

Minutes of the Workshop on Green Technology Transfer Platform

January 22, 2018

Venue: REC Conference Center

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On January 22, 2018, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) hosted a one-day workshop for Green Technology Transfer Platform (GreenTechTransfer) project participants. The event took place at the REC Conference Center in Szentendre, Hungary, and was organised by the REC's Climate, Mobility and Low Emission Development Unit.

The GreenTechTransfer is a neutral, web-based platform through which Japanese low-carbon business leaders and innovative start-ups can be paired with public and private stakeholders from South-East and Eastern European countries to initiate fruitful cooperation related to technology transfer.

The event started with the welcome speeches of Mr. Eduardas Kazakevicius, REC Senior Expert and Head of the Climate, Mobility and Low Emission Development Unit, and Mr. Kazuyoshi Nakasugi from the Embassy of Japan in Hungary.

Mr. Eduardas Kazakevicius in his welcoming speech highlighted one of the primary objectives of the assistance to be provided through the Green Technology Transfer website platform, which is to help Southern and Eastern European countries to meet their Paris Agreement pledges. He also highlighted that the main goals of the stakeholder event is to share opinions on technology transfer opportunities, to discuss the use of internet and social media platforms for fostering technology transfers, and to provide feedback on the pilot version of the new web platform.

In the run-up to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris (which resulted in the Paris Agreement), signatory countries to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were asked to publish their own Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, or INDC pledge. One of the instruments of meeting the INDC pledges is technology transfer to least developed and developing countries, as well as to countries with economies in transition, through the bilateral mechanisms of international cooperation. In keeping with its national pledge to lower carbon emissions, Japan is committed to such mechanisms that can facilitate this kind of technology transfer to other countries.

Mr. Kazuyoshi Nakasugi from the Embassy of Japan in Hungary, who represented the donor at the GreenTechTransfer workshop highlighted in his welcoming speech the importance of developing green technology for reducing emissions, and expressed his vision that this platform should help in making this kind of technology more widely available in the region."

The welcoming speeches were followed by the first presentation from Mr. Vladimir Hecl from the UNFCCC who talked about technology transfer as an integral part of the Paris Climate Agreement, and presented some success stories. Mr. Hecl in his presentation explained that there are five basic themes around which to build a technology transfer framework. These

are: innovation, implementation, enabling environments and capacity building, collaboration and stakeholder engagement, and support. From 2001 to 2015, countries were asked to prioritise their technology needs, and more than 100 reports on technology transfer needs were produced. The quality of many of these reports—from African countries, for example—is very high, but the primary gap is between this identification and the actual readiness of the countries to prepare and implement projects. To close some of these gaps, we need well-defined links between available technologies and financial mechanisms, which will result in bankable projects.

The general presentation about the Paris Agreement and the technology transfer was followed by several presentations from the participatory countries focusing on the countries climate policies and technology needs. Five presentations were delivered from representatives of different countries participating in project, namely: Moldova, Albania, FYR Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), and Ukraine. Each of the presenters summarised the range of climate policies and technologies of their respective home countries.

Ms. Ala Druta, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Moldova, mentioned that her country is committed to meeting its target of GHG emission of 64-67 percent from 1990 levels by 2030, and that reductions could be increased by up to 78 percent, depending on additional measures. Moldova's top priority, according to Ms. Druta, is investment in smart farming technology to help achieve climate change adaptation and mitigation goals. Ms. Druta also stated that in Moldova the main adaptation actions are to be implemented through tech transfer and community-based action plans.

Mr. Gjergji Simaku, Director of Industry and Energy Policy and Strategic Development from the Albanian Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, summarised developments of the Albanian Building Code from 2003. The reason for focusing on the building sector was the fact that in 2008, the building sector was responsible for 30 percent of final energy consumption and 56 percent of electricity. By 2016, the percentages had risen to 42 and 70 percent, respectively, which is considered very high increase. The country, as Mr. Simaku explained, has three basic climate zones that have an impact on residential building typology and energy demand. Through a series of eight modelling steps and the best available technologies, Albania is looking to carry out renovations that will make its building stock as energy-efficient as possible.

Mr. Sashe Panevski representing the Macedonian Centre for Energy Efficiency, explained in his presentation that FYR Macedonia's prime INDC target sectors are energy supply and production, buildings, and mobility. Mr. Panevski highlighted that the share of fossil fuels in the country's electricity production is 80 percent, and up till now according to his view unfortunately the photovoltaic installations have thus far not proved efficient, but that the utilisation of geothermal energy solutions have been far more successful. He also mentioned in his presentation that the technologies and approaches most suitable right now for FYR Macedonia are subvention for electric cars, electrification of public transport, decentralisation of energy production, heat pumps, increased utilisation of central heating, gasification, opening green jobs and green procurement.

