

(CETEOR) of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Energy Institute “Hrvoje Pozar” (EIHP) of Croatia, Macedonian Geothermal Association (MAGA) of Macedonia, National Agency for New Technology, Energy and Environment (ENEA) of Italy, and Faculty of Mining and Geology at the University of Belgrade (UB, FMG) of Serbia and financially supported by European Community, in the framework of the project “Renewable Energy Coordinated Development in the Western Balkan Countries” (RECOVER), intends to carry out a set of activities to support the solution of the above-mentioned issues.

2. Project Description

The purpose of the RECOVER project is to perform systematic and comprehensive analysis of the opportunities to RES utilization in Western Balkan Countries, as well as to formulate priorities for future research. The major objective of the international cooperation activities is the mutual benefit of both, the EU and the INCO target countries. The project aims to lead to significant environmental benefits, such as reduced harmful emissions and greenhouse gasses, not only for the project countries, but also for the EU and globally. In addition, in the context of the expected EU membership, the promotion of RES utilization in the Western Balkan Countries will contribute to the EU energy targets and will allow harmonization of the requirements to the countries, which is a prerequisite to the establishment of a common energy market.

For the Western Balkan Countries (WBC), except the benefits related to the environment and the EU membership, the identification of economically feasible options for RES utilization would contribute also to poverty alleviation, increased energy security, and easier compliance with the multinational agreements. These purposes will be achieved through the following activities:

1. Analysis of the energy sector in the WBC.
2. Analysis of the experience and research achievements of the EU, regarding RES utilization.
3. Identifying the best options to RES utilization in WBC.
4. Formulation of research priorities and areas in WBC.
5. Dissemination of information and project results.

All activities of this project are implemented under the leadership of BSREC and in close coordination with CETEOR, EIHP, MAGA, ENEA, and UB, FMG.

3. Activities under the Project

Following the structure of the RECOVER project, the major work performed by the EEC, during the period from June 2005 to May 2006, has consisted of:

1. Work Package 1 - Review of the Current Situation in the WBC. The EEC staff has carried out the work, related to the Albanian situation, on the following:

- Investigation of the current situation of energy sector,
- Investigation of the energy policy and strategy,
- Review of the legal framework, international agreements, compliance with the EU directives,
- Review and assessment of the availability and regional distribution of RES,
- Investigation of the macroeconomic parameters (purchase power, political and economic stability, etc.).

2. Work Package 3 - Identification of the Best Options and the Barriers to RES Implementation. The EEC staff has carried out the work, in Albania, on the following:

- Analyses of different aspects of RES deployment,
- Development of strategies for implementation of best options,
- Identification of best technological, legislative, and organizational options for RES development,
- Assessment of technology availability and technology transfer opportunities,
- Identification of major obstacles to large-scale RES penetration and, especially, to the identified best options.

3. Work Package 4 - Definition of WBC Research Priorities and Areas. The EEC staff has carried out the work as follows:

- Identification of national research capacities in the field of RES,
- RES resource and potential assessment,
- Specific technological research areas Development of proposals regarding exchange of research information with the EU,
- RES national and international research funding possibilities.

4. Work Package 5 - Dissemination of the Information and Project Results. The EEC staff has carried out the work on the following:

- Organization of meetings with representatives of governments, energy producers, research institutes, and other stakeholders,
- Organization of a seminar in Albania to present the best identified options for RES utilization, research priorities and areas,
- Production of seminar proceedings,
- Distribution of the released brochure with the project findings.

Finally, under WP5, EEC organized meetings with representatives of governments, energy producers, research institutes, and other stakeholders in Albania. It run a national information seminar for the project RECOVER, where the project Brochure was distributed to the representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, Albanian Electricity Regulatory Authority, Albanian Power Corporation, National Energy Agency, Academy of Science, University of Tirana, USAID, UNDP, private companies, etc.

4. Final Remarks

The RECOVER project has started in June 2005 and it is implemented within 12 months, that means within May 2006. This project is considered as an important step in introducing to the Albanian stakeholders, researchers and decision-makers the EU experience in the field of RES as well as the possibilities and best options for RES utilization in WBC and Albania. The EEC will promote and advocate the RES utilization through all the country and consequently bring steady improvements in the long term. The successful implementation of this project is very crucial to the further development of RES utilization and improvement of energy supply situation in Albania. The main deliverables and the project findings

