

Solar thermal energy podgorica

With only 625,000 inhabitants, Montenegro is a small country. But its government seems to make greater efforts to promote solar thermal energy than some bigger nations in Southeast Europe. In May 2012, the second phase of Montesol started with a programme for interest-free loans to help install solar water heaters in private households. "Since then, around sixty loans have been approved with an average amount of EUR 3,200," Mija Nenezi?, expert at the Montenegrin Ministry of Economy, says and adds that Montenegro had one of the highest potential for solar energy in Europe: "At our coastline, the sun shines up to 2,500 hours per year. The annual solar radiation of 1,602 kWh/m² in our capital Podgorica is actually higher than in Rome or Athens."Photo:

"After industry and traffic, the residential sector is the area with the largest energy consumption in Montenegro," says Nenezi?. Because electricity prices are rather low (0.1 EUR/kWh), up to 70% of the homes have an electric heating system installed. According to Nenezi?, the installation of one solar thermal facility could save up to 2,000 kWh of electric energy, or EUR 200, per year. The market itself had been growing slowly, both on the demand and supply end, she admits. But given the favourable climate conditions and the Montesol programme, Nenezi? hopes that "in the following three to five years, we can reach the critical point at which we can fully tap the potential of solar energy".

While Montesol is currently funding only individual households in using solar energy, Nenezi? expects solar thermal systems to be the main providers of hot water and space heating also in other sectors in the near future. This includes multi-apartment buildings, the hotel sector, restaurants, and small and medium enterprises. "We expect to see the largest growth of these technologies in the central and coastal regions. But there are technologies - such as forced circulation solar-thermal systems - which could also be used in the mountainous northern parts of Montenegro."

Eighteen companies participated in a second tender for dealer / installers in March 2012, out of which thirteen were selected by an international commission after the evaluation. Tedeko Solar Energy, Solaria and Termoin?enjering are three companies which now act as eligible partners of Montesol. They are authorised not only to sell and install solar water heaters, but are also responsible for maintenance issues. Lazar Kordi?, Manager at Tedeko Solar Energy, sees solar thermal energy in Montenegro "still in its infancy". "Montesol," he hopes, "can give the market an impulse to develop." As a consequence, he oversees Montenegro's first Solar Shop opening in the second half of September 2012.

Still, Skorniakov's colleague, Marko Krstaji? from Termoin?enjering, appreciates the active role of the government in the field of energy efficiency. "Until now, there has been a lack of information about the importance of future alternative sources of energy. With increased awareness, however, the demand for solar water heaters will increase as well," Krstaji? believes.



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More information: Ministry of Economy of Montenegro: Montenegrobanka: Alpe Adria: Solar Energy: :
?enjing:

Frank Stier is a Sofia-based freelance journalist working for print and online media and news agencies.

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The capital of Cetinje and the company Sun Horizon Podgorica have signed a framework agreement on cooperation and the implementation of socially responsible activities in connection with the Montechevo project, with the aim of developing and successfully implementing the project, which will represent one of the largest investments for the production of energy from renewable sources in our country, and from the realization of which will have multiple benefits for the Capital of Cetinje and Montenegro.

As announced, the construction of the solar power plant will begin in 2025, the value of the investment is EUR 360 million. After commissioning, it will be the largest solar power plant in Montenegro. The company CWP Europe through its subsidiary Sun Horizon Podgorica plans to install the Montechevo solar power plant with a total capacity of 400 MW on the territory of the Capital of Cetinje, in the area of Lastva, ?evo and Prenta dol.

The value of the investment is around EUR 360 million, while the development and construction of the project is planned in phases. The start of construction is scheduled for 2025, and upon completion and commissioning, which is expected at the end of 2026, Montechevo will be the largest solar power plant in Montenegro – according to the announcement published on the website of Prijestonica.

In the contract that was concluded, the contracting parties agreed to make additional efforts to establish cooperation in promoting and engaging the local economy, as well as improving the local infrastructure, to hire labor from the territory of the Capital, if the labor meets the qualification requirements for working in certain workplaces and achieve cooperation with local suppliers, in a way and in a scale that will correspond to the needs of the project.

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Web: <https://kary.com.pl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