Mr. Paneski's presentation was supplemented by additional information provided by Ms. Sandra Andovska, Advisor for Sustainable Development, Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Economic Affairs of FYR Macedonia.

Mr. Branka Knezevic, representing the BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, highlighted in her presentation that the country is rich in indigenous coal supply and hydropower energy sources, adding that there is great potential to develop advanced hydropower, wind, biomass, solar and geothermal energy technology. She also stressed BiH's commitment to international cooperation mechanisms, such as the Paris Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, and the UNCCC. Ms. Knezevic explained during her presentation that the country's primary needs are within knowledge and institutional frameworks, specifically, they would need to know more about climate change risks, to reliably identify vulnerabilities and opportunities, and to obtain support for evidence-based policy development.

The last presentation of the country climate policies and technology needs session was delivered by Mr. Anatolii Shmurak from the Ukrainian Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. Mr. Shmurak stated that the country's main activity at present is the preparation of a low-emission development strategy. Ukraine is looking towards biomass, modernised transport and highly efficient cogeneration at both the local and regional level. In terms of energy efficiency measures, the building sector is a priority area, also reducing leaks in the gas sector and waste prevention are top priorities. He stated that certainly, more ideas are needed but they need links to those ideas and a database to coordinate such activities.

Mr. Rabhi Abdessalem from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) has joined the discussion from Japan via Skype. In his presentation he was talking about stakeholder matchmaking as an innovative business model, while highlighting certified technologies as tools for advancing low carbon development. Mr. Rabhi Abdessalem stated during his presentation that if one makes good matches, part of the cost of doing business will be reduced through the GreenTechTransfer platform. He emphasised that matchmaking is a very important term to keep in mind with this kind of set-up.

Mr. Abdessalem explained during his presentation that the feasibility studies are important in making the most compatible B2B matches, and certain important questions need to be asked: What kind of support is required? What are the financial and technical awareness requirements of the prospective partner? Which specific stakeholder or stakeholders can provide such support? He emphasised that once a match is made, following up is key for achieving long term success.

Mr. Abdessalem outlined some basic platform features for the technology-sharing scheme: it must be practical, comprehensive, systematic (with, again, keen attention to follow-up activities), and involves developing information—rather than just collecting and sharing.

The last session of the stakeholder event accommodated an interactive session of technology transfer. Mr. Eduardas Kazakevicius, REC Senior Expert and Head of the Climate, Mobility and Low Emission Development Unit presented the REC's vision behind developing the GreenTechTransfer website, explained the objective, target audiences, compared the idea with different web based platforms and highlighted why the REC's approach is expected to be

more successful. The REC Web Developer Mr. Daniel Mirea concluded the workshop with a visual presentation and overview of the GreenTechTransfer website. He explained to the participants the details of the website, that the portal is designed to promote 'leading low carbon technologies' (L2-Tech) certified products that are divided into three sectors and 12 technology groups. The site also lists and describes the needs of the region countries and supplies users with a 'technology request form'. Technology providers can use the portal to post news and other information, while there is also room on the portal for announcing funding opportunities. Mr. Mirea explained that the website more or less follows the approaches of online retailers, and is quite easy to navigate. It is currently in English, but on a long run the REC intends eventually to make it available in national languages.

Following these presentations, Mr. Eduardas Kazakevicius encouraged participants to share their views, comments, suggestions in relation to the GreenTechTransfer website platform. He listed a set of questions to initiate the discussions, like:

- How would you use web and social media based platforms to promote technology transfer?
- Who would be the main users of such platforms?
- What are key advantages and shortcomings of the GreenTechTransfer Platform?
- How these shortcomings should be addressed?
- What we could do together to improve the GreenTechTransfer Platform?

An interesting debate/discussion has been started, the participants had several suggestions, comments which are summarized below:

- Technology transfer needs should focus on the SEE countries;
- The price of each technology would be useful to be shown, listing approx. the first 50 examples, helping by this users in their decision making;
- The usage of local language is also recommended, beside the location marker;
- To add the technical details of the products with a comparison tab for the similar products;
- To add enabler through which companies can find the buyers;
- To add manufacturers contact information, so that the user can check if a certain company can be trusted;
- Less steps between the users and manufacturer;
- Add info about the transport cost, TAX, duty, VAT information, time needed for transportation, shipment;
- Place on the map technologies already implemented for best practice purposes;
- Add webinars on the website about how to use the technologies;
- Provide contact details for companies who can install and maintain the technologies; also add info about experiences related to maintenance;
- show/describe the size of the equipment;

Participants suggested the following means for dissemination:

- Authorities responsible for authentication, procurement, standardization, certification;
- UNFCCC TT Clear website;
- MOEJ to send the relevant Ministries of the target countries the L2Tech list;
- Organize info sharing event about the website and the technologies covered;

- Chamber of Commerce;
- Create FB page;