# GOCE DELCEV UNIVERSITY, STIP, NORTH MACEDONIA FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

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TECHNICAL SCIENCES APPLIED IN ECONOMY, EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY





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FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, GOCE DELCEV UNIVERSITY, STIP, NORTH MACEDONIA

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# Втора меѓународна конференција ЕТИМА Second International Conference ETIMA

#### **PREFACE**

The Faculty of Electrical Engineering at University Goce Delcev (UGD), has organized the Second International Conference *Electrical Engineering, Informatics, Machinery and Automation - Technical Sciences applied in Economy, Education and Industry-ETIMA*.

ETIMA has a goal to gather the scientists, professors, experts, and professionals from the field of technical sciences in one place as a forum for exchanging the ideas, strengthening the multidisciplinary research and cooperation, and promoting the achievements of technology and its impact on every aspect of living. We hope that this conference will continue to be a venue for presenting the latest research results and developments on the field of technology.

Conference ETIMA was held as online conference. More than sixty colleagues contributed to this event, from five different countries with more than thirty papers.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the colleagues, who contributed to the success of ETIMA'23 by presenting the results of their current research and by launching the new ideas through many fruitful discussions.

We invite you and your colleague to attend ETIMA Conference in the future as well. One should believe that next time we will have opportunity to meet each other and exchange ideas, scientific knowledge and useful information as well as to involve as much as possible the young researchers into this scientific event.

The Organizing Committee of the Conference

# ПРЕДГОВОР

Меѓународната конференција *Електротехника, Технологија, Информатика, Машинство и Автоматика-технички науки во служба на економија, образование и индустрија-ЕТИМА* е организирана од страна на Електротехничкиот факултет при Универзитетот "Гоце Делчев".

ЕТИМА има за цел да ги собере на едно место научниците, професорите, експертите и професионалците од полето на техничките науки и да претставува форум за размена на идеи, да го зајканува мултидисциплинарното истражување и соработка и да ги промовира технолошките достигнувања и нивното влијание врз секој аспект од живеењето. Се надеваме дека оваа конференција ќе продолжи да биде настан на кој ќе се презентираат најновите резултати од истражувањата и развојот на полето на технологијата.

Конференцијата ЕТИМА се одржа online и на неа дадоа свој придонес повеќе од шеесет автори од пет различни земји со повеќе од триесет труда.

Сакаме да ја искажеме нашата благодарност до сите колеги кои придонесоа за успехот на ЕТИМА'23 со презентирање на резултати од нивните тековни истражувања и со лансирање на нови идеи преку многу плодни дискусии.

Организационен одбор на конференцијата



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# ENERGY MIX OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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#### **Abstract**

This paper deals with the energy mix of the Slovak Republic with a focus on renewable energy sources and their development in recent years. The share of renewable energy sources in electricity production in Slovakia rose from 310 GWh in 2011 to 2 380 GWh in 2021. This number does not include hydro energy, which has had a very good position in Slovakia for many years and its installed capacity is almost unchanged, in 2021 it was 2 546 MW, and electricity production was at about 4 600 GWh. The energy sector in Slovakia, as well as in other European countries, must reflect worldwide changes and challenges. It needs to consider problems in many fields, such as technical, economic, ecological, legislative, social, and political.

The current situation in the Slovak energy system is described with a focus on energy dependence and the usage of renewables. Some energy statistics are shown in this paper. Finally, possible scenarios and plans for the reduction of energy dependence are discussed.

#### **Key words**

energy, renewable energy sources, energy consumption and production, energy dependency

#### Introduction

European Union (EU) is one of the major players in global energy consumption. Despite its leading position, the EU has a very small influence on energy price markets. Moreover, the EU and Slovakia as one of the EU's member states, must be independent of one monopoly supplier, as well as boosts the production from renewable energy sources (RES). Many of the EU's countries are already successfully implementing this strategy. This is not only about minimizing our dependence on fossil fuels (and with its connected monopoly supplier), but also about the necessary increase in renewable energy production. The current energy mix in Slovakia could be considered as a good, which consists mostly of nuclear power plants and hydropower plants. Nowadays, political authorities are searching for new, stable, and environmentally friendly energy sources that could be able to cover all energy demands and moreover assign energy safety and sustainable development of the energy industry.

