

# Establishing a National Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Agency in Georgia: Comparative Analysis and Strategic Recommendations Based on UNECE Member States' Experiences

Matija Vajdić

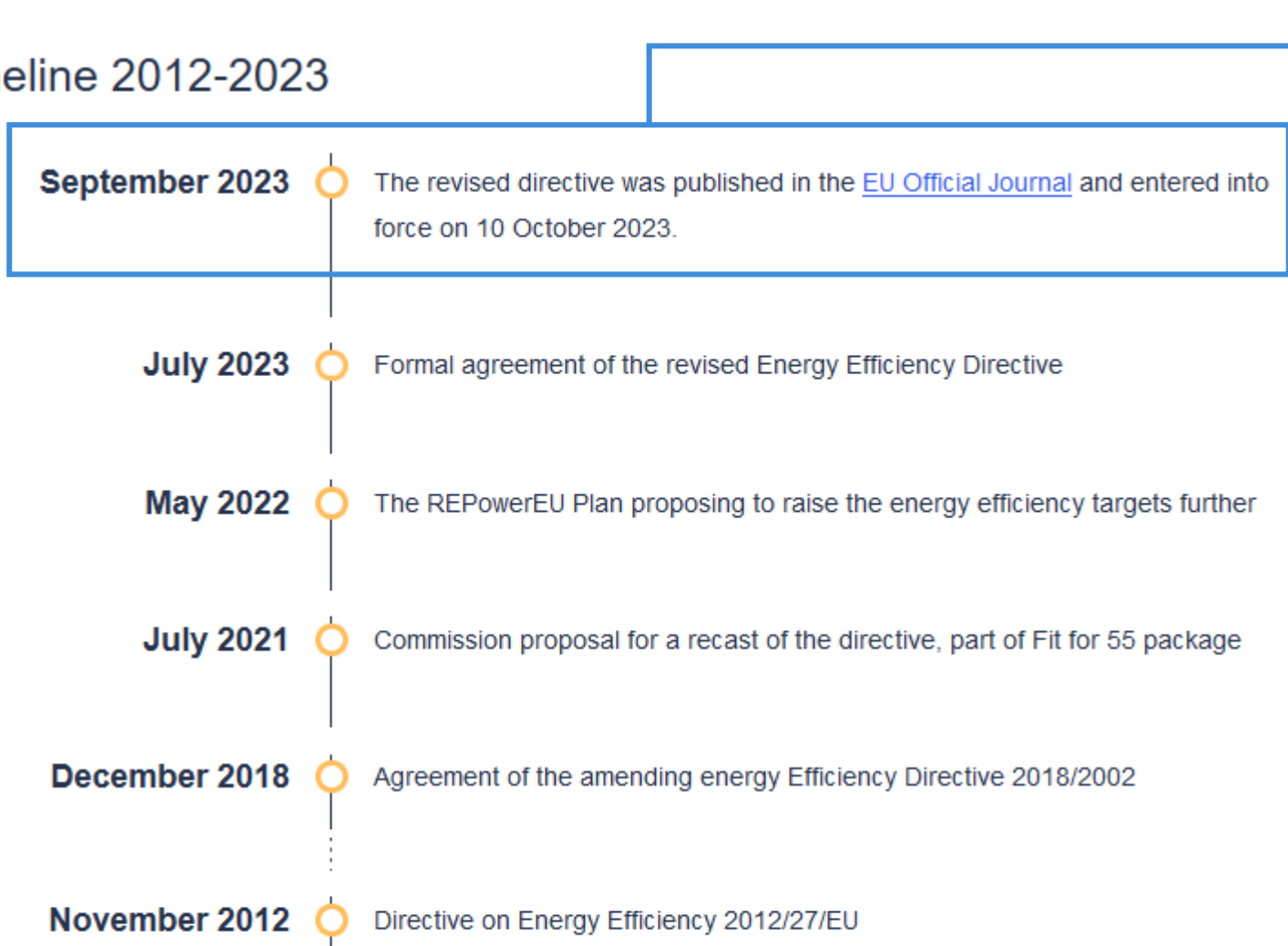


**UNECE**



## The revised Energy Efficiency Directive (EU/2023/1791)

Timeline 2012-2023



(38) Public authorities are encouraged to obtain support from entities such as **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AGENCIES** established at the regional or local level, where applicable. The organisation of those agencies usually reflects the individual needs of public authorities in a certain region or operating in a certain area of the public sector. **Centralized agencies can better serve the needs and work more effectively in other respects, for example, in smaller or centralized Member States** or regarding complex or cross-regional aspects such as district heating and cooling.

...

- ...
- Sustainable energy agencies can act as one-stop shops, streamlining access to energy solutions.
- They are pivotal in developing local or regional decarbonization plans, including measures like exchanging fossil fuel boilers.
- These agencies support public authorities in implementing energy-related policies and enhancing regional and local governance.
- Equipped with clear competencies, objectives, and resources, sustainable energy agencies can effectively assist regional and local authorities in sustainable energy.
- They are encouraged to align their initiatives with frameworks like the Covenant of Mayors, promoting local governments' commitment to climate and energy objectives.
- Decarbonization plans developed by these agencies should integrate with territorial development plans, considering comprehensive assessments by Member States.

# Sustainable energy agencies – why?

UNECE

Progress in the Areas of Energy Efficiency  
and Renewable Energy  
in Selected Countries of the UNECE Region



## GAP ANALYSIS

between the Performance Objectives Set Forth in the  
Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and  
Current Energy Efficiency Standards and their Implementation  
in the Countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus,  
Central Asia, and in the Russian Federation



Source: Institute for Building Efficiency, IFR.

“Dedicated agencies and intermediate management structures that deal with EE and RE programmes and projects play a very important normative and proponent role because they are the interface between policy makers and other acting organizations. Setting up the dedicated agencies would help ensure the proper planning, promotion, management, evaluation and monitoring of EE and RE projects. The agencies can also coordinate and solicit public funding from government ministries, as well as distribute funds (IEA, 2002).”



## Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings



## Strengths

- Quite well-developed framework legislation
- Adoption of building energy codes
- Adoption of laws on EE & energy performance in buildings
- Presence of energy labelling requirements
- Presence of financial incentives (subsidies, soft loans, tax exemption, reductions)

## Weaknesses

- High energy consumption in the residential sector
- Lack (or absence) of ESCO activities in some countries
  - Absence of specific incentives for improving compliance with building energy codes
  - Lack of enforcement mechanisms

## SWOT Analysis

## Opportunities

- Operations by dedicated energy agencies to monitor and implement energy efficiency measures and activities
- Introduced mandatory regular inspections
- Energy tariffs increases
- Further developments in the legislation

## Threats

- Low energy prices in some countries
- Absence of mandatory energy performance monitoring requirements
- Absence of penalties for non-compliance with building energy codes in some countries



- The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MoESD) initiated efforts **to establish an energy agency**, focused on energy efficiency (+ renewables)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has been engaged in a comprehensive study to provide **comparative insights and recommendations for establishing such an agency in Georgia**
- The primary objective of this study is **to collect and compile operative data and information on dedicated renewable energy and energy efficiency agencies** in all UNECE member countries
- By conducting a thorough review and analysis of existing agencies, the study seeks to achieve the following objectives:
  - **Identification of Best Practices:** to highlight best practices, lessons learned, and success factors from existing agencies that can inform the establishment and operation of an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Agency in Georgia.
  - **Assessment of Institutional Models:** To assess the organizational structures, mandates, function, funding mechanisms, and governance arrangements of selected agencies, providing insights into different institutional models and approaches.
  - **Alignment with EU Association Agreement:** To examine the significance of the EU Association Agreement for Georgia's energy sector and its implications for establishing an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Agency.
  - **Recommendations for Georgia:** Based on the comparative analysis, provide specific recommendations tailored to Georgia's context for establishing and operating an effective Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Agency.

