

Attaining Sustainable Energy Goals in the UNECE region

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

Ulrich Benterbusch/ 27 May 2015



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

Key achievements and impacts

Group of Experts and its Bureau are implementing UNECE renewable energy activities, which are on-going

- First session of GERE on 18-19 November 2014: 79 participants from 22 countries; Work Plan and Report with C&Rs approved at the annual session (see at: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/geee1_Nov2014/ECE.ENERGY.GE.7.2014.2_e.pdf)
- Initial review of the status of renewable energy development in the UNECE region identifying information and data gaps – November 2014 (see at: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/gere1_18.11.2014/ECE_ENERGY_GE.7_2014_INF.1_Revised.pdf);
- Initial review on energy access in the region raising the need to identify the communities with no access to energy in the ECE region (see at: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/gere1_18.11.2014/ECE_ENERGY_GE.7_2014_INF.2.pdf) ;
- An initial Framework for Developing Best Practice Guidelines to Accelerate Renewable Energy Uptake - November 2014. as practical tool to promote the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and best practices between experts of member States – November 2014 (see at: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/gere1_18.11.2014/ECE_ENERGY_GE.7_2014_INF.3_Revised.pdf).



Key achievements and impacts (continued)

- MoU with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) signed on 25 September, (see at: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/presscurrent-press-h/sustainable-energy/2014/unece-signs-mou-with-the-international-renewable-energy-agency-irena/unece-signs-mou-with-the-international-renewable-energy-agency-irena.html>)
- MoU with the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) signed on 19 November. (see at: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/presscurrent-press-h/sustainable-energy/2014/unece-signs-mou-with-the-renewable-energy-policy-network-for-the-21st-century/unece-signs-mou-with-the-renewable-energy-policy-network-for-the-21st-century.html>);
- A draft menu of technologies and policies to promote them has been developed with inputs by GERE Bureau members and other stakeholders (FAO, DENA). A first draft was reviewed by Bureau members in April 2015;
- Cross-cutting issues and coordination of work of the GERE Bureau with – inter alia - the Group of Experts on Gas (GEG), the Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC) for the implementation of the UNFC-2009 classification to renewable energy, and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (CEP).



What lies ahead

- UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2015 with REN21 and IEA to be launched in December 2015 , see ToR at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/UNECE_RE/TOR_UNECE_RE_Status_Report.pdf).
- Identification of the communities with no access to energy within the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report, by November 2015.
- A menu of technologies and policies to promote them will be further developed by the GERE session on 12-13 October 2015. An ad hoc seminar on best practice policies will be hosted by Azerbaijan on 13-14 October 2015 (tbc) to facilitate the exchange of information and the practical use of this tool.



Elements for 2016-2017 work plan

Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy sources in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

- Review the state of development and monitor the progress made after the baseline 2015, therefore working with other partners and contributing to existing global monitoring frameworks.
- Identify key barriers and options for supplying electricity and heat from renewable energy sources to identified areas, based on the findings of the status report 2015 on how to improve a quality access to energy.
- Organize outreach activities in selected countries in the region to promote and use the baseline report (workshops, seminars, roundtables, etc.) on key needs and obstacles on renewable energy uptake and on energy access with the aim of strengthening a multi-stakeholder dialogue.
- Identify ways to support the implementation of national plans and for strengthening framework conditions and instruments that help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region.



Elements for 2016-2017 work plan (continued)

Exchange of know-how and best practices in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region on how to help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy

- Identify the key operational policy priorities for member States and provide platforms for collective action.
- Provide an effective platform for expanding already developed policies and measures across countries in the region.
- Identify barriers to and options for technological development of renewable energy in the ECE region.
- Organize/ participate in information sharing activities (workshops, seminars, roundtables, etc.) for exchange of experience on best practices and policies.
- Identify existing gaps in policies, legislation, standards and regulations and cooperate with other relevant organizations in addressing them.



Elements for 2016-2017 work plan (continued)

Integration of Renewable Energy in Future Sustainable Energy Systems in the region

- Identify best practices about existing policies and policy reform to meet a higher renewable energy share within present and future energy systems.
- Analyze renewable energy investment opportunities within future energy systems and energy market optimization.
- Identify key needs for capacity building to develop renewable energy framework conditions to facilitate market conditions.
- Organize capacity building and information sharing activities (workshops, seminary, roundtables, etc.) on renewable energy investment promotion, the consideration of renewables in energy systems, the assessment of renewable energy potential and costs and the development of hybrid power for increased system efficiency.



Recommendations for the Committee, conclusions

- Member States are encouraged to continue to support and promote the activities of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy.
- The UNECE Renewable Energy Status report 2015 could be used for selected outreach activities in capitals to promote the status and uptake of renewable energy. Volunteers to host media activities are sought in line with proven activities by key partners, in this case the IEA and REN21
- The UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2015 could be used by the Group of Experts to identify obstacles and opportunities for RE deployment and, together with shared experiences and case studies, provide specific recommendations to member States.
- Member States could use the Group of Experts to facilitate a focus on specific renewable energy issues prioritized by an ECE sub-region.
- The Committee on Sustainable Energy endorses the key items of the Work Plan 2016-17.



Thank you

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