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COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project

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**DRAFT PROJECT PLAN 2006-2009
FOR THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY 21 PROJECT**

Note by the secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. The fourteenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy held in June 2005 outlined how the Sustainable Energy sub-programme of the UNECE aims to promote a sustainable energy development strategy for the region. Climate change mitigation efforts are made through the UNECE Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Project, which has operated since 1991 to enhance trade and cooperation in energy efficient, environmentally-sound techniques and management practices, and to promote energy efficiency market formation and investment project development (ECE/ENERGY/65).
2. The Committee on Sustainable Energy took note, with appreciation, of the presentations and discussion on how energy efficiency, and in particular the UNECE Energy Efficiency 21 Project, can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and help the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol; and recognized that energy issues, including energy efficiency, will be a crucial part of the next session of the Commission on Sustainable Development that will examine environment and energy issues in 2006.
3. During its sixteenth session on 29 June- 1 July 2005, the Steering Committee of the EE21 Project requested the Bureau and the secretariat to continue work towards completing the Project Plan 2006-2009 (ENERGY/WP.4/2005/5).
4. In the Conclusions and Recommendations of its meeting of 14 December 2005, the Extended Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its Working Party, Ad Hoc Groups of Experts and Projects expressed appreciation to the donor institutions for the confirmation in 2005 of US\$ 7.5 million in new extrabudgetary financial commitments from the United Nations Foundation (UNF), the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE) / Fonds Français pour Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for energy efficiency projects for which the UNECE is the executing agency as well as US\$ 1.4 million in new extrabudgetary financial commitments from GEF for a project developed and supported by the Regional Advisor on Energy for which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Belarus is the executing agency with support from the UNECE Regional

Advisor (ENERGY/2005/6).

I. OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

5. Following the previous phases and in line with the strategy of the EE21 Project to promote regional initiatives on energy and sustainable development, the General and Immediate Objectives of the Project for 2006-2009 are:

General Objective

Enhance regional cooperation on energy efficiency market formation and investment project development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in economies in transition.

Immediate Objectives

Immediate Objective 1: Accelerate regional networking between national participating institutions and international partners by enhanced Internet communications for value added information transfers on financing energy efficiency projects and training, contributing to regional cooperation on sustainable energy development and debate to mitigate global energy security risks.

Immediate Objective 2: Promote municipal level projects to enable local and concrete Energy Efficiency development, also strengthening reforms, skills and capacities needed for investment projects that meet international environmental treaty obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UNECE.

Immediate Objective 3: Develop and harmonize regional policies and standards to introduce the economic, institutional and regulatory reforms needed to support energy efficiency investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

6. The project will assist economies in transition to develop and promote sustainable energy policies, pursue energy efficiency strategies, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet international treaty obligations and enhance the security of energy supplies by producing the specific outputs listed below from operational activities in the industry, housing and services, transport and energy sectors through national actions, bilaterally and multilaterally especially through the Economic Commission for Europe.

Immediate Objective 1: Accelerate regional networking by enhanced Internet communications to provide value added information on project finance, sustainable energy development, climate change mitigation and energy security and the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms.

Output 1.1 Energy Efficiency 21 Website: www.EE21.net

Activities: Strengthening and sustainable development of the EE21 website with the following features:

1.1.1 Multilingual English and Russian versions with reports posted in both languages;

1.1.2 Expanded links to other websites;

1.1.3 On-line distance training on project finance and the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms;

1.1.4 On-line portfolio of investment opportunities and other related services.

Immediate Objective 2: Promote municipal level projects to enable local and concrete Energy Efficiency development through reforms, skills and capacities needed for investment projects, and removing barriers to energy efficiency improvements

Output 2.1 Municipal Level Projects.

Activities: Facilitate and promote capacity building at municipal level to identify, develop, finance and implement Energy Efficiency projects and enhance public and private partnerships for investment opportunities, through:

2.1.1 A Study to define terms, definitions, units of measurement and templates suitable for project selection and standard presentation of energy efficiency and/ or renewable energy investments developed within the framework of EE21 work;

2.1.2 Training seminars to enhance awareness from the part of national government ministries and local authorities as well as from the private sector regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy issues, particularly from the perspective of creating a non-distorted energy market;

2.1.3 Training on financing energy efficiency investment projects to create local expertise in preparing bankable proposals, including those procedures related to the implementation of Flexible Mechanisms in the Kyoto Protocol;

2.1.4 Creation of an Investment Project Pipeline. This is one of the main efforts to promote government and municipal authority incentives to investors, as well as public private partnership for the identification, development, financing and implementation of energy efficiency and renewables investment projects, including biomass energy projects, and coal mine methane (CMM) projects in CEE and CIS region;

2.1.5 Development of an enabling business environment featuring new financing mechanisms including emissions trading instruments.

