



### BSEC and UNECE in Quest of Energy Efficiency in Buildings

*“There is still much room for improvement in the setting and application of energy efficiency standards in buildings in emerging economies”.*

The above is based on a recent UNECE study on mapping of energy efficiency standards in buildings. In more than a few countries there are problems both with the strictness and enforcement of these standards.

To address these challenges, UNECE organized a Training Seminar on high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings, held from 5-7 September in St. Petersburg.

The Seminar took place in the framework of the Project “Promoting application of high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings in Member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)”, the implementation of which is funded by the BSEC “Black Sea Project Promotion Facility” (BSPPF). This Facility was established through a voluntary contribution of 1 million US Dollars by the Russian Federation to the BSEC PERMIS and constitutes an important contribution to the project management capacity of the BSEC Organization.

The purpose of the Seminar was to assist policy makers, building sector professionals, researchers and educators in obtaining cutting-edge knowledge of best practices in the development and application of high-performance building standards that they can use in their countries.

Over 50 participants from 15 countries (including the 12 BSEC Member States) took part in the meeting. Training facilitators made a series of broad overviews of existing legislation, of the barriers in the implementation of energy efficiency standards in various building types and of the necessary steps to attract investments for energy efficient retrofitting of buildings. Deliberations in St. Petersburg have provided useful insight into a broad range of topical issues such as attitudes of government agencies and the role of regional and municipal administrations in implementation of advanced standards; building energy codes in new construction and retrofits of existing building stock; penalties, incentives and other tools for improving compliance; situation by sub-regions; recipes for attracting local and foreign investments.

The above is a good example of two international organizations uniting forces in order to strengthen their credentials in the critical field of energy efficiency in buildings.