



Inter-regional Workshop and Study Tour on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects and Policies

8 - 12 February 2015, Israel

Information Report

The Inter-regional Workshop and Study Tour on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects and Policies, held from 8 to 12 February 2015 in Israel, was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) with participation of Eilat-Eilat Renewable Energy and the Center for International Agricultural Development Cooperation (CINADCO) and a representative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). For the UNECE, this event was organized in the framework of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) projects “Promoting energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development”, and “Promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development”.

Twenty-one government officials, project developers and experts from 13 countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia¹ participated in the event. The Workshop aimed at strengthening capacity of decision makers and practitioners from these countries to increase share of renewable energy (RE) in energy mix and improve energy efficiency (EE). In this context, the participants learnt about the experience of Israel in promoting and implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy policies and measures. The experts also shared success stories in this field and explained the challenges for the sector in their respective countries. At the same time, the sessions served as a platform to discuss possibilities for enhancing international cooperation in energy infrastructure and development, as well as financing and investment opportunities from the private and public sources, both domestic and international.

Participants presented information on status of implementation of EE and/or RE policies and legislation in the following countries: Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Uzbekistan. In addition, information was presented on financing and implementation of specific energy efficiency projects in Armenia, Georgia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, and

¹ Participating countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Ukraine. The presentations served as a basis for informed discussions and exchange of experience in overcoming similar obstacles to improving energy efficiency and increasing share of renewable energy in energy mix.

The format of the event was a combination of sessions and field visits that allowed to demonstrate to the participants strategic thinking and different solutions in the fields of RE and EE. The event allowed the participants to learn a range of tools to apply the appropriate policies taking into account specific circumstances of the countries. Among other activities, the experts visited companies which manufacture solar water heaters, efficient lighting, and indoor climate control equipment. During the tour they could also see municipal facilities that convert waste into energy, a solar thermal power installation, a solar photovoltaic field, a biogas facility, and an off-grid development and demonstration center.

Being one of the leading countries in research, manufacturing, marketing, and application of energy efficiency and renewable energy products and systems, sharing Israel's know-how was of high value and very much appreciated by the experts who took part at the workshop and the study tour. On the last day of the Workshop, two round table panels on energy efficiency and renewable energy were organized, in which government officials, representatives of business sector, academia, and NGOs from Israel joined participants for fruitful discussions on the ways to overcome barriers and on future steps in cooperation between participating countries and Israel. Ideas for future cooperation include organization of presentations of technology and equipment designed and manufactured in Israel, training seminars, and pilot projects in participating countries.

The Workshop materials, including lectures, field visits, presentations by participants, and media coverage are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38564#/>.

Summary of participants' evaluations

A survey was conducted to evaluate relevance and effectiveness of the Inter-regional Workshop and Study Tour on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects. Twenty-one participants (of which 5 women) responded to the evaluation questionnaire.

All respondents stated that they were satisfied (of which 17 were very satisfied) with the content of the event as well as with the quality of instruction. Participants also expressed a high level of satisfaction with the organization of the event with the average rating of 4.9 out of 5 (all ratings are from 1 – lowest to 5 – highest). The professional level of the Workshop and Study Tour met the expectations of the participants making a valuable contribution to their experience and knowledge base.

As for the specific topics, "Renewable Energy" and "Introduction of New Technologies" were highly appreciated by the participants, with the ratings of 4.8 and 4.9 respectively. Topics "Energy and Environment" and "Business and Economics Models" received ratings of 4.0 and 4.1 respectively, which suggest possible improvements for the future workshops.

The absolute majority of the respondents found the Workshop and Study Tour useful to learn new skills and knowledge (rating 4.4), which they plan to apply in their careers. The participants were satisfied with the group composition (rating 4.4), had sufficient time to network (rating 4.3), and made useful networking connections (rating 4.65).

Participants expressed interest in the following topics for future detailed discussion: development and implementation of energy efficiency (EE) policies and measures; global CO₂ aspects; greater emphasis on possible examples of energy management in specific industry. It was a general opinion of the participants that the site visits and know-how transfer along with sharing of experience of Israel in promoting and implementing EE and RE policies and measures were of high professional importance and value.