



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის
The European Union for Georgia



Project:

Elaboration of Climate Mainstreaming Recommendations for Energy, Agriculture and Health Sectors of Georgia

Deliverable 4: The First Consultation Workshop Report, as per task number 4.1.

Tbilisi,

2021, February

Project is implemented by NGO “Environment and Development”



Content

1. Description of the project	3
2. The First Consultation Workshop.....	4
2.1 Received recommendations / comments.....	4
2.2 The First Consultation Workshop – Agenda	7
2.3 The First Consultation Workshop – Photos	8
2.4 The First Consultation Workshop – List of participants	9

1. Description of the project

The EU4Climate Project helps governments in the six EU Eastern Partner countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - to take action against climate change. It supports countries in implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and improving climate policies and legislation. Its ambition is to limit climate change impact on citizens lives and make them more resilient to it. EU4Climate is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The sub-project “Elaboration of Climate Mainstreaming Recommendations for Energy, Agriculture and Health Sectors of Georgia” of the above mentioned project is financially supported by UNDP and implemented by the NGO “Environment and Development”. The project aims to assist UNDP and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MoEPA) in identifying the priority directions for climate mainstreaming in energy, agriculture and health sectors and based on identified and agreed priorities develop specific sectoral recommendations and pathways for climate mainstreaming.

The overall objective of the project: to design and conduct the review and analysis of the national policies, strategies and programmes, legal and regulatory framework and development plans in the energy, agriculture and health sectors in order to identify priority direction and develop recommendations for mainstreaming of climate change considerations into the respective sectors planning processes.

2. The First Consultation Workshop

The NGO “Environment and Development” elaborated baseline report on climate mainstreaming recommendations for energy, agriculture and health sectors of Georgia within the EU4Climate project. The results of the baseline report was presented to the stakeholders on 5th of February, 2021 through ZOOM platform (due to the situation in the country related to COVID 19). The meeting also aimed to identify climate risks to the energy, agriculture and health sectors that were not presented in the report and identification of climate change adaptation measures and mitigation opportunities. During the workshop, based on the stakeholder discussion, the specific recommendations were identified to mainstream and integrate climate change issues into the energy, agriculture and health sectors development plans (see Section 2.1). The meeting was attended by 39 individual, including representatives of the target government institutions, as well as representatives of the non-governmental organizations and private sectors (see sections 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4).

2.1 Received recommendations / comments

2.2.1 Rrecommendations / comments on baseline survey

During the workshop several comments (presented below) were received from the stakeholders, from which the most of the recommendations were taken into account and reflected in the document while some of the comments will be addressed in the deliverable 5 reports.

Grigol Lazriev - Independent Consultant

Project implementers should consider the following documents, which cover many of the issues discussed at the meeting:

- Georgian National Communications to the Convention on Climate Change: First, second and third communications: <https://unfccc.int/non-annex-I-NCs>
- Georgia's fourth Communication to the Convention on Climate Change is the most important
- In addition, biennial updated reports: <https://unfccc.int/BURs>
- Also a national adaptation plan for the agriculture sector
- Also a project document „Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in Georgia (Assistance to develop a system for multi-hazard risk knowledge for effective climate risk management in Georgia)“.

Medea Inashvili - LEDS project Team Leader/Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus

General remarks

- The document lacks a general chapter / paragraph on the country's climate change policy, documents, international agreements and commitments under them
- The ‘place’ of this document among the country's climate change policy documents
- The contribution defined at the national level and its objectives are not defined (p. 19).

Health Sector

- Georgia’s National Communication to the UNFCCC should be included among the documents under consideration, especially recent reports where climate and health issues are well discussed
- The impact of extreme events on the list of climate risks is not limited to the impact on the environment and living conditions, but it also affects human mental health
- Both, extreme climate events and slow processes caused by climate change (gradual warming, changes in temperature and humidity, seasonal shifts, etc.) affect both somatic and mental health. It would be good to separate the sphere of relevant diseases as well
- It is preferable to identify vulnerable groups for each risk

- The gender issue is tightly linked to the risks of extreme events. It is well known that women are more vulnerable in extreme situations
- In terms of mitigation, you can mention medical waste management: incineration and unsystematic dumping (both occur in the country).

Energy Sector

- In addition to the statement about joining the Energy Union (p. 19), it would be appropriate to mention the Association Agreement with the European Union also, the main points of which on energy are based on the Energy Union's policy
- The term “mitigation” should be constant in the report
- Regarding energy efficiency and renewable action plans (and probably others) it is better to mention that they are subject to renewal for the next decade, otherwise it turns out that we are talking about already expired documents (their expiration date in 2020)
- Energy union is sometimes in quotation marks, sometimes - without
- p. 26: When discussing about energy policy document, it is necessary to explain why this document is outdated. It was mentioned above that it was approved in 2015, but it is not mentioned anywhere what the deadlines were. If it was so short-term that it needed to be renewed by 2020, then why is it being discussed as a long-term strategy document?
- You could mention the Climate Strategy 2020-2030 and the Action Plan 2020-2023, which are in the pre-approval stage.

