Cooperation among the United Nations Regional Commissions on Energy Efficiency for Climate Change Mitigation

A GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY
MARKET FORMATION

The Global Strategy currently under preparation by a Task Force set up by the five Regional Commissions will include:

1. A detailed inventory of existing and planned Energy Efficiency policies and programmes in each region
2. A study of global, regional and country-specific barriers to Energy Efficiency market formation and the mechanisms to overcome them
3. The identification and preparation of adequate project pipelines
4. Plans for the financing of concrete projects, according to financial availability

FOR MORE INFORMATION
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Sustainable Energy Division (SED)
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Mr. Alexandre Chachine
Chief, Sustainable Energy Section
Tel: +41 22 917 2451
Fax: +41 22 917 0038
alexandre.chachine@unece.org

Mr. Viktor Badaker
GEE21 Project Manager
Tel: +41 22 917 2443
viktor.badaker@unece.org

Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski
FEEL Project Manager
Tel: +41 22 917 2360
oleg.dzioubinski@unece.org

Mr. Gianluca Sambucini
Secretary, Committee on Sustainable Energy
Tel: +41 22 917 1175
gianluca.sambucini@unece.org

GEE21 is executed with support of the UNECE regular budget, including resources from the strengthening of the development pillar, and extra-budgetary funds from the Russian Federation.

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- UN-ENERGY/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Global Energy Efficiency 21
THE KICK-OFF OF GEE21: FROM POZNAN TO CANCUN

The Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE21) Project was launched at the Conference of Parties (COP-14) in Poznan in December 2008, following a mandate by the Committee on Sustainable Energy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). It stemmed from UN calls for inter-regional cooperation and a system-wide approach to the issues of energy and climate change. GEE21, led by UNECE and jointly implemented by the other United Nations Regional Commissions (RCs), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), is aimed at developing a systematic exchange of experience on capacity building, policy reforms and investment project finance among countries of all regions of the world through the five RCs in order to promote self-financing energy efficiency improvements that raise economic productivity, diminish fuel poverty and reduce environmental air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. In particular, the project is designed to transfer the valuable experience of UNECE and its member countries to the other regions of the world through their RCs.

The first collaborative outcome of GEE21 was the publication “Financing Global Climate Change Mitigation” (The ECE Energy Series No. 37, ECE/ENERGY/81). Relying on substantial contributions from all five RCs under the coordination of the UNECE Secretariat, the volume was showcased at a RCs’ joint side event at COP-15 in Copenhagen and published by UNECE under the auspices of UN-Energy. The analysis contained in “Financing Global Climate Change Mitigation” allowed for preliminary conclusions on the importance of raising awareness and disseminating skills, the crucial role of policy reforms to create enabling environments, and the necessity of a global carbon regime.

TOWARDS A GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY MARKET FORMATION

All regions are pulling together their expertise to set up a Task Force. The work of this Task Force is intended to lead to the formulation of the Global Strategy for Energy Efficiency Market Formation. The Global Strategy will take a comprehensive approach towards Energy Efficiency improvements, not focusing on a specific sector but rather favouring the emergence of self-sustained markets driven by demand and supply. All constituencies of GEE21 agree that, at present, there are several barriers to overcome in order to establish such markets in all regions of the world.

GEE21 aims at the formulation of a holistic approach to overcome these barriers that includes knowledge sharing and capacity building measures, policy reforms and investment project finance. However, each of these barriers presents different features and peculiarities in each region of the world and significant differences may exist within the same region (especially in the UNECE and ECA regions). Further, in line with the approach proposed by UN-Energy, any action to overcome these barriers should take into consideration existing national and international programmes to avoid unnecessary overlaps and duplication that misallocate scarce resources.

UN-ENERGY: SYSTEM-WIDE COOPERATION ON ENERGY

GEE21 frames its activities in the context of UN-Energy, the United Nations’ interagency mechanism on energy. GEE21, given its multi-agency nature and its commitment to a system-wide approach that transfer knowledge and expertise avoiding duplication, is a natural partner of UN-Energy. GEE21 will at the same time draw on UN-Energy’s useful activity and contribute to its good outcome with a continuous and systematic exchange of views and practices on capacity building, policy reforms and investment project finance for Energy Efficiency market formation. The ongoing collaborative process among the five RCs established in the context of GEE21 can indeed serve as a model for broader synergies between other selected UN-Energy members. On the other hand, some positive experience of other UN agencies and programmes in this domain can be transferred through UN-Energy to GEE21 for consideration and possible replication. More information on UN-Energy is available at: http://esa.un.org/un-energy.

The successful development of GEE21 will also significantly contribute to one of the two Key Goals proposed by the Secretary General’s Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC), which is calling for a reduction in global energy intensity by 40% over the next 20 years.

THE ECE EXPERIENCE: FEEI AND THE PLANNED INVESTMENT FUND

A contribution to GEE21 and its Global Strategy may come from the experience and achievements of the UNECE Financing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (FEEI) Project. Information on FEEI can be found at: www.ee-21.net. FEEI activities are expected to eventually lead to the creation of a public-private partnership (PPP) Investment Fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.