



CALL FOR PARTNERS:

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE - KYRGYZSTAN

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) are setting up a **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Education and Technology Centre in Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan**. Both organizations possess a wealth of experience in setting up similar centers in other countries and internal institutional capacity allows for facilitating these experiences to Kyrgyzstan. UNDP and UNIDO both have good relations with governmental institutions, private sector partners, and other development actors and thus are the perfect partners for building up a Centre facilitating a unique network.

Bishkek is the capital and largest city of Kyrgyzstan, with almost 900.000 inhabitants and a continuously growing number of residents. The Centre's objective is to assist in overcoming technical, informational, financial and regulatory barriers to renewable energies or energy efficiency in Kyrgyzstan and to support an increase of user acceptance and demand of renewable energy systems.

National background

Kyrgyzstan exhibits excellent RE potential, particularly for solar and small hydro power. Biogas technology is relatively well established, but the annual potential is far from being realized. According to the government¹, the RE potential can replace up to 51% of energy consumption in the country. Today, the absence of supply diversification makes Kyrgyzstan highly vulnerable to fuel shortages and adverse climatic conditions. The country is highly reliant on energy imports and high investment in existing infrastructure will be needed within the next years. Building standards in Kyrgyzstan are relatively low and energy efficient construction and efficient thermal retrofitting of buildings are strongly needed. The Government of Kyrgyzstan aims to ensure domestic electricity supply reliability, establish a cost effective and profitable energy sector and improve conditions for attracting investments.

Activities of the future Centre in Bishkek

- **Awareness raising:** The Centre aims to support a positive image of RE and EE solutions among the Kyrgyz population. An **exhibition space** will offer the possibility for citizens and interested companies to take a close look at RE system components. The exhibition shall provide a good overview of several RE technologies and EE solutions. The Centre's experts will answer visitors' questions related to the operation of technologies including what to consider when installing RE or EE systems. Additionally, the Centre will offer information on EE saving potential and energy saving tips for private households and the exhibition space will present cross-section views of insulated walls, insulated glazing, energy-saving lamps or isolation material. Universities and schools will be encouraged to visit the exhibition space or to participate at on-site visits to learn about proven best practices. Events and round-table discussions promote citizen's contact with RE systems.

¹ [Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2014: Information about the Kyrgyz Republic for participation in the Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Program for Low Income Countries \(SREP\)](#)



- **Education:** Educational programs for **future installers of RE technologies** will have a significant influence on the reliability of installed systems in the region and thus on the overall level of customer satisfaction. The Centre will also support self-employment of future installers. Additionally, educational programs on RE and EE solutions shall be introduced in schools and universities and thus create environmental awareness among the next generation.
- **Knowledge and science:** The aim is to foster national expertise associated to RE installations and EE solutions. The knowledge hub shall support Kyrgyzstan in breaking the prevalence of fossil fuels.
- **Entrepreneurship:** The hub will also serve as an entrepreneurial incubator creating new and innovative businesses in the area of RE and EE.
- **Finance:** Centre staff should be trained on innovative ways of catalyzing financing such as crowdfunding or third-party-ownership models.
- **Policy:** In the future, Centre staff should advise the government and policy makers on policy measures, which help to improve market conditions for the establishment of RE and EE solutions.

Sustainability and Finance

The Centre in Bishkek will be established in an intensive collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University as well as other stakeholders such as industry associations, development agencies, NGOs and local public authorities. Early stage financing up to 50% of total investment costs will be provided by grants from UNDP and UNIDO, while total project costs for the first two years will account for about USD 100.000.

To effectively address the technical, informational, financial and regulatory barriers to RE and EE in Kyrgyzstan in a holistic way, the Centre seeks for support and contributions from experts that are active in these sectors. **Thus, we are reaching out to create partnerships with private companies and market champions, universities and research experts, international development banks and international organizations** as well as other interested stakeholders to support the Center and benefit of the enhanced marketing effect and the stable network. Contributions to the center can come in multiple forms:

1. **IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS** of green technology equipment from international RE and EE companies that are interested in expanding their operations within the Kyrgyz market by showcasing their technologies to the public authorities and other private companies or future RE installers;
2. **SPONSORING** equipment for training devices, sharing experience reports, or offering “on the field” training days;
3. **FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION** from donors such as bilateral development agencies, international and regional development banks including a close collaboration with existing financing schemes for RE and EE programming;
4. **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** in supporting the educational activities of the Center by conducting trainings and lectures for future installers as well as for schools and universities, both in Bishkek but also with organizing study tours in other countries;
5. **PRO-BONO CONSULTANCY** services and business plan audits to support newly founded RE and EE start-ups;