

Assessment of permit-granting for renewables in BiH – how to improve it?



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60 permits for a wind farm?

Za izgradnju vjetroparka u BiH potrebno 60 dozvola



Investor: *“So far we’ve spent a lot of time and effort on complicated and extensive administration (...) That means obtaining 60 or so various documents, decisions, permits and consents, in a way that needlessly spends money and time. ...”*



It's not only about the permitting

Other aspects are crucial, such as political will, a stable legislative environment, fair competition between different producers, clarity about incentive schemes, availability of financing etc.

But since permitting has been attracting a lot of attention on the EU level, let's talk about that.

Permitting in the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska

3 basic consents for larger projects, all the others are steps towards these

URBANISTIČKA SAGLASNOST
(spatial consent)

ODOBRENJE ZA GRAĐENJE
(construction permit)

ODOBRENJE ZA UPOTREBU
(operating permit)

LOKACIJSKE USLOVE
(spatial conditions)

GRAĐEVINSKA DOZVOLA
(construction permit)

UPOTREBA DOZVOLA
(operating permit)

FBIH e.g. wind farm: around 29 permits/consents/notifications, almost none electronically

Republika Srpska e.g. roughly the same number of steps, but many can be done online

Permitting in the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska

Small-scale solar

FBIH

- I. Obtaining property ownership documents
- II. Preliminary project design
- ~~III. Spatial consent~~
- IV. Main design
- ~~V. Construction permit~~
- VI. Fire safety consent
- VII. Registration with the *Operator za OIEiEK*
- VIII. Approval of the main design
- ~~IX. Operating permit~~

Republika Srpska

- I. Obtaining property ownership documents
- II. Preliminary project design
- III. Spatial conditions
- IV. Main design
- V. Approval of main design
- VI. Fire safety consent
- VII. Construction permit
- VIII. Registration with the Ministry for Mining and Energy
- IX. Operating permit

Non-uniform concession requirements in FBiH

KANTON	COMPETENT AUTHORITY	WIND	SOLAR up to 10 KW
SARAJEVSKI	Ministry of Economy	Concession needed	No concession needed
HERCEGOVAČKO- NERETVANSKI	Ministry of Economy	Concession needed	No concession needed
BOSANSKO-PODRINJSKI		Not regulated	Not regulated
UNSKO-SANSKI		Not regulated	Not regulated
POSAVSKI		Not regulated	Not regulated
ZAPADNOHERCEGOVAČKI	Government at the proposal of the relevant Ministry	Not regulated	Concession needed for <5MW, larger not regulated
KANTON 10	Government at the proposal of the relevant Ministry	Concession needed	Not regulated
ZENIČKO-DOBOJSKI		Not regulated	Not regulated
SREDNJEBOŠANSKI	Government at the proposal of the relevant Ministry	Concession needed	No concession needed
TUZLANSKI		Not regulated	Not regulated

Note: Hydropower concessions larger than 5 MW issued by the Federal Ministry for Energy Mining and Industry, smaller by Cantons

General recommendations: FBiH and Republika Srpska

FBiH

- 1) Online permitting, automatic entry in registers, rationalise documentation to be submitted
- 2) Adopt FBiH Spatial Plan and adjust lower ones
- 3) Harmonize rules on concessions for solar/wind
- 4) Reduce no. of communal service consents needed (e.g. via spatial planning)
- 5) Simplify grid connection/energy permitting
- 6) Introduce certification for installers (small-scale)
- 7) One-stop shop
- 8) Tighten criteria/accountability for study authors

Republika Srpska

- 1) Identify needs for changes in spatial plans and better monitor implementation.
- 2) Introduce online integrated property register
- 3) Strengthen criteria for licensing study authors and monitoring
- 4) Simplify permitting process for rooftop solar – no spatial, construction, operating permits
- 5) Introduce e-permitting where still needed
- 6) Keep the Ministry's register of projects updated – is the Regulator's one still needed?

Environment and public participation recommendations

FBIH & Republika Srpska

- 1) Systematic SEAs for all relevant plans and programmes.
- 2) Avoid allowing incompatible development in protected areas and areas worthy of protection
- 3) Complete transposition of the Habitats, Birds and Water Framework Directives and carry out Appropriate Assessments and WFD Art.4(7) assessments when needed.
- 4) Refine EIA legislation: RS – include public in scoping; FBIH prescribe EIA for solar under Annex III criteria from EIA Directive.
- 5) Improve quality of studies – up-to-date data; content relevant to real impacts.



Picture: Asumnupal

Main conclusions on renewables permitting and environment/ public participation in BiH

- Permitting not the only issue but does need to be improved
- Spatial planning is key – investors need clarity from the start
- BiH must protect its valuable natural areas under the Habitats, Birds and Water Framework Directives
- Clear yet nuanced environmental/public participation legislation helps build clarity and social consensus – it must be strengthened.
- Public participation at an early stage, while all options are open is crucial for public acceptance – at plan/programme and project level
- Favourable legislation for rooftop solar/prosumers helps increase RES share and builds public buy-in to the energy transition.



Picture: Peter Eastern

Questions or comments?



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