Immediate Objective 3: Develop regional policies and standards to support energy efficiency investments

Output 3.1 Broad analysis of policy reforms needed to support energy efficiency investments.

Activities: Complete a study on policy reforms needed to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy investments, reduce fuel poverty including case studies of individual projects or classes of projects based on at least three workshops with international and local experts.

Output 3.2 Guide to promote the use of green energy labels.

Activities: Identification of main barriers to the implementation of energy related “greener” procurement leading to developing and disseminating of a set of standardized tools and harmonized procedure for “greener” procurement procedures.

II. WORK METHODS

7. The EE21 project will be implemented within the Economic Commission for Europe under the auspices of the Committee on Sustainable Energy during three years beginning on 1 June 2006. The Committee on Sustainable Energy will review progress of the project and provide general guidance at its regular sessions.

8. A Steering Committee will be appointed by Governments of ECE member States under the auspices of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to review progress and provide detailed guidance on the execution of the project. The Steering Committee will normally hold an annual session, but may meet more frequently if necessary. The Steering Committee will be composed of governmental delegates from National Participating Institutions, international organizations, commercial companies, banks and international financial institutions.

9. The execution of the project will be under the purview of the ECE Executive Secretary. The Director of the ECE Sustainable Energy Division will be responsible for the implementation of project activities while daily operations will be the responsibility of the Project Manager. The project will be implemented by the Project secretariat within the ECE Sustainable Energy Division of the ECE secretariat. The Project secretariat, at the level of activity foreseen for 2006-2009, will be staffed by half time of one Senior ECE staff member (P.5), one ECE staff member (P.4), one ECE JPO (P.2), one half time of the Regional Adviser on Energy (L.5), two Senior energy economists (one Financial Adviser and one Policy Adviser (L.5), one secretary (G.5) half-time. The regular staff energy economist (P -4), as Project Manager will provide expertise on energy efficiency matters especially in relation to the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

10. The project will operate with activities for all participating countries in its Steering Committee, Ad Hoc Group of Experts Meetings, Symposia and through country oriented and sub-regional projects (see Annexes 1-6).

11. The project will be implemented, for selected activities, through operating agents appointed by representatives of interested donor countries in cooperation with experts of economies in transition under implementing agreements for the development of energy efficiency demonstration zones. These operating agents in cooperation with the secretariat will report progress to the annual session of the Steering Committee of the project.

III. PARTICIPATION AND PROCEDURES

12. The EE21 project will be implemented by:

(a) The Committee on Sustainable Energy, which considers reports on the Project at its annual sessions.

(b) ECE Governments, which:
(i) select national participating institutions;

- (ii) advise on policies, legislation, incentives, standards;
 - (iii) possibly host ECE symposia or workshops;
 - (iv) contribute to project financing;
 - (v) nominate participants to regular ECE meetings.
- (c) A Steering Committee for EE21 which reviews progress and provides guidance on the execution of the project, meeting at least once each year for the duration of the Project. The Steering Committee determines the activities, results, work methods, participation and procedures, budget, calendar of events and timetable of the Project, and secures cooperation with other ECE Sectoral Committees, in particular, the Committee on Environmental Policy. The Chairman of the Steering Committee reports on the progress and activities of the Project to the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The Steering Committee is composed of:
 - (i) Government representatives and/or representatives of national participating institutions;
 - (ii) interested intergovernmental organisations which will be invited to participate according to ECE practice;
 - (iii) representatives of the European Union (EU), European Commission, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Energy Agency (IEA), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Bank (IBRD), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and international organisations concerned with East-West cooperation in energy efficiency and environmental matters.
- (d) National Participating Institutions, which:
 - (i) nominate venues for training courses, negotiations and project meetings;
 - (ii) with the endorsement of National Governments, serve as Lead Countries for specific activities of the EE21 Project;
 - (iii) nominate authors of technical papers, participants and rapporteurs for ECE symposia and Project events;
 - (iv) nominate experts to take part in Project analyses;
 - (v) provide information to the Project secretariat on the activities carried out to produce;
 - (vi) disseminate Project information nationally;
 - (vii) provide liaison between local organisers and the Project secretariat.
- (e) The Economic Commission for Europe, which reviews progress of the Project at its annual sessions.
- (f) The Project secretariat, which:
 - (i) plans the detailed operations of the Project;
 - (ii) coordinates activities with national participating institutions, local organizers, consultants, national experts, and other international organizations, and in particular, the Global Environment Facility GEF/UNEP, United Nations Foundation, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, Stability Pact for South-eastern Europe, European Commission and the Commonwealth of Independent States;

- (iii) organizes four ECE symposia and workshops and produces selected outputs;
- (iv) services the meetings of the Steering Committee of the EE21 project.

