UNECE

Workshop "Strengthening national capacity in applying sustainable energy policies and practices based on the recommendations of the Environmental Performance Reviews"

30 June 2021, Online
09:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (CEST)

North Macedonia - 3rd EPR

Report	No.	Topic	SDG	Recommendation (quote)	Implementation	Implementation Updated
Part I	*1.6 (a)*	Energy efficiency	7.3	*The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning should develop and implement policies for greening the activities of the Ministry, in particular with regard to water and energy efficiency, waste management and carbon neutrality.*	*In many countries, national environmental authorities take the lead and show opportunities for functioning in an environmentally friendly way to other governmental bodies and non-governmental stakeholders. In North Macedonia, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning does not have a policy to lead environmental protection efforts by its own example. No efforts are applied to reduce the use of paper and the generation of waste in the Ministry's building or be energy and water efficient and carbon neutral. Green procurement is not practised for the purchase of goods and services in the framework of projects whose implementation is coordinated by the Ministry.*	Ongoing. A task force has been created in March 2021 to develop green policies which are expected to be endorsed by December 2021.
Part II	*6.2 (a) (b) (c) (d)*	Renewable energies; Infrastructures; Legal, Policy and Institutional framework; Compliance with international	7.2, 7.a, 13.2	*The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and Ministry of Economy should:* *(a) Revise all legal and strategic documents that regulate and foresee hydropower construction to ensure that the site selection criteria applied to hydropower plants are based on international*	*Since 2011, two non-compliance cases were filed under the Bern Convention and the 1985 Sulphur Protocol to the Air Convention; both cases concerned activities in the energy sector. These cases point to gaps in the current environmental governance and inadequate streamlining of environmental considerations in the country's energy sector development. Notwithstanding the presence of a requirement for compliance with*	(a): Ongoing. A task force will be set up in June 2021 leading to a report in December 2021. A drafted legislation should be elaborated in June 2022 (b): Ongoing. The development of a project/proposal should start in September 2021. (c): Implemented. Underway and promoted by NGOs and MOEPP

		laws, regulations, standards		*best practice, which excludes hydropower construction in protected areas and areas with high hydro-morphological and biodiversity status;* *(b) In cooperation with neighbouring countries that are pursuing a similar path in energy sector development, conduct a transboundary study into the cumulative and combined effects on the environment of planned small hydropower plants and associated new infrastructure construction, taking into consideration seismic and climate change effects;* *(c) Ensure that SEAs carried out on energy sector plans and programmes under development are based on international best practice and provide greater transparency and public engagement;* *(d) Promote the production of electrical energy from renewable sources other than hydropower.*	*MEAs in the Energy Development Strategy, in practice, its implementation in conformity with MEAs has proved to be challenging. The priorities for energy sector development, aimed to be harmonized with MEAs, have driven the national energy policy in the direction of rapid construction of HPPs, with many planned in protected areas, resulting in tensions with obligations under the Bern Convention. Elevated ELVs for sulphur, mainly granted to large coal-fired TPPs, caused a breach of sulphur reduction commitments under the 1985 Sulphur Protocol for the period 2013–2015. Furthermore, the country failed to fulfil some obligations under the Energy Community Treaty. Challenges exist in meeting the country's legally binding renewable energy target, due to its reliance predominantly on fossil fuels and hydropower, while its solar energy potential remains untapped. Concerns have also been raised by CSOs with respect to a lack of transparency on the number and locations of the proposed HPPs. This points to a need for a more harmonized approach in the energy sector, development of which inherently touches upon several cross-cutting environmental issues covered by MEAs. In the absence of such an approach, the future implementation of MEAs will continue to be constrained and more non-compliance cases are likely to occur in the domain of energy sector development. Nature protection obligations should be recognized and respected by the Government whenever hydropower, mining or large infrastructure investments are planned.*	(d): Ongoing. Combined with activities of the recommendation 1.2
	7.4	Climate change; Legal, Policy and Institutional framework	7.2, 13.2	*The Government should integrate climate change issues into overall energy planning and develop integrated climate and energy plans, which would include the gradual switch from the use of domestic lignite for electricity production to more sustainable and less polluting sources of*	*The WEM and WAM scenarios prioritize the energy sector for the identification of mitigation measures. Mitigation measures have been implemented in the energy sector, ranging from the introduction of energy audits to subsidies for energy efficiency measures in households. Because of the dominant use of domestic lignite for electricity production, there is potential for GHG emissions reductions. The percentage of renewable energy reached 19.9 per*	Ongoing. The first draft prepared, envisaged to be proposed for adoption by the Government in June 2021.

