

## Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

### Project/Activity Report

#### **Building capacity for the preparation of National Action Plans on Energy Efficiency in the Residential Sector in the Caucasus and Central Asia**

The UNECE regional Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing (ECE/HPB/164), adopted by the Committee on Housing and Land Management at its seventy first session recommended to develop national action plans on energy efficiency in the residential sector: “*National governments, in collaboration with relevant international and national stakeholders, should devise national plans and strategies for energy-efficient housing*”. National action plans on energy efficiency provide national governments with country-specific recommendations for actions to be taken in order to create enabling conditions for energy-efficient investments in residential housing stock.

Moreover, **the inefficient use of energy in the housing sector was identified as the major challenge** by a survey of opinions of member States, developed in 2012 and enhancing the energy efficiency was highlighted as the priority area for the future Committee’s work. There is a general need for developing the capacities of governments and of key stakeholders for preparing national action plans and policies that support energy efficiency of the housing sector in countries with economy in transition.

The Government of Georgia, in 2012, submitted to UNECE an official request for the development of its National Action Plan.

To this process and develop an outline of the Action Plan, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Housing and Land Management Unit in cooperation with the Government of Georgia organized a two day workshop with the aims to discuss issues of energy efficiency in housing issues and to support the Government of Georgia and other stakeholders from local governments, and private sector in developing the Action Plan, beginning with the drafting of an outline for energy efficient measures in the residential sector.

The workshop facilitated the exchange of information and experiences on successful projects and programmes implemented in countries of the region and in countries with advanced economy and participants acknowledged the value learning from these experiences. They also confirmed the importance of developing policies, legislation and financial framework for enhancing energy efficiency in the housing sector. The workshop highlighted the relevance of developing and implementing policies for awareness rising, training for capacity building and knowledge on new technologies.

Georgian representatives of national government, local authorities and private sector that participated in the workshop, worked in groups, facilitated by an international expert, to identify and agree on the major challenges that Georgian stakeholders are facing to enhance energy efficiency of the housing sector. They presented also the priority areas that need to be addressed and developed, clustered into 4 main themes:

- Policy reform, institutional framework, legislation and regulations;
- Financial framework for energy efficiency and retrofitting of the housing stock;
- Housing management and its relation to energy efficiency

- Awareness rising, training and capacity building

These four themes constitute the backbone of the national action plan for energy efficiency of the housing sector for Georgia.

Click on the link to view the workshop report, <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=33507>

<b>Thematic focus</b>	<b>Venue of the conference/workshop</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Total participants/Female participants</b>
Energy efficiency	Tbilisi, Georgia	17-19 Oct 2013	30/10