

Technical Workshop on Renewable Acceleration Area (RAA) and RES Permitting Reform

Venue: Hotel Hilton, Podgorica, Montenegro

Date: 28-29 April 2026

DAY 1

1. Welcome & Objectives

Hour: 15:00 – 15:15

- Opening remarks by the Energy Community Secretariat, the host Contracting Party, Montenegro and Open Society Foundation

Moderated by *Ms Svitlana Karpyshyna*, Head of Project Management Unit, Energy Community Secretariat

Dr. Marie-Therese Richter-Kuhnert, Deputy Director and Head of Legal Unit, Energy Community Secretariat

Matija Medojević, State Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mining of Montenegro (tbc)

Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development (tbc)

Marina Izgarević, State Secretary, Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and

State Property (tbc)

Miodrag Milosavljevic, Deputy Regional Director, Open Society Foundation (tbc)

- Purpose of the workshop and expected outcomes

Aleksandra Bujaroska, Senior Expert in Environmental Governance, Permitting and Planning

Lead of the Centre for Renewables Acceleration

2. The Revised RED: Renewable Acceleration Areas

Hour: 15:15 – 16:00

Legal basis for RAAs	15:20-16:00	<i>Aleksandra Bujaroska</i> , Senior Expert in Environmental Governance, Permitting and Planning
Designation obligations		Lead of the Centre for Renewables Acceleration
Environmental safeguards		<i>BBH</i> , Delegated expert to the Centre
Deadlines and compliance expectations		

Project: Accelerating Renewable Energy Deployment and Just Transition in the Western Balkans: Energy Community Centre for Permitting and Planning

Coffee Break
Hour: 16:00 – 16:10

3. The Revised RED: Permitting Reform

Hour: 16:10 – 17:00

Maximum timeframes	16:15-16:45	<p><i>Aleksandra Bujaroska, Senior Expert in Environmental Governance, Permitting and Planning</i> Lead of the Centre for Renewables Acceleration</p> <p><i>BBH, Delegated expert to the Centre</i></p>
Single contact point requirement		
Simplified procedures inside RAAs		
Relationship with EIA		

4. Secretariat's Centre for RES Acceleration

Hour: 17:00 – 17:20

Available technical assistance	17:10-17:25	<p><i>Aleksandra Bujaroska, Senior Expert in Environmental Governance, Permitting and Planning</i></p>
Timeline for engagement		

5. Announcement: Call for Targeted Support & Wrap-up

Hour: 17:25 – 17:40

Scope		<p><i>Aleksandra Bujaroska, Senior Expert in Environmental Governance, Permitting and Planning</i> Lead of the Centre for Renewables Acceleration</p> <p><i>BBH, Delegated expert to the Centre</i></p>
Selection process		
Next steps		

Networking Dinner

Hour: 19:00 – 21:00

DAY 2

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1. Recap of Key Legal Obligations

Hour: 09:00 – 09:15

*Aleksandra Bujaroska, Senior Expert in Environmental Governance, Permitting and Planning
Lead of the Centre for Renewables Acceleration*

2. Setting Renewable Acceleration Areas - How to Designate RAAs – step-by-step

Hour: 09:15 – 10:00

Criteria development	09:15-10:00	The Nature Conservancy
Data collection and GIS screening		Delegated expert
Institutional coordination		
Public consultation		

3. Renewables Acceleration Areas Case Study: Croatia and Montenegro

Hour: 10:00 – 10:40

Case study Croatia		The Nature Conservancy
Case study Montenegro		Delegated expert
<i>Discussions (Where are you now?, What blocks progress?, What support is needed?)</i>		

Coffee Break

Hour: 10:40 – 10:50

4. Permitting Protocol & One-Stop-Shop – Designing a Permitting Protocol

Hour: 10:50 – 11:45

Mapping current procedures	10:45-11:45	The Nature Conservancy
Identifying bottlenecks		Delegated expert
Aligning with RED III timeframes		
<i>Discussions (Where are you now?, What blocks progress?, What support is needed?)</i>		

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5. Permitting Protocol & One-Stop-Shop – Setting Up the One-Stop-Shop

Hour: 11:45 – 12:45

Organisational models

Workflow design

Staffing and digitalisation

Monitoring compliance

Discussions (Where are you now?, What blocks progress?, What support is needed?)

11:45-12:45

The Nature Conservancy

Delegated expert

6. Conclusions and Next Steps

Hour: 12:45 – 13:00

Key takeaways

Expression of interest for targeted support

Timeline moving forward

12:45-13:00

*Aleksandra Bujaroska, Senior Expert in
Environmental Governance, Permitting
and Planning
Lead of the Centre for Renewables
Acceleration*

Networking Lunch

Hour: 13:00 – 14:00

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