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Interdivisional cooperation activities:

The Sustainable Energy Division closely cooperates with other divisions, in particular the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division and Trade and Timber Division, to develop and implement projects of common interest on crosscutting issues that would assist governments in improving energy efficiency.

- Energy Efficiency in Housing
- Modern and Sustainable Heat and Power from Woody Biomass in South-Eastern Europe

Interdivisional cooperation activities:

Energy Efficiency in Housing: UNECE Action Plan
This is a joint project with UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM) that aims to assist UNECE governments to improve energy efficiency in the housing sector and enhance energy performance of buildings. The drafting of an action plan for energy efficiency in the UNECE region would represent an important capacity building tool for this.

The Action Plan would provide a list of gaps and constraints preventing countries from increasing the energy performance of buildings; identify possible solutions to overcome those constraints, also based on existing examples; identify the main actors that should be involved in the corrective action, identify the main steps for the corrective action, as well as identify related challenges and risks; f) identify potential partners that could assist in the implementation of the solution. The Action Plan is expected to be a practical tool for decision makers, and as such should be developed by policy-makers of member States in cooperation with the Secretariat, possibly through a number of consultations and dedicated workshops.

Wood Energy: Modern and Sustainable Heat and Power from Woody Biomass in South-Eastern Europe
The joint project of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Section and UNECE/FAO Timber Section aims to demonstrate the feasibility of converting municipal heat and power systems in the western Balkans to woody biomass from local renewable sources by raising awareness at the policy level and by preparing detailed project proposals for one or two municipalities in each of the participating countries.

The project aims to set up a network of interested municipalities in the countries of the region; organize reconnaissance expert missions to the pilot areas to assess the market for woody energy, to collect positive examples for wood energy projects implementation and to prepare regional feasibility reports including business case relevant data; organize a sub-regional workshop for policy-makers representing energy and forestry areas from target countries to raise awareness and to showcase examples where heat and power providers successfully switched to woody biomass; prepare project proposals to convert municipalities (one or two per participating country) from heat and power systems based on fossil fuels to systems based on sustainable woody biomass; organize a final conference to present pilot project proposals and lessons learned to the policy-makers and potential investors.