

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 Georgia for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment” was organized jointly by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MoESD) of Georgia, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and held online on 8 April 2021. The workshop was attended by 51 participants, of which 19 women, from the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan (UNECE member States and RPTC programme countries); Morocco and Sudan (non-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.

UNECE developed [Guidelines and Best Practices for Micro-, Small and Medium Enterprises in Delivering Energy-Efficient Products and in Providing Renewable Energy Equipment](#).

Georgia is one of the pilot countries for which customized [Guidelines and Best Practices](#) have been developed. This study served as a basis for this training workshop. It concludes that most MSMEs in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sector have been forced to adjust to the remote working conditions and social distancing. Although remote working mode reduced some operation costs for MSMEs, but productivity level also decreased. The report recommends a set of policy actions for the Government, among them: a clear guidance for companies on the available support from various sources; temporary tax breaks; provision of grants, soft loans, credit guarantees, and dedicated support programmes. Rather than subsidizing energy bills for households and food producers for a short period of time, the Government should promote investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy products and services, which will lead to energy savings in the long run. It should also review and adjust public procurement procedures and encourage procurement of energy efficiency and renewable energy products and services from local suppliers and manufacturers. The study for Georgia has been developed by the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (consultant George Abulashvili) 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.

At the opening segment of the workshop, Zaza Chikhradze, Head, Energy Reforms and International Relations Department, MoESD, Oleg Dzioubinski, UNECE Regional Adviser for Energy, Nino Antadze, Team Leader, Energy and Environment Portfolio, UNDP Office in Georgia, and Aleksandar Dukovski, Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, made welcome remarks. The training course was presented by George Abulashvili, Director, Energy Efficiency Center Georgia. Nino Cholokashvili of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

Georgia presented the results of the survey of Georgian business in the face of Covid-19 pandemic conducted by PwC Georgia. These presentations were followed by interventions by Vitaly Bekker, UNECE consultant who contributed to the region-wide Guidelines and Best Practices and Sashe Panevski, UNECE consultant who developed Guidelines and Best Practices for North Macedonia. Margalita Arabidze, Deputy Head, Energy Reforms and International Relations Department, MoESD moderated a discussion among participants and speakers.

All workshop materials will be posted at <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/events/online-training-workshop-guidelines-and-best-practices-micro-small-and>, including the agenda, recording of the workshop, presentations, and study *Guidelines and best practices for micro-, small and medium enterprises in Georgia in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment*.