## Energy Efficiency Directive (EED):

- The agency can **assist in setting national energy efficiency targets** in line with EU requirements and **developing strategies and action plans** to achieve these targets.
- It can **support the implementation of energy efficiency measures** and policies across various sectors, including buildings, industry, transportation, and the public sector.
- The agency can work with stakeholders **to establish energy efficiency obligation schemes**, promote **energy audits and energy management systems**, and facilitate the exchange of best practices and experiences with other EU countries.

## Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD):

- The agency can provide **technical assistance and capacity building** to help Georgian policymakers develop and enforce future updates of the minimum energy performance requirements for buildings.
- It can **support the implementation of energy certification schemes** and ensure regular inspections of building heating, cooling, and ventilation systems.
- The agency can **promote energy-efficient building design** and construction practices and the use of renewable energy technologies to improve overall energy performance.

## Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations:

- The agency can assist in **developing and enforcing energy labeling requirements** for energy-related products sold in Georgia, aligning them with EU standards.
- It can work with manufacturers and retailers to **ensure that consumers receive accurate and informative energy labels**, which can help them make informed purchasing decisions.
- The agency can conduct **awareness campaigns and educational programs** to educate the public about energy labeling and the benefits of choosing energy-efficient products.



- **Policy Formulation:** [Redacted] will develop and formulate national energy policies, strategies, and legislative frameworks. This includes setting goals, standards, and directives for energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- **Technical Expertise and Advisory Services:** [Redacted] will house technical experts who will provide advisory services to the government, industries, and the public on energy systems, technologies, and policies. They will conduct detailed analyses and support policy formulation with data-driven insights.
- **Strategic Planning:** [Redacted] will conduct high-level strategic planning to align the energy sector with national economic and sustainable development goals. This includes long-term energy strategies and integration with broader economic plans.
- **Data Collection and Monitoring:** [Redacted] will systematically collect, analyze, and disseminate energy data. This involves maintaining databases on energy consumption, efficiency metrics, and renewable energy adoption to inform policy and strategic decisions.

## Division of Responsibilities



- **Policy Implementation:** [Redacted] will be responsible for implementing the energy policies and strategies set by MoESD. This includes executing programs, projects, and initiatives related to energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- **Regulatory Oversight:** [Redacted] will oversee the regulatory framework, ensuring compliance with national and international energy standards. It will also approve major regulatory changes and amendments.
- **Intergovernmental Coordination:** [Redacted] will coordinate with other government bodies, international organizations, and stakeholders to ensure cohesive and integrated energy policies.
- **Project Management:** [Redacted] will oversee the planning, development, and execution of energy projects. This includes managing feasibility studies, pilot projects, and large-scale implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.
- **Capacity Building and Public Awareness:** [Redacted] will lead efforts to educate and inform the public about energy-saving practices and the benefits of renewable energy. They will conduct training programs, workshops, and public awareness campaigns.

- **Investment Facilitation:** [redacted] will work to create a favorable environment for attracting investments in the energy sector. This includes supporting domestic and international investors with information, regulatory guidance, and facilitation of investment processes.
- **Research and Development:** [redacted] will invest in R&D initiatives to drive innovation in clean energy technologies. This includes conducting research, developing new technologies, and collaborating with academic and research institutions.
- **Funding and Resources Allocation:** [redacted] will allocate state funds and resources for energy projects, including energy efficiency and renewable energy development.
- **International Cooperation:** [redacted] will engage in international collaboration, working with global partners to adopt best practices, secure funding, and participate in international energy projects and initiatives.

