

Serbia: RES investment projects bringing benefits to local communities, the case of CWP wind project

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Increased interest for renewable energy sector investments is being recorded during the last year. There are around 30 active companies in Vojvodina, mostly in beginning phase, that announced around 1,5 billion EUR of investments.

The conditions required for potential converting in real projects is to fulfill regulatory frame for this sector. Serbian Government has recently adopted one regulatory set what provided "feed in" tariffs and status of privileged producer status. Ministry of Energy has recently announced that model of the contract for electricity buyout for RES will be adopted until 10 July and if it is the case, we can expect that construction of wind parks, solar plants and biomass facilities is at the end of this and in the beginning of the next year.

Ana Brnabic, Director of the Project "Continental Wind Serbia" which is working on "Cibuk 1" project in Kovin municipality, stressed that many benefits for the wind park are from municipal budget, profits for those who sell their country with undisturbed continuation of agricultural activities over improvement of investor's account to the new work places.

-We have made a contract for cooperation with Kovin municipality according to which 2% of net profit goes to municipality. Except for that, two thirds of the land we bought in private ownership and farmers can still cultivate the land and when wind park stops to work, they have possibility to buy out its land for only one EUR- Brnabic said an emphasized that investor's obligation is to fix roads and transmission lines for their needs, but that state also need to offer more stability and to include existing investors before making important decisions related to their business.

She explained that Wind Park "Cibuk 1" will have 57 turbines with total capacity of 144,21 MW. It is an investment, around 280 million EUR worth where 70% is contained of international financial institutions.

Source; Vojvodina Dnevnik/Serbia Energy