

Meeting of the OSCE Regional Task Force on Education for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition in Central Asia (RTEET)

SUMMARY OF THE EVENT

The OSCE Regional Task Force Meeting on Education for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition (RTEET) in Central Asia was held online on July 25, 2025.

The main objective of the event was to agree on the priorities and structure of a new training module for technical universities in Central Asia aimed at training specialists in the field of renewable energy sources (RES).

The meeting was attended by representatives of ministries, technical universities, international partner organizations, research institutes, and energy companies from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Key outcomes of the event:

1. *The priority topic for the training course was agreed upon:*

Participants confirmed that the topic "Integration of RES into energy systems" is the most relevant for Central Asian countries. The topic was selected based on an analysis of regional needs, expert consultations, and a vote by participants, taking into account the following criteria: technological demand, institutional readiness, human resource shortages, and implementation potential at the university level.

2. *Current gaps in educational programs and infrastructure were identified:*

The discussions revealed that existing RES courses in the region's universities do not adequately cover the technical aspects of grid integration, energy storage, grid stability, digital transformation, and working with unstable generation. A lack of training laboratories and modern teaching materials was also noted.

3. *Principles for developing a training course were identified:*

Participants supported an approach whereby expert developers would be recommended by universities and work closely with them at all stages, from design to pilot implementation. The course should be adapted to the context of the countries in the region and take into account national educational standards.

Following the meeting of the Regional Task Force, **the following areas for further work** were identified:

1. Completion of the regional needs assessment report
2. Selection of experts to develop the course
3. Conducting online meetings with developers
4. Preparation of a draft training course.
5. Face-to-face meeting with participants to discuss the draft



MEETING MINUTES

The OSCE Regional Task Force on Education for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition (RTEET) meeting in Central Asia took place on July 25, 2025, in an online format with the support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC).

The purpose of the event

The main objective of the event was to agree on the priorities and structure of a new training course for technical universities in Central Asia aimed at training specialists in the field of renewable energy sources (RES).

Objectives of the event:

- To present the progress of the RTEET work plan following the kick-off meeting.
- To familiarize participants with the results of the regional assessment of human resource needs for the RES sector.
- Discuss the structure of the new training course and propose indicators for selecting priority topics.
- Collect comments and suggestions from representatives of countries and organizations

The meeting was attended by **33** participants, including representatives of Central Asian governments, national energy companies, national and regional project experts, representatives of international and regional organizations (OSCE, CAREC, UNECE, GIZ), and others. The concept, agenda, and list of participants are presented in Annexes 1 and 2.

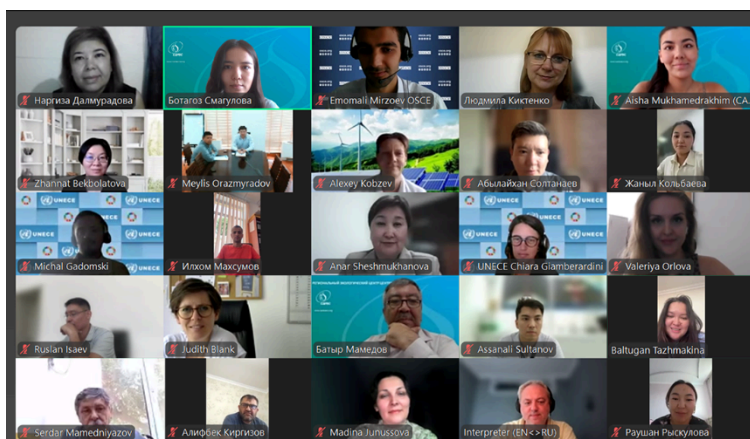


Photo: Participants of the OSCE Regional Task Force Meeting on Education for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition (RTEET) in Central Asia

Opening the meeting, Mr. Emomali Mirzoev (Project Specialist on Energy Security, OSCE Secretariat) highlighted the problem of a shortage of skilled personnel to ensure a successful and just energy transition in the Central Asian region. He noted that, according to OSCE estimates, by 2050, the development of renewable energy could create up to 100,000 new job opportunities in Central Asia, but the current system of training specialists is lagging behind the needs of a rapidly changing market. A recent analysis conducted with the participation of national experts and the CAREC team revealed that existing educational programs do not fully meet the requirements of the renewable energy sector, and cooperation between universities and the energy industry remains limited. In this regard, Mr. Emomali Mirzoev emphasized the importance of the RTEET platform as a tool for regional cooperation between

educational institutions, ministries, and industry partners. He also announced the development of pilot courses on renewable energy for technical universities in the region, in line with national standards and gender equality principles. Concluding his speech, he invited the members of the Task Force to discuss the preliminary structure of the courses and expressed confidence in the success of joint efforts for a sustainable energy future in Central Asia.

The meeting then continued with an introduction of the participants, where each participant presented themselves and their organization.

