

# ENERGY MONITOR

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**ENERGY MONITOR** represents a comprehensive media summary of selected energy related local and regional media articles.

The newsletter is summoned by the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo; however, it does not reflect views and opinions of the Chamber on energy issues in Kosovo.

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# Table of contents

- 01** Security of Energy Supply in Kosovo
- 02** New Energy Investments
- 03** Energy Distribution
- 04** Top Pick

# Security of Energy

## Supply in Kosovo

### **Energy Regulator's Decision to Publish Open Data is a Turning Point for Kosovo's Transparency and Accountability**

MCC's Kosovo Threshold Program is supporting open data competitions aimed at creating productive partnerships between the Government, private sector, and civil society, and to support innovation in data use and analysis.

In the ensuing four years, the Millennium Foundation Kosovo (MFK) has launched the Dig Data Challenges, open data competitions designed "to foster productive partnerships between the Government, private sector, and civil society, support innovation in data use and analysis, and develop a culture of information sharing and evidence-based decision-making."

These competitions, the third of which launched in January 2021, have incentivized citizens, civil society, the media, academia, think tanks, the private sector, and civil servants to come together as solution-oriented partners using "open data to help produce tools and analysis that responds to Government needs, thereby creating examples of constructive relationships."

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## **Pollution from coal-fired power plants in Kosovo, instead of decreasing, has increased, a new report reveals**

Pollution from coal-fired power plants in Kosovo increased instead of decreasing during 2020, according to a report published by the CEE Bankwatch Network and the Center for Energy and Clean Air Research (CREA), in cooperation with the Balkan Green Foundation.

Kosovo had the largest violation of nitric oxide limits in 2020, 1.65 times more than allowed. Emissions also increased significantly during 2018 and 2020 - reaching 22,846 tons, almost 3,700 tons more than in 2018.

The Large Combustion Power Plant Directive - an EU directive to reduce emissions of hazardous substances, adapted for countries that are party to the Energy Community Treaty - legally requires these countries to curb air pollution from their power plants since 2018. However, as the report finds, in 2020, the 18 coal-fired power plants in the Western Balkans emitted two and a half times more sulfur dioxide than all 221 coal-fired power plants in the EU combined.

[The report can be found in here](#)

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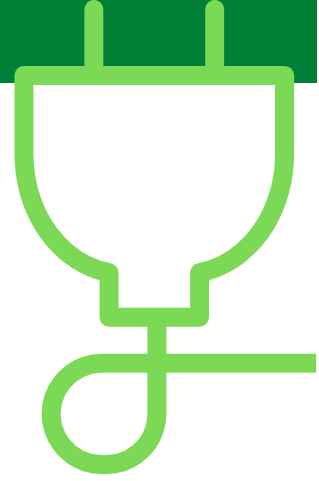
## The problem with electricity is solved for over five thousand inhabitants in Deçan

The one known as the Lumëbardhi Transmitter (LP), in its almost five kilometers has been completely renovated, the poles have been replaced, as well as the conductors and accompanying equipment. There, everything is already new.

This transmission line, for decades had significant problems in electricity supply, as it was affected by atmospheric factors, especially during the winter in mountainous areas. But now everything is over. About five thousand inhabitants will enter the winter with one less worry, which was lasting for almost half a century.

Asllan Hasani, the mayor of Ratish, thanks KEDS for this investment.

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## ERO report on allowed revenues: there Is no increase in electricity prices this year

The Energy Regulatory Office has informed that it has submitted in public consultation the reports on the regular annual adjustments for the maximum allowed revenues (MAR), which will be covered by the regulated electricity companies.

According to reports, the Maximum Allowed Revenues of the Universal Service Provider covered by the retail electricity tariffs for the relevant tariff year will be 268,989,325 euros, or about 2.3 million euros less than in the previous year. Thus, according to the initial proposal of ERO, Kosovo will not have an increase in electricity prices this year, although this also depends on the operators of the energy sector.

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## **KOSTT is re-certified with three international standards**

On the 15th anniversary of its establishment, KOSTT has been re-certified with ISO standards for quality management, safety and health at work and for environmental protection.

'Continuing the commitment to increase the quality and excellence of business in accordance with international standards, on the 15th anniversary of the establishment KOSTT was re-certified with ISO 9001: 2015 - Quality Management Standard, ISO 45001: 2018 - Safety Standard and Occupational Health and ISO 14001: 2015 - Environmental Protection Standard ', KOSTT wrote in the press release.