# Overview of the energy agencies in UNECE countries



AEE Agjencija për Eficacitetin Energjetikë



AGJENCIA KOMPLEKSE BIRIMEVE NATYRIKORE  
NATIONAL AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Danish Energy Agency



KAPE





IDAE  
Instituto para la Diversificación y Ahorro de la Energía



AUSTRIAN ENERGY AGENCY



ADEME  
AGENCY FOR ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION



ENEA  
GSE Gestore Servizi Energetici



SIEA  
SLOVENSKA INOVACNA A ENERGETICKA AGENTURA



Swedish Energy Agency



Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency under the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan



dena  
Deutsche Energie-Agentur



LITHUANIAN ENERGY AGENCY



Российское Энергетическое Агентство




AYEP



KAPE



CRES





ДЕРЖЕНЕРГООФЕКТИВНОСТІ



adene  
Agência para a Energia



RREDA  
RUSSIA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



EIHP  
ENERGY INSTITUTE HRVOJE POŽAR



ORKUSTOFNUN  
National Energy Authority



CNEC  
Instituția Publică  
Centrul Național pentru  
Energie Durabilă



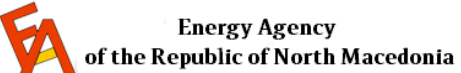

THE ENERGY & WATER AGENCY




Cyprus Energy Agency



seai  
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND



Energy Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia



## Background EnR

- Established in 1990
- Voluntary network of national energy agencies with 24 members
- Information exchange, benchmarking and best practice, knowledge transfer, collaborative projects
- EnR acts as a bridge between national, regional & local activities and those of the European Community

### Eight thematic Working Groups



- Rotating Presidency - current President: Portuguese Energy Agency – ADENE (PT)
- Troika management committee – Presidency supported by outgoing (ADEME/FR) and future (dena/GR) presidencies



Troika Plus: in collaboration with RVO (NL)

- Annual network & strategy meetings

[European Energy Network – A voluntary network of European energy agencies \(enr-network.org\)](http://European Energy Network – A voluntary network of European energy agencies (enr-network.org))



## European Energy Network

A voluntary network of European energy agencies

### June 20 | EnR Regular Meeting (afternoon)

#### 14h30 – 16h00 | Working Group Updates

- Behaviour Change | **Rebecca van Leeuwen-Jones**, RVO
- Buildings | **João Cleto**, ADENE
- Energy Efficiency | **Vassilis Kilias**, CRES
- EcoDesign & Labelling | **Thérèse Kreitz**, ADEME
- Industry & Enterprises | **Enrico Biele**, ENEA
- Monitoring tools | **Didier Bosseboeuf**, ADEME
- Renewable Energy | **Philine Wedell**, dena
- Transports | **Colin Smith**, EST
- Water & Energy Nexus | **Patricia Dias**, ADENE

#### 16h00 – 16h15 | Coffee Break

#### 16h15 – 17h00 | EnR Activities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024

##### Planned activities ADEME

- Booklet for the EU Parliament elected officials
- Thinking Group Meeting dedicated to the sufficiency topic

##### Planned activities ADENE

- Report on EnR Agencies and Local Climate Action | **Sofia Cordeiro**, ADENE
- GSI Energy & Sustainability 2024 | **TBD**, LBC

##### Other planned activities [SEAI, RVO, etc]

- Collaboration with IEA Users TCP | **Samuel Thomas**, IEA Users TCP
- Next Behave Conference: 11-12 Dec 2025, Paris, hosted by ADEME

##### Discussion on planned EnR Activities



"By implementing nearly 200 projects annually, EIHP accelerates Croatia's energy transition by boosting renewables, enhancing efficiency, and modernizing infrastructure for sustainability."

**Matija Vajdic**  
Energetski Institut Hrvatske Polje (EIHP)

- FEDARENE represents regional energy agencies and regions in the energy transition and climate action.
- Members develop ambitious energy and climate policies and facilitate strategic actions.
- Established on June 6, 1990, by six regional authorities: Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur, Wallonie, País Vasco, Aquitaine, and Nord-Pas-de-Calais.
- Driven by European Commission programs, local authorities aimed to amplify regional voices in European energy and environmental policy discussions.



**Thank you for your attention!**

Matija Vajdić