				energy, and the increase of the percentage of gross final energy consumption from renewable energies to meet the national target of 23.9 per cent by 2020.	*cent in 2015, leaving a gap to fill in order to reach by 2020 the renewable energy target of 23.9 per cent as a percentage of gross final energy consumption.*	
	7.6 (a) (b) (c)	Legal, Policy and Institutional framework ; Compliance with international laws, regulations, standards	13.2	*The Government should:* *(a) Encourage cities to become signatories to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and to subsequently prepare, adopt and implement sustainable energy (and climate) action plans;* *(b) Support at municipal level the implementation of measures that would achieve GHG emissions reduction, which are included in the 2011 Skopje Sustainable Energy Action Plan;* *(c) Advise the City of Skopje to integrate the updated 2011 Skopje Sustainable Energy Action Plan with the 2017 Resilient Skopje Climate Change Strategy, financed by the United Nations Development Programme, to avoid duplications and overlaps.*	*The City of Skopje has implemented some measures included in the 2011 Skopje Sustainable Energy Action Plan, mostly in the building sector and, to a limited extent, in the transport sector. However, the 2012 GHG inventory shows an 8 per cent increase of GHG emissions for the City compared with the reference year 2008. Skopje has prepared and adopted the Climate Change Strategy in 2017 with financial and technical support from UNDP. It is estimated that the City would be on track to ensure a 22 per cent CO2 emissions reduction by 2020, as compared with the reference scenario (scenario without measures), provided the measures contained in the Strategy are implemented. In 2015, eight municipalities developed and adopted climate change strategies within the USAID-financed "Municipal Climate Change Strategies Project". These strategies have been developed through a participatory process aimed at including the local population in policymaking and simultaneously familiarizing them with issues related to climate change and adopted as official documents by the respective municipalities with a 10-year time frame. An educational-promotional campaign in each municipality was an important component.*	(a) Ongoing. By June 2022, the draft and the amendment of the Law on Energy is expected. It will serve as a basis for local level plans on energy and climate. (b) Ongoing. On-going activities at the local level between 2020-2025 (c) Ongoing. The city of Skopje is developing an energy and climate plan. It will be legally set with the revision of a Law on Energy
	8.6	Energy efficiency	7.3	*The Government should introduce measures to improve energy efficiency and to stimulate changes towards using more sustainable fuels in the housing and energy sectors.*	*Energy production (public electricity and heat production) contributed 41 per cent of the total emissions of NOx and 91 per cent of the SO2 emissions in 2016. Its contribution to CO emissions is 8 per cent, while its contribution to PM10 and PM2.5 emissions is estimated at 11 per cent and 6 per cent respectively. Consumption of energy, especially in residential heating, makes a major contribution to PM emissions. Energy production is also a dominant source of emissions of lead (38 per cent), mercury (45 per cent) and cadmium (49 per*	Ongoing with the implementation of the the "Plan for clean air": - Replacement of the existing and highly polluting heating systems in public institutions, including energy efficiency measure (2019-2023) Implementation of Air pollution reduction measures through Programme for subsidizing the total cost for purchasing highly efficient inverter air conditions to

					cent). Residential heating has a major share in total national emissions of PAHs (79 per cent) and PCDD/Fs (77 per cent). It also contributes 67 per cent of the total national emissions of carbon monoxide, although emissions of this pollutant decreased by 14 per cent in 2016 compared with 2015, due to greater use of natural gas and briquettes and pellets for residential heating instead of fossil fuels and wood. Residential heating also has a dominant share in emissions of PM10 (46 per cent) and PM2.5 (58 per cent), which represent a major air quality concern in the country. Moreover, it contributes 29 per cent of total national emissions of VOCs, 10 per cent of emissions of PCBs and 8 per cent of emissions of NH3.	the citizens that use solid fossil fuel for heating (2020)