

PROJECT: BALKAN SOLAR ROOFS

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INFO WORKSHOPS held on November 27 and 28. In 2023 in the City of Mostar:

"City of Mostar - City of good energy"

27.11.2023. starting at 09:00 until 13:00, topics:

1. The new legal framework of the energy sector in the FBiH - overview of civil energy
2. Prosumers and Communities of renewable energy

28.11.2023. starting at 09:00 until 13:00, topics:

1. Integration of distributed energy resources
2. Contribution of LGUs in removing barriers to the development of civic energy

The conference was attended by over 50 participants from FBiH - representatives of the legislative and executive authorities, regulators and operators of the electric power system, electricity companies, local (self) administration, small and medium-sized enterprises, non-governmental organizations, banks, the academic community, students and the media, as well as representatives international institutions, development agencies and programs.

The aim of the info workshops was to promote the topic of civil energy, i.e. energy communities, in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a key component of demonopolization and democratization of the energy sector, and to point out the need to establish an encouraging regulatory framework for their formation and operation, and to familiarize the wider community with all the results of the implementation of the Balkan Solar Roofs project.

FINDINGS

1. It was pointed out the key role of civil energy as the backbone of a sustainable energy transition in accordance with the EU energy package "Clean energy for all Europeans", which BiH, through the Energy Community, undertook to implement in its legislation. The importance of supporting customers/producers (prosumers), renewable energy communities, and citizen energy communities was particularly emphasized.
2. The great interest of local actors (local (self) administrations, small and medium enterprises, non-governmental and activist organizations and citizens in general) for the development of decentralized forms of production from renewable energy sources was identified.
3. The potential of energy communities to reduce energy poverty by implementing activities at the local level was highlighted.
4. It was concluded that the process of civil energy development should be carefully monitored and directed if this model is to enable the active participation of citizens, local governments, utility companies and institutions as well as small businesses in the energy transition process. Therefore, it

was concluded that appropriate promotional gatherings are organized in all areas of the Federal Republic of BiH and the whole of BiH.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is necessary to round off the legal framework in FBiH that regulates the activities of energy communities as soon as possible (eg adopt appropriate laws in FBiH and by-laws in FBiH and Republika Srpska). Regulations should be clear, procedures simple and effective in order to shorten the implementation period and reduce costs to a necessary measure.
2. It is necessary to identify other legal regulations that regulate the topic of civil energy (eg in the construction sector) and harmonize them with the aforementioned laws, with the aim of simplifying administrative procedures for obtaining permits for the formation of energy communities.
3. In the integrated national energy and climate plan (NECP), it is necessary to plan special quotas for civil energy projects as well as measures to support the development of this model of energy transition. Also, in the City budget itself, plan funds for co-financing such projects and support for citizens.
4. It is necessary to launch an organized campaign to inform local actors, especially citizens and businesses, about the possibilities provided by civic energy and energy communities.
5. It is necessary to initiate even more education programs for potential carriers of civil energy development (local (self) administrations, non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises) on the legal, economic and technical aspects of the realization of civil energy projects.
6. It is proposed to all local administrations to map the potential for the development of decentralized electricity production, especially in photovoltaic systems, as well as to draw up an action plan for the development of civil energy.
7. Operators of distribution systems are suggested to, in accordance with the above-mentioned mapping of the potential for the development of decentralized production, look at the ability of the distribution network in the analyzed localities to "accept" energy from distributed generators and, according to needs, develop plans for upgrading and modernization (including the application of the concept of smart networks) for reception of larger forces from such sources.
8. Entity governments are suggested to redirect and set aside a significant amount of funds from the compensation for renewable energy sources, which is collected from consumers, for support, i.e. one-time subsidization of the capacity building of renewable energy sources by citizens and local communities.
9. Establishment and strengthening of the Office for Energy and networking with other LGUs within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.
10. Direct support for the establishment of energy communities during the implementation of projects (exemption from payment of certain rents and fees, allocation of land for the construction of RES projects, etc.)
11. Establishment of an energy management system.



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