

»» Project Information

Implemented by:



Wind energy – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mesihovina, the country's first wind farm, is being built in the south of the country

There is a favourable wind blowing for renewable energies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it's all down to the fact that the mountainous Karst region in southern Herzegovina offers good conditions for a wind farm. The wind whistles unimpeded over a barren "moonscape", and there is no-one to be disturbed by the turbines. The country is hoping to exploit this resource – with the help of KfW. The country's first ever wind farm, known as Mesihovina, is to be built near the city of Mostar in the south of the country. By 2018 there are already to be 22 gigantic turbines rotating in the wind at the farm.

Background

Wind energy is still largely unutilised in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite the fact that the country offers good conditions for it. And it is not the only one. The usage of energy from the air is a resource that has barely been noticed and remains largely unexploited throughout the Balkan Peninsula. Electricity is still mostly generated using coal and hydropower. The substantial potential for using renewable energy from the wind and sun is still largely going to waste, and needs to be developed.

There are reasons for this: Not only is the necessary infrastructure for expanding the use of renewable energies lacking, but so are the conducive conditions and financial incentives. Innovative companies that feed electricity from sustainable sources into the grid currently do not receive sufficient compensation for doing so. Many companies also lack experience with these new technologies. As a result, they still do not

perceive it worthwhile to invest in renewable energies. This is now to change with financial support from KfW.

Although the country has no shortage of energy (in fact, Bosnia and Herzegovina even exports electricity), there is a regional deficit. The area covered by the participating, Mostar-based energy utility company contains an aluminium smelter that consumes large quantities of electricity. The company has been forced to buy electricity from other countries in the past in order to meet the immense level of demand. With energy prices high and constantly rising, the energy provider is now seeking to make more use of wind power since electricity generated from wind power is more affordable than imported energy. The imported electricity is also mostly generated using lignite, and therefore contributes to climate change.

Project name	Mesihovina wind farm
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/region	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Lead executing agency	Energy utility company in Bosnia and Herzegovina





“Lunar landscape” in Bosnia: the turbines will not bother anybody here.
Source: Dalibor Marinčić

Project approach

The wind farm is being built near the village of Mesihovina, which is roughly 70 kilometres to the west of Mostar. The site is currently unused, and situated around one thousand metres above sea level. A total of 22 wind turbines with a combined installed capacity of around 50 MW will be built in two rows along the ridge of a mountain, and tower 100 metres into the air once completed.

The huge turbines measure 70 metres across, but will not bother anybody in this lunar landscape while also having no impact on the environment. A study conducted before building started found that neither the construction nor operation of the wind turbines is expected to have any major impact on the environment.

The project includes the following individual measures: In addition to the construction site and the wind turbines themselves, each of the 22 installations will have a transformer station, integrated low-voltage switchgear and control/output cables. There will also be control equipment for the central control room and output cables running between the individual turbines. The project also involves procuring replacement parts and special equipment, training the personnel who will be responsible for operating the facility in the future, connecting the wind farm to the main grid and laying an access road.

The costs for the new wind farm will come to approximately EUR 78 million. Of this amount, EUR 71 million is being borrowed and EUR 1 million stems from a grant for complementary measures. The remaining

EUR 6 million is being contributed by the energy utility company itself.

Impact

The Mesihovina wind farm will be the first of its kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and serve as a model for the ongoing development of climate-friendly wind power on the Balkan Peninsula. The 22 turbines are expected to generate around 140 GWh of electricity every year - enough to power around 33,000 homes and save 126,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year. However, the main users of the wind power are expected to be the manufacturing sector and industry. But the wind farm is also promoting the economy directly by opening up new fields of business and earning opportunities for local companies, be they suppliers or service providers.

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