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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INDEP recommends gas as an option for a sustainable energy transition in Kosovo

The analysis conducted by INDEP "Natural gas as an option for sustainable energy transition in Kosovo", recommended that the Government of Kosovo includes gas as an objective of the National Energy Strategy 2022-2031. The analysis states natural gas is a potential complement to renewable energy because of its flexibility and can compensate the interruption of energy produced by renewable sources when there is lack of sunlight or wind.

Minister Rizvanolli held bilateral meetings during the Energy Transition Dialogue in Berlin

The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, during his stay in Berlin, Germany, participated in the Energy Transition Dialogue. ME Rizvanolli met with Anna Lührmann, German Minister of State for Europe and Climate, Costas Skrekas, Greek Minister of Environment and Energy. and with Oliver Krischer, Parliamentary Secretary of State at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. Minister Rizvanolli emphasizes that the meetings have served not only to re-emphasize the common goals towards the energy transition, but also to further strengthen and concretize bilateral and regional cooperation.
Minister Rizvanolli welcomed the Ambassador of France in Kosovo and the representatives of AFD

The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, met with the French ambassador to Kosovo, Marie-Christine Butel, as well as with representatives of the French Development Agency (AFD). They discussed about the current energy situation in Kosovo and the requirements for its development. During the meeting, the scope of AFD in the Western Balkans was presented, with a focus on renewable energy sources.

AFD representatives also met with the Energy Regulatory Office to discuss the sector and projects in the field of electricity.

Kurti meets the Chief Executive Officer of MCC, talks about the start of negotiations of the Kosovo Compact

The Prime Minister of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, on the first day of his visit to the United States of America, met the CEO of Millennium Challenge Corporation, Alice Albright.

Kurti thanked Mrs. Albright for MCC's tireless work to enable the Kosovo Compact, which will become the largest investment in the energy sector in the Balkans.
Findings and learning from SEEK to help Kosovo institutions and donors shape future energy efficiency investments

Millennium Foundation Kosovo (MFK) and Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) held the Donor Conference on Energy Efficiency for Households in Kosovo.

The conference was attended by senior representatives of the Millennium Challenge Corporation from Washington, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Kosovo, Mayors of the Municipalities that have co-funded energy efficiency projects implemented by MFK, key local and international organizations engaged on energy efficiency projects, and other stakeholders involved in energy efficiency projects.

The Millennium Foundation Kosovo, supported by the Millennium Challenge Corporation has implemented the Subsidies for Energy Efficiency – SEEK project, for the purpose of piloting different subsidy models that are aimed at identifying suitable mechanisms that would accelerate the acquiring of energy efficiency measures by households in Kosovo.

‘Women in Energy’ Program concludes. We are a step closer to closing the gender gap in the energy sector in Kosovo

Today marks the conclusion of the Women in Energy, a 5-year program which helped take initial steps to bridge the enormous gender gap in Kosovo’s energy sector, launched by Millennium Foundation Kosovo.

Representatives from the Millennium Challenge Corporation from Washington, Kosovo institutions, leading local and international organizations, and importantly hundreds of women who have participated in the Women in Energy component, celebrated 5 years of initiatives and achievements.
Energy diversification also implies workforce diversification

To discuss the role of the private sector in the energy transition, specifically in the diversification of energy sources, as well as in the diversification of the workforce, the American Chamber of Commerce organized a discussion within the Kosovo Sustainable Development Week, with speakers from the two committees of the American Chamber of Commerce, the Committee on Energy and Mining, as well as the Committee of Women in Energy and Mining.

Sabri Tërnava, KEDS, said that it is important for KEDS and KESCO to develop projects in a way that encourages women and girls to be involved in the technical aspects of the project.

Gentiana Alija, co-founder of the Women in Energy and Mining Committee said that although the participation of women in the energy industry continues to grow, the number of women involved in the technical part of the projects is still small.

Edona Demaj, co-founder of the Women in Energy and Mining committee said that the presence of women in the company is important as they bring a new perspective and a different set of skills that can be extremely useful for the company.

Guri Shkodra, SOWI Kosovo said that one of the biggest challenges of the future will be energy supply and such a transition will require the commitment of everyone, including women.

Zana Bajrami Rama, KOSTT and co-founder of the Women in Energy and Mining Committee, said that since the energy transition requires new human capacity and new expertise in the field of human resources, this period can serve as a period to address issues of gender equality.

Arian Zeka, AmCham Kosovo, said that mentality is the main issue contributing to the gender gap, and it requires great efforts to address and years of patience to change.

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An agreement is reached on the diversification of energy sources between Kosovo and Albania

Kosovo and Albania will sign the agreement that diversifies the energy between the two countries. The Minister of Economy of Kosovo, Artane Rizvanolli said that this will enable access to energy within 2 years.

