



World Experience for Georgia

Cooperation Offer

World Experience for Georgia (WEG) is Georgian think tank working in the field of energy, environment and sustainable development.

Currently we are looking for organizations leading or participating in a consortium who are considering applying for the following open topic of energy efficiency call (with deadline 7 June 2017):

- ◆ EE-11-2016-2017 Overcoming market barriers and promoting deep renovation of buildings

WEG is an independent, not-for-profit think tank supporting and challenging Georgian decision-makers at all levels to make informed and qualified decisions, and providing a platform for engaging partners, stakeholders and citizens in the country's policy-making and assuring steady progress in its path to EU integration.

WEG's expertise includes policy research, policy analysis, capacity building of public authorities, energy efficiency, energy security, renewable energy, energy planning, climate change mitigation and sustainable development.

WEG has good working links with the key stakeholders in the field of energy and environment including, but not limited to: Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (this entity is responsible for Buildings sector), public authorities, Georgian National Energy Regulatory Commission, energy companies and CSOs working in the field.

WEG has established Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development at Ilia State University and maintains strong working links with the university.

Energy efficiency measures in buildings is one of the top issues in Georgia. In vast majority of buildings in Georgia (including public, commercial, and residential buildings) energy saving potential is very high. Improving energy efficiency in buildings, that are one of the largest energy consumers in Georgia, is crucially important as it can reduce dependency on imported fuels, strengthen energy security and reduce GHG emissions.

Additionally, in October 2016 the Ministry of Energy of Georgia signed an Accession Protocol to Energy Community Treaty. Last month Georgian Parliament ratified the Protocol and Georgia became full member of Energy Community. The membership is followed by a number of EU Directives to be implemented in the energy sector of Georgia. Georgia has an obligation to implement Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) provisions by 30 June 2019. The Ministry of Economy has already started preparatory works. The Ministry is considering to start with improving energy efficiency in public buildings as energy efficiency measures are easier to be implemented there at the same time serving good demo purposes. However, at the same time improvements of energy efficiency of residential buildings remain one of the top priorities for Georgia as well. In this regard experience of European countries is very important and valuable for Georgia.

WEG has good experience in national and international projects promoting energy efficiency and sustainable development. Our recent relevant activities are:

- ◆ Within the current project aiming to increase policy impact of civil society in policy making process we conducted a stakeholder meeting to discuss EPBD directive's key requirements and main challenges of its

implementation in Georgia. The meeting was attended by representatives of government, private sector, developers, Tbilisi City hall and CSOs working in the field. Based on stakeholder consultation we are preparing a policy document to be communicated to the decision makers.

- ◆ Last year we assisted Ministry of Energy in development of first National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP). The plan includes set of measures to be implemented in different sectors including public and residential buildings.
- ◆ Together with VTT (www.vttresearch.com) we assisted Ministry of Economy with analysis in detail of the building sector in Georgia, including policy, legislative and institutional setup, technical and economic considerations.
- ◆ WEG developed climate change mitigation chapter of country's official Technology Needs Assessment report. One of the selected and prioritized sectors was energy efficient construction. We conducted market analysis, analyzed barriers and prepared technology action plans with policy recommendations for overcoming barriers.
- ◆ WEG conducted Energy and Water Consumption End-Use Survey in Commercial and Industrial Sectors. The survey identified amount of energy and water consumed, energy and water sources, and collect the specifications of the technologies used in energy and water consumption.
- ◆ Under Energy Saving Initiative in Buildings WEG analyzed Georgia's current Energy Efficiency legislation and regulations compared to EU energy acquis and prepared the study report.
- ◆ WEG has conducted energy audit of several typical residential buildings and developed set of measures to improve energy efficiency. WEG analyzed Legal, institutional and technical aspects of community mobilization under condominium associations for utilization of RE and EE opportunities and conducted training for Chairmen of Condominium Associations of audited buildings
- ◆ WEG provided 8 month capacity building trainings on strategic energy planning tools for the Analytical Department of Ministry of Energy;
- ◆ Our experts are involved in capacity building of Parliament Committees and journalists on energy and sustainability issues.
- ◆ WEG led the effort of Georgian specialists to develop a MARKAL based integrated energy planning model for Georgian energy sector. The project paralleled the similar work conducted in nine other countries being Contracting Parties and Observers to Athens Energy Community Treaty. WEG developed energy efficiency and renewable energy target scenarios and prepared Policy Briefs with the main results for policy makers. WEG trained Analytical Department of Ministry of Energy in energy planning using MARKAL model and the model is currently used by the Ministry. The model was also used as an analytical tool in the preparation of NEEAP.

Georgia became Associated Country to Horizon 2020 only last year and our Parliament ratified this agreement only in the beginning of this year. Therefore, in general, participation of Georgian organizations in H2020 projects up to now was quite low. Our organization participates in two submitted proposals as a member of consortia, but the results of evaluation has not been published yet. WEG also have experience in EU projects other than H2020.

Examples of WEG's experience in EU projects:

- ◆ *Energy Watchdog Coalition.* In cooperation with Romanian Expert Forum and CSOs in EaP countries WEG participates in the project - Energy Watchdog Coalition. The aim of the project is to prepare assessment reports of energy regulators based on a set of indicators on governance and performance. The project is funded by EU Commission and involves organizations from Romania, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova
- ◆ *Energy Union and Energy Security in EaP Countries.* The main goal of the joint project was to increase the capacity of EaP CSOs in promoting an enhanced cooperation between the EU and EaP countries in energy security. The project was funded by EU Commission and involved organizations from all EaP countries. *We coordinated the project and received an award for the Best Project Idea in EaP CSF Grants program*

- ◆ *Mapping the route for EaP countries and the EU cooperation within the Energy Union.* The project goal was to map future relations between the Eastern Partnership countries and the EU within the framework of Energy Union. The project was funded by EU commission and involved organizations from all EaP countries.
- ◆ *Inventory of Subsidies in Eastern Partnership Countries.* The main goal of the project is to help raise awareness of policy makers in the EaP countries on existing energy subsidies and their potential economic, social and environmental impacts. The project was funded by EU Commission and implemented by OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) and involved all EaP countries

Please note that **Georgia is Associate Country to Horizon 2020**

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