

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



**8th NATIONAL COMMUNICATION and 5th Biennial Report
UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**

December 2022

The provision of technology development and transfer and capacity building support by Greece to non-Annex I Parties is presented in the next paragraphs and in *CTF Table 8 and 9*.

7.4.1 Multilateral/Regional cooperation

7.4.1.1 International Initiative on “Addressing climate change impacts on cultural and natural heritage”

Greece, deeply concerned about the serious threat that climate change poses to cultural and natural heritage, and being at the forefront of the on-going endeavor to protect natural and cultural heritage from adverse climate change impacts, as asserted by the Greek Prime Minister’s statement at the Climate Action Summit in New York (September 2019), with the supporting partnership of UNESCO and the WMO (World Meteorological Organization), launched the proposal “Addressing climate change impacts on cultural and natural heritage”. The scope of the initiative is to accelerate global action, before the damage to our common heritage becomes irreversible, and assess the relevant mitigation and adaptation/resilience issues and good practices in the fields of climate change and cultural heritage, including impacts on small island states. So far, more than 100 UN member states and many NGOs and organisations have expressed their support to this initiative, launched at the UN Climate Action Summit (September 2019). Upon recommendation of the UN Secretary General, a follow-up committee (Flexible Mechanism) has been set up, with the participation of Greece, UNESCO, the WMO and UNFCCC.

7.4.1.2 Regional cooperation on environmental protection within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Organisation (technology transfer activity and capacity building)

Greece, as a BSEC member, is actively engaged in efforts initiated by the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) of BSEC to promote cooperation and exchange best practices for mitigation and adaptation of climate change, energy efficiency and green energy investments, especially among countries with developing economies.

Such priority issues are quoted in: i) “*Declaration of the Ministers in charge of energy of the BSEC Member States on the enhancement of the gas infrastructure development (Belgrade, 11 April 2012)*” (Annex VI to BS/ENM/R(2012)1), ii) “*Joint Belgrade Declaration on Climate Change and Green Economy - BSEC Contribution to Rio+20*” (23 April 2012) and iii) the “*Plan of Action of the BSEC Working Group on Energy for the period 2015-2017*”.

KEPA facilitated BSEC - Member States, especially those with developing economies, to fulfil their commitments and to deliver increased ambition for the achievement of the Paris Agreement goal. This contribution was further developed with the launching of the “BSEC – Green Energy Network” (BS/EN/WG/TF/R(2012)1; BS/EN/WG/R(2010)2; BS/ENM/R(2010)2; BS/FM/R(2014)2 and Annex VII to BS/FM/R(2014)2).

The **BSEC Green Energy Network** was established by the decision of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs taken on 12 December 2014, with the mandate to facilitate exchanging information and sharing experience and know-how among national administrative bodies and/or centers and organizations mandated to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures and policies in the BSEC Region (BS/EN/WG/TF/R(2014)2).

The Network started to function in 2015 and is endeavouring to undertake and facilitate actions at international, regional and national levels with a view to developing, transferring and exchanging updated knowledge, including consultations for the development and assessment of specified green policy mixtures and actions.

Under the aforementioned framework, BSEC and the Greek government, through the KEPA of the NKUA, endorse actions, that:

- support the regional policy dialogue for green energy investments;
- promote further the development of the “BSEC – Green Energy Network”, as a knowledge and green investment hub for the BSEC region;
- result the organization of “Green Investment Forum” in the BSEC – MS.
- facilitate “knowledge transfer” and “capacity building” on Climate Change Policy and Green Energy Investments issues in all BSEC Member States and especially those with developing economies;
- assist BSEC countries to design and implement new policies and actions to achieve their NDC pledges;
- contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals;
- provide them, especially those with developing economies, tools facilitating the development of forward-looking scenarios and evaluation of their policy mixtures towards their commitments on climate change issues.

Members of the Network especially those from countries with developing economies are invited to organize and participate in regional/international activities, such as workshops, seminars, webinars and conferences.

They can take advantage, free of charge, of the existing communication infrastructure of KEPA – NKUA, consisted of scientific journals, periodical editions, newsletters so as to increase the level of cooperation among them and their national stakeholders.

