

1st Workshop on Green Finance in the Energy Community

Thursday, 29th April 2021 (9:00 - 12:30)

Location: WebEx meeting (online!)

WebEx link opens at 8:30

1. Welcome and introduction to green finance

The Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in its Article 2(1)(c) aims to strengthen the response to climate change by making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, among other means. In line with this requirement, the European Commission has published its Action Plan on Financing Sustainable Growth and adopted the Regulation on the Establishment of a Framework to Facilitate Sustainable Investment (referred to as the Green Taxonomy Regulation). The Taxonomy Regulation will help create the world's first-ever 'green list' of environmentally sustainable activities, in a form of a classification system that will provide more clarity for governments, financial institutions and investors. Meanwhile – among others - there is a gap in the Energy Community Contracting Parties for financing sustainable projects such as energy efficiency measures. The Energy Community Secretariat believes that there is a necessity for a green and carbon-neutral, socially just transition towards more sustainable energy systems with environmental and economic benefits to the consumers. This section will give a short overview of the challenges in the Energy Community, present the EU Action Plan and the EU Taxonomy Regulation and its effects on Contracting Parties.

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| Welcome and Introduction | 09.00-09.10 | Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director, Energy Community Secretariat |
| EU Action Plan on Financing Sustainable Growth | 09.10-09.30 | Ema Potocnik, Tibor Schaffhauser, Energy Community Secretariat |
| The EU Taxonomy Regulation | 09.30-09.50 | Linda Zeilina, CEO, International Sustainable Finance Centre |
| Q&A | 09.50-10.00 | Financial institutions and Contracting Parties |

2. Greening the financial sector

To support the inflow of international green finance, proper enabling environments should be further enhanced in the Contracting Parties. This requires the engagement of the local financial actors and stakeholders, such as national banks, public authorities and private financial institutions. This section will provide an overview of the international efforts greening the banking sector. National bank will give a hands-on insight in how they are developing and implementing their current green finance programmes.

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| International efforts in greening the financial system – The work of the Network for Greening the Financial System | 10.00-10.20 | Dr. David Döhrmann, Senior Green Finance Expert, Deutsche Bundesbank |
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| The experiences and challenges setting up a green finance programme | 10.20-10:50 | Gábor Gyura, Head of Sustainable Finance, Central Bank of Hungary |
| Action on the ground – Experiences and challenges in the Contracting Parties | 10.50-11.10 | Mariam Kharashvili, Financial Stability Division, Central Bank of Georgia |
| Q&A | 11:10-11:20 | Financial institutions and Contracting Parties |

Break 11:20-11:30

3. Action on the ground – financing the green energy transition

While governments and national banks are working on enhancing the enabling environment for sustainable financial flows, different stakeholders can already start “walking the walk” with different bottom up and/or voluntary measures. This section will discuss what are the current trends in green finance and what private banks can already do to green their portfolios and join the financing of the clean and just transition.

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| Sustainable actions and experience of a private banking group active in CESEE | 11.30-11.50 | Andrea Sihn-Weber, Head of RBI Group Sustainability Management, Raiffeisen Bank International |
| Action on the ground – Experiences and challenges in the Contracting Parties financing energy transition | 11.50-12.10 | Patrick Zeiting, Head of Group Credit Risk responsible for Renewable energy and E&S performance, ProCredit Holding Milena Milosavljevic, Renewable energy and Green Finance expert, ProCredit Holding |
| Q&A and roundtable discussion | 12:10-12:20 | Financial institutions and Contracting Parties |

4. Next steps and wrap-up

In order to secure the needed investments and also use the opportunity of green energy transition, the ECS is launching the new Green Finance Initiative to support its Contracting Parties in setting up their enabling environments to secure sustainable energy financing. The Energy Community Secretariat will put for discussion its future plans and next steps.

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| Next steps and Wrap-up | 12.20-12.30 | Tibor Schaffhauser, Climate Policy Advisor, Energy Community Secretariat |
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