



INTPA-NEAR Environment & Climate Week

27-31 March 2023
Brussels, Belgium

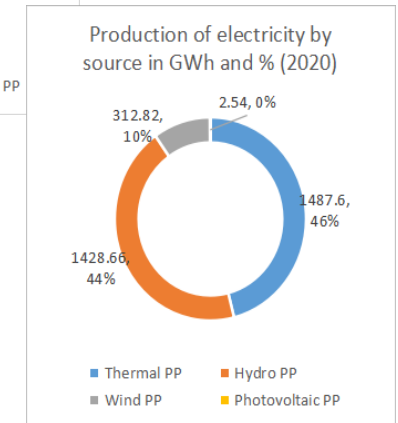
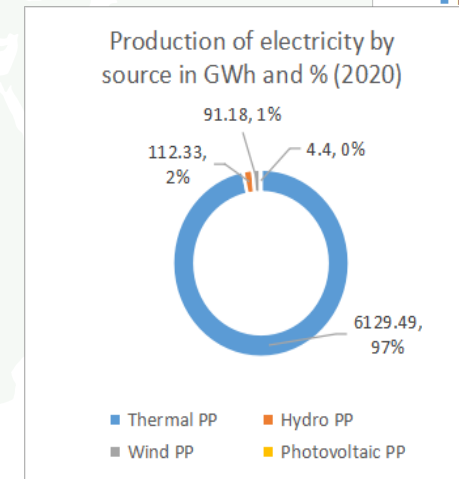
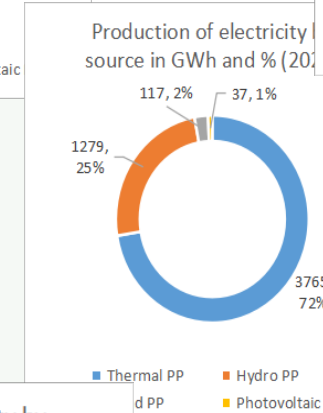
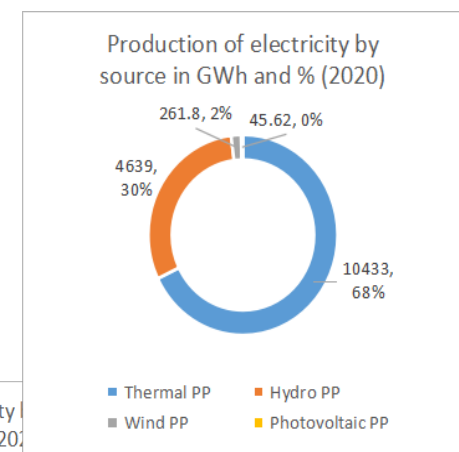
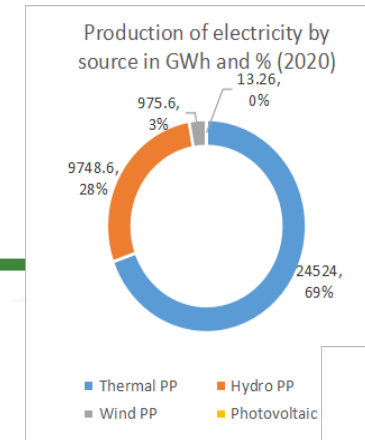


Coal Region in Transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

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Context and background

- In 2017 the European Commission launched the EU Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition in the internal market.
- Stemming from this initiative, the EU initiative for Coal Regions in Transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine was launched in December 2020 and will end in 2023.
- It includes: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine.
- It aims to help countries and regions to move away from coal towards a carbon-neutral economy, while ensuring that this transition is just.



Principals and Activities

- Just Transition Workshops
- Just Transition Exchange Programmes
- Engaging with Principals and External Stakeholders (eg. Bankwatch CEE, ILO, NGOs from target countries, Ecoaction)
- Communication: Website, Newsletters, Videos and Social Media
- Webinar Series on Just Transition
- Learning Academia – to be launched soon



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Workshops

Workshop on just transition aim to:

- Provide stakeholders with a forum to exchange good practices and discuss on just energy transition.
- Open and strengthen stakeholders' networks at national, regional and local level on the just transition process.
- Identify, highlight and discuss key topics for energy transition at local level.
- Provide local stakeholders with a platform to narrow down the discussion from the regions and municipalities in the coal phase-out process.
- Provide a framework to express their needs and interests and ultimately being supported at European and international level.
- Support the development of networks with and among Western Balkan and Ukrainian stakeholders



Exchanges

The exchanges have been designed to bring together regions from the Western Balkans and Ukraine with regions from the EU.

- Triggered/accelerated stakeholders to contribute proactively to their own regions' integration into EU-led just transition processes and strategies, particularly inspiring and empowering local actors.
- Facilitated broad, hands-on capacity-building of stakeholders about EU regions' practices and experiences and catalysed robust networking between WBUA stakeholders and EU counterparts.
- Awareness raising on other possible instruments of capacity building and peer-to-peer exchange (e.g. TAIEX/Twinning).
- Identified lessons learned and recommendations for just transition in WBUA countries, providing a valuable overview (for local to international stakeholders) about next steps



Challenges and Lessons Learned

- There is a strong interest from the local communities to take more actions and to start the process from the bottom-up.
- Most of the participating communities are trying to stay in the contact with their counterparts and to develop further join activities.
- The exchanges could consider more specific and longer support to these stakeholders to accompany them better in their just transition process.
- More country-focussed discussions and coordination among the principals and different actors in the region is needed - a stronger alignment of the Principals' activities needs to be incentivized and better communicated to external stakeholders.
- Focus on implementation is needed in order to apply the knowledge gathered and ensure the just transition



Thank you



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