(g) Operating agents appointed by representatives of interested donor countries in cooperation with experts of economies in transition which work under implementing agreements for the development of specific tasks. The operating agents in cooperation with the Project secretariat report progress to the annual sessions of the Steering Committee.

IV. BUDGET

13. The EE 21 project will be financed by a United Nations trust fund. Participating ECE Governments can support the EE21 project in three ways through:

- (a) “in kind” contributions for:
 - (i) supporting the project activities of the national participating institutions;
 - (ii) providing experts to work as consultants to the project secretariat on a non-reimbursable basis;
 - (iii) organizing and hosting meetings;
 - (iv) preparing technical and economic reports, statistics, energy demand data and other information related to project activities;
- (b) secondment of staff and consultants to the project secretariat to work in Geneva, in particular, with respect to the energy economists ;
- (c) co-financing the project through the trust fund by direct cash contributions.

14. For planning purposes contributions should be envisaged on an annual basis over the three-year period of the project.

15. Contributions to the Trust Fund are subject to a 13 per cent charge for programme support unless otherwise agreed through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) support. They are subject to audit by the United Nations Board of External Auditors and the Internal Audit Division of the United Nations. Additional or special audit arrangements cannot be made. Engagement of personnel and procurement of supplies or equipment financed from trust funds are subject to the regulations, rules, policies and procedures of the Organization.

ANNEX I

SUB-REGIONAL PROJECTS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY 21

Project title:	Financing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation
Countries:	Selected countries in south-eastern Europe, eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
Duration:	48 Months
National Implementing Agencies:	Municipal authorities, Ministries of Energy, Ministries of Environment, Energy Conservation Agencies
Executing Agency:	Economic Commission for Europe
UN Associated Agencies:	UNEP-GEF, UN Resident Coordinators; activities; French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), IFIs; the project will be implemented in coordination with relevant UNFCCC
Starting Date:	Second half 2006
Government Inputs:	(in kind) US\$ 50,000 annual contribution of each participating country
UN Foundation Inputs:	US\$ 2 million and US\$ 4 million 1:2 matching funds with UNF/UNFIP
Co-Financing Inputs:	US\$ 2.5 million from the Fonds Français pour Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and US\$ 2 million from United Nations Environment programme (UNEP)/ Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Brief Description: The project is to assist south-east European, east European and CIS countries to enhance their energy efficiency, diminish fuel poverty arising from economic transition and meet international environmental treaty obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UNECE. It is to accelerate and extend the impact of an earlier UNF supported project (ECE-CIS-99-043) that successfully leveraged US\$ 15 million of financing for energy efficiency investments in Eastern European hospitals, municipal lighting and district heating systems. It will provide a pipeline of new and existing projects to dedicated public private partnership investment funds that can provide up to US\$ 250 million of debt, equity or both to project sponsors. It will establish an expanded and enhanced network of selected municipalities for value added information transfers on policy reforms, financing and energy management. The project will (a) develop the skills of the private and public sectors at the local level to identify, develop and implement energy efficiency and renewables investment projects; (b) provide assistance to municipal authorities and national administrations to introduce economic, institutional and regulatory reforms needed to support these investments; and (c) provide opportunities for banks and commercial companies to invest through ad hoc investment funds. It will reduce project finance transaction costs by developing multilingual on-line criteria, templates and UNECE standards for energy efficiency investment project development.

ANNEX II

SUB-REGIONAL PROJECTS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY 21

Project title: **The Regional Network for Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in Southeast Europe (RENEUER)**

Country: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro

Brief Description: The Regional Network for Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in Southeast Europe (RENEUER) was founded at the end of 1999 at the initiative of representatives of several countries from the region. It is a tool for promotion of sustainable development of municipalities and regions through rational use of energy and water resources.

Within a short time all countries participating in the Stability Pact joined the Network of the project. This is a typical “bottom up” initiative aimed at facilitating and promoting sustainable development of the municipalities and regions in Southeast Europe through initiatives for efficient use of energy and water resources.

