

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK 2023
BUILDING RESILIENT ENERGY SYSTEMS

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Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

National Agency of Natural Resources

Challenges and Possible Solutions

The target of increasing renewable energy uptake for Albania requires an integrated approach and multi-stakeholder dialogue to achieve higher renewable energy shares within future energy systems.

This comprises an improved understanding of renewable energy resource characteristics and availability as well as the strengthening of policy, institutional, normative and regulatory frameworks, including the application of the role of renewable energy in a decarbonized energy system.

Renewable energy in Albania plays a strong role in helping to achieve better management of resources within the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus. The role of renewable energy in promoting the nexus approach will be specifically considered, as well as links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implications for climate change mitigation.

Policy Landscape and Targets

The current National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets a target of 45% for the renewable energy share of total final energy consumption (TFEC) by 2030.

The NREAP also stipulates technology-specific deployment targets to achieve this goal: 300MW hydropower, 490MW solar PV, 150MW wind and 41MW waste-to-power by 2025.

The National Energy Sector Strategy (2019-2030) formulates a target of 42% of renewable energy in the TPES.

A National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) is under development and will set out renewable energy targets up until 2030

Cooperation to integrate renewable energy into energy systems

UNECE work on Just Transition in Albania: UNECE activities: projects on (i) mine closure, (ii) geothermal potential of the country, (iii) mapping Albania's readiness for just transition.

- Albania works closely with the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, which last year, within the scope of two projects under the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, helped the country to assess its geothermal potential, and offered principle-based guidelines for designing and implementing a programme for efficient, safe, and environmentally conscious mine closure, which is necessary to properly re-close the previously abandoned local coal mines.
- At the moment, AKBN and the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition starts implementation of the third project on mapping Albania's readiness for green and just transition in its post-coal mining areas. The objective of this project is to identify regulatory, social, technical, and financial barriers that the country will need to address to be able to successfully reclaim and repurpose its post-coal mining areas in accordance with the principles of green economy and just transition. It will also identify elements that are necessary to enable the start and to ensure progress in reclaiming and repurposing mined land.
- Such land has a large potential for development of infrastructure for clean energy production and/or storage, and therefore the involvement of the Group of Experts on Renewable energy in such undertaking is welcomed and would be much appreciated.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK: New Law "On the Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources

- The purpose of the Law is to promote the increase in the use of energy from renewable sources to ensure sustainable development in Albania and comply with the obligations under the Energy Community Treaty. In the framework of attempts to achieve economic, social, and environmental objectives, it also aims to reduce the import of fossil fuels, the emission of greenhouse gases, protect the environment, increase the diversification of energy sources and the security of supply of electricity in Albania, and promote the development of rural and isolated areas by improving their energy supply among others.
- The New Law is partially aligned with the Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 "*On the Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources.*" Thus, it introduces a national objective by providing that Albania will manage to produce an amount of energy from its renewables sources that will fulfill 54% of its gross final consumption of energy needs by the year 2030. This new target is in accordance with the standard set by the EU, which is to achieve the production of a share of energy from renewable sources that will fulfill at least 32% of the Union's gross final consumption of energy needs by 2030.

Possibilities of Cooperation

- Pilot of Geothermal Energy in Albania
- 1. Renewable energy zoning Planning and economic resource analysis for solar and wind is lacking, thus hindering policy development and the setting of realistic targets, appropriate sizing of solar and wind auctions, and least-cost power system planning.
- Comprehensive energy master plan serve to guide Albania's energy sector.
- Strengthening of the distribution Network Power generation from renewable energy sources fluctuates and is naturally variable. This requires more advanced and modern network infrastructure and operation that can handle bidirectional energy flows and changing supply profiles. Particularly in high-demand urban areas, the Albanian distribution grid lacks sufficient capacity and dynamic operation to handle variable electricity injection. This severely hampers the successful integration of renewable energy sources in the country.
- Enhancing institutional capacities and local human resources Dedicated renewable energy training and education at vocational, tertiary and technical levels is lacking. Such investment and nurturing of human resources and expertise is required to maximise and ensure the development of local economies

Thank You!



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