

Report of the Online Workshop on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and their Implementation in the UNECE region

The online workshop “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and their Implementation in the UNECE Region” was organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and held online on 9 April 2021.

The workshop was attended by 68 participants, of which 24 women, from the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan (UNECE member States and RPTC programme countries); Croatia, Germany, Russian Federation, Slovakia, and Switzerland (UNECE member States).

The workshop aimed to enhance national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards in buildings through encouraging participatory planning and partnerships of all involved stakeholders.

During the workshop, UNECE presented the main findings and recommendations of [a draft study on gap analysis](#) between the performance objectives set forth in the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and current energy efficiency standards and their implementation in the countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and in the Russian Federation. This activity was implemented in the framework of the project [Enhancing National Capacities to Develop and Implement Energy Efficiency Standards for Buildings in the UNECE Region](#) funded by the Russian Federation. An important goal of the project is to improve the overall performance of buildings, leading among other benefits to reduced energy consumption. The project derives from UNECE’s work on best policy practices for energy efficiency.

The gap analysis study reviewed the existing energy efficiency policies, such as framework legislation to develop and implement energy efficiency standards in buildings with emphasis on building energy codes; introduction and implementation of energy performance certification and energy pricing measures; promotion of Energy Service Companies; awareness programmes and initiatives to promote energy efficiency; implementation of energy efficiency standards in new and existing buildings; existence of compliance and enforcement mechanisms; and institutional capacity and effectiveness of existing energy efficiency policies. The study provides analysis of conformity of the existing energy efficiency standards with the UNECE Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and identifies barriers affecting the effective achievement of energy efficiency policies potential.

UNECE also presented the preliminary findings of three national studies with a more detailed gap analysis in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and the Republic of Moldova. They analyze the energy performance of buildings, implementation of current building energy efficiency standards in the countries and provide country-specific recommendations on the possibilities to bridge the existing gaps.

UNDP presented the [Green City Lab](#), an independent and sustainable entity to carry out pilot projects implementation and other projects in areas of low carbon urban development and mobility, energy efficiency and solid waste management. This activity is implemented in the framework of the GEF financed project [Moldova Sustainable Green Cities](#). The main objective of the project is to activate investments in low carbon green urban development based on integrated urban planning approach by encouraging innovation, participatory planning and partnerships between a variety of public and private sector entities.

UNDP also presented a Green design code that was developed to provide a framework to help the local decision-makers to design new affordable and energy efficient housing, undertake efficient measures for retrofitting the existing building stock, implement the buildings green certification, as well as use of green building materials and design.

At the opening segment of the workshop Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE; Vahram Jalalyan, Co-Chair, UNECE Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings; and Andrea Cuzyova, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova made welcome remarks.

At session 1, a draft study on gap analysis was presented by Nadejda Khamrakulova, Project Officer, UNECE, followed by presentations by Sergiu Robu, UNECE Consultant, on a draft national study with a more detailed gap analysis in the Republic of Moldova; Andre Ohanian on behalf of Ms. Ani Rafyan, UNECE Consultant, on a draft national study with a more detailed gap analysis in Armenia; and Mikhail Toropov, UNECE Consultant, on a draft national study with a more detailed gap analysis in Kyrgyzstan. The session was moderated by Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser on Energy, UNECE.

At session 2, Elena Rastei, UNDP consultant made presentation on the implementation of the Green buildings certification system in the Republic of Moldova. Dumitru Vasilescu, Policy specialist, UNDP Moldova made presentation on behavioral experimentation and testing social norms to improve electricity use in residential sector in the Republic of Moldova. The session was moderated by Inga Podoroghin, Programme Specialist/Cluster Lead/Energy & Environment, UNDP Moldova.

The presentations were followed by a discussion among participants and speakers.

UNECE reported on the workshop in the [news item](#). Workshop materials are available at the workshop [webpage](#).