



## BELARUSIAN-GEORGIAN EXPERT REVIEW:

# “Localization of SDGs 7 & 13 and Energy Saving at the Local Level in Belarus and Georgia”

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→ **AIM:** To carry out a comparative analysis of the situation with the achievement of goals 7 and 13 in Belarus and Georgia to exchange experience and search areas for further joint work.

The approach to improving the energy efficiency of the economy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions is largely similar in Belarus and Georgia. This is due to similar approaches to energy management, which was formed during the Soviet Union. At the same time, further development largely went in different directions, which causes differences in the energy sector of Georgia and Belarus. In the course of this work, which could be useful to both Belarus and Georgia.

## SIMILAR FEATURES:



**State regulation is focusing on big companies.** The focus on large companies alone is insufficient, and it is essential to develop mechanisms that encourage small businesses and individuals to save energy.



**Low subsidized tariffs for residential.** This reduces the economic attractiveness of energy saving measures, which creates an economic barrier to improving energy efficiency.



**Relatively high energy intensity of GDP.** High level of GDP energy intensity, which indicates a significant potential for increasing the efficiency of the use of fuel and energy.



**Energy efficiency investment limited.** The current energy saving system is largely limited by the amount of cheap financing available.



**Low meter coverage.** This excludes the creation of incentives for energy saving at the level of individual households.



**Low human resource.** Both countries suffer from a lack of qualified specialists for a sustainable movement towards energy conservation.

## DIFFERENCES:



**Non-government financial resource.** Georgia largely relies on the possibility of financing activities from non-state sources. After 2020 and 2022 almost all international projects were stopped in Belarus.



**NGO actions.** The activities of NGOs are supported in Georgia. In Belarus, almost all NGOs were closed in 2021, and many activists were detained and jailed.



**Cooperation with local authorities.** Support for the activities of NGOs increases the effect on the implementation of projects. In Belarus no possibility to work NGOs with local authorities.



**Weather and geographic conditions.** Belarus is a country with the same climate and weather conditions. Georgia has areas with access to the sea, mountainous with completely different weather conditions.



**Urban and rural people.** Belarus is characterized by a similar way of life for the population in urban and rural areas. For Georgia, the way of life and the level of economic well-being of the population largely depend on their geographical location.



# RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR ACTIVITY:

## 1 Creation of energy efficiency stimulation instruments

We propose to actively develop incentive measures to improve energy efficiency that will create economic stimulus to reduce energy intensity without the use of administrative and manual control or targeted recommendations for individual enterprises.

## 2 Development of energy savings mechanisms for small companies and population

The creation of energy saving in small companies and among the population is at a rather low level of resource if they will be based on economic stimulus recommended above. We can recommend Georgian NGOs and national and local authorities to actively work in direction of energy efficiency growth for small companies that do not require administrative management but create economic incentives for small businesses and the population to reduce energy consumption. At the initial stage, the experience of Belarus in introducing such mechanisms can be used.

## 3 Creation of energy management system

It is necessary to significantly improve the level of energy management, especially at the level of municipalities or individual communities. We recommend organizing separate energy efficiency centers provided with sufficient material and human resources to ensure quality management at the municipal level.

## 4 Increase of operation quality of installed equipment

An important problem remains not only the implementation of energy saving measures, but also the maintenance of installed equipment in working condition and periodically repair. To do this, it is necessary to improve the personnel service quality, create a system for monitoring the quality of service and form the necessary funds for the timely purchase of spare parts and parts for installed energy-efficient equipment.

### Full text of the review:



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