

## ***Supporting implementation of the energy strategy in North Macedonia***

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North Macedonia is heavily reliant on unsustainable energy sources which negatively impacts on the security and flexibility of supply, economic growth, the health of the population and the environment. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which are currently five times greater than the EU average per unit of GDP, need to be reduced to bring them in line with commitments under the Paris Agreement. As an applicant country to join the EU, North Macedonia needs to ensure legal and regulatory compliance with numerous EU directives relating to energy and the environment. While the National Strategy for Energy Development 2040 lays out a roadmap to a cleaner and up-to-date energy sector, awareness of it remains low among key Government stakeholders, the energy sector and the public. It also needs to be underpinned by a clear implementation programme.



PAI, in collaboration with Tetra Tech, the Centre for Change Management and the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts, provided assistance to the Government of North Macedonia in updating economic parameters of the National Strategy for Energy Development in view of the COVID-19 crisis and the resulting economic downturn; developing an inclusive, well-structured, evidenced-based five-year Programme for the Implementation of the Strategy with over 85 different measures across all pillars of the Strategy; and designing and launching communication plans to raise awareness of the policies and implementation measures set out in the Strategy and the Programme.

An online conference, “Vision for Energy Transition 2040”, was organised in January 2021 to promote the project’s work and to discuss Government priorities and plans to address implementation of the “Green Agenda”. The project was financed by the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) through the Good Governance Fund Technical Assistance Facility for the Western Balkans.