

Report of the Online Capacity-building Workshop on Sustainable Renewable Energy Investment and Deployment. Peer-learning dialogue on Water-Energy Nexus - Focus on the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and South-Eastern Europe

The Online Capacity-building Workshop on Sustainable Renewable Energy Investment and Deployment was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (jointly by the Environment Division and Sustainable Energy Division) and held online on 19 October 2020. The workshop was attended by 64 participants, of which 27 women, from the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan (UNECE member States and RPTC programme countries); Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Russian Federation, and United Kingdom (UNECE member States); Afghanistan, Cameroon, Chile, Egypt, Iran, India, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Uganda; as well as the following organizations: United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNECE, International Labour Organization (ILO), World Meteorological Association (WMO), UNEP-DTU Partnership, European Union, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and Global Water Partnership (GWP).

The publication *Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment. Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment* served as a basis for this capacity-building workshop. The study provides a non-comprehensive toolkit for policy makers to identify, evaluate, and act upon the synergies and trade-offs brought by the deployment of renewable energy. Their aim is to upscale renewable energy while at the same time facilitate (or at least safeguard), progress in the other sectors, with a special focus on water, agriculture, and environment. Crucially, this must happen at all levels of decision making: strategic planning, policy development, and project development.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, UNECE Regional Adviser for Energy, and Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, secretariat of the Water Convention, Environment Division, UNECE. Ms. Lucia De Strasser, Water-Energy Specialist, Co-author of the study, delivered presentation *UNECE Toolkit for integrated water and energy planning and project development*. The presentation was followed by a Panel discussion with experts from the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and South-Eastern Europe moderated by Ms. Iva Brkic, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE. Panelists included: Mr. Kostiantyn Gura, Acting Head of the State Agency for Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine, Chair of the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy; Ms. Margalita Arabidze, Deputy Head of Energy Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Vice-Chair of the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy; Mr. Miloš Banjac, Assistant Minister, Sector for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Mining and Energy of the Republic of Serbia, Vice-Chair of

the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy; Ms. Tatiana Vedeneva, President of the Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development, Kyrgyzstan; Mr. Furugzod Usmonov, IEA Energy Expert for EU4Energy project, Project CASA-1000 Country Coordinator, Tajikistan; and Ms. Zhanar Mautanova, Deputy Director, International Water Assessment Center (on behalf of Ms. Alia Shalabekova, Director of the Transboundary Rivers Department, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, National Focal Point of Kazakhstan to the Water Convention). The Panel discussion was followed by a discussion among participants and panelists.

All workshop materials are posted at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=55364>, including the recording of the workshop (in English and Russian), the presentation, and the publication *Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment. Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment*.