

Environment for non-environmental CSOs

Webinar on mainstreaming green transition

30 November - 01 December 2023.

GREEN AGENDA FOR WB: THE FORCE OF ABBREVIATIONS - EIP, WBIF, CBAM, ETC...

Expert: Toni Vidan

Green Agenda for WB: the force of abbreviations - EIP, WBIF, CBAM, etc...

- Basics, political context and resources,
- Involvement of WB and EU environmental CSOs,
- Potential for involvement of "non-environmental" CSOs,
 - Case study: LIFE program and WB

FACTSHEET



28 Nov 2023, 14:00 | [Julian Wettengel](#)

Polls reveal citizen support for climate action and energy transition

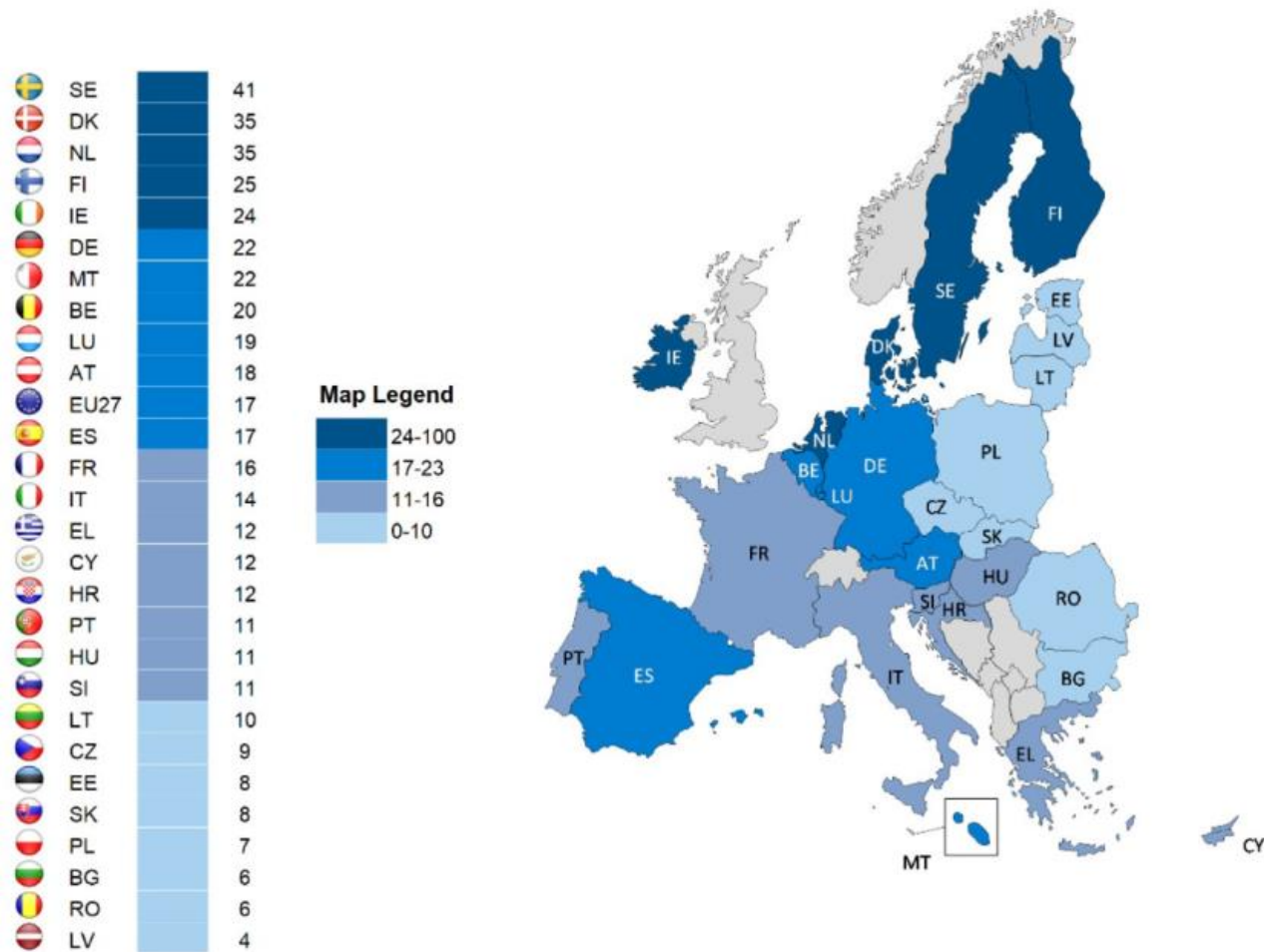
#Citizens' energy #Society



The German public has put climate action at the top of its policy priorities for several years and remains strongly in support of the transition to a low-carbon and nuclear-free economy. The picture across Europe is more diverse, although the climate is becoming a top issue almost everywhere. Citizens take climate change and its effects seriously, and see a need for ambitious action even when crises such as the coronavirus pandemic or Russia's war in Ukraine shift the focus away. However, by mid-2023, public discontent with the government posed a risk to Germany's move to climate neutrality. This factsheet provides a summary of major polls measuring citizens' views on climate action and their acceptance of the energy transition. [UPDATES with EIB climate survey 2023/2024]

1. [The latest: Public discontent with government risks slowing Germany's climate](#)

**QC1a Which of the following do you consider to be the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole?
(% - Climate change)**



Source: European Union

Major EU-WB processes relevant to green transition:

- **EU enlargement and approximation process**
- **The Energy Community Treaty and Secretariat** Since July 2006. Its key objective is to extend the EU internal energy market rules and principles to countries in Southeast Europe, the Black Sea region and beyond on the basis of a legally-binding framework.
- **Berlin process, the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), The Transport Community,....etc.,**
- **the Green Agenda for the Western Balkan (GAWB), and the GAWB Action Plan,**
- **CBAM**
- **FOR COOPERATION OF CSOs: EESC Western Balkans Follow-up Committee and Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) for countries**

EU accession process and EP enlargement resolutions:

- „STRASBOURG — At the plenary session held on November 23, 2022, the European Parliament adopted the resolution on the new EU enlargement strategy, proposed by MP Tonino Picula from the Group of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), with 502 votes in favor, 75 votes against, 62 abstentions.”