These globally recognized and valued certificates, which come after a rigorous process of verifications and audits by the international certification company Royal Cert, make KOSTT the only public company in Kosovo re-certified for the fourth time with three international ISO quality standards.

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## **Reporting of the Board of ERO to the Parliamentary Committee**

ERO reports to the Parliamentary Committee every year, in accordance with the legal requirements arising from the Law on the Energy Regulator (Law no. 05 / L-084). The Annual Report contains information on activities related to the scope of the Regulator, as well as the functioning of the energy sector, analyzing the data of licensees, including the development of the energy market in Kosovo.

Within the website, ERO in cooperation with MCC (Millennium Challenge Corporation) has also opened the data and now the sector data can be found for a period of 10 years. He also announced that ERO in cooperation with NARUC (National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions) is in the process of finalizing the Price Comparison Tool, which in an open market will enable consumers to select the best offers that are in the market.

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## **Eighth generation KEDS Academy students begin the internship part**

After completing the internship and lectures, the eighth-generation students of KEDS Academy have officially started the internships at KEDS and KESCO.

'The group of 60 participants of this edition have already completed the part of the lectures and the internship and are organized in different departments of KEDS, in all districts of Kosovo. They are gaining new experiences from KEDS experts and preparing for the labor market ', said KEDS through the posting on social networks.

Otherwise, KEDS Academy aims to support students of various fields of public universities and technical high schools in Kosovo in further academic and professional development.

Upon completion of the program, students are provided with internationally recognized certificates.

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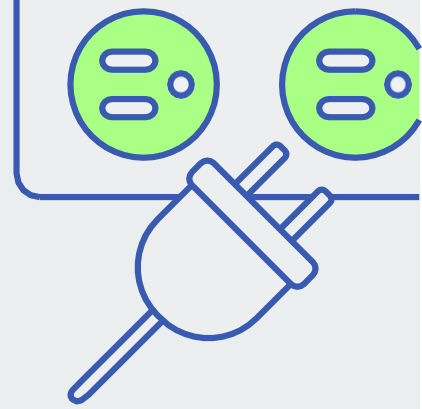
## **'Kçiqi i Vogël' will be having a completely new electrical network**

The two- and three-storey houses overlooking the picturesque landscape of Mitrovica will no longer have a challenge in supplying electricity.

There, dozens of concrete pillars have sprung up. And with them, even hundreds of meters of completely new cables have been laid. While, three new substations that have been built, will enable the energy supply to be quality and sustainable for residents.

A resident of this village tells how here, since the 70s when the network was established, it has never been invested, but that KEDS investments have enjoyed it immensely. Further, he says that with these investments made by KEDS, security in the village is greater.

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## **KEK approves the allocation of a dividend of 10 million euros to the Government**

The Interim Board of Directors (BPD) of the Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK) in the meeting of September 17, having the objective of implementing applicable laws and Government decisions has approved the distribution of dividends to shareholders and reallocation of funds in accordance with the decision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo in accordance with the Law on Budget in the amount of 10 million euros.

BPD decided that the management of KEK to take concrete actions to accurately implement the obligations arising from Law no; 05 / L-044 on the environmentally endangered area of Obiliq and its surroundings.

BPD placed special emphasis on the implementation of environmental projects around the endangered area of Obiliq and the implementation of employment priority as provided by this law.

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# New Energy Investments



## **Zeka: The construction of the gas pipeline would strengthen Kosovo's industrial capacities**

The United States of America in the new budget proposed by President Joe Biden has decided to allocate about 200 million euros to Kosovo within the agency of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). In this fund, one of the projects is the construction of the energy sector, namely the construction of gas infrastructure.

For the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo, Arian Zeka, the sale of LNG gas is of strategic interest to the United States and that Kosovo has an interest in diversifying energy sources.

"Beyond the commitments that Kosovo has undertaken with the signing of the agreement for economic normalization for the diversification of energy supplies, but also beyond the fact that the placement of LNG gas is a strategic interest of the United States of America, with which we also intend to harmonize our state interests, Kosovo has an interest in diversifying energy sources, as this would help reduce the consumption of electricity, which is largely generated by coal, thus reducing the levels of pollution created by lignite-based power plants ", It is said in Zeka's answer for the Telegrafi.

He adds that investing in gas infrastructure would help strengthen industrial capacity.

"Kosovo should use the financial support provided by US state agencies, as this would ease the financial burden of the overall investment," concludes Zeka.