They are welcome to contribute to *enhancing the knowledge transfer and capacity building* of their governments, updating them on the state of the emerging international “green policy” instruments.

The Network contributes, through knowledge dissemination, to encouraging market stakeholders; to take advantage of existing international financing opportunities and convince regional and national banking institutions to enhance their “green” transition process.

Finally, members of the Network and especially those from countries with developing economies are facilitated through brokerage events to participate in internationally financed programs, like those of Horizon Europe of the European Union, or to develop ad hoc “tailor - made” consortia upon requests from the BSEC Member States.

Implemented activities during period 2018 – 2021

2018

The total financial contribution of KEPA towards the BSEC region, during the period 2018-19, was €257,000.

January – September 2018

KEPA coordinated and supported the submission of the following proposals in an effort to contribute to knowledge transfer and capacity building among institutes coming from BSEC Member States with developing economies. The KEPA staff worked with entities from the region and guided them so as to prepare jointly the proposals. More specifically,

1. As coordinator of the BSEC – Green Energy Network, KEPA motivated and coordinated the development and submission of **three (3) proposals to the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility (BSPPF)** in line to the Terms of References (ToR) of a call for proposals²⁷. The titles and partners for each of these proposals were the following:

A - Title: “Promoting Smart – NZEB among the BSEC – MS, ***The case of Bulgaria***”. Partners: Energy Policy and Development Centre of NKUA – Greece; Technical University of Sofia – **Bulgaria**; Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge of the National Research University "Higher School of Economics" – **Russia**; BSEC – Green Energy Network. Submission date: **3 April 2018**.

B – Title: “Promoting deep renovation packages for the building sector among the BSEC – MS, ***The case of Moldova***”. Partners: Energy Policy and Development Centre of NKUA – Greece; Institute of Power Engineering of Moldova (IPE) – **Moldova**; Technical University of Sofia – **Bulgaria**; Kuban University – **Russia**; BSEC – Green Energy Network. Submission date: **14 May 2018**.

C – Title: “Promoting deep renovation packages for the building sector among the BSEC – MS, ***The case of Albania***”. Partners: Energy Policy and Development Centre of NKUA – Greece; South East Europe Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development – **Albania**; Technical University of Sofia – **Bulgaria**; Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge of the National Research University "Higher School of Economics" – **Russia**; BSEC – Green Energy Network. Submission date: **14 May 2018**.

*All proposals were market oriented. In all three proposals, business conferences were foreseen, in each beneficiary country (**Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova**) encouraging local SMEs to cooperate in making business while outcomes of all these programs reflecting the state of progress in five (5) BSEC–MS, were planned to be presented in international and regional conferences, forum and events organized by KEPA and BSEC-Green Energy Network (BSEC-GEN).*

*The financial contribution of KEPA was **€100,000**.*

This amount includes administrative and organizational costs, work for knowledge transfer and capacity building so that partners could provide the necessary and appropriate material for the preparation of the proposals.

2. **KEPA coordinated and submitted a proposal at the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation.** The project title was “Promoting low carbon economy, through deep energy efficiency investments in buildings” with a consortium of 9 partners from **Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Moldova, Romania and Russia**. During a two (2) month preparation period, KEPA was communicating with all partners and provided them guidelines and informing them about the procedures.

The proposal was submitted in late June 2018. **Partners:** BSEC – Green Energy Network; Association Cluster for promoting Nearly Zero Energy Buildings – Pro-nZEB – **Romania**; Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers – Cyprus; Hellenic Passive House Institute – Greece; South East Europe Institute for Energy and Sustainable

²⁷ published in <http://www.bsec-organization.org/UploadedDocuments/PromotionFacility/Call%20for%20Proposals.pdf> and <https://www.bstadb.org/products-and-services/special-funds-for-technical-assistance>

Development – **Albania**; Institute of Power Engineering – **Moldova**; Kuban State University – **Russia**; Brest State Technical University – **Belarus**; Municipal Energy Efficiency Network EcoEnergy – **Bulgaria**.