- The enlargement reports are the European Parliament’s response to the [annual Commission reports](#) on the candidate and the potential candidate countries for EU accession. Resolutions adopted in plenary represent the European Parliament's official position as regards EU relations with these countries.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,
6.10.2020

SWD(2020) 223
final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

Accompanying the

**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the
European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions**

An Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans



SOFIA DECLARATION ON THE GREEN AGENDA FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

We, the Leaders from Western Balkans, gathered in Sofia on 10th November 2020, at the WB Summit under the framework of the Berlin Process initiative:

ACKNOWLEDGING the European Green Deal as the European Union (EU) new growth strategy towards a modern, climate neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to set the basis for a major transformation of our region to turn sustainability and resilience challenges into opportunities and transpose elements of the European Green Deal in all interrelated priority sectors;

WELCOMING the Economic and Investment Plan, designed to support the longer-term green socio-economic recovery of our region and its economic convergence with the EU and the Commission Staff Working Document on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, laying down the key initiatives aimed at a green transition for the region;

RECALLING the Joint Statement on Clean Energy Transition adopted in February 2019 in Podgorica in which ministers of energy and of environment confirmed their will to align as swiftly as possible with the EU's energy, climate and environmental policies and the long term objectives of the Paris Agreement, by this contributing to the well-being of citizens and the sustainable development

„Invite the Regional Cooperation Council to coordinate, in close cooperation with regional sectoral organisations and relevant authorities of the WB economies in charge of policy areas covered by the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, the preparation of an action plan with roadmaps for implementation of this Declaration and to establish an effective and efficient monitoring system.”

NOTE: Sofia Declaration DO NOT MENTION CIVIL SOCIETY!

