

The energy transition in the Balkans: Lessons for leapfrogging

This workshop session will present the ongoing energy transition in the Balkans, with a special focus on Albania, Croatia and Greece, and aims to transfer lessons from the German Energiewende. During this workshop, the emergence phase of energy communities in Germany, and the parallels with current developments in the Balkans will be investigated. Based on this, recommendations for an enabling policy framework and how local communities can make the most out of their participation in the energy transition will be made. In a last step, challenges and associated setbacks of the German example will be critically examined and conclusions of potential implications for the Balkan community energy movement are drawn. This session opens a dialogue between stakeholders from Germany and the Balkans to support the development of citizen-driven energy initiatives in the Balkan region and foster synergies between the frontrunning and nascent community energy initiatives.

Background

To meet the commitments derived from the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal goals, the EU aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% of 1990 levels by 2030 and to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. At the same time, the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, envisaged by the European Green Deal has also been established. The transformation ahead is unprecedented, and it is widely accepted that it will only work if it is just and participatory. The energy system will need to become decentralized, flexible, democratic, and inclusive. Energy communities and other collective schemes defined in the Clean Energy Package can empower citizens and communities to play a key role in this transformation.

Speakers

- Krisztina Andre (Bündnis Bürgerenergie e. V.)
- Katharina Habersbrunner (Bündnis Bürgerenergie e. V. and Women Engage for a Common Future - WECF)
- Goran Cacic (Zelena Energetska Zadruga coop)
- Dimitris Kitsikopoulos (Electra Energy coop)
- Valbona Mazreku, (Milieukontakt Albania)
- Antonia Proka (REScoop.eu)