

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

HARD TALKS IN UNECE COUNTRIES

Hard Talks bring together major stakeholders from public and private sectors to identify existing barriers for RE uptake and recommend concrete solutions and priorities to overcome bottlenecks, boost investments and, overall, increase the share of sustainable renewable energy in the energy mix.

In 2021-2023 Hard Talks in Albania, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, have had a positive impact on the development of renewable energy policies and the uptake of renewable energy.

These multi-stakeholder dialogues on renewable energy challenges in UNECE member States are organized by UNECE jointly with relevant ministries and with the support of key partners including, among others, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), the German Energy Agency (dena) and the European Commission.



HARDTALK

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

UNECE WORK ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

GROUP OF EXPERTS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY (GERE)



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UNECE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY (GERE)

Established in 2014, the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) is committed to carrying out result-oriented, practical activities to increase the uptake of renewable energy (RE) in the 56 UNECE member States.

GERE is a multi-stakeholder platform for collaboration that aims to:

- Exchange information on how to increase the share of RE in the global energy mix
- Facilitate regulatory and policy dialogue
- Support the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG7
- Implement the commitment of the Paris Climate Agreement

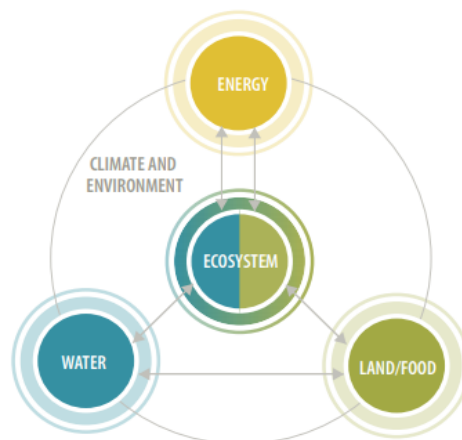


Contributing to achieving Sustainable Development Goal on Energy - SDG7, GERE work focuses on tracking progress, facilitation of regulatory and policy dialogue, sharing best practices and investment promotion. Since the SDGs are closely interlinked and benefit from synergies in their deployment, GERE is taking active steps to promote coordination with a nexus approach and integrated planning of interlinked resources across sectors, towards the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

GERE KEY ACTIVITIES

GERE helps to speed up the changes needed to increase RE uptake through, *inter alia*:

- Tracking progress of RE deployment: REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Reports, in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA)
- Exchange of experiences and good practices on how to increase the uptake of RE, in cooperation with dena and REN21
- Coordination with UNECE member States to assess and exploit untapped RE potential: collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- Matchmaking to support RE investments: European Commission through EU-TAF; Co-operation with other UN Regional Commissions within the annual International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (IFESD)
- Cross-cutting cooperation to strengthen integration of RE in future sustainable energy systems, together with other UNECE Group of Experts, in particular those supporting energy efficiency, gas synergies and UNFC application to RE, as well as within the UNECE Pathways and Modernization projects
- Collaborating with UNECE Environment Division under the Water Convention to ensure sustainable use of transboundary water resources



ENERGY, WATER, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT NEXUS

GERE recognizes the importance of understanding the impact of RE investments in the closely inter-linked nexus sectors to maximise the benefits of RE investments and to ensure their sustainability.

The UNECE proposes to use renewable energy-water “nexus criteria” to plan for RE development and investments taking into account:

- Cross-sectoral synergies and benefits
- Cross-sectoral trade-offs
- Transboundary cooperation

These criteria are being developed building on the UNECE Drina Nexus Assessment (2023) and the Hard Talks held in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2023) and Serbia (2021).

UNECE RENEWABLE ENERGY STATUS REPORT

Jointly produced with REN21, in collaboration with dena and contribution from IEA, the report tracks and updates the status of RE in 17 countries of South East and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Russian Federation.

Despite increasing global investment in RE, the 17 UNECE countries, home to 300 million people, or roughly 4% of the world’s population, only represents 0.2% of the global total.

Attracting investment remains a key challenge in these countries, even with advanced support schemes and policies

- Previous editions in 2015, 2017 and 2019
- New edition in 2024