EU-Western Balkans summit, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, 6 October 2021

- The EU will provide **€9 billion worth of grant funding** through 10 investment flagships. In this way the EIP aims to:
 - spur long-term economic recovery
 - accelerate a green and digital transition
 - support regional cooperation
 - foster convergence with the EU
- The EIP will also help **attract public and private investments**, backed by the Western Balkan Guarantee Facility, which has a potential to **mobilise €20 billion**.
- The EU support is linked to tangible progress on the **rule of law**, socio-economic **reforms** and adherence to **European values, rules and standards**.

Brdo declaration

- *„The Western Balkans partners reiterate their dedication to European values and principles and to carrying out necessary reforms in the interest of their people. The EU welcomes the restated commitment of the Western Balkans partners to the primacy of democracy, fundamental rights and values and the rule of law, and to sustaining efforts in the fight against corruption and organised crime, support for good governance, human rights, gender equality and the rights of persons belonging to minorities. (...)”*
- **„An empowered civil society and independent and pluralistic media are crucial components of any democratic system and we welcome and support the role they play in the Western Balkans.”**



DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS



Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans 2021-2030

06 Oct 2021 | DECLARATION/DECISION

This Action Plan represents one of the outputs of the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB) and is used as a tool to guide its implementation. It embodies the “putting words into actions” paradigm by identifying concrete steps and supporting organisations, as well as defining an indicative timeframe for each implementable measure. It sets the framework to coordinate and support its proper implementation and monitor the progress in this regard.



Clingendael

Netherlands Institute of International Relations

MAY 2021

Energising EU enlargement?

The prospects of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

With the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, the 2050 climate neutrality goal of the European Union has been extended to the six countries in South-Eastern Europe that aspire to join the Union.¹ The Green Agenda is a promising tool for fostering climate and energy policy measures in the Western Balkans, a region with high vulnerability to climate change risks and little energy diversification away from coal. But could the Green Agenda also be a catalyst for renewed interest and enhanced political engagement, leading to a much-needed impetus to the EU enlargement process? This policy brief asks how the Green Agenda can work in the interest of both the objective of a climate neutral continent and the EU accession of the Western Balkan countries.

Climate action in the Western Balkans and the role of the EU

In this decisive decade for tackling climate change, the Western Balkan countries face

the European Climate Law and its goal of net zero carbon emissions in Europe by 2050.³

The main challenge is the reform of the energy sector, which accounts for two-thirds of the regional greenhouse gas (GHG)

Policy Brief

Wouter Zweers, Kristina Naunova and Giulia Cretti

“DECLARATION ON ENERGY SECURITY AND GREEN TRANSITION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS”, BERLIN PROCESS, 2022.

- The Declaration “stipulates that commitment to the European Green Deal and improved regional cooperation will be further “conceptualized, supported and monitored” within the framework of the Energy Community and aligned with the European Green Deal”.
- The leaders of the six countries have committed to expanding the development of renewable energy sources and implementing and using the regional system established in the Energy Community for issuing and trading guarantees of origin.
- **NOTE: Berlin Energy Declaration DO NOT MENTION CIVIL SOCIETY, CIVIL ENERGY, OR ENERGY COMMUNITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF LOCAL COOPERATIVES!**



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The Western Balkans Follow-up Committee



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The Western Balkans Follow-up Committee was established in 2004 in order to follow political, economic and social developments in the countries of the Western Balkans (especially those with whom no joint bilateral civil society bodies have been set up) and to encourage the development of civil society and the consolidation of democracy in the region. It is composed of members from the EESC and meets up to four times a year, in the EU or in the region, with the aim of consulting with political leaders and civil society actors.

The priorities of the Follow-up Committee are: refugee and migration crises, socio-economic development, the fight against corruption, fundamental rights and the rights and co-existence of different minorities, freedom of expression, the rule of law and social dialogue.

