

Accelerating Green Finance in North Macedonia:

Introducing the Green Financing Facility

Date and time: October 4, 2021, 15:30-17:00 (CET/Skopje time)
Location: Hotel DoubleTree by Hilton, Skopje (Diamond Ballroom)
Zoom link: <http://tiny.cc/GFF-MK>

Agenda:

TIME (CET)

AGENDA ITEM

15:30 – 15:35
5 minutes

Welcome and agenda

- **Mr. Dushko Uzunovski**, Minister Plenipotentiary, Charge d'Affaires a.i. at Permanent Mission of North Macedonia to the UN - New York (connecting through Zoom)

15:35 – 15:45
10 minutes

Opening remarks

- **Mr. Fatmir Bytyqi**, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Economic Affairs
- **Ms. Rossana Dudziak**, UN Resident Coordinator
- **Mr. Haoliang Xu**, Chair of the Operational Steering Committee of the Joint SDG Fund (connecting through Zoom)

15:45 – 15:55
10 minutes

Presentation of the Green Financing Facility joint project

- **Ms. Sanja Bojanic**, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, on behalf of the UN Joint programme team

15:55 – 16:25
30 minutes

Panel on green financing in North Macedonia

- **Moderated by: Ms. Narine Sahakyan**, UNDP Resident Representative

Panel:

- **Mr. Fatmir Besimi**, Minister of Finance
- **Mr. Naser Nuredini**, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning
- **Ms. Aleksandra Vukosavljevic**, EBRD, Director FI Western Balkans and Eastern Europe
- **Ms. Nina Nedanoska**, member of the Management Board in Sparkasse Bank Macedonia

16:25 – 16:40
15 minutes

Discussion

- **Moderated by: Ms. Narine Sahakyan**, UNDP Resident Representative

16:40 – 16:45
5 minutes

Closing remarks

- **Ms. Lisa Kurbiel**, Head of Secretariat, Joint SDG Fund, UN Development Coordination Office (connecting through Zoom)

Background:

The joint project “Green Finance Facility to Improve Air Quality and Combat Climate Change in North Macedonia” – which is currently in final stages of preparation is expected to be in the value of approximately USD 36.3 million and would be implemented by a team of UN agencies – UNDP, IOM and UNECE – in partnership with EBRD. The main government counterpart of the project is the Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, with the Ministries of Finance, Environment and Physical Planning and Economy, as key government partners to this project.

This project will develop and operationalize a Green Financing Facility (GFF), a new financial vehicle, that should significantly improve access to affordable green financing for SMEs and target groups of individuals/households for investments in renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) solutions as well as foster innovation in RE and EE sector. The project is expected to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution and strengthen the local ecosystem for RE & EE innovation and green finance.

Part of the project financing is expected from the Joint SDG Fund which is an innovative instrument to incentivize the transformative policy shifts and stimulate the strategic investments required to get the world back on track to meet the SDGs. The UN Secretary-General sees the Joint SDG Fund as a key part of the reform of the UN’s development work by providing the “muscle” for a new generation of Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to really accelerate SDG implementation.

Starting from global competition of 155 proposals, the project is currently among the top 12 proposals in the final round, of which around 4 are expected to receive financing from the Joint SDG Fund.

