

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION (RPTC)**

Capacity Building/ Field Project/Activity title:

Mapping Albania's readiness for green and just transition in post-coal mining areas

Expected timing and venue:

1 June - 31 December 2023, Albania

Objective and brief summary of the project/ activity:

The objective of this project is to assess Albania's readiness for green and just transition in local post-coal mining areas and to identify regulatory, social, technical, and financial barriers that the country will need to address to be able to successfully reclaim and repurpose its post-coal mining areas in accordance with the principles of green economy and just transition. The project will assess the situation of various post-coal mining sites across the country and identify elements that are necessary to enable the start and to ensure progress in reclaiming and repurposing. It will build on recommendations provided by the recently completed study on mine closure in Albania and will develop recommendations and guidance on what should be done to successfully implement them.

Proposed activities:

A.1.1. Map the location of post-coal mining areas in Albania and conduct analysis of the status and condition of the post-coal mining areas in the country, as well as the readiness of those areas for mined land re-purposing and transition.

A.1.2. Analyse the relevant current legal framework governing ongoing activities as well as plans aiming to ensure safety and re-development of the selected post-coal mining areas in Albania and provide a short summary report presenting the findings.

A.2.1. Develop detailed economic, energy, environmental, and social characteristics of the selected post-coal mining areas and identify elements that are necessary to enable the start and continued progress toward repurposing and transformation.

A.2.2. Develop geographic information systems (GIS) database that will incorporate data and information collected in A1.1 and A.2.1 to provide maps and other graphical displays of data to examine the current status of the selected post-coal mining areas in Albania.

A.3.1. Organize an inclusive policy dialogue in the selected post-coal mining area in Albania.

A.3.2. Organize a workshop on the future of the post-coal mining areas in Albania.

A3.3. Develop a report incorporating analysis of maps and other information generated from activity A2.2 outlining a conceptual framework for repurposing of the selected local post-coal mining areas in Albania and for just transition of those localities adapted to the local needs, ambitions, and capacities.

Relation to the Sustainable Development Goals:

The project contributes to the achievement of SDGs 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13

Expected results of the project/ activity:

EA1. Better understanding of the characteristics of the selected post-coal mining areas in Albania and the challenges that they do and will face throughout the process of post-coal mining land reclamation and repurposing, as well transformation towards the green economy.

EA2. GIS (geographic information system) geodatabase that can be used to generate maps that characterize the selected post-coal mining areas in Albania and their readiness for re-purposing and, where appropriate, re-development.

EA3. Enhanced national and regional capacity to undergo the process of post-coal mining land reclamation and repurposing, as well as better understanding of, and a plan for just transition of the post-coal mining areas in Albania.

Target group and beneficiaries of the project/ activity:

Beneficiary country is Albania.

State, regional, and municipal authorities responsible for economic affairs, land management, coal mining, as well as for development and implementation of environmental and social policies; residents of the selected post-coal mining areas in Albania; local NGOs interested in structural change; clean energy project developers; and developers of CMM/CBM/AMM¹ projects.

¹ CMM – Coal Mine Methane; CBM – Coalbed methane; AMM – Abandoned Mine Methane