The Western Balkans Civil Society Forum

The Western Balkans Civil Society Forum is held every two years in one of the countries of the region. The topics of the forum are in line with the priorities of the Western Balkans Follow-up Committee. The forum brings together a considerable number of civil society organisations, including high-level participants from the EU institutions and the region. It fosters civil society dialogue and regional cooperation. At the end of the Forum, a declaration is adopted with concrete sets of recommendations intended for the governments of the countries of the Western Balkans, as well as for the EU institutions.



EESC stands with Ukraine – organised civil society in solidarity and action

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The Western Balkans Follow-up Committee - Related Events

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17/11/2023



16th meeting of the EU-Serbia Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee

Dom sindikata Trg Nikole Pašića 5 (2nd floor) Kamena sala , Belgrade, Serbia

The EU-Serbia Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) will held its 16th meeting on 17 November 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia. It is a platform established within the institutional framework of the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), enabling representatives of both the EU and the Serbian civil society to monitor the country's accession negotiations, discuss issues of common interest and point out concerns to be tackled on the Serbian path towards the European Union.

19/10/2023 > 20/10/2023



9th Western Balkans Civil Society Forum

Holiday Inn Hotel Thessaloniki Monastiriou 8 , Thessaloniki 546 29, Greece

The EESC organised its 9th Western Balkans Civil Society Forum in Holiday Inn Hotel Thessaloniki

- Involvement of WB and EU environmental CSOs
- EU GREEN 10
- WB „NGO Forum”

Green 10





REGIONAL NGO FORUM ON THE GREEN AGENDA FOR WESTERN BALKANS

🕒 30.03.2023 | 📍 Belgrade/hybrid

The Regional Cooperation Council, in partnership with the EU4Green Project organizes the first Regional NGO Forum on the **Green Agenda for Western Balkans (GAWB)** as a platform for enhancing the dialogue among interested parties on the latest developments within the framework of the GAWB on 30 March 2023 in Belgrade in hybrid mode.

The NGO Forum serves as a platform for enhancing the dialogue among interested parties on the latest developments within the framework of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB). The event will provide an opportunity for civil society organizations to engage in discussions on the progress of the Green Agenda Action Plan implementation and perspectives for the future. The NGO Forum on the Green Agenda also aims to discuss ways to enhance the role of civil society in implementing the Green Agenda at the regional level.

Civil society organizations are invited to participate in the NGO Forum on the Green Agenda for Western Balkans.

For participation of civil society organisations register [HERE](#).

NGO Forum on the Green Agenda for Western Balkans is also open for others engaged in civil society development, such as bilateral/multilateral donors and international organizations.

For participation of other interesting parties, register [HERE](#).

Deadline for registration was **16 March 2023**.

CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue
29	30	31
5	6	7
12	13	14
	Eighth Region	
19	20	21

CONTACT

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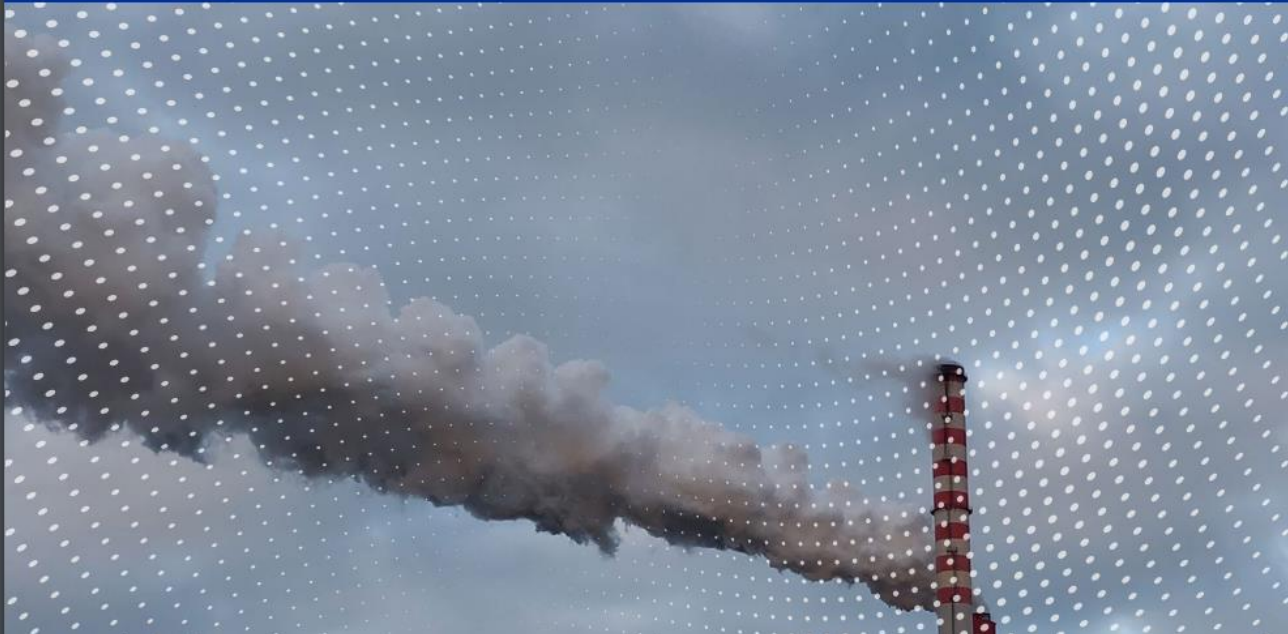
📠 +387 33 561 701

