Climate action kit

Case study

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Albania

As the efforts against climate change intensify across the globe, carbon neutrality has become one of the focal points of policy making worldwide and especially in the European Union (EU). In the framework of undertaking measures for environmental protection globally, Albania has signed the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016, entering the new era of the international climate policy process. Also, Albania acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1995 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2005.

This is an integral part of the EU integration process and includes the development of national monitoring and reporting capacities, annual greenhouse gas (GHG) policies, formulation and implementation of policies to reduce GHG and adaptation to climate change, transposition and implementation of the EU climate change acquis. Law no. 155/2020 and the National Renewable Energy Plan are the basis for meeting the climate protection objectives, helping the Albanian government achieve its clean energy model.

In line with the EU targets 20-20-20, Albania has introduced the National Contribution, set out within the Paris Agreement process in September 2015, committing to reducing CO_2 emissions compared to the baseline scenario in 2016 and aiming for a reduction by 11,5% in 2030. To achieve this objective, the Albanian government is working to reduce car emissions through measures such as facilitated market entry of new and electric cars, tightening procedures for the entry of old cars, etc.

Promoting the use of hybrid and electric cars in urban/interurban traffic is another challenge undertaken mainly by the municipalities of large cities to meet the objectives undertaken by the government according to law no.155/2020. The goal in the Municipality of Tirana (the largest administrative unit in the country) is that urban transport, inside Tirana, is to be done by electric bus or hybrid.

The General Directorate of Standardization (DPS) in Albania has established the technical committees (TCs), which are part of the Albanian National Committee of the IEC. DPS/TC 4 covers this field as a mirror committee of IEC TC 69, adopting IEC International Standards and making them available/usable at national level to all interested parties (designers and investors).

According to the Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) registrations, about 90% of electricity in Albania is produced by hydropower plants. DPS/TC 3 and DPS/TC 4 deal with the adoption of IEC International Standards that cover the field of turbines, transformers, cables, etc., assisting not only regulators but also manufacturing entities and all those interested in these standards.

Law no. 7/2017 to promote the use of energy from renewable sources and the national action plan for renewable energy sources, promotes the use of renewable sources of energy by facilitating measures to stimulate the production of energy from photovoltaics (PV). It also facilitates procedures for issuing construction permits for PV systems and their introduction in the public supply network. This has led to an increase in the production of renewable energy from PV.

Setting a competitive price for energy produced by PV for 2019 and 2020 of EUR 100/KW helped increase interest in investing in this field. A considerable number of PV projects have already been realized, resulting in the construction of plants with an initial production of 2-3 MW. Applications for energy production with PV systems for over 3 MW continue.

DPS/TC 6 covering the field of IEC TC 82 for PV, responded to this challenge by assisting not only regulators in the basic requirements for design, construction and materials to be used, but also investors and all those who are interested in this set of standards. DPS/TC 6 has organized intensive work to adopt all the International Standards of IEC TC 82, as Albanian standards. It has also undertaken an information campaign for all firms operating in this field, informing them about relevant standards, and inviting them to take an active part in the adoption and discussions on these standards.

The national plan also includes the objective of the government for the promotion of projects in the field of wind energy, of which some are being implemented but production has yet to begin. DPS/TC 3 covers the field of IEC TC 88 for wind turbines. It assists the regulator and investors/designers in defining and reflecting in their projects the requirements for wind turbines and systems in terms of safety, efficiency and sustainability, etc. The IEC 61400 series of standards by IEC TC 88, has grown alongside the requirements of the wind turbine and wind systems market.

Increasing energy efficiency is also a very important area where both central and local government policies are being focused. The aim is to encourage investment to increase energy efficiency and energy savings. In answer to these objectives of the Albanian government, the DPS has established DPS/TC 6 covering the field of energy efficiency and energy saving for household appliances and electrical installations of buildings. It assists the regulator and all stakeholders with the implementation of adopted standards developed by IEC TC 61, IEC TC 59, as well as IEC TC 64. In this context, some very important projects have been implemented and many private initiatives have been undertaken in the framework of energy efficiency in buildings.

Also, DPS/TC 4, which covers luminaries, is assisting all stakeholders, including the Albanian local governments, as well as various design entities and investors in a series of projects based on standards related to the energy efficiency of luminaries and public road lighting, using mainly LED to maximize energy savings.