

Bishkek microgrid development

To support Bishkek in moving towards more sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban growth, the UNECE is advancing several smart sustainable city projects in partnership with the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing economic recession has impacted all sectors, putting a spotlight on some long-standing social and economic needs: upgrading informal settlements, developing cleaner and less polluting urban mobility, linking municipal projects to sustainable finance and investment to support the process of building a smarter, more sustainable and more resilient city.

Upgrading informal settlements is a key challenge for the city. In almost all the 47 informal settlements, which account for an estimated 30 per cent of the city's population, there is a lack of key infrastructure such as water supply and sanitation services. In one of the settlements, Ak-Bosogo, covering 316 hectares in the north of Bishkek and hosting over 15,000 people, UNECE found that only 31 per cent of residents have access to a toilet or bathroom, yet the population of this area is expected to double by 2030.

Nevertheless, the city has a high potential to turn urban social and economic challenges into opportunities. Bishkek is the testing ground for the majority of the Government's pilot projects as part of the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040, most notably the "School of the Future", "Safe City" and "Healthy City". Around 60 per cent of the country's small and medium enterprises and 18 per cent of the national industrial production are concentrated in the capital city. Bishkek is also the country's major financial and scientific centre.

To support Bishkek in advancing towards more sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban growth, UNECE is carrying out several projects, which were discussed on 10 March 2022 at a national workshop, "Smart Sustainable Resilient City Bishkek". The workshop, held at the Bishkek City Hall, provided an overview of the following UNECE engagements:

The March 2022 national workshop was opened by Kuvanychbek Kongatiev, Chairman of Bishkek City Council; Mirlan Baigonchokov, First Vice Mayor of the City of Bishkek; and Dmitry Mariyasin, UNECE Deputy Executive Secretary. Mr. Mariyasin underlined "the strong commitment on the part of the City of Bishkek towards action and cooperation in furthering the sustainable development in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing".

City Vice-Mayor of Bishkek Ms. Viktoriia Mozgacheva will participate in the Second Forum of Mayors. She will provide information on the progress of city cooperation with UNECE and other partners.

The Smart Sustainable Cities Profile of Bishkek presents the outcome of the city evaluation against the United



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for Smart Sustainable Cities Key Performance Indicators, and proposes actions for the city's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The project supports the transition of beneficiary cities towards being smart and sustainable, with a view to support countries in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other urban related SDGs.

The project focuses on strengthening the capacities of local governments to design, implement and monitor sustainable, resilient and inclusive COVID-19 economic and financial responses, recovery and rebuilding plans.

The Forum of Mayors is a platform for on-going exchange and mutual learning where mayors will present their efforts to tackle challenges in their cities. Cities will learn from each other's best practices in the areas of housing, climate-neutral buildings, green cities, sustainable urban transport, safer roads, nature-based and smart urban development solutions. The Second Forum of Mayors will take place on 4 and 5 April 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) and Bishkek Solar have inked a cooperation agreement to finance the construction of a 300 MW photovoltaic power station in Toru-Aigyr village, Issyk-Kul Region, Kyrgyz Republic.

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