

Support to the EU Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUEI) – Description of Services

Background

Energy issues are at the top of the international cooperation and development agenda. The consensus on the **crucial role of energy in poverty eradication** has been strengthened even further by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal on energy – **SDG7**. The G7-supported African Renewable Energy Initiative, the G20 Energy Access Action Plan and the contribution of energy to negotiations for COP21 are only the latest of a number of high-level initiatives and processes which indicate priority for the topic of sustainable energy in developing countries.

The **European Union (EU)** is the world leader in development cooperation in the field of energy. The **European Commission (EC)** has a leading role in the context of the UN Secretary-General's initiative – Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), contributing substantially to its targets on universal access to energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency. The **EU Member States (MSs)** are major bilateral donors whose contributions also fund a large proportion of multi-lateral initiatives.

Given the unprecedented international drive in the field, it is more crucial than ever that the EU coordinates its efforts and strengthens its united voice.

The EU Energy Initiative

The **EU Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUEI)** was launched at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg as a joint commitment by the EU Member States and the Commission to give priority to the eminent role of energy in poverty alleviation.

Designed as a catalyst for action, and acting as the **main informal coordination** mechanism between EU MSs and the EC, the EUEI has been a vehicle for maintaining the political commitment to energy and development, for preparing decisions on important specific instruments and actions, as well as for political dialogue with developing countries, leading to specific partnerships, most notably the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP).

EUEI PDF support to the EUEI

The EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF), a **flexible instrument of the EU Energy Initiative**, assists governmental institutions of developing and developed countries in creating an enabling environment for accelerating renewable energy investments in developing countries.

Since 2015, the EUEI PDF has been tasked by the EUEI Secretariat, which is hosted by the EC's DG DEVCO, to support the EUEI's efforts to coordinate, facilitate and increase the visibility of the European contribution to development cooperation in the field of energy. Such support is delivered on demand and has the overall objective of **contributing to increased coherence, effectiveness and efficiency in European Energy Development Cooperation**.

To attain this objective, the EUEI PDF provides the following services:

1) Advisory services to the EUEI Secretariat

- ▶ Support for preparation, running and follow-up of the regular EUEI Meetings.
- ▶ Background input and backstopping in formulating and developing the EUEI strategy.
- ▶ Contact management services and outreach to relevant EU stakeholders in the field, including identification and maintenance of communication channels for EUEI activities.
- ▶ Support to the EUEI in positioning its key messages and activities on the international level.

2) Advisory services to EU Member States

- ▶ Provision of information to enable active participation of EU MSs in EUEI processes as well as in other relevant international fora.
- ▶ Support in streamlining ongoing and new initiatives in the field of sustainable energy with other activities at EU level.
- ▶ Provision of advisory services on policy options and positioning of activities in relation to strategic energy issues and programmes (global and EU-specific alike).



3) Research, analysis and visibility

- ▶ Creation and maintenance of an overview of EU donor activities and initiatives in the field of energy and climate in development.
- ▶ Exploration of emerging topics and linkages, such as renewable energy for climate change mitigation, the water-food-energy nexus, energy in cities.
- ▶ Identification of channels and provision of tools that ensure that the EU's international contributions in the energy field are communicated effectively.



Making use of the services

The services described here are provided by the EUEI PDF with **funding from the EC**. MSs are invited to make use of these services, and to channel requests which may arise from other stakeholders within their constituencies. The EUEI PDF is also open to discuss further modalities of support.

EUEI PDF in brief

- ▶ **Created in 2004** as an instrument of the EU Energy Initiative (EUEI)
- ▶ **Mission:** to assist governmental institutions of developing countries in creating an enabling environment for accelerating renewable energy investments
- ▶ The EUEI PDF acts also as Secretariat to the **Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)** and implements the **Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP)**
- ▶ So far **funded** by voluntary contributions of the **European Commission, Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden**
- ▶ Portfolio of more than **80 activities in 21 countries across 7 regions**
- ▶ **Thematic pillars:** renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy access, energy security, climate change and energy in cities
- ▶ **Geographical focus:** low- and middle-income countries globally
- ▶ **Type of assistance:** development of policies, regulations and strategies; institution building; capacity development as well as dialogue and knowledge exchange



Pictures: EU Commission, iStock David Jones, EUEI PDF

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