The Natural Gas Sector Development Project would give energy users a more efficient use of thermal energy and contribute to improving air quality.

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## Kurti: Committed to investing in renewable energy sources



The Prime Minister of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, says that the government he leads is committed to investing in renewable sources for electricity supply. At a socio-ecological forum in Skopje, he said that studies are being done to see the potential of Kosovo in terms of energy production through solar panels and through the wind.

"Kosovo is supplied with electricity, mainly from coal, with limited wind resources and hydropower plants. Hydropower has not been shown to be quite basic and we rely on coal, for example. In this case we have to make a double switch.

"We have done and completed six months in government and because of this we are still conducting a feasibility study on how to move forward in the best way for ourselves and the region," said Kurti.

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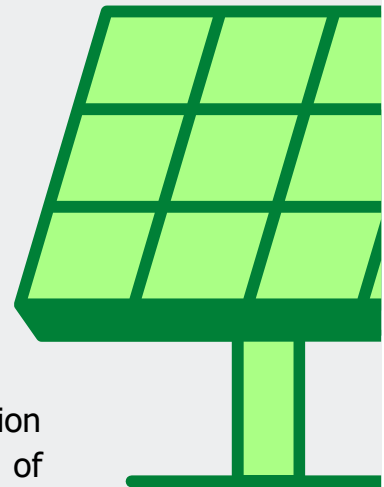
## The cornerstone of the new 10 / 0.4 kV substation has been laid in the village of Stagovë – Kaçanik

In this village, KEDS has started the investment project for the reconstruction of the network of LV and TM, which will benefit over 100 families of neighborhoods: Teneqja, Dashi, Mani, Krraba, Gudash. In addition to the installation of over 178 poles, the foundation stone of Trafostacion 10 / 0.4 kV was laid.

These investments have been welcomed by the Mayor of Kaçanik and the residents of this village.

Meanwhile, the Director of the Operating System at KEDS, Bujar Jupaj, said that this investment, which amounts to about 150 thousand euros, will provide quality supply for these residents.

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## **KEDS will invest about 7.5 million euros in the electricity network of Gjakova**

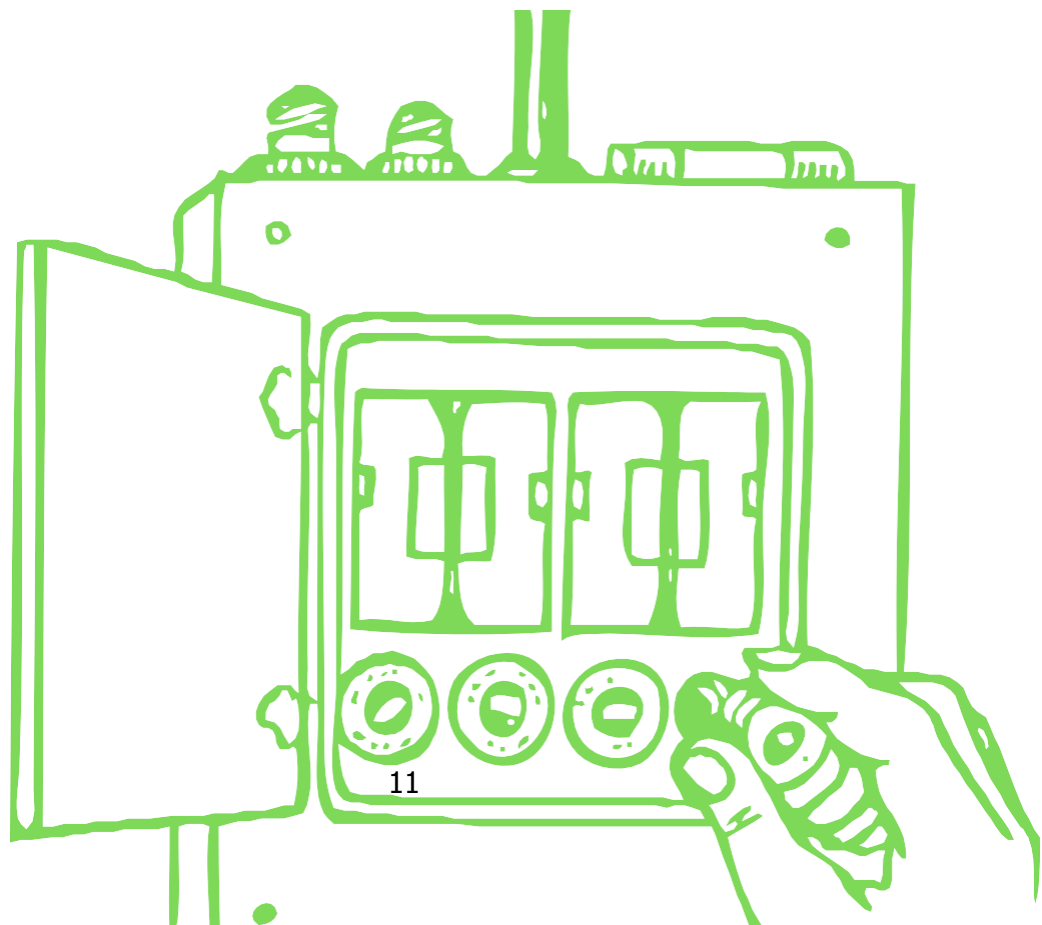
The Acting Director of Investments at KEDS, Faruk Gjukaj, accompanied by the Executive Advisor, Avni Alidemaj and the Engineer for Cooperation with Government Institutions, Burbuqe Baruti, were received in a meeting by the Mayor of Gjakova, Ardian Gjini with associates.