The estimated financial cost for knowledge transfer and capacity building by KEPA towards the partners coming from countries with developing economies was €30,000.

3. KEPA prepared and submitted under a Horizon 2020 open call one proposal in September 2018. The full title was “Transforming Energy Poor Consumers to Prosumers” with a consortium of 14 partners from **Albania, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Romania and Serbia (three of these countries are listed as countries with developing economies)**.

The partners were: Energy Policy and Development Centre (NKUA-KEPA) – Greece; Hellenic Passive House Institute (HPHI) – Greece; E-TRIKALA S.A. – Greece; University of Belgrade – Faculty of Mining and Geology (UB-FMG) – **Serbia**; Grad Sabac (GS) – **Serbia**; South East European Institute for Energy and Sustainable Development (SEEIESD) – **Albania**; Bashkiadropull (BD) – **Albania**; Institutl De Energetica Al Academiei De Stiinte A Moldovei (IPE) **Moldova**; Consiliul Raional Drochia (CRD) – **Moldova**; Universita Commerciale Luigi Bocconi (UB-IEFE) – Italy; BSEC Organization – Green Energy Network (BSEC-GEN), International Organization; Institutl National de Cercetare – Dezvoltare in constructii Urbanism si Dezvoltare teritoriala durabila (Urban – Incerc (U-I)) – **Romania**; Universitatea Babes – Bolyai (UBB) **Romania**; Municipul Cluj-Napoca (MCN) – **Romania**.

The estimated financial contribution by KEPA was €56,000.

It covers knowledge transfer and capacity building in developing, coordinating and submitting the proposal.

11th International Conference on Energy and Climate Change and the 4th Green Energy Investments Forum (October 2018)

KEPA organized the 11th International Conference on Energy and Climate Change and the 4th Green Energy Investments Forum during 10-12 October 2018, under the BSEC – PERMIS auspices.

The estimated financial cost covering a preparation period of one year was €50,000.

Release of an Appeal on Energy Poverty (October 2018)

During the 4th Green Energy Investments Forum in Athens (10th of October 2018), KEPA made an appeal to the Secretary General of PERMIS, to undertake an initiative targeting mitigation of energy poverty, in a sustainable way, among its Member States with the technical support of KEPA as the coordinator of BSEC-GEN.

Internationally disseminated newsletter (January – December 2018)

KEPA disseminates to approximately 29,000 recipients in 170 countries the PROMITHEAS Newsletter about energy and climate change issues.

The estimated financial cost covering preparation, editing and dissemination for one year is €21,000.

The total financing contribution of KEPA towards the BSEC region, in 2019, was €146,000.

5th Green Energy Investments Forum, Sofia – Bulgaria (16 April 2019)

The 5th Green Energy Investment Forum was held on 16 April 2019 at the Hall Ruen, Congress Center, Inter Expo Center in Sofia in the frame of the Bulgarian Chairmanship of the BSEC.

The participants shared the view that the forum provided a useful platform for the exchange of ideas and the discussion about funding opportunities for green energy projects in BSEC Member States aiming to achieve the UN goals for sustainable development in the Black Sea region. Highlighted was the increased interest in development of green energy regional cooperation and the need to develop and implement more specific projects about energy efficiency, renewable energy and combating the effects of climate change. Participants expressed the hope that the forum would have new editions in the following years (Information from the official press release of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Available at: <https://www.mfa.bg/en/customnews/21380>).

The financing contribution of KEPA for the event was €10,000.

The amount concerns preparations costs for the event (dissemination of information at regional and international level through the PROMITHEAS Newsletter; expenses for knowledge transfer actions).

12th International Conference on Energy and Climate Change and the 6th Green Energy Investments Forum (October 2019)

KEPA organized the 12th International Conference on Energy and Climate Change and the 6th Green Energy Investments Forum during 9-11 October 2019.

The financing contribution of KEPA for the whole event was €50,000.

These costs cover a preparation period of one year.

Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Energy (November 2019, Istanbul – Turkey)

The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Energy was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 29 November 2019 (BS/WG/EN/R(2019)1). KEPA in its capacity as BSEC-GEN coordinator was invited *at its own costs* to participate as special guest and make proposals. The Working Group was informed about the activities of the BSEC Green Energy Network and of the “Conclusions and Recommendations” of the Green Energy Investment Forum, held in Athens on 9 October 2019.

Participants discussed about regional cooperation in the BSEC framework for contributing to the implementation of the 7th Sustainable Development Goal «Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all» and exchanged views after taking note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the issue.

The Working Group endorsed the proposal made by the Coordinator of the BSEC Green Energy Network aimed at promoting regional cooperation in the framework of implementing the SDG 7 and agreed on the importance of organizing special events (conferences, seminars, workshops) for exchange of information on the activities of BSEC Member States in implementing SDG7.

The Working Group also welcomed the proposal of organizing a Youth Contest on SDG 7 by the BSEC Green Energy Network, under the auspices of the BSEC PERMIS.

The total financing contribution of KEPA for the whole event was €40,000.

Initiative “75UN - 75 Trees UNAI SDG7” (December 2019)

The Initiative “75UN - 75 Trees UNAI SDG7” was launched in December 2019 as the participation of the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA), the global hub of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) for the 7th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG7), in the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the UN foundation.

The Initiative aimed at involving citizens in efforts to save and enhance the world's forest wealth. To this aim, KEPA, after consulting with UNAI, addressed its invitation to governments, regional and local governments, all forms of legal entities, simple people and especially young people to plant at least 75 trees during 2020 and take care of them.

The total cost of KEPA in developing and releasing the initiative was €25,000.

Internationally disseminated newsletter (January – December 2019)

KEPA disseminated for one more year to approximately 29,000 recipients in 170 countries the PROMITHEAS Newsletter about energy and climate change issues. KEPA incorporated in the newsletter issues about the relevant SDGs.

The estimated financial cost covering preparation, editing and dissemination for one year is €21,000.

2020

The total financial contribution of KEPA towards the BSEC region for 2020 was € 211,000.

“Mitigation of Energy Poverty in a Sustainable Way” (January – March 2020)

In January 2020, KEPA was invited by PERMIS – BSEC to submit for funding the proposal “Mitigation of Energy Poverty in a Sustainable Way”. The **overall** objective of the proposal was to initiate and establish a "Structured Policy Dialogue" that would allow the transformation of Energy Poor Consumers (EPC) into Sustainable Energy Prosumers (SEP) by their aggregation into energy communities that were to take advantage of the existing procedures of “Smart Finance” for “Smart Zero Energy Buildings”. Developed good practices were going to be disseminated to all BSEC Member States (MS), through the Permanent International Secretariat, the Working Groups on Energy and the established Green Energy Investments Fora of the BSEC-GEN. Also, the consortium foresaw the expansion and continuation of the Structured Policy Dialogue by leveraging funds from national and sub-national authorities, EU (H2020, EIB, and EBRD) and other international funding sources.

This was proposed to be a win-win path in the BSEC MS efforts to respond to the UN Secretary-General appeal to increase their "ambition" in the combat against Climate Change, to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda of the UN, increase their social cohesion and to promote the economic development in their countries. The **expected outcomes** included:

1. the engagement of the appropriate actors to finance and implement the proposed project proposals by the aggregated EPC entities;

2. the increase of awareness among the BSEC - MS national, subnational authorities on the socio-economic benefits of confronting energy poverty through the proposed structured policy dialogue targeting green sustainable solutions;
3. the expansion of the structured policy dialogue among additional partners from the BSEC-MS by securing financing round table discussions;
4. the dissemination of "lessons learned" and "best practices" regionally and internationally (UNAI Hub SDG7, Covenant of Mayors, etc.).
5. the increase of awareness on Energy Efficiency issues among the BSEC – MS and their motivation to take advantage of the good practices combining “smart buildings” and “smart finance” procedures.

The financing cost for KEPA was €20,000

The financing cost includes development, coordination, submission, knowledge transfer and capacity building services.