Agriculture Sector

- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is mentioned in the policy framework section, which is correct but not relevant to this sector alone. It is therefore better to have a preliminary paragraph on climate change as a common topic for all these sectors before the sectors sections start. Then in this sector (in agriculture, because energy and health do not appeal to this convention);
- p. 43: Strategy and action plan is better to reflect the years

2.2.2 Detailed recommendations for the integration and mainstreaming of climate change considerations into the development plans of the energy, agriculture and health sectors (adaptation and mitigation, among others)

During the workshop the following comments were received:

Energy Sector

Nata Jamburia - Head of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy Support Division/Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

- Once the Integrated Energy and Climate Plan is approved, the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Action Plans will no longer be updated as these issues will be reflected in the document above
- Enforcement of by-laws contains personnel risks, as it goes beyond the functions of the Ministry of Economy. The question arises as who should be the responsible for the issues where the interests of several sectors intersect

George Mukhigulishvili - Leading researcher/World Experience for Georgia (WEG)

- Use the 4th National Communication and the latest National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report
- Communicate with Grigol Lazriev and Medea Inashvili, who are working on upgrade of LEDS

- Preparation of recommendations within the framework of the Country Basic Data and Directions (BDD) developed by the Ministry of Finance of Georgia for updating climate change issues in the energy sector
- Consider the risk of ongoing forest reform and long-term access to firewood for the rural population

Health Sector

Ina Girard - Program Manager / Austrian Red Cross

- It is important that, in addition to mainstream climate change in documents developed directly in the health sector, priority should be to mainstream health issues in climate change related documents
- Contradictory recommendations were made regarding the mitigation measures in the health sector: in particular, on the one hand, the experts requested to raise this issue (Nana Gabriadze, Medea Inashvili), and on the other hand, it was stated that the priority expressed in the document was irrelevant

Medea Inashvili - Team Leader for LT LEDS project / RECC

- It is important that in addition to physical health issues, mental health issues are also raised
- It is important to prioritize gender issues
- Contradictory position regarding air quality. On the one hand, there was a position that only PM pollution is a significant risk to human health, and on the other hand, there was a recommendation that the issue of ambient air pollution, which is mainly related to the consumption of solid fuels, should be more widely discussed

Nana Gabriadze - Head, Environmental Health Department / National Center for Disease Control and Public Health

- Scarce funding in the health sector on climate change issues, which is an obstacle to the implementation of planned activities

Agriculture Sector

Maka Manjavidze - First Rank Senior Specialist of the Land Resources Protection Division/Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture:

- The report should include information on a draft law on soil protection, for which a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) has been made and which is planned to be adopted in the future; Also, an amendment to Government Resolution # 424 is being prepared, which considers introduction of additional control mechanisms to protect the soil from physical degradation

Mikheil Pakatsoshvili - Project Manager/Biological Farming Association "Elkana":

- "Elkana" is implementing a project to assess the appropriateness of climate-smart agriculture, the results of which will be available in one month and they are willing to use the results of their research in the report.