The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, emphasizes that through this agreement we will intensify our energy sources and cooperation.

Whereas, according to the Albanian Minister of Economy, Belinda Balluku, the agreement will be followed by the development of the LNG gas terminal. The minister emphasizes that the initial axis of this agreement is joint work, offering energy capacities at not only cheaper prices.

What does the Compact Project reached between the US MCC and the Government of Kosovo consist?

Building new electricity production capacities and accountability and transparency are the two main points of the Compact Agreement reached between the Government of Kosovo and the Office of Millennium Challenges (MCC).

According to MCC, the value of this agreement is 236.7 million dollars, which aims to strengthen Kosovo’s energy sector.

The first project envisages building capacities for 340 MegaWatts per hour of energy accumulation. The project aims that through batteries, the energy produced in a certain period of time will be accumulated, so that it can be used during the hours of the day, when the price and demand for energy are higher.

Click here to read the full article (Albanian Only)

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Minister Rizvanolli revealed to the present companies the plans of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo for green energy and the impact on the sustainable economy, as well as the work and challenges of the energy sector in the country, as well as the Energy Strategy 2022 – 2031 which is in completion.

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Strengthening energy capacity and energy efficiency is important for businesses

The Government’s plans on strengthening energy capacities with a focus on green energy, as well as affordable energy tariffs for commercial consumers were the main focus points in the discussion organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo with the Minister of Economy Artane Rizvanolli.

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What does the roadmap for the implementation of the energy agreement envisage?

The delegations of Kosovo and Serbia have reached agreement on the implementation of the existing energy agreement. The meetings were held in Brussels, within the dialogue for the normalization of relations between the two countries, which started in 2011.

This agreement, reached within the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, foresees that in addition to the Electricity Distribution Company - KEDS, another electricity distribution company will be licensed in Kosovo.

According to the agreement reached in 2013, the workers of "Elektrokosmet" (Serbian energy company in the north of Kosovo) must be included in the company registered according to the laws of Kosovo, or they must be offered employment in KEDS.
The Ministry of Economy publishes the national Energy Strategy draft

The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, through a press conference presented the energy strategy, 2022-2031.

The strategy envisages investments in coal-fired power plants. The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, during the presentation of the Energy Strategy for the year 2022-2031, has announced that the strategy in question foresees investment in the thermal power plant "Kosova B", in such a way as to increase its efficiency, in order to produce a larger amount of electricity.

By 2031, 35% of electricity will be generated from renewable sources. Rizvanolli, further, has announced that the energy strategy envisages that within three years there will be electricity production of up to 500 megawatts through renewable sources.

Kosovo needs more access to the electricity strategy

The Director of the Energy Community Secretariat, Artur Lorowski, during a discussion with the Committee for Economy in the Assembly of Kosovo, said that he is collaborating with the current government on the energy design for the year 2022-2030, while adding that they are also working on the project of gas, which according to the director of the community for energy, the import from Russia has already been banned and that the policies of this project should be reviewed.

According to government officials, the first objective of the Compact program with MCC is energy conservation that will support Kosovo’s energy security and transition to a cleaner energy future.
Energy Distribution

Energy from the wind and RES, to replace 'Kosovo A'

Due to the lack of energy reserves, Kosovo is forced to provide its energy from coal for a long time. Renewable energy will support this sector as a very important strategic reserve. 'Kosova B' has pushed to become environmentally friendly.

The Thermal Power Plant 'Kosova B' should be rehabilitated and made more environmentally friendly, the cogeneration should be further expanded, researched and used the possibility that wind energy and RES, replace the energy generation from 'Kosova A', which it is nearing the end of its operational/technical life.

KEDS licenses the Training Center to provide professional qualifications for security and health at work

KEDS is marking the International Day for Safety and Health at Work, with great projects and achievements which aim to increase care for the health and safety of workers.

KEDS was licensed for occupational safety and health services in 2019. But with the change of regulations, KEDS met all the criteria and was re-licensed by the Ministry of Finance, Labor, and Transfers for the same services.

Click here to read the full article (Albanian Only)  
Click here to read the full article
9 Years KEDS

Less than a decade later, the country’s electricity grid is much more advanced in all parameters. This was achieved due to the investments of KEDS, where nearly 2000 projects have been implemented through contracting companies or through our own maintenance teams.

KEDS has worked hard over the past nine years to modernize its network infrastructure and services. At the same time, work has been done on improving the distribution network and the security of supply.

Investments are ongoing, as are improvements across sectors. The digitalization and modernization of the distribution network will continue, and we will work hard to further increase security supply, advance services, and reduce losses.

KEDS launched the program 'Girls in Technology - Girls TECH'

At the 9th anniversary ceremony of operations, KEDS has launched the Girl TECH project, which aims to increase the participation of girls in the field of Information Technology.