International Youth Contest for Clean energy (SDG7, SDG13) (February 2020)

KEPA submitted to EUKI this proposal. It concerned a 2-years International Youth Contest in SEE (**Bulgaria**, Greece, Italy, **Serbia**) to develop & implement Clean Energy (SDG7) Action Plans (APs) in educational building facilities leading to measurable GHG reductions (SDG13). High school/university student groups motivated by their professors in close cooperation with public authorities & market forces were going to be asked to develop & implement their own APs. The 1st annual round of the contest was going to award 3 best national and regional APs (planned). The 2nd -year the contest would award 3 executed APs with highest achieved GHG emission reductions. Additional awards were foreseen for best impact of APs in local societies. Foreseen activities: 2 annual summer schools & Webinars of knowledge transfer for motivators & their youth-groups; support to a “group of excellence” formed by participating students & relevant awards for innovative APs. Info was already disseminated to Black Sea (BSEC organization) countries & worldwide (UNAI Hub for SDG7) since both entities officially supported the contest.

The financing cost for KEPA was €5,000.

UNAI Webinar (June 2020)

Webinar in the “75 for UN75: 75 Minutes of Conversation” series was held on 8 June 2020. It was organized by UNAI on the topic “*The role of Higher Education in combating poverty and ensuring social justice*”. Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakakis, Director of KEPA, was invited speaker.

The financing cost of the presentation for KEPA was €10,000.

International and regional activities (September 2020)

On 21 September 2020 there was a UNAI release about BSEC and the initiative “75 UN – 75 Trees UNAI SDG7”.

Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakakis (Coordinator of UNAI Hub SDG7 and BSEC – Green Energy Network) was moderator and speaker at the Energy week - Black Sea 2020 - (bsenergyweek.com) that was held during 29-30 September 2020.

Proposal for innovative Hydropower technology in Central Asia (September 2020)

The HydroPlus proposal (submitted to EU - Horizon 2020) aimed to demonstrate innovative solutions targeting the unexploited small-scale hydropower potential in Central Asia (CA) using innovative European hydropower technology.

Three (3) EU partners (Greece, France, Poland) and eight (8) CA partners (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) proposed to join efforts so as to create a prototype of small Hydro Energy Power Plant (HEPP), that was to be installed at four (4) test river-sites in four (4) different countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan).

The project aimed to contribute, additionally, in analyzing the Water/Food/Energy/Climate nexus in CA via assessment of socio-economic and environmental sustainability, general economic analyses and study of HEPP impact against the technological development of the CA.

The financing cost for KEPA was €10,000.

13th International Conference on Energy and Climate Change and the 7th Green Energy Investments Forum (October 2020)

KEPA organized the 13th International Conference on Energy and Climate Change and the 7th Green Energy Investments Forum (Virtual event) during 7-9 October 2020. There were participants from Albania, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Turkey.

The estimated cost of the events was €50,000.

Self-funding as explained previously.

“Workshop for Young Diplomats from BSEC Member States on “Sustainable Development in the Black Sea Region”” (October 2020)

The BSEC PERMIS, with the cooperation of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Turkey (KAS), organized on 12 October 2020, the 3rd Edition of the “Workshop for Young Diplomats from BSEC Member States on Sustainable Development in the Black Sea Region” (First online Workshop/Webinar). Eighteen (18) young diplomats from eleven (11) Member States, all of them newly recruited with limited experience in their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, participated.

Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakakis (Coordinator of UNAI Hub SDG7 and BSEC – Green Energy Network) participated as invited speaker.

The cost for developing and presenting the relevant material was € 10,000.

“Initiative 75UN – 75 Trees UNAI SDG7” (November 2020)

With the support of BSEC - PERMIS seven Member States (**Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania Ukraine and Turkey**) responded in 2020 to the invitation of participating at the initiative, while 29 Municipalities from Greece with the support of the Central Union of Greek Municipalities endorsed the initiative and responded also.

The **University of Manitoba (Canada)** UNAI Hub SDG6 planted 75 trees inside its campus during November 2020.

By the end of 2020, eleven million trees have been declared planted or were about to be planted despite the obvious problems of the pandemic. Based on the results and especially the willingness of the participants, it was decided to continue and upgrade the Initiative for the coming years.

