

UNECE Renewable Energy Uptake

Concept Note: 2021 Hard Talks

The “Hard Talk” is a discussion format on current topics of renewable energy held with relevant stakeholders of the participating member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and organized by the UNECE secretariat and partner organizations.

The goal of the Hard Talk is to identify the best methods for realizing the potential of renewable energy by identifying key barriers that block private sector investment, as well as creating a well-functioning and stable system for the development of renewable energy.

The multi-stakeholder dialogues are organized by the UNECE in collaboration with host countries, local partners and international organizations such as the European Union, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), REN21 (Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century), and dena (German Energy Agency).

Hard Talks involve all interested government agencies, parliament, private investors, energy producers and consumers, financial and research institutions, NGOs, and international organizations. Key players in the field of energy discuss key issues, determine priorities and offer concrete policy recommendations to overcome political, legal, regulatory, and technical barriers and to tap the untapped potential of renewable energy.

A series of four upcoming Hard Talks with selected UNECE member States: Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Serbia, are to be held in the framework of the UNECE Re-Uptake Project in 2021, which is jointly undertaken by dena, REN21, and the UNECE, and in close cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi).

Hard Talk Format:

- Each Hard Talk will be held over two days and have a duration of 3-3.5 hours (incl. breaks) each day. A web-conference platform (Zoom) will be used to facilitate the Hard Talks.
- The Hard Talks will be primarily hosted and moderated by the main UNECE Re-Uptake Project organisations (REN21, UNECE, dena), together with country representatives where appropriate.
- Simultaneous interpretation services will be provided where necessary, from the host language to English and vice versa. The documentation language will be English, for: correspondence, agenda, presentations, recommendations, and reports, etc.
- The use of Q&A sessions and possibly ‘breakout rooms’ may be used in order to facilitate open and flowing discussion from and between a wide range of relevant stakeholders.
- After the Hard Talk, a report with key issues and recommendations will be produced and distributed to all participants and further relevant stakeholders. The results of the Hard Talk will also be incorporated into further reports and studies.

UNECE Renewable Energy Serbia Hard Talk

Date: 16-17 November 2021, 3-3.5 Hours (incl. breaks)

Introduction:

Fossil fuels dominate Serbia's energy mix with 87% of the total primary energy supply (TPES) being supplied with fossil fuels in 2017. Only 13% of TPES is covered by renewable energy (RE) sources, mainly in the electricity sector where RE contribute 37% to the total generation capacity (as of 2019). Hydropower makes up 45% of RE capacity and bioenergy 54%. The growth of RE from 2016 to 2017 has already more than doubled than in the previous five years. Growth in 2016 to 2017 was 12.2% in comparison to 2012 to 2017 with 5.6%. Through the development of the largest wind park in region, it is clear that Serbia also intends to diversify the RE mix. However, the development of new RE sources remain in a stagnant state, especially in the PV sector, leading to a miss of RE targets. Rising energy demand also outpaced RE expansion, thus further contributing to missed RE targets.

To further progress towards the green transition and environmental protection, the Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources was enacted at the beginning of 2021. In addition to existing feed-in-tariffs (FiTs), new market premiums, RE auctions and new regulations for prosumers, including a net metering scheme aim to drastically increase the uptake of renewables. The new net metering scheme was recently launched in September 2021, including a 50% rebate on the installation costs of new rooftop PV systems. The first round of auctions in Serbia are to be held in December 2021, followed by a three-year schedule, which is to be revealed in February 2022.

Given the recent developments, the Hard Talk will discuss known and potential upcoming challenges to increasing the uptake of renewables in Serbia, with the RE auctions and new net metering scheme in focus.

Main Focus Areas and Discussion Topics:

RE Support: How can current support mechanisms for renewable energy deployment be strengthened and improved? (Day 1)
What is the role of net metering in the deployment of renewable energy in Serbia? (Day 1)

RE Auctions: What are the opportunities and challenges for renewable energy auctions in Serbia?
How can international best practice and experience be utilised in the development of renewable energy auctions in Serbia? (Day 2)

General Proceedings:

- An **introductory presentation of the challenge / discussion topic** will be given by an industry/market expert to introduce and provide context of the discussion topic
- **Presentations of different perspectives** from multiple national and international stakeholders will be given to provide further context and aspects which are to be considered and discussed
- **Discussion with all participants** and stakeholders to determine potential solutions and next steps will take place (with an initial, open discussion round followed by a second open discussion round to further refine solutions and recommendations)
- **Formulation of solutions and recommendations** will be carried out, agreed upon and documented
- A **summary** of possible solutions, recommendations and next steps will conclude the Hard Talk



For further information please contact:

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Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Energy

In cooperation with

UNECE: The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is one of the five regional commissions under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. All activities relating to the Hard Talks are implemented in close cooperation with the UNECE Secretariat.



UNECE

REN21: REN21 is the global community of renewable energy stakeholders from science, academia, governments, NGOs and industry. They provide up-to-date facts, figures and peer-reviewed analysis on global developments in technology, policy and markets, to inform decision makers.



REN21
RENEWABLES NOW

MoME: The Ministry of Mining and Energy is in charge of the operations of the State Administration related to mining, energy and natural resource development. MoME is responsible for energy strategy and development policies, research on sustainable use of resources and other operations.



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Mining
and Energy