

Report of the Online Training Workshop on Guidelines and Best Practices in North Macedonia for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment

The Online Training Workshop “Guidelines and Best Practices in North Macedonia for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment” was organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and held online on 17 February 2021. The workshop was attended by 101 participants, of which 51 women, from the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Uzbekistan (UNECE member States and RPTC programme countries); Croatia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Switzerland, and United Kingdom (UNECE member States). UNECE and UNDP, together with representatives of partner organizations, presented a set of guidelines and best practices for MSMEs working on delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment. The workshop also covered the "big picture" perspective on the impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs and its implications for investments into renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as the role of MSMEs in supporting the country’s green recovery and climate action commitments.

UNECE developed [Guidelines and Best Practices for Micro-, Small and Medium Enterprises in Delivering Energy-Efficient Products and in Providing Renewable Energy Equipment](#). North Macedonia is one of the pilot countries for which customized [Guidelines and Best Practices](#) have been developed (currently available in [English and Macedonian](#)). This study served as a basis for this training workshop. It concludes that companies need to increase the utilization of various funds, programmes and preferential loans, extend their partnership and networking in order to overcome the issues of supply and product placement, reorganize their schedule and capabilities (through trainings), increase their outreach towards customers in a safe manner, and, when possible, try to pivot towards products that are in high demand due to the changed working environment. The study for North Macedonia has been developed by the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (consultant Sashe Panevski) in the framework of the UN Development Account project “Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector” led by UNCTAD and UN ESCWA (UNECE is one of the implementing partners). The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity and resilience of MSMEs in developing countries and economies in transition to mitigate the economic and social impact of the global Covid-19 crisis.

UNDP’s Socioeconomic Assessment of COVID-19’s Impact in North Macedonia ([interactive dashboard](#)) confirmed that MSMEs are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. However, UNDP’s [Report on the Benefits of Circular Economy on Mitigation of GHGs Emission in the Waste Sector](#) and the analysis supporting the country’s [Enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions](#) show an opportunity for a green recovery. Implementing climate actions and introducing a circular economy model would not only lower GHG emissions but would also spur on low-carbon economic growth that could result in 10,589 new green jobs by 2030, at least 27% of which could be assigned to women by 2035. Energy efficiency

activities, such as the retrofit of existing buildings and the construction of passive houses, are expected to be the dominant source of new green jobs, many of them in MSMEs.

At the opening segment of the workshop Oleg Dzioubinski, UNECE Regional Adviser for Energy, Aleksandar Dukovski, Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, and Sanja Bojanic, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP North Macedonia made presentations. The training course was presented by Sashe Panevski, followed by presentations by Andrey Dodonov, UNECE consultant who was the main author of the region-wide Guidelines and Best Practices and George Abulashvili, UNECE consultant developing Guidelines and Best Practices for Georgia. Aleksandar Stojkov, UNDP Consultant made presentation “Navigating through Pandemic Times: How MSMEs can accelerate Green recovery and sustainable growth?” Dragana Marjanovic, Gender and Economic Inclusion, EBRD talked about EBRD and ILO joint report, its methodology and key findings and recommendations. Margherita Calderone, Principal Economist, EBRD made presentation on the EBRD’s Just Transition Initiative. The presentations were followed by a discussion among participants and speakers.

All workshop materials are posted at <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/events/online-training-workshop-guidelines-and-best-practices-north-macedonia>, including the agenda, recording of the workshop, presentations, and study *Guidelines and best practices for micro-, small and medium enterprises in North Macedonia in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment*. The [article](#) on the workshop prepared by the UNDP North Macedonia is also posted.