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PRESS RELEASE

Closing Ceremony of the EU Twinning Project for Green Energy Regulation.

On April 20th, 2023, the EU-funded Twinning Project for Green Energy Regulation in Georgia, with support of the European Union, hosted a Closing Ceremony at the Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace to celebrate its conclusion.

The event brought together representatives from Austrian, German and Georgian regulatory authorities (E-Control, BNetzA, GNERC), Georgian state institutions, business communities, civil society, diplomatic corps, and international organizations aiming to emphasize the imperatives of the ongoing energy sector reform, respective developments, and major achievements of this project.

The ceremony also featured welcome speeches by distinguished guests, including H.E. Thomas Mühlmann, the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Georgia, Mr. Catalin Gherman, Acting Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia and representative of the German Embassy in Georgia.

Prominent keynote speakers, including Mr. Romeo Mikautadze, the Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Mr. Teimuraz Janjalia, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and Mr. Davit Narmania, Chairman of GNERC highlighted the project's main findings, achievements and recommendations for the ongoing energy sector reform in Georgia, emphasizing its positive impact on the economy.

The main findings and recommendations of the project were presented at the Closing Ceremony, which were tailored to each of three project components that focused on various aspects of the energy sector. In order to achieve reduction of network costs and provide incentives for producers to construct power plants based on network needs, GNERC is advised to implement capacity tariffs for consumers. Recommendations also included smart meter rollout, exploring potential flexibility in electricity purchase, examining the introduction of energy communities, and designing flexible infrastructure for electric vehicle charging. Involving all stakeholders, including consumers, is essential for successful implementation. Moreover, GNERC is advised to implement the European legal framework to create reliable, secure, efficient, and renewable energy markets. Optimized resource use and energy efficiency can create additional GDP and jobs, contributing to a more secure and sustainable energy future, especially during the ongoing energy crisis.



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Esteemed speakers at the Closing Ceremony delivered their assessment of the project in the following manner:

“Through successful implementation, the EU-funded Twinning Project for Green Energy Regulation in Georgia has achieved commendable outcomes in empowering the Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission to advance the performance of the energy market, aligned with the standards and practices of the European Union. The project's resounding success is indicative of the profound collaboration and mutual exchange of knowledge and expertise between the EU and Georgian counterparts.” – Mr. Catalin Gherman, Acting Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Georgia.

“Leading this project was a great honour for me. I worked with excellent experts from different organizations and different countries. We managed to transfer knowledge and experience in the field of network tariffs, demand side management and renewable energies, which are very dynamic and challenging sectors of energy regulation. I thank the management and all experts from GNERC for their input and wish GNERC and Georgia all the best in improving their energy systems towards a sustainable future.” – Mr. Dietmar Preinstorfer, Member State Project Leader (MS PL)

“Currently, very important reforms are being implemented in Georgian Energy Sector with the aim to bring our legislation and subsequently energy market in compliance with EU legislation. We are constantly improving our regulations in order to ensure most attractive regulatory environment both for customers and the companies. In this process, sharing knowledge and experience of leading European authorities is very important and I would like to thank European Union for providing such possibility through various instruments such as Twinning” - Mr. Giorgi Pangani, Beneficiary State Project Leader (BC PL).

The EU-funded Twinning Project for Green Energy Regulation in Georgia, with a budget of 1.5 million EUR, ran from 1 February 2021 to 30 April 2023. It was implemented by E-Control and BNetzA, in partnership with the direct beneficiary – GNERC. The project aimed to enhance the institutional framework for energy market regulation in Georgia, aligning it with EU legislation and to strengthen the capabilities of the GNERC through developing network tariff setting methodologies, designing a strategy for energy efficiency and renewable energy, and creating a regulatory framework that promotes demand side involvement.

For further information please contact:

- Tamriko Mikadze, Press and Information Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, Tamriko.Mikadze@eeas.europa.eu
- Mariam Chumbadze, Assistant to the Resident Twinning Adviser, EU-funded Twinning Project for Green Energy Regulation in Georgia, mariam.chumbadze@e-control.at