



Kyiv, 7 July 2020

European Green Deal Discussed at Closure Conference of EU Twinning Project

The broadly debated topic of European Green Deal as a driver for the energy transition was discussed at the online Closure Conference of the EU-funded Twinning project “Renewables Development in Ukraine” on July 7. The European Green Deal of the European Commission aims at making the EU climate neutral by 2050. This package of policy covers many different sectors, including energy, construction, biodiversity or transport.

Speakers from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), European Commission, Ministry of Energy of Ukraine, the State Agency for Energy Efficiency and Energy Savings of Ukraine, E-Control (Austria) and EURAC Research (Italy) expressed their views and positions about consequences and challenges of the European Green Deal for Ukraine and the EU Member States as well as economic benefits of renewables.

Hans Van Steen, Acting Director in Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission, said: “In 2019, the EU has set ambitious new objectives for renewables in 2030. Together with energy efficiency, renewables are a key element in reaching the objective of making the EU climate neutral by 2050. With the Association Agreement, Ukraine is closely connected to these developments and has the full support of the EU to make further progress in this regard.”

“The integration of energy systems is the most cost-effective pathway to a deep decarbonisation of the energy sector,” **Wolfgang Urbantschitsch, Executive Director of E-Control, the Austrian Energy Regulator, said.** *“The European Green Deal brings a chance for a fundamental energy transition that is not only without alternatives, but a driver for investment and development.”*

In the second part of the Conference, the Austrian-Italian consortium together with the State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine (SAEE) presented key deliverables of their Twinning Project. Their joint efforts were focused on improving the administrative and legal framework for development of renewable energy in Ukraine. Inter alia, during one year and a half of its activities, the Project succeeded in:

- Drafting proposals to improve and implement a system of Guarantees of origin of electricity and information disclosure;
- Proving recommendations on the introduction of sustainability criteria for biofuels to ensure its sustainable origin;
- Assisting in preparation of a new national renewable energy action plan with regard to measures and targets for the renewables development by 2030 as well as giving an insight on the new integrated national energy and climate plans;
- Providing guidelines on statistical data collection;
- Developing fact-based information brochures on various Renewable Energy Sources (RES) technologies for Ukrainian citizens;
- Organizing a series of public workshops for stakeholders;
- Organizing a range of topical trainings for SAEE staff conducted in Ukraine, Austria and online;

“On the way towards decarbonisation Ukraine is implementing EU norms and directives into Ukrainian legislation. For more than one year and half we have worked side by side with our Austrian and Italian colleagues. We have successfully cooperated in such issues as sustainability criteria for biofuels, energy statistics, renewables development planning, communication techniques etc. The gained experience will help Ukraine to reduce energy dependence and develop a sustainable economy. We would like to thank the EU and we hope it will continue its support for Ukraine” **Yurii Shafarenko, Deputy Head of the SAEE** commented.

Background information: The Twinning project “Renewables Development in Ukraine” was implemented by the Austrian Energy Regulator E-Control, the Austrian Energy Agency, the Environmental Agency Austria, the former Austrian Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism and the Italian institute EURAC Research in partnership with SAEE. Its budget constituted EUR 1 million for 1.5 years//the project duration.



THE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Twinning is a tool of the European Union for institutional cooperation between public administrations of EU Member States and public institutions in a beneficiary country. Twinning projects are based on a peer-to-peer approach bringing together experience and knowledge from EU Member States and beneficiary countries.

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