The total cost of KEPA in developing and releasing the initiative was €25,000.

Tele-meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Energy (10 December 2020)

The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the conclusions and recommendations of the 7th “Green Energy Investment Forum” and on the implementation of the initiative “75 UN – 75 trees UNAI SDG7” proposed by KEPA, in its dual capacity as the UNAI Hub SDG7 and Coordinator of the Green Energy Network of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organization (BSEC - GEN) (BS/WG/EN/R(2020)1).

Professor Dimitrios Mavrakakis presented the activities of the Green Energy Network, and the latest developments about the implementation of the initiative “75 UN – 75 trees UNAI SDG7”. He invited the representatives of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria and Georgia to participate in the forthcoming Green Energy Investments Forum that was proposed to be organized in Bulgaria in 2021. He also proposed to the participants of the BSEC – WGE to consider the possibility of organizing a Joint Meeting on Energy and Climate Change with the aim to focus on the Resilient and Sustainable Recovery Plans that the BSEC Member States may have developed.

The cost for developing and presenting the relevant material was € 30,000.

UNAI Webinars (December 2020)

KEPA participates at the UNAI Webinar that was held on 10 December 2020.

The **Nagaoka University of Technology** – Japan (UNAI Hub SDG 9) organized the «SDG Seminar of Online Technical Collaboration Forum 2020» during 21-25 December 2021. Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakakis was a key-note speaker.

The participation cost was covered by Nagaoka University.

Upgrading Scientific Journal of KEPA (December 2020)

KEPA announced the decision of Mr. Ramu Damodaran, Chief of the UNAI to upgrade the scientific journal, published by KEPA. Upgrading will be under the supervision of Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakakis with the aim to become a UNAI journal on the research areas of the SDGs. The goal is to provide to all UNAI members and especially those from developing countries an open access journal with topics for all SDGs. Indicative budget (mostly self-funding by KEPA): **30000Euro** (expenses include upgraded web-site, administrative and scientific work).

Internationally disseminated newsletter (January – December 2020)

KEPA disseminated for one more year to approximately 29,000 recipients in 170 countries the PROMITHEAS Newsletter.

The annual estimated financial cost, as explained, is €21,000.

2021

The total financing cost of KEPA, during 2021, was €122,000.

January 2021

The Kristu Jayanti College (Bangalore - India), the global hub of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI hub SDG1) for Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1 - No poverty) hosted on 22-23 January 2021 the Virtual International Conference on “Translating Sustainable Development Goals into Action: The Power of Higher Education Institutions”.

Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakakis, Director of KEPA, was invited to deliver a speech with the title "The challenge of Resilient-Sustainable Recovery Plans".
<https://kristujayanti.edu.in/UNSDG2021/index.html>

The cost for developing and presenting the relevant material was € 10,000.

14th International Conference on Energy and Climate Change and the 8th Green Energy Investments Forum (October 2021)

KEPA organized the 14th International Conference on Energy and Climate Change, the 8th Green Energy Investments Forum (Virtual event) and an official dinner to BSEC -MS ambassadors and Greek Market stakeholders in Athens during 13-15 October 2021.

The financing cost was €60,000Euro.

International Forestation Initiative (November 2021)

KEPA in its capacity as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Hub for the 7th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG7), co-organized with the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE) the 1st Conference "International Forestation Initiative" in Bourazani at the premises of the Burazani Wild Life Resort, during 12-13 November 2021. The objectives of the meeting were:

1. The promotion of the Initiative (“75 UN - 75 Trees UNAI SDG7”) for the planting of trees in urban, suburban and forest environment by local governments, legal entities of the public and private sectors and individuals;
2. The presentation of the existing financial tools for such activities;
3. The investigation of the terms and prospects of issuing CO₂ capture certificates originating from the planting of trees;
4. The promotion of procedures for financial support towards activities of the Initiative in the countries of BSEC and
5. The possibilities of creating an International Cooperative Initiative (ICI) in the framework of the activities of the UNFCCC.

