



Renewable Energy Policy Action Paving
the Way towards 2020

Final Document of REPAP 2020 Workshop Organized by Slovenian Small Hydropower Association

1. Summary of the workshop REPAP 2020

REPAP 2020 workshop confirmed some of the major and already known facts on energy and related economic and political situation in Slovenia. Energy profession is divided on the old, conventional and environmentally harmful energy products and modern, more environmentally acceptable energy sources. Their belief in their own, the only true way of economic development, is so strong that it frustrates any serious search for a common, most appropriate way for Slovenia. Assessment of current and future energy policy and government efficiency and effectiveness in its implementation also differ.

The responses of participants to presented document "Plan for Energy Production from RES for Slovenia" differ. While some agreed with its content relating to the current situation, development and goals for the future, others expressed skepticism over the determined, and approved by government, 25% share of renewable resources in final gross energy consumption. Third expressed doubts about the accuracy of the principal data upon which the document is based and skepticism about properly assess potential and the relationship between various renewable energy sources (RES).

Despite different views and opinions all participants expressed the need to change the attitude and dealing with the energy in order to achieve greater use of renewable resources and increase energy efficiency. They agreed with the necessary changes in legislation, which has to improve the supporting environment for investments in RES projects, make it investor friendly and eliminate administrative barriers. Implementation of the existing legislation is too slow or there is no implementation whatsoever, therefore, the present argued about upgrading the system that will ensure efficiency and consistency. All present also agreed on the need for better information management which includes regulation and consistency and access to official and unofficial data. More should be done in the field of education where activities must begin at an early age, in kindergartens and schools; the implementation must be thoughtful and professional, supported by examples.

The need for better integration with other more developed neighbors and Scandinavian countries in the field of RES was expressed. It is necessary to expand and deepen cooperation on common projects, learn, provide for the transfer of proven and effective technologies and examples of good practice.

All participants agreed that the goal Slovenia is striving to achieve by 2020 (25% of renewable sources in final gross energy consumption) and which was approved by the Slovenian government is ambitious. Most of them also considered the need for higher levels or early realization of this goal, and only few believed that the goal is unrealistic.

Unfortunately, representatives of the transport sector did not attend the workshop, therefore, the final evaluation of document REPAP 2020 from their point of view can not be presented.

2. Measures to achieve objectives

The document "Plan for Energy Production from RES for Slovenia" that represented the main material of workshop contained questions that should be answered during the course of discussion and served to better define the measures in order to meet set objectives.

Hereinafter responses to proposed questions are summarized:

Measures in the field of administrative procedures, regulations and laws:

- Should the procedure for issuing licenses take into account particularities of different technologies for energy production from renewable sources? If yes, how?

Particularities of different technologies should not be taken into account during licensing procedure, because each building is based on a different energy concept. However, it is necessary to ensure that every building takes into the utmost account all legal provisions regarding the supply of energy produced from renewable resources.

- Should potential energy from renewable sources be taken into account in spatial planning?

Spatial planning must also take into account potential energy from renewable sources - appropriate spatial micro-and macro-classification of potentials, system of incentives and support to preferential potential on local and regional area, and legislation that will allow adequate implementation and supervision are important.

- Should a time limit for processing applications be predefined and published?

Time period for the processing must be determine in advance and announced publicly. Electronic tracking of the current state of the application would be welcomed.

- How many levels should be necessary to obtain the final approval? Should an office be established that would harmonize all procedural steps?

All procedures need to be simplified to the maximum possible extent which means that there should be a common information point, body and location where it would be possible to arrange all necessary in connection with licensing requirement, approvals and submission of applications.

Building measures:

- What measures should be integrated into construction laws in order to ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in the construction sector increases?

If the law prescribes a mandatory share of RES for heating and cooling, then additional measures are not necessary. In this case, it is necessary to maintain strict control over the respect for law.

- How to create an obligation on minimum levels of energy from renewable sources in new and recently renovated buildings in order to best ensure the inclusion of energy from renewable sources in buildings? On what level should it be determined?

Obligations on minimum levels of energy from RES in new and renovated buildings must be statutory. In order to determine the appropriate level, it is necessary to follow good practice of the states where those obligations have been established and to take into account objectives set in the National Action Plan for RES. In Slovenia, the level of energy from RES is determined by the Regulation on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, which has not been implemented due to delayed implementation date. This reflects the fact that in order to implement set strategies, it is not enough to adopt appropriate legal instrument but also to establish integrated support environment with realistic and practical operating system.

Informative measures:

- How should specific information be disclosed to different groups, for example: users, contractors, property managers, estate agents, plumbers, architects, farmers, suppliers of equipment for the use of energy from renewable sources, public administration?

Information must have promotional and educational note. Government institutions responsible for specific area are competent for their implementation. Example:

- *Professional workshops with tours of model projects (for architects, installers, equipment suppliers, etc.),*
- *Common information point (for users, managers, farmers, etc.).*

- How should guidance criteria for designers and architects who should help take into consideration optimum combination of energy from renewable sources, highly efficient technologies and local heating and cooling system when planning, building and renovating industrial or residential areas be ensured?

In order to provide guidelines, relevant legal basis and renewal of educational program in all mentioned areas are required.

Priority/assured network access:

- How to ensure that distribution and transmission system operators in the case of offtake from electric power plants give priority to plants that produce energy from renewable sources?

The advantage of RES electricity producers should be ensured by relevant laws, directives and pricing policy.

Measures in the field of electricity infrastructure development:

- Should preferential rights for connection or reserved capacity for connection apply to new plants that would produce electricity from renewable sources?

Apart from relevant legislation that ensures connection priority for plants that produce electricity from renewable sources, reservation of capacity which is highly dependent on electro-energetic infrastructure is also important to investors. Its strategy and operation must be coordinated with RES development strategy and its energy potential. Electro-energetic infrastructure investment planning should take into consideration a fair and encouraging funding model that does not draw the entire investment, associated with plugging and reservation, on investor in plant that produces electricity from renewable sources.

In collaboration with:

REPAP
2020

Renewable Energy Policy Action Paving
the Way towards 2020





Zveza društev MHE Slovenije

Workshop organizer: Slovenian Small Hydropower Association