Currently, RENEUER focuses its activities as follows:

Immediate objective 1: Accelerate regional networking by enhanced Internet communications to provide value added information on project finance and the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms. Two major outputs are planned:

- (a) Further development and maintenance of the recently restructured and updated RENEUER Clearinghouse (www.reneuer.com)
- (b) Advanced training tools for local (municipal) energy planning will be adapted and implemented via Internet as means for distance learning and/or self training of local managers and specialists.

Immediate objective 2: Promote Energy Efficiency Investment Zones to provide an enabling environment for implementing reforms, developing skills and capacities

The following outcomes are envisaged:

- (a) Collect and disseminate information about successfully implemented financial schemes and mechanisms that may serve as good examples for SEE municipalities;
- (b) Provide distance training of municipal managers and specialists via RENEUER Clearinghouse on the implementation of innovative financial instruments for energy efficiency and climate change projects.

Immediate Objective 3: Develop regional policies and standards to support energy efficiency investments and the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms. Activities will be focused on the dissemination of the lessons learned and project outcomes via Internet using the RENEUER Clearinghouse. It will contribute to the building of a unique coalition of people and institutions who support the reforms in the energy sector. It is also envisaged that RENEUER, performing the function of effective policy instrument for the countries of the region, will integrate to the process “Better Integration through Specific Exchange for Sustainable Energy” (BISE), thus accelerating the European integration processes in the countries of the region.

ANNEX III

COUNTRY ORIENTED PROJECT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY 21

Project title :	Removing Barriers to Energy Efficiency Improvements in the State Sector in Belarus
Country:	Belarus
Duration:	48 Months
Implementing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme
Executing Agency:	Belarus Committee on Energy Efficiency
Cooperating Agency:	UN Economic Commission for Europe
Starting Date:	June 2006
GEF Grant:	US\$ 1,595,000
Government Inputs:	US\$ 8,270,000
UNECE Inputs:	US\$ 100,000
Total Cost of the project:	US\$ 9,965,000

Brief Description: The goal of the proposed project is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions directly by approximately 1.14 million tons of CO₂ equivalent over 15 years by catalyzing current investments in energy efficiency in the state sector of Belarus. The project will target municipalities and state and communal enterprises in the district heating and combined heat and power sectors. The main objective of the project is to increase of internal investment in energy efficiency projects in the state sector with the assistance of the project created Energy Centre. Specific objectives include the following: (1) Strengthen institutional capacity to support energy saving in the state sector; (2) Establish a track record for investments in sustainable energy efficiency projects in the state sector; (3) Develop straightforward financial “starter” mechanisms in a challenging investment climate to promote investments to the state sector; and (4) Overcome negative perceptions of incentives for energy saving in the state sector and provide local authorities and state enterprises with much-needed market information and training. In order to strengthen institutional capacity to support energy saving in the state sector, the project will establish an energy efficiency organization, the Energy Centre that will provide consulting services in energy efficiency to state organizations. Related project activities will include the legal creation of the centre, the selection of its staff, and training for its staff provided by international consultants.

ANNEX IV

COUNTRY ORIENTED PROJECT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY 21

Project title:	Biomass Energy for Heating and Hot Water Supply in Belarus
Country:	Belarus
Duration:	48 Months
GEF Implementing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme
Executing Agency:	Belarus Committee on Energy Efficiency
Cooperating Agency:	UN Economic Commission for Europe
Starting Date:	September 2003
GEF Grant:	US\$ 3,374,000
Government Inputs:	US\$ 5,406,000
UNECE Inputs:	US\$ 160,000
Total Cost of the project:	US\$ 8,936,000

Brief Description: The project addresses the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Belarus by increasing the capacity of the government to support biomass energy projects and the capacity of customers to finance and implement them. This project focuses on the following objectives: (1) strengthening institutional capacity to support biomass energy projects; (2) establishing a track record for investments in sustainable biomass energy projects, including both fuel supply and demand; (3) developing straightforward financial “starter” mechanisms in a challenging investment climate that will allow continued financing for biomass energy projects; and (4) overcoming negative perceptions of biomass energy and provide public and private investors with much-needed market information. First, the project addresses lack of biomass project experience by facilitating the investment of US\$ 2.1 million by the Committee on Energy Efficiency and US\$ 3.3 million by the private and public sectors by 2006 in biomass energy projects. The project also addresses financial barriers by establishing a revolving fund with initial capitalization of US\$ 1.54 million that will be based in part on the GEF contribution and dedicated to the support of biomass energy. Direct fossil fuel savings as a result of this programme represent approximately 1.08 million tonnes of CO₂ reduction over a 15-year period. Thus, for a GEF contribution of US\$ 3.374 million, the cost per tonne of CO₂ reduced is US\$ 3.1. Estimates of the potential impact on wood-fuel use resulting from this project total an additional annual amount of 895,000 tonnes of CO₂ by 2015.