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THE WESTERN BALKAN POWER SECTOR

Between crisis and transition

 Bankwatch
Network



Transition will be just or there will be no transition?

- „just energy transition”
- „leave no one behind”

WHAT ABOUT IT IS?

- COAL MINERS NEW JOB, OR
- LAND AND RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS, OR
- FAIR ACCESS TO GRID OR CAPITAL?

RENEWABLES GRABBING

Land and Resource Appropriations in the Global Energy Transition

Arnim Scheidel, Alevgul H. Sorman, Sofia Avila, Daniela Del Bene, and Jonas Ott

Introduction

A global transition from fossil fuels to renewable energies is urgently needed to mitigate climate change and to reduce the conflictive and contaminating extraction and consumption of coal, oil, and gas resources globally (IPCC, 2018). However, the onset of this transition has come along with the emergence of new geographical and technological frontiers of energy carrier production that are associated with new injustices experienced by local and customary groups (Sovacool, 2021). Vast amounts of land and other resources are required to develop renewable energy infrastructures, which has provoked new processes of land and resource acquisitions globally (Scheidel & Sorman, 2012). Well-known examples are land grabs associated with agro-industrial plantations producing crops for a growing global biofuels market (Borras et al., 2015, 2010), or land dispossession for hydropower dams flooding vast areas and changing the river ecology on which customary livelihoods depend (McCully, 2001; Del Bene, Scheidel, & Temper, 2018). Justice concerns are also emerging over wind power plants (Avila, 2018; Franquesa, 2018) and the rapid expansion of large-scale solar power (Stock & Birkenholtz, 2019; Yenneti et al., 2016), where conflicts have sparked over the dispossession of local users from land and other environmental resources, lack of procedural justice in the decision-making processes, and questions over who will benefit from these green development projects and in which ways.