2.2 The First Consultation Workshop – Agenda

Date /Date: 05.02.21 | 11:00 -12:30

Agenda

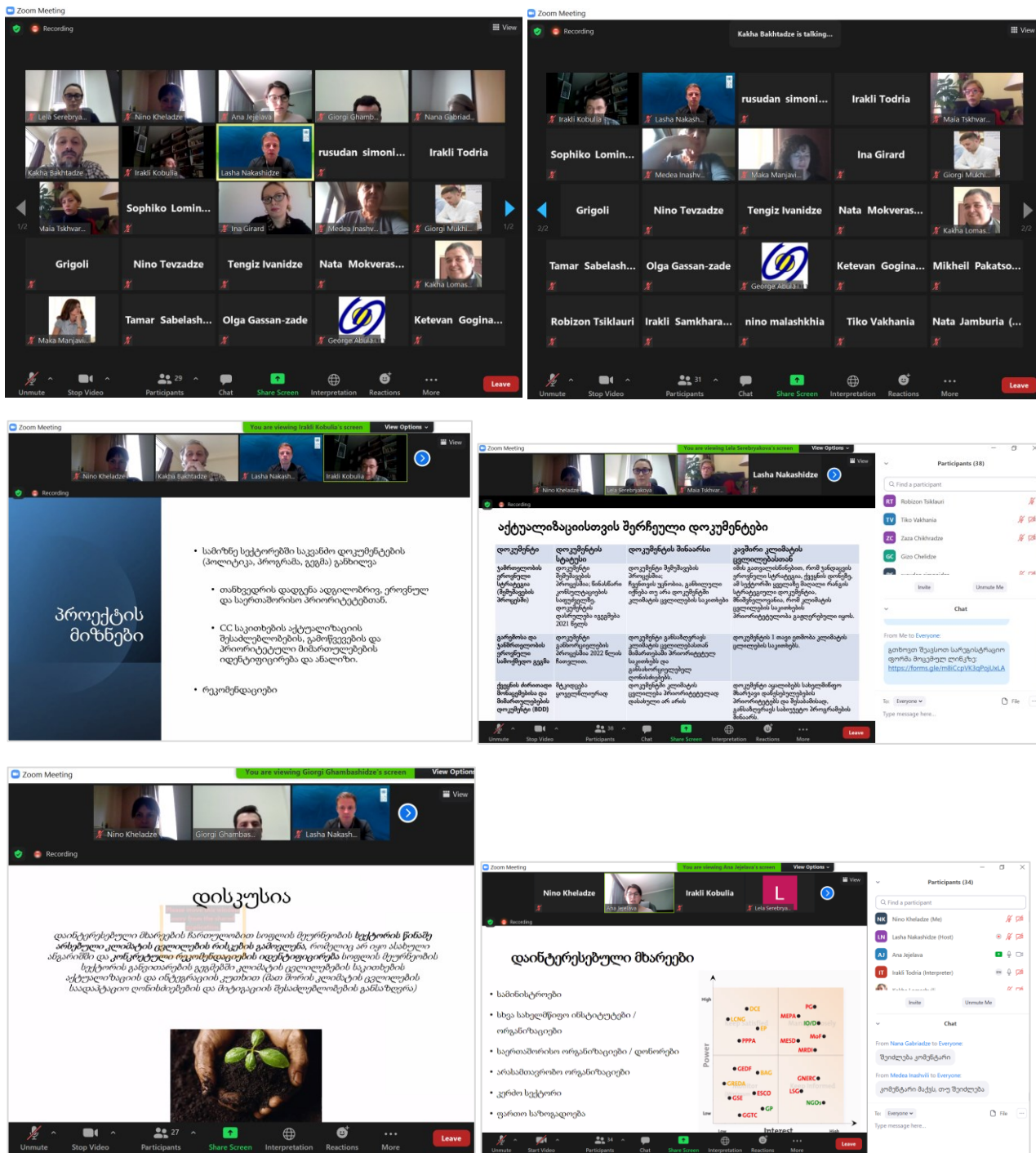
First workshop of the project: “Elaboration of Climate Mainstreaming Recommendations for Energy, Agriculture and Health Sectors of Georgia”.

The purpose of the meeting:

- Present the results of the draft baseline survey report to stakeholders;
- The identification of climate risks to the energy, agriculture and health sectors with participation of stakeholders and identification of specific recommendations for climate mainstreaming and integration in development plans of energy, agriculture and health sectors (adaptation measures and mitigation opportunities among others).

11:00 - 11:10	Greeting <i>Lasha Nakashidze</i> , EU4Climate Project National Coordinator, UNDP; <i>Maia Tskhvaradze</i> , Head of the Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia; <i>Kakha Bakhtadze</i> , Programs Manager, Environment and Development
11:10 - 11:20	Project objectives and activities Team Leader, Irakli Kobulia
11:20 - 11:30	Climate Mainstreaming Recommendations for Health Sector of Georgia – Results of Baseline Survey Health Sector Expert, Lela Serebryakova
11:30 - 11:40	Discussion / Recommendations Health Sector Expert, Lela Serebryakova
11:40 - 11:50	Climate Mainstreaming Recommendations for Energy Sector of Georgia – Results of Baseline Survey Energy Sector Expert, Ana Jejelava
11:50 - 12:00	Discussion / Recommendations Energy Sector Expert, Ana Jejelava
12:00 - 12:10	Climate Mainstreaming Recommendations for Agriculture Sector of Georgia – Results of Baseline Survey Agriculture Sector Expert, Giorgi Ghambashidze
12:10 – 12:20	Discussion / Recommendations Agriculture Sector Expert, Giorgi Ghambashidze
12:20 - 12:30	Wrap up Team Leader, Irakli Kobulia

2.3 The First Consultation Workshop – Photos



2.4 The First Consultation Workshop – List of participants

N	Name	Unit	Position	Contact Information	Email Address
1	Nino Kheladze	Environment and Development (ED)	Executive Director	599367978	nino.kheladze84@googlemail.com
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