

**PRESS
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ERERA Organizes Virtual Workshop on Economic Regulation for West Africa

A virtual workshop on economic regulation to build the capacity of participants drawn from national regulatory authorities and ministries of energy of ECOWAS Member States, in particular those performing such functions as tariff and rates, licensing, technical/engineering, consumer affairs and communication was held from April 5 to 7, 2022.

The workshop, organized in collaboration with the European Union under the Technical Assistance to ECOWAS for the 11th EDF Energy Governance Programme in West Africa, sought to outline context-specific strategies for improving economic regulation of electricity sector activities.

More specifically, the workshop's objectives included enhancing the financial sustainability of utilities through the development of cost-of-service studies and improvement of skills on tariff setting; and enhancing the quality-of-service delivery of utilities through the utilization of cost-reflective tariffs with sustainable subsidy regimes for lifeline and vulnerable customers.

The objective of the workshop also included highlighting some of the challenges to effective economic regulation in the ECOWAS electricity sector, with recommendations to address them.

The workshop focused on the tools for improving economic regulation in the electricity sector using applicable case studies from African countries. Participants were engaged in detailed discussions on tariff setting, cost of service studies and shared country-specific challenges in this area.

ERERA's Senior Legal Expert, Mr. Oumar Bangoura, addressed participants at the opening of workshop, which is the first of a two-part training. ERERA Council Member (Economics), Dr. Haliru Dikko, also participated in the workshop and gave participants updates on the various initiatives being undertaken by ERERA to improve economic regulation in the region.

The second part will focus on technical regulation and will also be held virtually on April 11 and 12, 2022.

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The main objective of ERERA's Capacity Building Programme on Electricity Market and Regulation is to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders with regards to the regulatory framework of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market.