Ms. Ludmila Kiktenko (Program Manager, CAREC) delivered the opening remarks on behalf of CAREC. She reminded the audience that the meeting was being held as part of the regular work of the Regional Task Force on Education for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition in Central Asia. At the beginning of her speech, she outlined three key objectives for the current meeting:

1. To present a summary report on the results achieved.
2. Adopting a collective decision on the focus of a new training course for universities in the region.
3. To discuss the next steps to be taken by May 2026.

In her report on the tasks completed, Ms. Kiktenko noted that since the previous meeting in Almaty in May, the following results had been achieved: an information page for the Task Force has been launched on the CAREC corporate website; official nominations of participants from all five Central Asian countries have been received; the RTEET kick-off meeting was successfully held on May 22–23; and a draft regional report on the assessment of human resource needs in the renewable energy sector has been prepared and distributed. This document is currently being finalized and undergoing final technical editing. She then outlined the second main task of the meeting: to discuss priority topics for a pilot training course to be implemented in Central Asian universities. Participants were invited to review the preliminary conclusions and vote on the focus of the module.

Mr. Alexei Kobzev (OSCE expert on needs assessment in Central Asia) presented the results of the assessment of the need for specialists in the renewable energy sector. Mr. Kobzev presented the methodology and key findings of a comprehensive regional study on the development of the renewable energy sector in Central Asia. The study included an analysis of existing reports and strategies, as well as focus interviews with key stakeholders in Central Asian countries. The main focus was on identifying the priority of RES development in the countries of the region, the current state of human resource capacity, and existing barriers. It was noted that despite the recognition of RES as a priority, their development in many countries is not progressing fast enough. The lack of qualified specialists, especially in practical skills, and the low level of women's participation in the RES sector were highlighted. Mr. Kobzev highlighted key challenges: the gap between theory and practice in educational programs, limited interaction between universities and industry, and the need to train personnel in new promising areas (e.g., hydrogen, energy storage, integration of renewable energy sources into the grid). Specific recommendations were made: updating curricula, developing laboratory facilities, strengthening research, developing short-term courses, academic mobility, and involving industry experts in the educational process. In conclusion, key topics of regional importance were presented for inclusion in the technical course on renewable energy sources: integration of renewable energy sources into energy



systems, digitalization in energy and renewable energy sources, installation, operation, and maintenance of renewable energy stations, design and engineering of renewable energy systems, economics and financing of renewable energy projects.

Ms. Lyudmila Kiktenko presented the results of the work of the regional technical group, which spent several weeks analyzing priority topics for the development of a regional training course on renewable energy sources. The process used clear criteria to determine the best direction: relevance of the topic for the countries of the region, availability of institutional and technical infrastructure, readiness of teaching staff, potential for integration into existing educational programs, contribution to energy security, and feasibility in remote and rural areas.

Based on the data obtained and the votes of the meeting participants, the topic "Integration of RES into energy systems" was selected as the key area for the development of the training course. This topic was identified as a priority by most Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, taking into account both current needs and the prospects for energy development in the region.

Ms. Zhanat Bekbolatova (PhD, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Energy, Satpayev University) noted that their university already offers courses on renewable energy integration and digital energy at all levels of education. The university is ready to share its experience and participate in the development of a new regional course. *Mr. Ilkhom Mahsumov (Head of the Alternative Energy Department, Tajikistan Energy Institute)* emphasized that the chosen topic is particularly relevant in connection with the state program for the large-scale use of renewable energy sources. As an example, he cited the construction of a 200 MW solar power plant in the northern part of the country, which required integration into the general power grid. He noted that the integration of such facilities requires special technical knowledge.

Mr. Abilaykhan Soltanaev (Senior Lecturer, G. Daukeev Almaty University of Power Engineering and Telecommunications) reported on the establishment of a new training center with the support of the national energy company KEGOC. He emphasized that the course on renewable energy integration is extremely relevant for training future dispatchers, especially in the context of the national goal of increasing the share of renewable energy to 50% by 2050. The university considers this course a priority and plans to integrate it into the curriculum. *Ms. Baltugan Tazhmakina (Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan)* confirmed the strategic interest in green hydrogen. She emphasized that this area is gaining popularity internationally and could be considered in the future as part of the course, especially within the concept of a "just transition."

At the end of the meeting, Ms. Lyudmila Kiktenko presented a work plan for the project until May 2026, which includes the following actions:

1. Completion of the regional needs assessment report
2. Selection of experts to develop the course
3. Holding online meetings with developers
4. Preparation of a draft training course
5. Face-to-face meeting with participants to discuss the project
6. Submission of the final version of the course to pilot universities



Conclusion

The meeting confirmed the high level of interest of all parties—universities, government agencies, energy companies, and international partners—in developing educational solutions that promote a fair and sustainable energy transition in Central Asia.

The choice of the topic "Integration of RES into energy systems" reflects not only the technical and human resource needs of the region, but also the strategic course of the countries towards expanding the share of renewable energy sources.

The meeting demonstrated a high level of commitment and readiness to cooperate, which creates a solid foundation for further joint work. Participants expressed their readiness to support the process at all stages, from the development to the implementation of the training course, as well as to expand partnerships to ensure the sustainability and scalability of results.

Attachments:

- 1) *Meeting agenda*
- 2) *List of participants*

