

## Renewable energy growth montenegro

To accelerate its shift to renewable energy and expedite the decarbonization of the energy sector, today, Montenegro has announced the launch of the Montenegro Energy Growth and Acceleration (MEGA) national study. The initiative aims to identify sites with significant energy potential that also pose minimal ecological and social conflicts for developing solar and wind power plants.

The MEGA study will be conducted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Eco-team, in partnership with the Montenegrin Ministry of Energy, which will oversee the study's development and provide institutional backing. The national project will deploy TNC's internationally recognized smart siting methodology, which helps pinpoint areas suitable for solar and wind power installations that do not conflict with significant natural, cultural-historical and socio-economic values, or where such conflicts are minimal.

The project builds on a pilot study conducted in the municipality of Nikšić, which demonstrated that there is enough renewable energy capacity from that municipality alone to power the country's 200,000 households, while having minimal impact on the environment and local communities.

The MEGA study was formally launched today with support from Montenegro's Investment Agency and Ministry of Energy during the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Committee. The committee includes representatives from key national, regional and international bodies in energy like the Energy Community Secretariat, spatial planning, environmental protection and finance, and will guide the project's development and help incorporate the study's findings into national policies.

In addition to external experts, professionals from various state institutions and companies will participate in the project implementation, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and State Property, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Montenegrin Electricity Transmission System.

"Montenegro is dedicated to its energy and climate objectives, aiming to decrease reliance on fossil fuels. The national study will aid in strategically planning and attaining a diverse, environmentally and economically sustainable electricity generation. This will play a crucial role in reaching our targets for 2050 concerning the nation's contribution to climate neutrality," said Biljana Ivanović, State Secretary in the Ministry of Energy.

Eco-team is an organization whose primary mission is the protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources through public advocacy activities in the development of public policies, education of the public and private sectors, and involvement of the public in decision-making processes.

Our values: Multiparty democracy and pluralism. Promoting transition. Environmental and social



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The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is providing a sovereign-guaranteed loan of up to €28 million to Crnogorski Elektroprenosni Sistem (CGES) for the upgrade of the electrical substation Brezna in north-western Montenegro.

The project is highly significant as it will allow to integrate 400 MW of renewable energy into the national grid, thereby helping the country to decarbonise its economy. Moreover, it will reduce transmission losses by 13 GWh/year and secure a safe and reliable electricity supply in Montenegro as well as in the region by further strengthening the Trans-Balkan corridor which connects countries in the region to Italy and the EU.

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