Renewables Grabbing

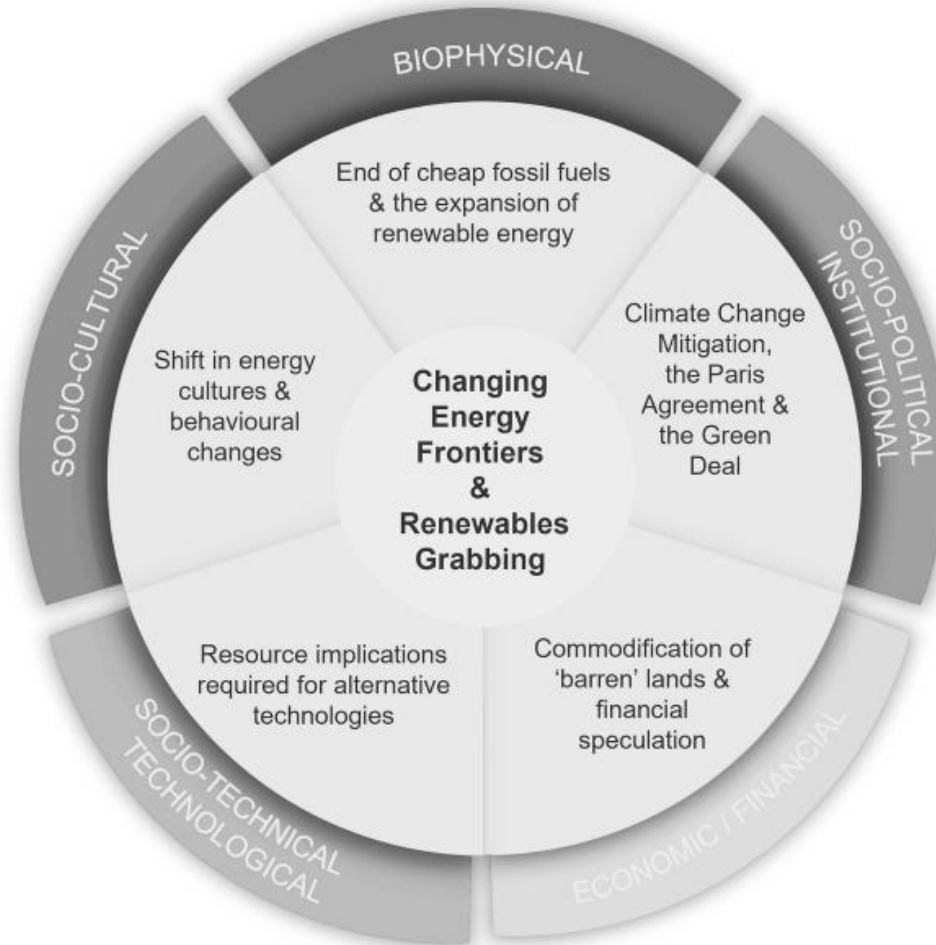
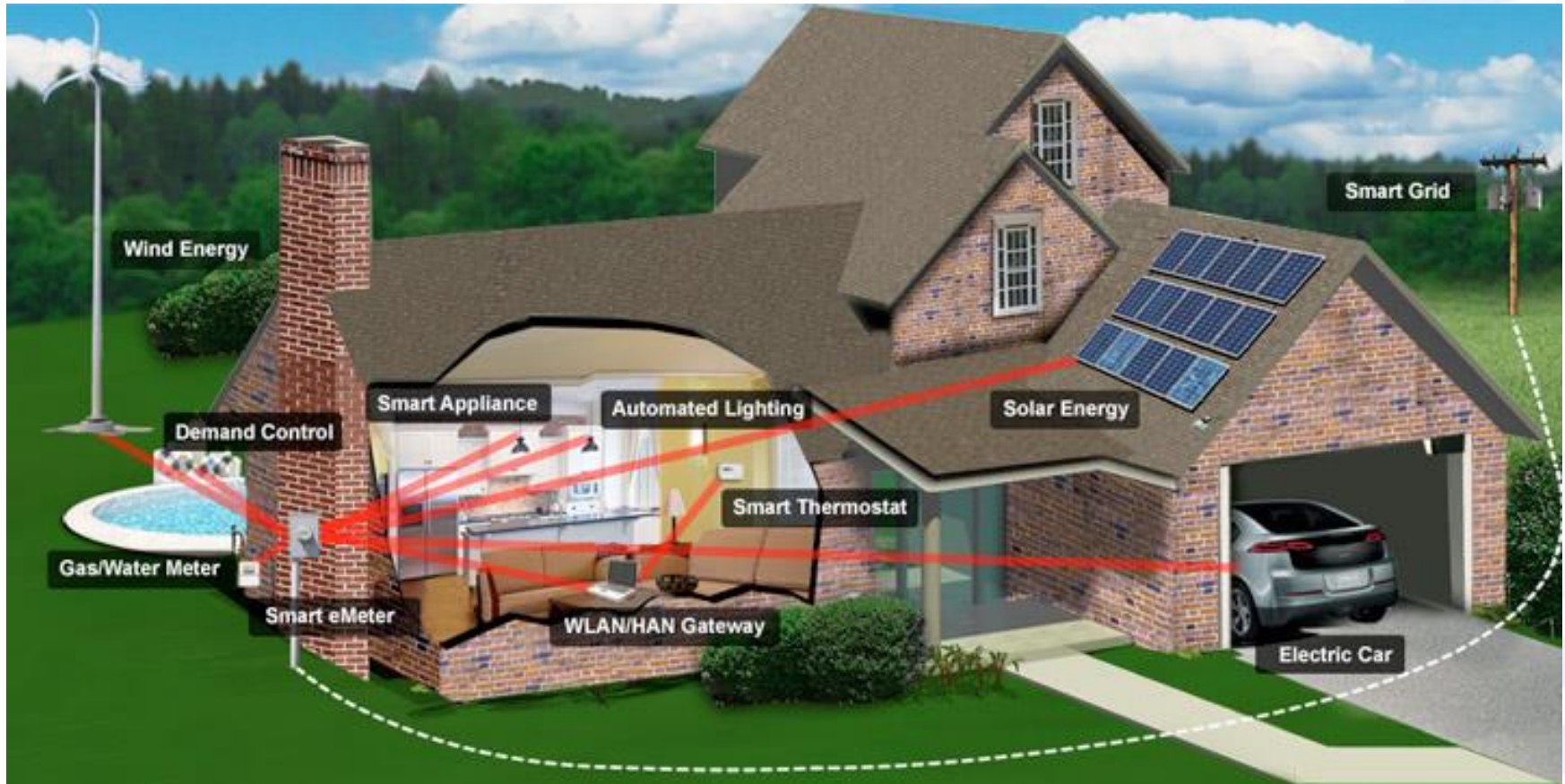


