

## Energy storage economics belgrade

Intersectoral cooperation and the integration of the electricity and district heating sectors are necessary to utilize the energy balancing and storage potential

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Region/EU, Serbia

Energy from renewable sources, wind and solar, complements the decarbonization of district heating systems, said Bojan Bogdanović from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), who moderated the panel.

Bogdanović: Energy from wind and solar complements the decarbonization of district heating systems

At district heating plants in Serbia, the share of clean energy sources is only about 1.5%, and in the Western Balkan region that share is about 3%, out of a total of 9 GW of installed capacity.

The sector still relies heavily on fossil fuels. To change that, and establish a more sustainable system, it is necessary to integrate heating and cooling systems with the power sector, the panelists agreed. They also stressed the importance of introducing new technologies in district heating systems.

Panelists agree it is necessary to integrate heating and cooling systems with the power sector

This sector can help, more than all others, to decarbonize urban areas, and we must deal with it as part of the energy transition, according to Bogdanović.

In March this year, the European Union published guidelines for the development of energy storage capacities, recommending that countries put special focus on thermal energy storage capacities as providers of balancing services and address them in national energy and climate plans (NECP), Bogdanović noted.

For this reason, the panel on sustainable heating and cooling held at BEF 2023 stressed the need to promote balancing diversification, but also a strategic approach to it, as a key issue for all stakeholders, which must be pursued vigorously.

Aleksandar Latinović, Head of Ancillary Services at Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS), said Serbia's state-owned power utility is trying to make the most out of the inter-sectoral cooperation of the electricity and district heating systems, in terms of concentrated, manageable consumption and the dispatch of excess output from renewable sources.

The strong growth of renewables also brings challenges, according to Latinović. Wind and solar are



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intermittent energy sources, which creates the two greatest challenges for the electric power system - short- and long-term balancing.

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