

Report on the Training Workshop on Guidelines and Best Practices for Micro-, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment in Armenia

The Training Workshop “Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment in Armenia” was organized jointly by the Ministry of Economy of Armenia, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Armenia on 10 March 2022.

The event was attended by 54 participants, of which 21 women, from the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, and Republic of Moldova (UNECE member States and RPTC programme countries).

UNECE developed [Guidelines and Best Practices for Micro-, Small and Medium Enterprises \(MSMEs\) in Delivering Energy-Efficient Products and in Providing Renewable Energy Equipment](#). Armenia 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 provides analysis of the environment that MSMEs find themselves in as a result of the Covid-19 crisis in Armenia; best practices that show how MSMEs operating in the Armenian energy efficiency and renewable energy markets may respond to the current challenge or similar challenges in the future; the measures that were taken by the MSMEs supplying energy-efficient and renewable energy equipment to restore business confidence; and recommendations to the Government of Armenia on creating enabling environment for MSMEs to facilitate economic recovery in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The study presents the results of a survey, which was conducted among the MSMEs supplying energy-efficient and renewable energy equipment. About 60 selected market players were offered to take part in a survey to reveal impact of COVID-19 on the business, the actions to combat the COVID-19 crisis impact, financial and liquidity problems, views on remedial measures, efficiency of government actions to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic, problems related to the supply chain, operations, financial stability, employees’ health issues, their motivation and vision for the future, etc.

The study provides recommendations on the practical improvement of fiscal and monetary policy in Armenia in connection with COVID-19, aimed at benefiting MSMEs working in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Armenia, as well as direct recommendations to MSMEs working in this field.

The customized Guidelines and Best Practices for Armenia has been developed by the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (consultant Ms. Ani Rafyan) 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 Covid19 crisis.

At the opening segment of the workshop, Ms. Ani Ispiryan, Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia, and Oleg Dzioubinski, UNECE Regional Adviser for Energy, made welcoming remarks. The training course was presented by Mr. Suren Shatvoryan, Energy Expert, Armenia. The presentation was followed by a discussion among participants with interventions by experts from other pilot countries Mr. Sergiu Robu (Republic of Moldova), Mr. George Abulashvili (Georgia), and Mr. Sashe Panevski (North Macedonia).

Participants of the workshop also discussed similarities and differences between findings of the study for Armenia and findings and conclusions from the studies undertaken in other pilot countries (Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, and Republic of Moldova) for which customized Guidelines and Best Practices have been developed under this project.

All workshop materials are posted at <https://unece.org/info/Sustainable-Energy/events/365074>.