



## **SOUTH EAST EUROPE REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING**

**6 – 7 October 2016**

**University Politehnica of Bucharest, Central Library – room A2.2**

**Splaiul Independentei nr. 313, Bucharest, Romania**

### ***Background***

The countries of South East Europe (SEE) possess significant renewable energy (RE) potential. As part of European Union (EU) or the Energy Community that aims to extend the EU internal energy market to SEE and beyond, the region has committed to accelerate the RE deployment through the adoption of binding renewable energy targets for 2020, as well as the National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs). However, most countries of the region (except Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania which have already achieved them) face challenges in meeting their 2020 targets.

The efforts to increase the uptake of renewables in the region is set to scale up, in line with the renewed EU commitment to increase the renewable energy penetration to 27% by 2030. Accordingly, the Energy Community member countries are also expected to commit themselves to renewed and more ambitious targets to boost RE deployment in the region. In this regard, it is essential to have a thorough understanding of the cost-effective RE potential of the region as well as its RE readiness in terms of the enabling technical, policy and financial frameworks to promote RE investments.

As part of IRENA's intention to strengthen its engagement with the region, the Agency has recently initiated a region-wide exercise to formulate a strategic regional approach. As an initial step, the Agency is currently conducting a regional gap analysis study to identify and analyse the major obstacles hindering more accelerated renewable energy deployment in the region and map out the current and planned programmes implemented by development partners to support uptake of renewables in the region. The outcomes of this study will help IRENA, in close collaboration with the governments and key stakeholders, elaborate an Action Plan customized to the specific needs and priorities of the region, which will be built upon and complement the existing and planned work on the ground to maximize its added value in supporting renewable energy development in SEE.

This process is also being synchronized with the Agency's ongoing analytical study on the assessment of the technical potential for cost-effective renewable energy generation. The preliminary findings of this exercise have been already discussed at the joint IRENA/Energy Community workshop on cost-effective renewable energy in SEE, which was held in March 2016 in Vienna, Austria.

### ***Objectives***

The meeting aims to discuss the main findings of the regional gap analysis study, receive feedback from participants on the needs and priorities of the region in further development of the renewable energy sector, and exchange views on IRENA's potential role in supporting uptake of renewables in the region. The workshop will also allow for an improved understanding on the key aspects of renewable energy target setting and support schemes and socio-economic benefits renewable energy, with best practices from the region and across the globe. At this occasion, IRENA will also present the initial findings of its forthcoming publication on "Cost-effective Renewable Energy Potential in South East Europe".



## Format and Participants

The workshop will be conducted in an interactive setting, including, some sessions in the form of roundtable discussions, to allow for in-depth discussion of the workshop topics and maximize active participation of the participants. The discussions will be enriched with the presentation of country specific experiences to be structured based on the responses provided to a questionnaire previously circulated to the countries.

The event is expected to gather around 40 participants from governments, utilities and regulatory authorities, as well as, key regional stakeholders, including international organizations and donors.

## Agenda

### Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

09.00 – 09.30	<b>Arrival and Registration</b>
09:30 – 10.45	<b>Welcoming Session</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Welcoming remarks<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Corina Popescu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Energy of Romania</li><li>- Gurbuz Gonul, Senior Programme Officer, IRENA</li></ul></li><li>2. Publication on “Cost-effective Renewable Energy Potential in SEE”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introductory remarks (Bruno Wilhelm, GIZ)</li><li>- Presentation of the main findings of the report (Marcin Ścigan, IRENA)</li><li>- Q&amp;A</li></ul></li></ol>
10.45 – 11.15	<b>Family Photo and Coffee break</b>
11.15 – 13.00	<b>Session II: Opportunities and Challenges in RE Deployment in the Region</b> <p>This session will consist of regional and country specific perspectives on the current status and priorities for renewable energy development in the SEE region, laying the foundation for the rest of the day’s discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Main findings of the Gap Analysis study (Katarina Uherova Hasbani, Revelle Group)</li><li>- Country interventions based on pre-agreed presentation structure (5 min per country)</li><li>- Discussion</li></ul>
13.00 – 14.00	<b>Lunch</b>
14.00 – 15.15	<b>Session III (Roundtable Discussion): Mapping the RE Support in the Region</b> <p>This session will provide for an exchange among the key regional stakeholders to map out the current and planned programmes implemented by development partners to support the uptake of renewables in the region. IRENA will facilitate and guide this discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Overview of the engagement of development partners in the RE area (Katarina Uherova Hasbani, Revelle Group)</li><li>- Roundtable discussion: EBRD, GIZ, KfW, ERRA, Energy Charter</li></ul>



15.15 – 15.30

**Coffee break**

15.30 – 17.30

**Session IV (Roundtable Discussion): Identifying Priority Actions**

With a view to identifying key components of an implementation plan for the initiative, participants will brainstorm ways in which they can continue to work together within their individual countries over the coming years to realize a region with increasing shares of renewable energy and identify key areas that a regional approach should focus on. IRENA will facilitate and guide this discussion, with particular emphasis on:

- Resource assessment;
- Integration of variable renewable sources;
- Enabling frameworks;
- Access to finance.

**Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

09.30 – 11.30

**Session V: Renewable Energy Target Setting and Support Schemes (Auctions)**

- Scene setting presentation (Arslan Khalid, IRENA)
- Key support elements of RES in Europe: moving towards market integration (Yvonne Finger, Council of European Energy Regulators)
- Case presentations for designing the auction scheme
  - o Moldova (Anatolie Bosceanu, National Agency for Energy Regulation)
  - o Croatia (Zdeslav Matić, Ministry of Economy)
- Panel discussion  
Moderator: Gurbuz Gonul, IRENA  
Panelists: Niculae Havrilet/Emil Calota (Regulatory Authority for Energy, Romania), Arslan Khalid (IRENA), Yvonne Finger (Council of European Energy Regulators), Gjergj Simaku (Ministry of Energy and Industry, Albania)

11.30 – 11:45

**Coffee break**

11.45 – 13.00

**Session VI: Socio-Economic Benefits of Renewable Energy**

- Scene setting presentation (Arslan Khalid, IRENA)
- Experiences of Romania (Elena Popescu, Ministry of Energy)
- Development of Sustainable Bioenergy Market in Serbia (Thomas Michael, GIZ)
- Discussion

13.00

**Closing Remarks**

- Ministry of Energy of Romania
- Gurbuz Gonul, Senior Programme Officer, IRENA