ANNEX V

SUB-REGIONAL PROJECTS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY 21

Project title :	Green Labels Purchase– making a greener procurement with energy labels , contract n. EIE/038/05/SI2.419627
Involved Countries:	Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia
Duration:	30 Months
Implementing Agencies:	Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation Agencies at local and national level. Project leader Berliner Energieagentur (Germany)
Starting Date:	January 2006
European Commission Financing Inputs	
(EIE programme, SAVE actions):	500,521 €
Co-financing Partner Inputs:	500,819 €

Brief Description: The objective of the project is to increase the use of energy labels in the procurement process in public authorities, the tertiary sector and administrations of industry and SMEs. It will be achieved by: raising of awareness and knowledge concerning energy labels as a simplifying instrument for “green” procurement in public and private departments; identification of main barriers against the implementation of energy related “greener” procurement and target specific actions to overcome them; developing and disseminating a set of standardized tools and a harmonized procedure to support a wider distribution of labelled products for “greener” procurement procedures; involve a selected group of public and private stakeholders in the development of a significant number of “greener” procurement pilot projects, based on labelled products and a standardised procedure, to be used as the first step for the introduction of a comprehensive green procurement in Europe; achieving a broad distribution of the developed standardised tools by focusing on general target product categories such as IT and household appliances, supplemented by more specific categories such as lighting products, vehicles, building components and systems and green power; setting of an international and national/regional Steering Committees, for the managing of the project. To secure a long-term validity of the project results, a sustainable procurement policy will be initiated as the last phase of the project through PR activities, workshops as well as with an individual approach of potentially interested target groups.

Effective dissemination activities have been set to complement the project strategy. Internet portals, press releases, expert articles, presentations, workshops and conferences will guarantee an adequate awareness rise and a concrete support.

The secretariat of the UN/ECE Energy Efficiency 21 is a member of the international Steering Committee, in order to contribute its wide international experience in energy efficiency to the achievement of the project tasks and the widespread dissemination of the results. A report on progress of the project is provided to the annual session of the Steering Committee of EE21 Project.

ANNEX VI

SUB-REGIONAL PROJECTS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY 21

Project title:	Development of Coal Mine Methane Projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States
Countries:	Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Ukraine
Duration:	36 Months
National Implementing Agencies:	Ministries of Energy, Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Economy, Regional Authorities
Executing Agency:	Economic Commission for Europe
UN Associated Agencies:	UN Development Programme (for Russian Federation only)
Cooperating Agencies:	US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Methane to Markets Partnership, Partnership for Energy & Environmental Reform (PEER)
Starting Date:	September 2004
Government Inputs:	US\$ 205,000 - USEPA

Brief Description: The goal of this project is to facilitate financing of 3-6 coal mine methane (CMM) projects in the CEE/CIS region during the life of the project, and to raise the awareness of the benefits that coal mine methane (CMM) has in economic, social and environmental terms. Methane is a greenhouse gas (GHG) with a radiant forcing 23 times greater than that of carbon dioxide emissions, and coal mining accounts for ten per cent of the total human-related methane emissions globally. A successful CMM utilization project offers many socio-economic benefits including reduced greenhouse gas emissions, energy production, safer and more productive mining operations, improved local and regional air quality, energy independence, and a vehicle for job training and attracting investment. Most technologies available for capturing and converting the emissions into an energy resource are proven as demonstrated by the success of CMM projects many developed countries. To realize the full potential of the resource, this project seeks to encourage the transfer and deployment of proven and experimental technologies to the areas within the CIS/CEE that have significant coal mine methane emissions. In the past, a major barrier to further implementation has been the inability of CMM project sponsors to secure adequate capital to finance such projects. Therefore, this project is focusing on addressing this barrier through: (i) preparation and presentation of bankable project documents for three to six CMM projects; (ii) dissemination of lessons learned to project sponsors through workshops and a dedicated website; and (iii) development of a financing “roadmap” at the conclusion of the project to assist project developers in the long-term.