During this meeting, it was discussed about the current cooperation between KEDS and the Municipality of Gjakova, while it was emphasized that over the next two years, KEDS will invest heavily in the reconstruction of the electricity network, in which case hundreds of thousands of customers will benefit from better services. energy.

Furthermore, it was said that some of the most problematic lines in Gjakova will benefit from these investments and that with the completion of these investments, the electricity supply will be a good solution.

"KEDS has planned to implement major investment projects in the electricity network in the Municipality of Gjakova. Their cost will be around 7.5m euros. "These investments will provide long-term solutions for our customers there", said Faruk Gjukaj.

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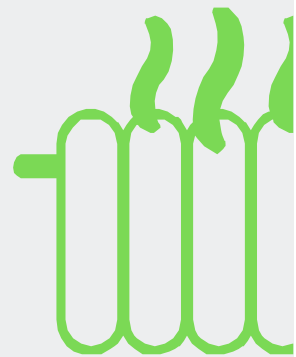


## Prishtina Heatsave soon to start with heat metering equipment installation

Prishtina HeatSave is starting its second phase of project implementation. This phase covers investment in heat distribution equipment, heat control equipment, as well as installation of heat metering equipment in every apartment connected to the district heating system in Prishtina.

Prishtina HeatSave is part of District Heating Metering Activity (DHM) aiming to support the transition of district heating residential customers from area-based billing to consumption-based billing. This project is a \$10 million investment, supported by the Millennium Foundation Kosovo (MFK) and Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), as a result of which, 14,000 apartments, customers of Termokos network in Prishtina will be provided with 4,300 heat meters, installation of 72,500 thermostatic valves, as well as 51,000 heat cost allocators.

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## KOSTT organizes a public debate on the new substation in Ferizaj

The Transmission System and Market Operator, KOSTT has announced that it has organized a public debate to discuss the environmental impact assessment report for the new substation in Ferizaj and the accompanying infrastructure.

Otherwise, some time ago KOSTT had signed an agreement with the Mayor of Ferizaj Mr. Agim Aliu, for long-term use of municipal property for the construction of a new substation and the route of the 110 kV transmission line.

"This planned investment of KOSTT in the amount of close to 6.5 million EUR comes as a result of the increased demand for electricity in the Municipality of Ferizaj mainly due to the increased development of business activities in this municipality. Therefore, with this investment, we will increase the security of supply from the aspect of transmission, thus enabling conditions for further economic development in this municipality ", said Mustafë Hasani after signing the agreement with Mayor Aliu.

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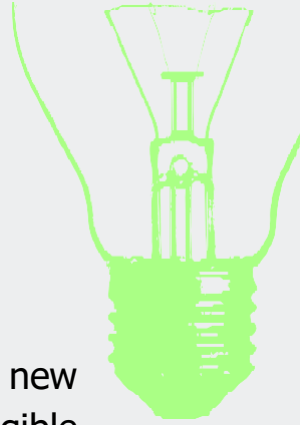
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## 70 New Paid Internship Positions Available through Women in Energy Program

Millennium Foundation Kosovo (MFK) has launched its third cohort of 70 new internship positions for women interested in joining the energy sector. Eligible candidates include women without prior professional experience in the sector and those who have graduated in the last three years with a relevant degree but have been unable to secure employment.