Figure 13.1 Underlying drivers of changing energy frontiers.

Source: The authors.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ENERGY FOR ALL!



Search of „Balkan happy couple with big house”, Google offers:



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ENERGY FOR ALL!





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Presentation of the study **Tackling the immediate challenges of energy poverty in the Western Balkans**

OCT 13, 2023 #AirPollution, #ClimateChange



The role of civil society in promoting community energy:

- **advocacy**
- **education and inspiration** (in theory CSOs do not treat information as commodity)
- **“bundling” and assistance in the development** of community power projects
(substitution for a lack of self-organization capacity)
- **connecting the EU and local level**
- **assistance to local communities** currently dependent on carbon intensive jobs



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.7.2020
SWD(2020) 149 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Best Practices in Citizen Science for Environmental Monitoring

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Press release | 22 November 2023 | Brussels

Commission proposes comprehensive monitoring to improve resilience of European forests

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The Commission is proposing a **Forest Monitoring Law** that will **plug existing gaps in the information on European forests and create a comprehensive forest knowledge base**, to allow Member States, forest owners and forest managers to improve their response to growing pressures on forests and strengthen forest resilience.

Forests are an **essential ally in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss**, and crucial for flourishing rural areas and bioeconomy. Unfortunately, Europe's forests suffer from many different pressures, including climate change and unsustainable human activity.

Better monitoring will enable action to make forests more resistant to the **cross-border threats of pests, droughts and wildfires** that are **exacerbated by climate change, enable new business models such as carbon farming, and support compliance with agreed EU legislation**. Ultimately, it will help strengthen the capacity of forests to **fulfil their multiple environmental and socio-economic functions**,





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Grants and Public Procurements

Grants and Public Procurements

For procurements related to the Copernicus Space Component and dissemination infrastructures please refer to the [EU TED portal](#), the [ESA tender information public system](#) or the [EUMETSAT tender information public system](#).

Calls, competitions and prizes

For procurements related to the Copernicus Climate Change and Atmosphere Monitoring Services please refer to the [EU TED portal](#) or the [ECMWF dedicated eProcurement portal](#).