The girls selected from the Vocational Schools of Informatics profile and the Gymnasiums of the 12th grade officially started a new journey, which KEDS has designed within the KEDS Academy, as one of the most important projects in the education sector in Kosovo.
Investimet në Energji

EBRD and EU provide 6 million euros for improving energy efficiency in public buildings in Pristina

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has announced that it has granted Kosovo a loan to improve energy efficiency in public buildings in Pristina. According to the announcement of the Municipality of Pristina, the funds will be used to finance energy efficiency measures in municipally owned facilities, including kindergartens, schools and primary health care centers.

Click here to read the full article (Albanian Only)

Murati met the Chief Executive Officer of MCC, talked about the investment of over 200 million dollars in Kosovo's energy sector

Minister of Finance, Labor and Transfers, Hekuran Murati met with Alice P. Albright, Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and her team. Through Facebook, Murati announced that he discussed the Compact Program, the 200 million dollar investment in Kosovo's energy sector.

Click here to read the full article (Albanian Only)
Kosovo aims to add 1400 MW of renewable energy by 2031

The new strategy is focused on investments in renewable energy sources and the renovation of current coal capacities, to enable the energy transition, according to international obligations and signed agreements.

Otherwise, a short time ago, three projects of SOWI Kosovo started operating in Kosovo, with a total installed capacity of about 105 megawatts. These projects took about six years of preparation and follow-up procedures to start operating.

SOWI Kosovo’s wind projects in Bajgore represent about 10% of the total installed energy capacity in Kosovo.

Rizvanolli: Within three years, the production of 500 MW from renewable energy is planned

The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, has said that within three years a capacity of up to 500 megawatts of renewable energy will be reached, adding to the capacities of solar energy.

The preliminary consultation process before drafting the strategy, started a year ago and in October the working group was created, Rizvanolli said that the technical analyzes were done by a group of independent experts.

She said that this strategy represents the new path through which Kosovo will walk to make the energy system cleaner, more reliable and more decentralized.

Click here to read the full article (Albanian Only)
Kosovo's agreement with EBRD, 6 million euros for efficient energy in Prizren

The Government of Kosovo has signed an agreement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) with the aim of investing in the energy efficiency of public buildings in Prizren.

The vice-president of EBRD, Alain Pilloux, said "that for a country which until recently could not imagine the future of energy without lignite, Kosovo’s progress could not be greater than this".

The project which is financed by this agreement envisages the implementation of efficiency measures in 100 municipal facilities, including kindergartens, schools and primary health care centers.

Minister Rizvanolli discusses the COMPACT program and the arrival of the batteries in Kosovo

This project, the largest of its kind in Europe, funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Minister Rizvanolli, head of the team in the negotiations with MCC, says that the project will greatly help Kosovo in balancing energy.

The largest investment will be made in storage capacities in batteries with a capacity of 170 MW or for reserves of 340 MW, which is a first project in the region and among the first in European countries. Other components of the project are related to the development of the workforce, so that they are ready to work in the energy sector.

To develop and implement the project, an organization will be established. While, during this time, the analysis, design of the project and the places where the batteries will be placed will be determined.
GROW – New Credit Guarantee Window for Energy Investments Launched

Millennium Foundation Kosovo, Kosovo Credit Guarantee Fund and partners launched the new credit guarantee window GROW (Green Recovery and Opportunity Window) that aims to support businesses in Kosovo to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

GROW is the second project phase, following the initial one of providing technical assistance for businesses, launched earlier this year. With the support of 6 million euros donated by the German government through KfW Development Bank, the new window will help financial institutions support sectors that in the past lacked access in financial opportunities, despite the fact that they can be promising for country’s economic growth.

GROW is also offering free technical assistance to businesses by assessing their needs and potential for investing in solar energy and energy efficiency. Through different training across Kosovo, over 100 companies have been informed about the technical and financial aspects of these investments.

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Top Pick

Is the New Strategy a solution to the Energy Crisis?

For over twenty years, Kosovo has been facing a lack of stable electricity supply and a high level of pollution from thermal power plants. One of the reasons is believed to be the age of these thermal power plants, which burn coal.

To find solutions for these and other problems in the energy sector, the Government of Kosovo published on June 7 the Draft Energy Strategy for the years 2022-2031.

This document defines the main directions and actions for the development of the energy sector in the next decade. In order to improve the electricity supply and to reduce the level of pollution from power plants, special importance is given to renewable energy sources.

Currently, about 94 percent of electricity in Kosovo is produced by burning coal, while about 6 percent comes from renewable sources, such as: hydropower plants, wind power plants and solar panels.

Kosovo's electricity demand is up to 1,300 megawatts per hour on winter days. Production capacities from renewable sources are 244 megawatts. The Draft Energy Strategy foresees that these capacities will reach 490 megawatts in 2024 and up to 1,300 megawatts in 2031.