'A record number of available internships has been launched for women interested in the energy sector. This cohort consists of 70 positions calling for women from different fields of study (engineering, architecture, law, economics, etc) and municipalities, states Gresa Statovci, Coordinator for WE Internship and Scholarship Program.

MFK is an accountable entity responsible for implementation of the \$49 million Threshold agreement, signed by the Republic of Kosovo and MCC in 2017. MFK's mission statement calls for accelerating Kosovo's transition to energy independence and good governance. The Kosovo Threshold Program addresses two key constraints to Kosovo's economic growth: an unreliable supply of electricity; and real and perceived weakness in rule of law, government accountability.



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# Energy Distribution

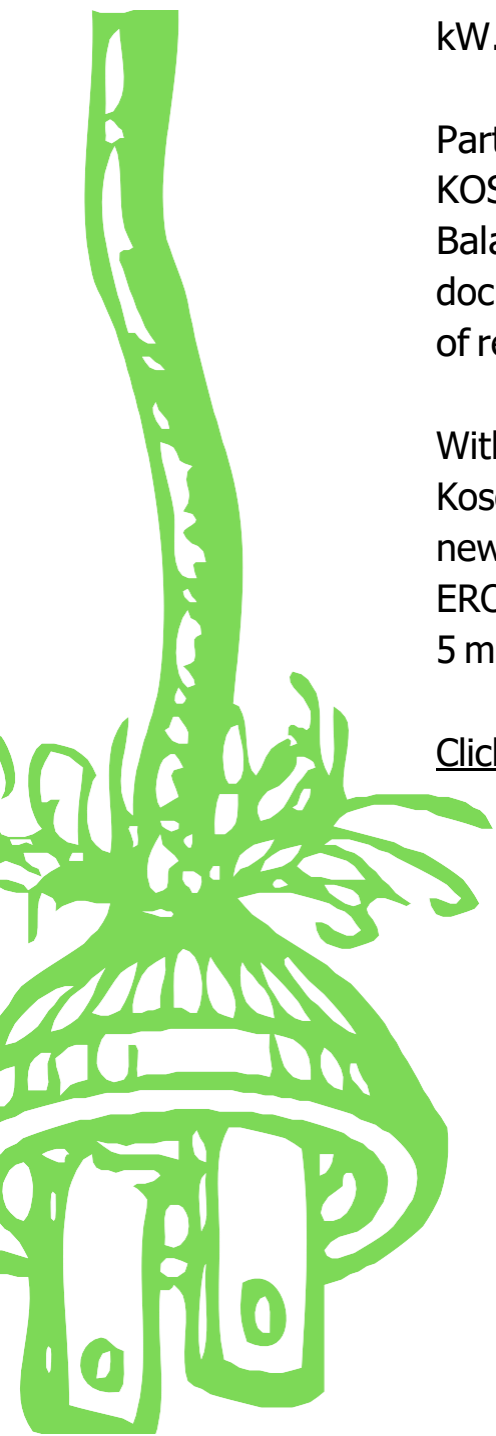
## The first session of this year of the Board of ERO was held

The Board has issued 29 authorizations for construction / installation of solar panels for self-consumption of consumers, in a total capacity of about 1 MW. With the issuance of these authorizations, a number of about 120 self-generating electricity consumers have been reached, with a total capacity of 2876.77 kW.

Part of the review by the Board of ERO was also the request of KOSTT JSC, for derogation of the compilation of the Long-Term Balance of Electricity and the Generation Adequacy Plan, these documents related to the Energy Strategy which is in the process of review.

With the new appointments, by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, of the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Ymer Fejzullahu and two new members Mrs. Lutfije Dervishi and Mr. Gani Bucaj, the Board of ERO has been completed and functionalized in full composition of 5 members.

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# Top Pick

## **SOWI Kosovo builds generator with a capacity of 34.47MW, applies to ERO for licensing of electricity generation activity**



The company SOWI Kosovo announces that it has built the generator "Wind Park Selac 1" for the production of electricity from wind with a capacity of 34.47 Mega Watt in Selac in the Municipality of Mitrovica.

The company also notifies stakeholders that it has applied to the Energy Regulatory Office (ERO) for licensing of electricity generation activity in the country.

After licensing by the Energy Regulatory Office, the licensee may carry out the activity of electricity generation in Kosovo, in accordance with the provisions of the license, the Rule on Licensing of Energy Activities in Kosovo and other legislation in force.

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