

Overview of extrabudgetary projects led by the Sustainable Energy Division

1. Application of clean, renewable and/or alternative energy technologies for rural areas in Central Asian countries (project number E234)

Expected timing/ duration: September 2014 – October 2015 (extended till December 2015)

Objective: Strengthen national capacities of Central Asian countries to enhance access to clean, renewable and/or alternative energy through off-grid, micro- and mini-grid solutions in rural and remote areas.

Activities:

- Conduct national assessments for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on access to clean, renewable and/or alternative energy provided by off-grid solutions with the focus on rural and remote areas, and on identifying potential renewable energy sites close to productive use loads in rural and remote areas.
- Develop a prefeasibility study for future implementation as a pilot project.
- Organize an end-of-the-project workshop for experts and governmental officials from Central Asian countries to present the results/recommendations of the project.

Estimated extra budgetary resources: US\$68,700 from the Russian Federation.

Summary of impact/outcomes

As a result of the project implementation the national assessments for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on access to clean, renewable and/or alternative energy provided by off-grid solutions with the focus on rural and remote areas have been prepared. Based on national studies a location near Kant town was selected for the development of a prefeasibility study for a potential pilot project in accordance with the project document. The study will be related to production and effective consumption of biogas. The implementation of the project facilitates the transition to a more sustainable energy future through introduction of renewable energy sources in rural and remote areas in Central Asian countries.

2. Promoting the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and Recommendations on development and implementation of energy efficiency policies in the CIS Countries (project number E233)

Expected timing/ duration: September 2014 – May 2015 (extended till December 2015)

Objective: Promote implementation of the Regional Action Plan and Recommendations on development and implementation of energy efficiency policies in the CIS countries.

Activities:

- Present the Regional Action Plan and recommendations on energy efficiency and sustainable energy for CIS countries at 3-4 national and regional workshops and seminars.
- Present the Regional Action Plan and Recommendations to ministries and agencies responsible for energy efficiency in 2-3 CIS countries.

Estimated extra budgetary resources: US\$14,000 from the Russian Federation.

Summary of impact/outcomes

According to the objective of the project, promotion of implementation of the Regional Action Plan and Recommendations on development and implementation of energy efficiency policies in the CIS countries has been conducted through presentations of the Regional Action Plan and Recommendations at regional workshops and seminars, as well as to ministries and agencies responsible efficiency in CIS countries. Specifically, presentations were made at the High-Level International Capacity Development Workshop on “Developing Government and Governance Capacities for Sustainable Development in CIS Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition” in Yerevan in October 2014, at the Fifth International Conference “Energy Efficient Buildings of the 21st Century” in Minsk in December 2014, at the Seminar “Energy efficiency and district heating: a strategic policy approach to improving Ukraine’s energy security” in Kiev in April 2015, at the International Conference “Promoting Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings in Uzbekistan” and Technical Round Table “Promoting Energy Efficiency in Buildings: experience of UNDP/GEF projects in CIS countries” in Tashkent in June 2015, and at the Policy Stakeholders Conference “Energy Research and Innovation in Eastern Partnership” in Minsk in October 2015. In addition, meetings on the topic were held in Minsk with officials from the Department on Energy Efficiency of the State Committee on Standardization of the Republic of Belarus in Minsk, officials of the State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Savings of Ukraine and with officials from several CIS countries at the Fifth and Sixth International Forums on Energy for Sustainable Development in Hammamet in November 2014 and in Yerevan in September-October 2015 respectively. The following CIS countries benefited from presentations and discussions: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

3. Trust fund for dissemination of best practices in the emission abatement, recovery, and use of coal mine methane

Expected timing/ duration: January 2016 – December 2017

Objective: The project will disseminate best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of coal mine methane through targeted one-day workshops or extended multi-day seminars. Depending on the selected topics, these events will be held either close to coal mining areas, or, when appropriate, at the United Nations International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in Poland, as soon as the Centre becomes operational. The project will consist of pre-workshop surveys needed to define specific challenges and opportunities faced by the prospective attendees. The project will build upon the results of previously organised best practice dissemination workshops, held in 2010 and 2011 (in China, Kazakhstan and Ukraine).

Activities:

- Fact-finding survey of the initial conditions sites close to productive use loads in rural and remote areas
- Fact-finding missions to the critical coal mining regions
- Demand-driven capacity-building workshop(s)
- Electronic dissemination of case studies and best practices

Estimated extra budgetary resources: US\$100,000 from the United States