

External evaluation of the UNDA project 1617X

“Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” (December 2019)

Progress report as at 30 June 2021

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date/deadline	Date of implementation/comments
1	Continue building the capacity of the member States through technical workshops on the topics requested in the course of the evaluation, including workshops on improving statistical data for sustainable energy.	UNECE accepts the recommendation In 2020-2021, SED will continue building the capacity of member States through technical workshops on the topics requested in the course of the evaluation, including workshops on improving statistical data for sustainable energy. Workshops may be organized with funds from RPTC budget or other extrabudgetary projects managed by SED.	Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser on Sustainable Energy; Scott Foster, SED Director; programme officers in SED.	Implemented in October 2020 Capacity-building workshops on data solutions for evidence-based policy and stakeholder collaboration were organized on-line (because of the Covid-19 pandemic) on 12 and 14 May 2020: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53669 (jointly with UNDP Armenia and the Urban Development Committee) and http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53671 (jointly with the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and the National Statistical Office of Georgia). Target countries: Armenia and Georgia. Also participants from Belarus, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, and Tunisia. Plans for organizing workshops had to be scaled down because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Training workshops “Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment” on-line on 14 September 2020 (in English - http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=55077) and on 1 October 2020 (in Russian - http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=55186). Participants from Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, India, Ireland, Lithuania, Palestine, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.	Implemented in October 2020
2	Assist the targeted countries with taking practical steps towards adopting and implementing the NSEAPs at national level and encourage nearby countries to replicate the results. A series of	UNECE accepts the recommendation Workshops on implementation of NSEAPs will be organized in 2020-2021 with funds from RPTC budget subject to availability of funding.	Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser on Sustainable Energy	December 2021	In progress A workshop on implementation of NSEAPs has been planned (jointly with ESCAP) initially in the first half of 2020 but had to be postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Regional Adviser is in contact with the beneficiary countries regarding the process of adopting and implementing NSEAPs. However, the

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	consultations and awareness-raising workshops need to be facilitated for the top-level decision makers in their respective countries. It is also advisable to support the beneficiary countries to develop the NSEAP implementation roadmap and the monitoring frameworks.				process has been slow because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The workshop on implementation of NSEAPs (organized jointly with ESCAP) will take place in the second half of 2021.
3	Encourage neighbouring countries to share information, with the member States and broader audience, of progress made and results achieved with regard to the adoption and implementation the NSEAPs.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation</p> <p>Neighbouring countries will be encouraged to share information with other member States and broader audience about progress made and results achieved with regard to the adoption and implementation the NSEAPs. In particular, this information sharing will be facilitated at the 11th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Tbilisi on 15-17 September 2020</p>	<p>Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser on Sustainable Energy;</p> <p>Scott Foster, SED Director</p>	December 2021	<p>In progress</p> <p>The 11th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (IFESD-11) planned in Tbilisi on 15-17 September 2020 has been postponed to an undefined date in 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. For the same reason, sharing information by other means is currently on hold. It has been decided that IFESD-11 will take place virtually in the second half of 2021 over the course of several weeks. The workshop on implementation of NSEAPs will be held in the framework of the Forum. See also response to #2.</p>
4	Address the sustainable energy implementation practices from both top-down and bottom-up approaches and continue cooperation not only with other UN agencies and top-level decision-makers in the sustainable energy agenda, but also engage the stakeholders representing local governance entities to share their real-case	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation</p> <p>Cooperation with UN ESCAP, national governments and local stakeholders will continue.</p>	<p>Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser on Sustainable Energy; Scott Foster, SED Director</p>	Implemented as of 30 June 2021	<p>In response to the COVID-19 crisis, UNECE has become an implementing partner in the UNDA project “<i>Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector</i>” led by UNCTAD and ESCWA and jointly implemented with other Regional Commissions.</p> <p>In the framework of the project, UNECE has developed:</p> <p>1) Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment, the on-line training course based on the Guidelines and Best Practices, and customized Guidelines and Best Practices for Georgia and North Macedonia</p>

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	experience and practical guidance in implementing NSEAPs.			2) Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs to assure resiliency and progress towards a circular economy in sustainable resource management and critical raw material supply chain solutions, the on-line training course based on the Guidelines and Best Practices, and customized Guidelines and Best Practices for Tajikistan and Ukraine. See: https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/regional-advisory-services/un-development-account-project .	Additionally, UNECE is a lead agency in the project proposal submitted to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) “ <i>Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high performance buildings.</i> ” The project outline (total budget EUR 19.8 million) has been approved by IKI, and preparations for its implementation have started. The project has 7 beneficiary countries (Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan). The UNECE has 13 implementing partners, including UNDP Offices in all beneficiary countries, UNEP, ESCAP, Green Building Alliance, UNEP-DTU Partnership, EEP, and Passive House Institute. For both projects, there is (and will be) close cooperation with national governments and local stakeholders.
5	Continue raising the awareness of the member States about the gender mainstreaming and human rights dimensions in the energy sector through workshops and presentations and introduce gender-responsive indicators and targets to measure and report the progress made regarding the gender mainstreaming agenda.	UNECE accepts the recommendation In line with UNECE commitments taken in the management response of the 2019 evaluation of Gender mainstreaming in UNECE , gender-responsive indicators and targets will be included in forthcoming projects to measure and report progress made. SED staff will attend the forthcoming workshop related to gender statistics to be held in 2020, to build knowledge on systematic collection, use, analysis and reporting of gender-disaggregated data, gender equality and empowerment of women results. Raising awareness through workshops and presentations will be	Scott Foster, SED Director; programme officers in SED.	Implemented as of 30 June 2021	Active participation of female experts in the Training workshops (see response to #1) has been encouraged and monitored. The share of female experts varied from 33 percent to 43 percent. Under the UNDA project “ <i>Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSME sector,</i> ” the studies should include, to the extent possible, special considerations for MSMEs owned and/or operated by women, as well as the role of women in post-crisis recovery. SED developed a study, with the use of RPTC funds, on “ <i>Women entrepreneurship in the natural resource management: Challenges and opportunities for the MSME sector in the post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery</i> ” and conducted a training course. See: https://unece.org/info/Sustainable-Energy/Regional-Advisory-Services/events/350054 . SED is developing another study, with the use of RPTC funds, on “ <i>Energy transition and post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery: role of women and impact on them.</i> ”

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		pursued in future projects.			
6	Ensure that new projects have detailed monitoring and evaluation plan developed and incorporated into the projects' documents along with properly design logical framework and S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) indicators and timelines of individual activities to be implemented.	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation</p> <p>In 2020, SED will seek the support of the Programme Management Unit and will develop new projects with S.M.A.R.T. indicators and targets, to better measure and monitor the intermediate results and long-term impact, subject to full staffing of the Division.</p>	Scott Foster, SED Director; programme officers in SED.	Implemented as of 30 June 2020	<p>New project proposals include the approach recommended to the extent possible. Specifically, recently approved XB project funded by the Russian Federation "Enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the UNECE region" and UNDA project "Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector."</p> <p>Situation with staffing of the Division has deteriorated since December 2019 because of the liquidity crisis at the UN and a number of open posts that cannot be filled for that reason.</p>