



## Case Study // Round Table SDG 7: Transforming energy in support of the 2030 Agenda

### Country WISE SEE – Women in Sustainable Energy South-East Europe (pilot project in Serbia)

Serbia

Level: national

#### Summary

Please briefly summarise the objective of the case study and the approach chosen (max 150 words).

**WISE SEE project aims to promote productive, equitable and meaningful participation of women in sustainable energy development in Serbia and the wider SEE region.**

*Serbia women have been powerful agents of change in transition to sustainable energy. During the last decade, they have demonstrated high level of leadership capacity in transition from less to more sustainable energy solutions and in promoting environmental protection and climate change action.*

*Some of women who actively participated in the development of sustainable and renewable energy sectors are: Ana Brnabić, former Project Director at Continental Wind Serbia (CWS) (now serving the first female Prime Minister of Serbia), Zorana Mihajlović, former Minister of Energy (now Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia), and Danijela Božanić, Head of Climate Change department, Ministry of Environmental Protection.*

*Apart from women working for the Government and its institutions, a significant number of highly skilled and capable women are leading activities in sustainable energy, climate change and environmental protection, for example: Maja Turković, sustainable energy consultant, co-author of CIRSD regional sustainable energy study, Ankica Barbulov, director of GGE Serbia, who introduced ESCO service to Serbia and contributed most to popularization of PPP model in energy efficiency, Olivera Zurovac-Kuzman, OSCE National Environmental Affairs Officer – those are to be presented in PPT also... ) (women in business, NGOs, entrepreneurs, members of academic community, women from media, women experts in development organizations, projects or programs). The networking with other women will provide them with additional support in order to be more powerful and their voice to be heard when influencing policies and shaping the developments.*

*WISE project will target in its first phase the creation and expansion of professional networks within the nexus gender-sustainable energy-climate change-environment in Serbia. In the next phase, the project will aim to replicate the methodology in other SEE countries and beyond.*

#### Situation

Please elaborate on the country specific situation. Where possible, draw on statistics and data.

*Serbia is the first Energy Community Contracting Party to have transposed the Third Energy Package of the European Union, yet the full implementation has been lagging behind, in particular with regard to the unbundling of the transmission system operators in electricity and natural gas. According to the Annual Implementation Report for 2017 published by the Energy Community, Serbia and Montenegro continue to be the leaders in implementation of the sustainability policies comprising energy efficiency, renewables, environment and climate.*

*However, the progress Serbia achieved during 2017 was modest. Serbia committed to a binding 27% target of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption in 2020 compared with 21,2% in 2009. The country is at risk of not meeting the 27% renewable energy target in 2020 as the trajectory becomes steeper in the next years. Energy Community has recommended to Serbia to consider revising its NREAP as well as introducing new measures (auctions) in order to ensure it is on track to meet the 2020 renewable energy target. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP) reported savings of 4.4% achieved between 2010 and 2015 out of the 9% energy savings target to be achieved in 2018. Serbia has achieved a high level of implementation of the energy efficiency acquis. However, efforts must continue to achieve full implementation.*

*As regards the Large Combustion Plants and Industrial Emissions Directives, Serbia should speed up its efforts on preparing for the practical implementation of the Directives, in particular adopting the NERP (National Emission Reduction Plan). The speeding-up of the adoption of climate change legislation – currently still in the draft phase - and the finalization of the National Climate Change Strategy represent the two key priorities for Serbia in the upcoming period.*

*Progress in all the above activities would be accelerated through a higher participation of women in concrete energy projects and applicable policy-making.*

### Strategy

*Please describe the approach chosen.*

*WISE strategy responds to the main problems in the sector – in the first phase of the project we combine the research, networking opportunities for women professionals actively engaged in sustainable energy, climate change and environmental protection and organization of an event to present the WISE network and research results.*

*First, a state of knowledge on the gender – sustainable energy – climate change - environment nexus must be assessed, since so far no comprehensive research nor gender - segregated data exist in Serbia. The research has been conducted among professional women and women from general population (i.e., women in households). The results will be presented at the workshop scheduled for the end of March.*

*Second, professional women need to create networks that can be pulled each time some important decision is on the political agenda. This network would have an advocacy role in influencing energy policy decisions, but also a role of enhancing women professionals' solidarity and knowledge sharing. Membership would be open for all professionals: academics, practitioners, experts (consultants,*

*researchers, technologists, and lawyers), CSOs activists and experts from international development organizations, women from media, business etc.*

*Third, the event will promote the research results and WISE network. Parallel to the event, WISE will organize a media campaign to draw the attention of stakeholders and public in general about the project, the network and the role of women in sustainable energy, climate change and environment.*

### Results and impact

*Please elaborate on the specific results. Preferably, summarise the results in bullet points.*

The first phase of the project will be completed at the end of March. At that time the following results will be achieved:

- Women professionals working in sustainable energy sector, climate change and environment are targeted and networked in a formally established national WISE network;
- The first comprehensive research among women professionals and women in households is completed and the first gender-segregated data in sustainable energy, climate change and environmental protection in Serbia are obtained;
- Results of the research are presented in the form of a factsheet to all relevant stakeholders including key decision-makers and presented through a media campaign to citizens at large.

### Challenges and lessons learned

*Please identify challenges encountered during the implementation and lessons learned.*

During the project implementation, the project team has faced several challenges:

- Perception of certain percentage of women whom the project team approached that gender component necessarily means that the project is dealing with women as a vulnerable group and not with women who are professionally accomplished and results oriented.
- Limited capacity in ministries and institutions to provide gender data.
- Majority of women professionals see networking as good opportunity for them personally to grow, make new business opportunities and contribute to sustainable development in energy, climate change and environment.

### Potential for replication

*Please elaborate whether the concrete experience is replicable in other locations or contexts.*

The challenges women face all over the world are in galvanizing transition to a more sustainable and smart energy future and meaningful climate change action require mobilization of all the stakeholders. Women, as disproportionately affected population must play a more prominent role in these activities.

The project has a strong replication potential in particular in the SEE region countries (since their sustainable energy agendas, aspiration and challenges faced are similar), in other Energy Community Contracting Parties (such as Moldova and Ukraine), and in Central Asia and Caucasus.

Some lessons learned could also be applied in Western part of the ECE region, in particular in countries where women's participation in professional activities that require strong STEM skills (STEM: science, technology, engineering and mathematics) have historically been relatively low.



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