The Conference was attended by the Deputy Secretary General of BSEC – PERMIS H.E. Amb. Traian Chebeleu, with the aim to discuss ways of further increasing the participation of the BSEC – Member States in the initiative and investigating ways of financing it.

The cost of the event was covered by the Green Fund of the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy.

The financing cost of the extrovert activities covered by the Greek Green Fund were €1,000.

Tele-meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Energy (2 December 2021)

Prof. Dimitrios MAVRAKIS attended the meeting as a special guest and made a number of presentations concerning: i) the perspective of establishing wholesale electricity and natural gas markets in the region of the BSEC, in combination with the establishment of a regional legal entity consisted of the existing or to be developed underground natural gas storages, in line with the relevant report prepared by KEPA and circulated by PERMIS to BSEC – MS, ii) activities of the BSEC – Green Energy Network (BSEC – GEN) and, iii) the conclusions of the 8th “Green Energy Investments Forum” held in Athens on 13 October 2021. He proposed BSEC – GEN to organize a Green Energy Investments Forum in Chisinau under the BSEC Chairmanship in-office by the Republic of Moldova during the first semester of 2022 and invited BSEC-MS to participate in the 9th Green Energy Investments Forum that is scheduled to take place in Athens on 12 October 2022.

The cost for developing and presenting the relevant material was € 30,000.

Webinar UNAI (December 2021)

The Nagaoka University of Technology (UNAI Hub SDG 9) organized for the second year the “On line SDG Seminar - Technical Collaboration Forum 2021” during 13-17 December 2021. Again, Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakis was invited and participated as key-note speaker.

The participation cost was covered by Nagaoka University.

Internationally disseminated newsletter (January – December 2021)

KEPA disseminated for one more year to approximately 29,000 recipients in 170 countries the PROMITHEAS Newsletter.

The annual estimated financial cost, as explained, is €21,000.

Knowledge transfer and capacity building activities in the region

KEPA under its dual capacity as UNAI hub SDG7 and BSEC-GEN focuses and will continue to work on this type of activities due to the gained experience and the impact they have mainly for the BSEC MS.

KEPA has so far activated funds of approximately 2.5 million Euro through the projects PROMITHEAS-2 (FP6), PROMITHEAS-4 (FP7) and HERON (Horizon 2020). These projects included activities that allowed: i) the transfer of capacity building from EU to BSEC countries about the development of climate change policies adjusted to the specific needs of each examined national case (development of scenarios for mitigation and adaptation, seminars, long-distance learning); ii) the organization of conferences and workshops during which market stakeholders, policy and decision makers discussed about national energy and climate change issues.

Most of the on-going activities of knowledge transfer and capacity building are self-funded by KEPA, while its initiatives receive attention and support in the region. The cost is estimated at €736,000 for the period 2018-2021.

During the last four years (2018 – 2021) BSEC governments and non-state actors have been helped on knowledge transfer and capacity building regarding energy and climate change issues through the following activities:

1. Development of project-proposals. KEPA has prepared and **submitted eight (8) proposals**. In all of these at least one BSEC Member State was a partner.
2. Initiative “75UN – 75 Trees UNAI SDG7” and BSEC: In January of year 2020, the Organization Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) sent information about the initiative to its Member States and invited them to participate. In September 2020, BSEC, in response to the relevant request of KEPA, sent filled applications about the initiative for registration from 4 of its member states, while three other member states expressed their intention to participate. A press release was circulated by the BSEC Organization.

KEPA contacted entities in Japan and Central Asia for participation at the initiative. Through the KEPA Newsletter, which is distributed to 29,000 recipients in 170 countries, KEPA received the following expressions of interest about the initiative

1. Mykolas Romeris University – Lithuania.
2. Norwegian University of Science and Technology - Norway.
3. National Research Centre – Egypt.
4. Fundación Cetemas – Spain.
5. Open University of Cyprus – Cyprus.

At the end of 2020, 9 countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bulgaria, Greece, Canada, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine and Turkey) participated at the initiative.

