

Day / Track: 14 Nov / Track IV: Hot Topics and Deep Dives
16.00-17.30

Workshop: Renewable Energy Prospects for South East Europe

Organizers: IRENA, UNECE

Target group: Government officials, representative of industry associations, project developers, financial institutions, and experts in the field

The region of South East Europe is endowed with vast and high quality renewable resources that could be tapped to accelerate the energy transition.

Investing in a renewables-based energy system makes strong economic sense. Recent IRENA analysis¹ shows that a global shift to renewables and energy efficiency in line with the long-term decarbonisation objectives of the Paris Agreement can create more energy jobs than those lost in fossil-fuel industries. Additionally, it would also boost economic growth and significantly improve overall welfare.

In 2017, IRENA set up a regional initiative to support governments in the process of undertaking new commitments and developing long-term strategies for renewables, through the comprehensive analysis of renewable energy markets and the identification of feasible options for scaling up technology deployment in power generation and end-use sectors. In this context, IRENA has initiated development of a Renewable Energy Roadmap (REmap analysis) for countries of South East Europe, which is planned to be finalized in Q4 2019.

This session features a panel discussion about recent developments, the prospects for renewables in the medium and long-term and the opportunities and challenges of a transition to a renewable based energy system in the region.

Guiding questions:

- Lessons learnt in recent years of renewables deployment in the region?
- What are the key barriers to acceleration of renewables in the region?
- Ongoing efforts, opportunities and challenges for regional cooperation in renewables?
- How can international organizations like IRENA further contribute to speed up the transition to renewables in the region?
- What role can be played by the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)?

Time	Content	Resource person
16.00-16.05	Welcome / Introduction	Moderator: Gianluca Sambucini, Secretary of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, UNECE
16.05-16.15	Presentation: Cost Competitive Renewable Potential in South East Europe	Luis Janeiro, Programme Officer Renewable Energy Roadmaps, IRENA
16.15-17.25	Perspectives on Renewable Energy in South East Europe	Mr. Sergiy Savchuk – Head of State Agency for Energy Efficiency (Ukraine) Ms. Tea Avazashvili – Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (Georgia) Ms. Irina Lazzerini – Sustainable Energy Expert (Energy Community) Ms. Nadedja Komendantova – Senior researcher (IIASA)
17.25-17.30	Wrap-Up / Conclusion	IRENA / UNECE

¹IRENA (2018) Global Energy Transformation: A Roadmap to 2050. Available at: <http://www.irena.org/publications/2018/Apr/Global-Energy-Transition-A-Roadmap-to-2050>