Slovakia has untapped potential for renewables. However, its utilization must go hand in hand with legislation and regulation. It is important to diversify the sources and to come up with systematic solutions that consist of sensible steps and considering the opinions of experts.



# 1. Energy in Slovakia

Slovakia is located in east Europe, between latitudes 47° and 50° N, and longitudes 16° and 23° E. It has an area of 49 035 km² and 5 428 792 inhabitants (data from 31 December 2022), [2]. The Slovak climate lies between the temperate and continental climate zones with relatively warm summers and cold, cloudy, and humid winters. The Slovak landscape is primarily mountainous nature, extending across most of the northern half of the country. The average temperature is 8.7 °C, the warmest average maximum temperature is 26 °C in July and the coolest average minimum temperature is -7 °C in January. Slovakia receives on average 605 mm of precipitation annually or 50 mm each month [1].

Slovakia is highly dependent on energy commodities import. The energy dependence of the Slovak Republic (56%, without nuclear energy) is only 2% lower than EU average - in 2020, the EU imported 57.5% of the energy it consumed. When nuclear energy is included, Slovakia with 81% is the fifth most dependent EU country after Malta (98%), Cyprus (92%), Luxembourg (91%) and Greece (81%) [3].

The energy mix represents an overview of individual energy sources in the total electricity production. Slovak energy sector structure is diversified in terms of fossil and nuclear fuels and renewable energy sources (RES) including water. Considering t electricity production, Slovakia was an exporter till the end of 2006 when unit 1 of the nuclear power plant Jaslovske Bohunice was shut down. The second unit was shut down in 2008. The reason for shutting down was the condition of Slovakia's accession to the European Union. Nowadays, Slovakia is an electricity importer, electricity balance is low, in 2011 it was 2.5%, and in 2021 it was very similar [5]. In 2021, the total installed capacity in Slovakia reached 7 779 MW, with total electricity consumption at 30 867 GWh and total electricity production at 30 093 GWh [5], see table 1. The share of RES at electricity production is increasing, but excluding large hydroelectric plants, the share of RES is at about 8%. In the last decade the highest new installed capacity was from the photovoltaic power plants, the share of wind energy is very low.

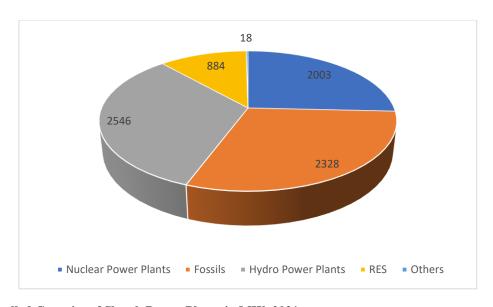
Table 1 Share of energy sources covering electricity production in GWh in Slovakia, in 2006, 2011, and 2021

	Nuclear Power Plants	Fossils	Hydro Power Plants	RES	Others	Production	Consumption
2021	15 730	7 274	4 604	2 380	105	30 093	30 867
2011	15 441	5 726	4 006		2 992	28 165	28 862
2006	18 013	5 935	4 447		2 832	31 227	29 624

Source: Ročenka SED 2021. National Control Centre of Slovakia. Online. Available at: https://www.sepsas.sk/media/6115/rocenka-sed-2021.pdf

#### 2. Power Plants in Slovakia

The energy mix of the Slovak Republic is diversified in terms of fossil and nuclear fuels and renewable energy sources and hydro energy, see fig. 1.



