooperation on energy efficiency and energy saving issues.

VI. Budget

13. The project budget for the implementation cycle 2011–2013 is US\$ 150,000 and the funding requested for 2011 is US\$ 50,000. Co-financing for the project will be explored with the supporting institutions of government departments, international organizations and public and private sector companies currently financing UNECE projects on energy security and energy efficiency.

14. UNECE will provide an ‘in-kind’ contribution of project counterparts in staff time, documents preparation and distribution, publications and conference services. The ‘in-kind’ contributions are also expected from related UNECE intergovernmental bodies, notably the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Energy Efficiency 21 Programme.

Annex

Project Work Plan

Expected accomplishment	Main activity	Timeframe by activity		
		2011	2012	2013
EA 1: Analysis of existing national energy programmes and their application in CIS countries in the context of potential mutual cooperation.	A1. Establishing a functional network to serve as a forum for sharing of information among appropriate partner institutions in CIS countries for identifying and developing energy efficiency improvements in the production, transportation and use of energy resources and enhancing energy cooperation.	x	x	
	A1.2 Conducting a study on energy policy, regulatory, institutional and financial conditions for energy efficiency and energy saving improvements in each participating country and making recommendations on the development and application of energy efficiency and energy saving measures in CIS countries.		x	x
EA 2: Improved capacity of CIS countries to implement policies and practices on energy efficiency and energy saving improvements and to enhance regional energy cooperation.	A2.1 Organizing a workshop on energy efficiency and energy saving national programmes and potential cooperation for the governmental, industry, and academia representatives.		x	x
	A2.2 Providing technical assistance to strengthen national and regional institutions in the policy analyses and regional cooperation on energy efficiency and energy saving issues.	x	x	