**Energy Connectivity Event: Workshop on Connecting the EUSAIR and Adriatic and Ionian Region into the Transeuropean Networks,**

**Sarajevo, 10 May 2023, 9:00 – 13:20 hrs**

**Venue:**

**Congress Centre Hotel Holiday**

**Room Holiday**

**Zmaja od Bosne, 4**

**71000 Sarajevo**

**Bosna and Hercegovina**

Registration link <https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/event/energy-connectivity-event-workshop-on-connecting-the-eusair-and-adriatic-ionian-region-into-the-transeuropean-energy-networks/>

**SCOPE**

The Event is sponsored by the EUSAIR Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. General aim is at accelerating the EU energy integration process for the Western Balkans Region in the context of the changing geopolitical climate while focusing on energy networks.

The overall energy objective of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (the EUSAIR) is to improve connectivity, integration and cohesion within the Adriatic and Ionian Region and the rest of the European Union. This objective is requiring thorough coordination and cooperation on energy networks, projects and programmes by Countries of the Region, collaboration on infrastructure developments and harmonised operation of the energy systems.

The Adriatic and Ionian Region is facing huge challenges in its economic and social development while the process of EU enlargement should be streamlined and accelerated. The European Green Deal, the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, and REPower EU: Joint European Action for More Affordable, Secure and Sustainable Energy offer a blueprint for joint action in the Adriatic and Ionian Region to tackle the challenges of the green transition, climate change, and security of energy supply.

In light of these ambitions, the scope and objective of the Workshop is to show how EU Member States and Countries from the Adriatic and Ionian Region can strengthen their energy cooperation and efforts to this regard. Better interconnected energy networks will benefit the whole South-East European Region, and beyond. It is assumed that a better working and interconnected energy market will enhance energy security, facilitate the deployment of renewable energy sources, reduce wholesale energy prices and attract investors while contributing to the transition towards decarbonised energy systems.

After the Institutional welcome the Workshop will develop according to two Panels and Panel Discussions as in the following.

**PROGRAMME**

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| 9:00-9:20 hrs | **Institutional Welcome**   * EUSAIR Presidency (Mr. Midhat Džemić, EUSAIR EU Funds NC, Directorate for European Integration of Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina) * European Commission (Mr. Gilles Kittel, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, The European Commission) * Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Admir Softić, assistant minister of the Energy Sector or Sanja Kapetina Head of Department for Secondary Energy and Projects) |
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| 9:20-10:00 hrs | **Panel 1 – How can the EUSAIR Connect the Adriatic and Ionian Region Regarding Energy Programmes and Projects?**  **Background –** Infrastructural disparities are apparent between EU Member States and non-EU Member States and cause a significant fragmentation in energy connectivity. Through the EUSAIR and energy cooperation improvements on energy supply and security would be achieved, a well-functioning energy system would be developed while reliable energy networks and connections would be created.  **Topics for discussion**   * Energy networks efficiency and energy access through the Adriatic and Ionian Region * Extending and revising the Transeuropean Energy Networks * Cooperation within the EUSAIR to enhance security of energy supply and delivery * Future of key projects on energy networks   **Moderator** – Mr. Ádám Balogh, Senior Energy Infrastructure Expert, Energy Community, Vienna  **Panellists**   * Jolanta Navickaite, Relations with the Member States and the Neighbourhood DG Energy, Brussels (online) * Goran Majstrović, Department Manager- Head of Energy Transmission and Distribution Department, Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar, Croatia * Corrado Gadaleta, Head of Interconnections, System Efficiency and Sustainability of Terna SpA, Italy * Noemi Magnanini, Italian Managing Agency for the Energy System (GSE), Rome, Italy * Goran Nikolovski, Gas Department, Ministry of Economy, North Macedonia |
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| 10:10-10:20 hrs | **Coffee break** |
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| 11:20-13:10 hrs | **Panel 2 – What do The European Green Deal and REPower EU Mean for Energy in the Adriatic and Ionian Region?**  **Background –** The European Green Deal, the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and REPower EU are setting ambitious goals for 2030 and 2050 and patterns to achieve climate neutrality. Action is foreseen to ramp up the production of green energy, diversify energy supplies and reduce demand. A role for natural gas can be seen as a fuel for the mid-term energy transition though diversification of supply is a must. The EUSAIR and enhanced cooperation would be the instruments for preventing climate change while providing clean, accessible and reliable energy sources.  **Topics for discussion**   * Financial and legal measures for building new energy infrastructure and energy systems * Improving energy efficiency for sustainable energy systems * Boosting decarbonisation of the energy systems for the energy transition * Producing and delivering renewable energy sources for the energy transition and energy supply security.   **Moderator –** Sergio Garribba, Coordinator of TSG2 Energy Networks, Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, Italy  **Panellists**   * Matija Vajdić, Department Manager- Department for Renewable energy sources, climate and environmental protection, Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar, Croatia * Salvatore Lanza, Director BES (Balkan Energy School), ARERA, Italy * Riccardo Bernabei, Hydrogen Unit, SNAM, Italy * Saša Šćekić, State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) of Bosnia and Herzegovina * Constantinos Papalucas, Hellenic National Hydrogen Committee, Athens, Greece |
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| 13:10-13:20 hrs | **Conclusions and Farewell**   * Sergio Garribba, Coordinator of TSG2 Energy Networks, Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, Italy |