

Regional Exchange of Modelling Experts involved in the Development of Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) in the WB6

Building up modelling capacity for integrated energy and climate planning

Meeting minutes for the Kick-off of Phase II

Virtual exchange via MS Teams, 14-Oct-21, 09:00-10:15 am CET

Agenda

- Introduction round
- Background
- Evaluation results - Phase I
- Proposed agenda - Phase II
- Future modes of collaboration

Participants

The meeting was attended by colleagues from ministries and academia of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia as well as by experts from Fraunhofer ISI, SERA, the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS) and GIZ.

Summary of the meeting

Both organizers welcomed the participants followed by a short introductory round. Some participants pointed out that they were new to the Regional Exchange. Therefore, the context of this series of Regional Exchanges was introduced in more detail. It was explained that this series has been initiated to provide a platform for informal discussion and peer-to-peer exchange among national modelling experts involved in NECP development.

In the following, the results of the recent survey were presented. More than half of the participants of the past Regional Exchanges participated in the survey between May-June 2021 and evaluated the benefit of Phase I for their work (see attached presentation). The evaluation results provided a base for the new meeting agenda for 2021/ 2022, which was presented in the following. The agenda foresees a monthly frequency of exchanges and participants had no objections.

A grouping of the future exchanges along three different topics was proposed:

- **“Indicators, data and assumptions”**: Participants had no remarks or proposals for changes on the presentations and discussions envisaged under this first thematic group. There was one question on the planned **“Introduction to ODYSSEE MURE Database on energy efficiency indicators and policy evaluation”** to be given by colleagues from the German Fraunhofer Institute for System and Innovation Research (ISI). Organizers pointed out that this presentation is currently envisaged as a webinar providing a general introduction to the project and its benefit, as only

- Serbia is currently covered by ODYSSEE-MURE. Participants would not need to prepare specific inputs for this presentation.
- **“Policy options and targets”**: Ahead of the kick-off meeting colleagues from the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts (MANU) had already agreed to give a presentation under this second thematic group, which would focus on the model underpinning the country’s commitment to a 2027 **coal-phase out**. The second topic proposed under this thematic group **“The future electricity market with 100% RES”** raised particular interest among participants. It was suggested to extend the related exchange to a half-day meeting, so there would be enough time for a presenter from an EU MS, for presenters from all interested teams of the region as well as for a discussion of the requirements and implications such future energy mix would have across all sectors. Our colleague from MANU mentioned her availability for presenting during this exchange. There were no remarks or proposals for changes on the other topics suggested under this thematic group.
 - **“Tools”**: Three alternative topics were suggested under this third thematic group. However, the decision on which of the three to take forward was postponed. One participant pointed out in writing that the summer break may affect the participation and suggested to extend the time period to September 2022.

In addition to the topics proposed under each of the three groups, one participant suggested that it would be very helpful, if each NECP team introduced the (modelling) tools and approaches they used for NECP development as well as the status of the modelling work. Such introduction should be given during the next exchange, before starting the discussions under each thematic group. There were no objections against this suggestion.

During the discussion of the agenda, organizers were also looking for modelers who would volunteer to co-organize and moderate one of the Regional Exchanges. Their task as a co-organizer would be to contribute to the preparation of one of the exchanges (suggest a presenter, specify the aspects to be reflected in the presentation, prepare questions) in a preliminary phone call with the organizers. In addition, co-organizers would moderate throughout one exchange.

Organizer also asked to appoint one or more team member(s) from each of the NECP development and/or modelling teams, who would be the focal point for the communication under this series of Regional Exchanges and who would participate frequently.

It was mentioned that each of the upcoming Regional Exchanges will be documented (presentation, minutes) on a dedicated website of the Energy Community. Furthermore, an online group will be set up to share all news and findings on relevant topics.

It was agreed that after this kick-off meeting, organizers will circulate the adapted agenda, which should reflect all suggestions described above as well as open questions.