

## Tirana solar energy research and development

The Project "Market transformation for solar energy PV acceleration" supports Albania's sustainable development by expediting the implementation of the NDC action plan to achieve the enhanced target. UNDP, with funding from the Government of Japan, has planned to install solar panels for energy generation in ten public buildings situated across four municipalities, is assisting to remove the market barriers and accelerate development of solar PV (reaching an additional installed capacity of 1000 kW) through enabling the policy framework, availability of financing mechanisms, ensuring supply of reliable technology and services leveraging experience, and know-how from other countries with relevant advanced technologies.

The project, which began in December 2022, has made impressive strides towards its goals. To make the most of solar power, feasibility studies and technical specifications were conducted on ten public buildings across four municipalities - Shkoder, Klos, Diber, and Permet. To ensure smooth implementation, the Project team worked closely with the UNDP Global Support Unit in Copenhagen, Denmark, to complete the procurement process.

The GSOL Energy, an international company, has been contracted to begin procuring and installing ten pilot grid-connected solar photovoltaic systems. We expect the installation process to conclude by the end of November 2023.

Additionally, ongoing consultations are held with the National Energy Efficiency Agency. Their technical staff have been trained on the projects' feasibility, technical specifications, and development. The trainings (20 March and 27 June 2023 respectively) focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency in public buildings, based on concrete examples from the ten pilot projects.

The trainings were also delivered to the personnel of the National Agency of Natural Resources, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, and Municipalities of Shkoder, Klos, Diber, and Permet.

To further accelerate the solar photovoltaic market, the draft of the financing mechanism was provided by the end of February 2023. The work is continuing for the provision of governmental decrees following the new Law on Renewable Energy Resources (24/2023 adopted): detailed specification and content of two regulations drafted. They include: (i) Governmental decree on supporting measures of Renewable Energy Sources (Article 10/1), and (ii) Guideline for establishment and functioning of the Renewable Energy Communities (Article 21/6). Both drafts will follow the legislative procedure run by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy itself.

The project team has collaborated with the Albania-Japan Chamber of Trade and Industry (AJCCI) to provide feasibility studies to five interested businesses, offering them the opportunity to make informed decisions on purchasing solar power for their businesses.

To share the project's progress with the public, a video story was produced and shared widely on UNDP's digital platforms. These multimedia products have also been shared with the Japan Embassy to Tirana and the National Energy Efficiency Agency.

On 9 March 2023, UNDP Albania launched an internal information and advocacy campaign on climate change, with a focus on solar energy and sustainable forest management.

Activities will include:

2. Increased demand for solar PV systems through the availability of attractive end-user financing mechanisms

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Web: <https://kary.com.pl/contact-us/>

Email: [energystorage2000@gmail.com](mailto:energystorage2000@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

