

External evaluation of the project

Strengthening capacity of the member States to achieve the energy related Sustainable Development Goals - Pathways to Sustainable Energy (October 2019)

Progress report as at 31 December 2020

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date/deadline	Date of implementation/comments
1	The UNECE may wish to continue disseminating the project outputs as wide as possible using, among others, electronic means.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation</p> <p>UNECE will explore all possible means to disseminate project results in the UNECE region and beyond. In 2020, results will be disseminated on the Project website, by attending Expert Groups meetings and delivering presentations.</p> <p>Meetings scheduled for the first half of 2020 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the 15th session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane on 23 March 2020, - the 7th session of the Group of Experts on Gas on 25 March 2020 - the Resource Management Week from 20-24 April 2020. - <p>More dissemination activities are planned at the 11th International Forum for Sustainable Energy in Georgia in September 2020 and during the 29th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in Geneva in November 2020.</p>	Ms. Stefanie Held, Chief of Section	Implemented in November 2020	<p>The project outputs were presented to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 28th session in November 2019 and published in the final report in English and Russian. Various additional materials have been developed in English and Russian containing policy recommendations and summaries and shared on the project website: https://www.unece.org/energy/pathwaystose.html</p> <p>The Expert Groups of the Committee have been involved and have received an invitation to comment and disseminate the findings.</p> <p>Due to Covid-19, meetings that were scheduled for the first half of 2020 were postponed. The 11th International Forum for Sustainable Energy in Georgia originally planned for September 2020, which was seen as the official launch opportunity for the final report, is also postponed to 2021.</p> <p>At the 29th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy recommendations from the Pathways project were presented and discussed: Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Accelerating Energy Transition in the ECE Region ECE/ENERGY/2019/1 and Policy recommendations from Pathways to Sustainable Energy ECE/ENERGY/2020/1.</p> <p>In addition, a number of documents were developed by the Group of Experts that discussed how the recommendations from Pathways project are being implemented: "Pathways to Sustainable Energy-policy recommendations from the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency" ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/5; "Pathways to Sustainable</p>

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					Energy – policy recommendations from the Group of Experts on Resource Management” ECE/ENERGY/2020/10 and “Pathways to Sustainable Energy – policy recommendations from the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems” ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/3.
2	Further development to enhance the project achievements could benefit the member States: for instance, enhanced capacity-building and expertise development to build on the effectively implemented activities 2016-2019.	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>The Project Team will continue seek opportunities to make an impact in subregions in form of capacity building. However, this is subject to extrabudgetary funding and in-kind contributions. Fundraising will be actively sought during 2020. Resourcing strategy will be discussed with the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in its calls and meetings in 2020. The Regional Advisor will also be involved.</p>	Ms. Stefanie Held, Chief of Section	Implemented in November 2020	<p>Several workshops had been planned in the Caucasus and Central Asia region with the focus on renewable energy and cost of electricity, as well as nexus areas energy and water. These have been postponed to 2021 when travelling will be possible again, and the secretariat is in contact with the donor (Russian Federation).</p> <p>In cooperation with Regional Advisor, two subregional Workshops that built on recommendations from the Pathways project were delivered online with a focus on the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and south eastern Europe.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Water-Energy Nexus Subregional workshop in cooperation with UNECE Environment Division and UNDP Armenia that discussed sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment in above mentioned subregions. 2) Subregional workshop on attaining carbon neutrality that discussed the role of CCUS technologies and nuclear energy in carbon neutrality context.
3	If the intervention is taken forward , it might be further focused on the subregional and national levels, as the member States are at an early stage of addressing the complex and vitally important issues of pathways to sustainable energy.	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE will take the recommendation into consideration when preparing project proposal for the Project's Phase II, expected in the second quarter of 2020, but dependent on extrabudgetary resources</p>	Ms. Stefanie Held, Chief of Section	June 2021	<p>In progress</p> <p>Both subregional focus and technology focus are recognised as attractive ways to pursue next phases of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy project.</p> <p>A proposal for the second phase of the project is being developed under the leadership of the Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the secretariat and in close collaboration with potential donors. Concept ideas were presented to the UNECE Executive Committee in December 2019 and February 2020. The Committee on Sustainable</p>

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					<p>Energy was consulted in November 2020 and will continue working on this topic in 2021.</p> <p>So far, no extrabudgetary funding pledges have been received.</p>
4	<p>To include gender and human rights aspects in the design of future projects, the UNECE may consider:</p> <p>a) further encouraging stakeholder/beneficiary organizations to increase the participation of female experts and decision-makers from their side in project events, e.g., by including a special notice into the invitations to these events;</p> <p>b) further encouraging female experts to join the Project Advisory Board and especially the Expert Groups Focal Points and Chairs;</p> <p>c) introducing in the project design a number of measurable gender and human rights related indicators and targets to report on the progress made.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation..</p> <p>UNECE will continue pursuing gender balance when organising events and forming Task Forces, Working Groups and Project Advisory Boards, in line with the corporate commitments taken in the signed Management response to the Gender mainstreaming evaluation of UNECE.</p> <p>In the Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE will proactively engage female experts to achieve gender balance.</p> <p>Meetings scheduled for the first half of 2020 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the 15th session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane on 23 March 2020, - the 7th session of the Group of Experts on Gas on 25 March 2020 - the Resource Management Week from 20-24 April 2020. - <p>More dissemination activities are planned at the 11th International Forum for Sustainable Energy in Georgia in September 2020 and during the 29th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in Geneva in November 2020.</p>	Ms. Stefanie Held, Chief of Section		<p>Implemented in November 2020</p> <p>The project team informed all expert groups of the opportunity to strengthen Bureaus and widen expertise by proactively recruiting female experts into task forces and project advisory boards. SED is also encouraging active participation of female experts as key note speakers, moderators and panelists at expert groups and Committee on Sustainable Energy meetings.</p> <p>SED launched a project on “Enhancing the understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050” under which it formed a Task Force on Carbon Neutrality. The team is striving to achieve active participation of female experts. Currently there are 60 policy makers and industry experts recruited in the Task Force on carbon neutrality, of which 37% female and 63% male.</p> <p>The project team recruited 3 female experts to the project Advisory Board from Russian Federation, Serbia and World Meteorological Organization.</p>
5	<p>When preparing project concepts and ToRs, the</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation</p>	Ms. Stefanie Held, Chief of Section		<p>Implemented in June 2020</p>

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	UNECE managers should formulate indicators of achievement that can be easily measured to track the project progress and reflected in project documents.	UNECE will take this recommendation into consideration when preparing project proposal for the potential Project 's Phase II, expected in the second quarter of 2020. All future Project concept notes to include measurable indicators of achievement.			New project proposals include the approach recommended. Specifically, recently approved XB project on “Enhancing the understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050”.