

## 15<sup>th</sup> Renewable Energy Coordination Group meeting

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*HYBRID: hotel Novotel Sarajevo Bristol, 71000 Sarajevo, BiH & WEBEX online  
Tuesday, 18 April 2023, 10:00 – 16:00*

### Opening

Ms. Margalita Arabidze, Head of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable Development in the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and Chair of the Renewable Energy Coordination Group (RECG), provided opening remarks. Ms. Arabidze, greeted all members of the group, apologized for not being able to join in person and thanked to Bosnia and Herzegovina for hosting the meeting in Sarajevo.

All members of the RECG were present during the meeting (in person or online), besides representative from Albania, Ms. Rudina Banushi. The agenda of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting was adopted.

Mr. Adam Cwetsch, Head of the Green Deal Unit in the Energy Community Secretariat, Sanja Kapetina, Head of the department for secondary energy and projects in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mr. Stefano Ellero, Head of Cooperation in the EU Delegation to BiH gave opening remarks as well.

Mr. Mathieu Ballu, Policy Officer in the European Commission (DG ENER), spoke about Provisional agreement on RED revision. Mr. Ballu outlined the measures to raise the EU's overall renewable energy target for 2030, increasing it from 32% to a minimum of 42.5%, along with an additional indicative target of 2.5%. Additionally, Mr. Ballu provided details on the proposed modifications to articles concerning permitting procedures, industry, heating and cooling, renewable energy sources (RES) in buildings, joint projects, energy system integration, e-mobility, transport, and bioenergy.

Mr. Cwetsch once again addressed the audience, delivering an update regarding Governance Regulation and National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs). Mr. Cwetsch emphasized the significance of integrating the 2030 targets into the Energy Community acquis during the Ministerial Council held in December 2022. It was stressed that the NECPs, which are scheduled for completion by the end of June, should include policies and measures aimed at achieving the adopted 2030 targets.

Ms. Naida Taso, Renewable Energy Expert in the Energy Community Secretariat, delivered a presentation outlining the activities from the adopted Work Programme for 2023/2024. Ms. Taso informed the group about the conclusions from the Ministerial Council held in December 2022 relevant to renewable energy, including on adoption of 2030 targets and recognition of guarantees of origin. Furthermore, Ms. Taso invited the Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar to present the project "Assessment of the permit-granting procedure for energy projects in the Energy Community." The consultant introduced a questionnaire and encouraged participants to complete it, thereby aiding the implementation process. The deadline for completing the guidelines and recommendations on planning and permit-granting procedures for energy projects in Contracting Parties is set for the end of 2023.

Following was concluded at the meeting:

- the RECG Work Programme 2023/2024 is adopted;
- Margalita Arabidze is reappointed as a Chair of the group and Sanja Kapetina is appointed as a co-chair for the next two years;
- next meeting will be held in Vienna in November 2023;
- ECS reminded all CPs that the deadline to submit Fifth Progress Report on promotion and use of energy from Renewable Energy Sources (for years 2020/2021) expired on 31 December 2022;
- RECG members will follow up with the designated issuing bodies for guarantees of origin on national registries developed during the regional project.

All presentations from the meeting will be published on the Energy Community [website](#).

## ***Renewables Readiness Assessment for Bosnia and Herzegovina***

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Ms. Petya Icheva, Programme Officer – South East Europe from IRENA, presented draft Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA) report for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Renewables Readiness Assessment is a comprehensive tool for assessing the suitability of conditions in different countries for the development and deployment of renewable energy, along with the actions required to improve those conditions. Designed and refined by IRENA, the RRA is a country-initiated process that identifies short- and medium-term actions for the rapid up-scaling of renewables. RRA for BiH was initiated in 2021 with main objective to contribute to the preparation of National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). Recommendations of the report focus on:

- Improvement of regulatory performance, learning from the previous experience
- Integrated strategy for planning and investment
- Clarity vis-à-vis project capacities and locations with verified solid pipeline of projects
- Enforcement of the retail electricity market reform and consumer empowerment
- Take into account the positive socioeconomic aspects of the energy transition and RE deployment
- Active promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in buildings
- More renewables in transport and implementation of “Avoid-Shift-Improve” principle
- Streamline and strengthen the capacity in RE projects preparation, financing and performance phase
- Improvement of the alignment between NDC and NECP.

## ***Virtual Power Plants – boost for small RE producers***

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The presentation by the Independent System Operator in Bosnia and Herzegovina (NOS BiH) covered the progress made in implementing virtual power plants within the country. Following the adoption of the implementation instruction in April 2022, a total of 7 virtual power plants have been registered, facilitating the collaboration of 425 small power plants with a combined installed capacity of approximately 150 MW. Over the course of one year, these virtual power plants delivered around 200 GWh to the wholesale market. The primary challenge encountered in this context is balancing.

## ***Energy communities – giving citizens an opportunity to actively participate in the energy transition***

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Ms. Minela Isaković, an Advisor working on the GIZ-implemented project "Decarbonization of the energy sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina," delivered a presentation on the implementation of the concept of energy communities within the country. During her presentation, Ms. Isaković highlighted the distinctions in the legal framework between renewable energy communities (REC) and citizens energy communities (CEC) in the European Union (EU). She further elaborated on how these concepts have been incorporated into the legal framework of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including relevant renewable energy laws and rulebooks. The ongoing project will focus on exploring motivating factors, establishing a central support system, developing financing tools, and addressing other related aspects.