**Fig. 1 Installed Capacity of Slovak Power Plants in MW, 2021** Source: Ročenka SED 2021. National Control Centre of Slovakia. Online. Available at: https://www.sepsas.sk/media/6115/rocenka-sed-2021.pdf

There are two thermal power plants in Slovakia, in Vojany and in Nováky. Despite coal, both plants also use biomass, in Vojany since 2009 and in Nováky since 2011. One black coal fired 110 MW unit can avoid about 21 000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually when co-firing biomass. Because they provide reliable electricity generation both for the baseload as well as for peak load demand, they play a very important role in the power grid. Resent years, the main role of fossil fuels has played natural gas. The history of coal mining is long, brown coal mining started in Slovakia in 1913, but at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, coal and lignite mining began to decrease. After February 2022, several countries resumed their coal production due to gas supply complications, but it is no longer possible in Slovakia because the process of transformation of the region and termination of mining has begun. In addition, the state will no longer support it.

Two nuclear power plants, one in Jaslovské Bohunice with 2 units of pressurised water reactors, type WWER 440, and one in Mochovce also with 2 units same type, are currently in operation. Two new units, located in Mochovce, being planned, Unit 3 is now in a start-up phase and Unit 4 is still under construction. The electric power of each new unit will be 471 MW<sub>e</sub> and will cover 13% of the electricity demand in Slovakia [4].

The installed capacity of hydropower plants in Slovakia was 2 546 MW in 2021, including pumped storage power plants (there are four of them - Čierny Váh 734,4 MW, Liptovská Mara 98 MW, Dobšiná 24 MW and Ružín 60 MW). There are currently 234 hydropower plants in operation, but only 24 are large hydropower plants. The share of hydropower plants in annual production is on average 15%. Due to their flexibility and rapid changes in output, they can cover power requirements at the top of the daily load diagram, and they are therefore also suitable for covering emergency conditions in the grid [6].

In 2021, a share of energy from renewables was 17.4% (houses heated by wood are also included, what cannot be considered as inappropriate), considering only electricity from renewables without water, it was only 8%. Compared to recent years, the improvement is only marginal. The installed capacity of RES (without water) was 884 MW in 2021, while in 2016 it was 876 MW. When we consider also hydropower, in 2021 RES achieved a share of 22.9% in electricity production (6 984 GWh, water 2 380 GWh, and other RES 4 604 GWh), while in 2020 it was 7 205 GWh, and in 2016 it was 7274 GWh, what represents 26.5% (overall production was 27 452 GWh).

The main share has solar energy, followed by biomass, see table 2. In addition to energy from water and sun, biogas or wood, geothermal energy can also be a suitable option to increase the share of renewables in the overall energy mix. There are several areas, e.g., around Galanta, vel'ký Meder, Žiar nad Hronom, Prešov or Košice, which have the potential not only for heat production but also for electricity.

Table 2 Share on the installed capacity of RES in MW in Slovakia in 2021

Solar	Biomass	Biofuel	Wind	Others	Total
532	234	104	3	11	884 MW

Source: Ročenka SED 2021. National Control Centre of Slovakia. Online. Available at: https://www.sepsas.sk/media/6115/rocenka-sed-2021.pdf

Upon bigger installed power in RES, their impact is manifested in the overall ES management, especially from the view of assurance of the necessary volume of particular kinds of supportive services. The establishment of the necessary volume of particular kinds of supportive services is solved based on the methodology of transmission system operator in the Slovak Republic (SEPS, a.s.). Renewables increase the necessary volume for supportive services in secondary power regulation and tertiary power regulation.

# Conclusion

Renewable energy sources alone are not able to cover all our demands. Obviously, they are environmentally friendly, and they help to decrease fossils consumption. In a short time, it is not realistic and not economically reasonable to replace all conventional (nuclear and thermal) power plants with RES due to their unpredictable behaviour and high investment costs. However, recent months have shown us we should look at our natural resources and because of the lack of other sources, the improvement of RES is welcome.

The instability of supplies, security of supplies, environmental concerns as well as economic constraints the energy issues must be solved. It is important to mention that for RES support are many EU grants that provide research, development, and innovation in the field of renewable energy sources.

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