3. The **PROMITHEAS Newsletter** (bimonthly) allows BSEC entities (Ministries, agencies, research centres, universities, academia, consultants, SMEs etc) activated in energy and climate change issues to be informed about recent developments on these issues and to present their relevant activities and policies. KEPA prepares and disseminates the PROMITHEAS newsletter to approximately 29,000 recipients in 170 countries for the last fourteen years. *Annual cost for preparing, editing and circulating the newsletter is €21,000.*
4. The **Scientific Journal** (bilingual (in English and Russian)) titled “*Euro-Asian Journal of Sustainable Energy Development*” allows, mainly but not exclusively, to the scientific potential of EU and BSEC Member States (MS) to present their research work on climate change, energy and sustainable development issues. The journal is published by KEPA since 2008 and receives ISSN numbers for printed and electronic versions. The members of the Scientific Committee are from the BSEC region, Italy, Japan, Norway and United Kingdom. Currently, efforts are focusing in upgrading it into a UNAI Journal.
5. The **PROMITHEAS Network on Energy and Climate Change policy issues** allows to scientific entities of the BSEC region to interact, exchange views and cooperate on research issues for climate change, energy and sustainable development. Also, in the frame of the network activities, consortia are formed and submit research proposals to funding mechanisms such as HORIZON 2020, Europaid etc. KEPA is the coordinator of the PROMITHEASnet, The Energy and Climate Policy Network, which consists of participants from 16 countries mainly coming from the Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Central Asia regions (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellas, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan). There is one member from the Mediterranean (Lebanon). It was established in 2005 as a BSEC Project Development Fund (PDF) project with NKUA-KEPA as the

coordinator. It aims to promote cooperation between EU and BSEC relevant institutions and, through this, to enhance bonds of scientific cooperation, knowledge transfer and dissemination, to contribute to economic issues relevant to its contents and to regional stability and economic development (see at: <http://www.promitheasnet.kepa.uoa.gr>).

6. Due to the pandemic, organized **events** for reinforcing the skills of the scientific and research potential of the BSEC region were limited to only the following one (physical and on line participation):

Annual International Conference on Energy and Climate Change (Implementation period: 2008-2021) – **Funding source:** self-funded, sponsored by funding agencies (banks) and energy companies, registration fees from attendees. **Aim:** This Conference started as an activity of a FP6 funded project and has developed into an annual International Conference for scientists and researchers working in energy and climate change policy issues. It is hosted by the oldest university of Greece, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA); organized by the NKUA-KEPA, coordinator of the PROMITHEAS Network and set under the aegis of the BSEC Organization and of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI).

The Conference, starting from 2013, is scheduled to promote the Green Economy issue and following its structure to bring together members and representatives from the scientific community, governmental authorities, members of parliaments, market stakeholders, banking officers and representatives from international and regional organizations. Proceedings receive ISBN numbers for printed and electronic version. The last five years the Conference is divided into three (3) main parts.

The “*Green Energy Investments Forum*” on the first day, is organized in cooperation with the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (**BSEC PERMIS**) and aims to reinforce the regional and extroverted cooperation among educational institutes, market forces, banks and governments for “green energy” issues.

The second “*Scientific papers*” is devoted to peer – viewed presentations and discussions, as in all previous years. Scientists and researchers mainly from EU and BSEC countries participate and present their work.

Finally, the third is shaped as a “*Brokerage session*” that brings together scientists, policy makers and market stakeholders and facilitate them to present their activities (projects and programs), discuss about funding opportunities, especially in the context of Horizon Europe calls and finally to increase the cross-interaction on innovative ideas and cooperation on common importance topics.

The Hellenic Government in addition to the annually organized forum in Athens supports the organization of biannual forum in all BSEC- MS during their Chairmanship in Office of BSEC, as a concrete contribution to knowledge transfer and green investment facilitation for all BSEC – MS.

Available information at: <http://www.promitheasnet.kepa.uoa.gr>.

7.4.1.3 South East Europe

At the regional South East European (SEE) level, the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs participates very actively in the drafting of the SEE 2030 Strategy. The objective of the Strategy is to reach regional sustainable economic growth based on the principles of the global 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, through reducing poverty and inequality in the region,