For public authorities

The following contract opportunities have been opened or are planned to be opened in the context of the Copernicus Service and In-situ activities:

For Start-ups

*(Please note that the information on this site is provided **for information only**. For any formal information about these procurements, please refer directly to the [EU TED portal](#), the [Procuring Entity](#) respectively.)*

For education

Useful links:

[Opportunities](#) 

“300% RES for Western Balkan!” campaign

- Influence a public perception and debate on energy transition by elaborating and advocating 300% REC energy scenario for WB.
- Such scenario, in which local renewable sources will not just cover national demand, but generate significant income from exporting of green energy to EU joint market, can contribute to the public awareness and policy shift in favour of energy transition.
- Special emphasis should be put to possible role of citizens and local communities as a possible producers and economic beneficiaries from such development opportunity.

LIFE? What happened?

WESTERN BALKANS Info Hub



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Western Balkans



*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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Featured News

LIFE + PROGRAMME FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

"Launched in 1992, LIFE (The Financial Instrument for the Environment) is one of the spearheads of Community environment policy.

LIFE cofinances environmental initiatives in the European Union and certain third countries bordering on the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea, and in those EU candidate countries that have decided to participate."

LIFE III (2000-2004) and the extension (2005-2006) are succeeded by a new instrument, LIFE+.

The programme is open to participation from Western Balkan countries.

Website

[http://ec.europa.eu/environmen ... e/home.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environmen...e/home.htm)

Geographical focus

- European Union (EU 27)
- International; Other
- Western Balkans

Scientific field / Thematic focus

- Cross-thematic/Interdisciplinary
- General

Entry created by Elke Dall on January 17, 2007

Modified on April 3, 2012

Article 6

Third countries associated to the LIFE Programme

1. The LIFE Programme shall be open to the participation of the following third countries:
 - (a) members of the European Free Trade Association which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA), in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Agreement on the European Economic Area;
 - (b) acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements and Association Council decisions or in similar agreements and in accordance with the specific conditions laid down in agreements between the Union and those countries;
 - (c) European Neighbourhood Policy countries, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements and Association Council decisions or in similar agreements and in accordance with the specific conditions laid down in agreements between the Union and those countries;
 - (d) other third countries, in accordance with the conditions laid down in a specific agreement covering the participation of the third country in any Union programme, provided that the agreement:
 - (i) ensures a fair balance as regards the contributions and benefits of the third country participating in the Union programmes;



About EUKI

We support the realisation of ideas to accelerate climate action in Europe. We finance cross-border projects, provide training and bring the European climate action community together – fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and expertise and ensuring your engagement has a lasting impact.

EUKI in 16 languages
English ▾

[Call for Project Ideas](#) ↓ [EUKI Community](#) ↓ [EUKI Academy](#) ↓

Funding Programme for Climate Action Projects in Europe

Links to major sources:

- [https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Policy brief Green Agenda Western Balkans Energising enlargement May 2021.pdf](https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Policy%20brief%20Green%20Agenda%20Western%20Balkans%20Energising%20enlargement%20May%202021.pdf)
- https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/polls-reveal-citizens-support-energiewende?pk_campaign=daily_newsletter_2023-11-28&pk_keyword=polls-reveal-citizens-support-energiewende&pk_source=newsletter&pk_medium=email&pk_content=title
- [https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/germanwatch impacts of the cbam on the western balkans and ukraine 2023 0.pdf](https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/germanwatch_impacts_of_the_cbam_on_the_western_balkans_and_ukraine_2023_0.pdf)
- https://www.agora-energiewende.org/fileadmin/Projekte/2021/2021_01_EU_Balkan_Green_Deal/A-EW_251_CBAM_WB-6_WEB.pdf
- https://bankwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-12-05_The-Western-Balkan-power-sector.pdf
- <https://www.resfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Tackling-the-Immediate-Challenges-of-Energy-Poverty-in-the-Western-Balkans.-The-possible-role-for-the-EU.pdf>



EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Q&A



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>>

**Thank you for the
attention**

<<

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