

**36 applications**  
for solar power plants



**92 applications**  
for small hydro-power plants

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## **172 applications for wind-power plants over the last 2 years**

The development of a green energy market and EU membership will offer us the possibility to trade with this energy source; there is great potential

Eleonora Dukovac

By 2010, 5.8% of the total electric energy in Croatia could be produced from renewable energy sources (RES), which does not include big hydro power plants. In the production of electric energy this represents 1,139 GWh. The EU and national energy strategy are continuously dictating an increase in the share of energy from water, wind, sun, biomass and geothermal sources.

### **What is the current level of RES in Croatia?**

Our analysis has confirmed significant natural, technical and economic potential of all types of sources. In 2007, our total production of electric energy from RES, including also big hydro plants, amounted to 36%. As a share of total consumption, electric energy from RES resourced 24%. With big hydro plants and a high consumption rate of electric energy (3% per year), the share of RES in the total of consumed electric energy should reach 36% by 2010.

### **How is the state encouraging the production of energy from RES?**

We have an active system to encourage the production of electric energy from RES – wind, sun, biomass, geothermal water and water courses. We have used experiences from the EU, where the use of RES is encouraged through specific economic instruments, such as guaranteed redemption price. The law on bio fuel for transport has also been passed. Croatia is already successfully co-operat-



ing in the programme Intelligent Energy for Europe intended for EU members. Croatian partners have already worked on over 20 projects, and 4 regional energy agencies have been created.

### **What is the interest in construction and use of plants for this kind of energy production?**

The interest is great. From 1st July 2007 to 1st July 2009, we have received 320 applications for registering projects and plants for using RES and co-generat-

ing as well as privileged producers. Of those applications, 172 of them are for wind power plants, 36 for solar power plants, 92 for small hydro power, 19 for bio gas, 18 for biomass, and 9 applications for cogeneration. The greatest interest for constructing wind power plants is the Splitsko-dalmatinska, Sibensko-kninska region and Zadar county, with maximum capacity almost entirely used. There is great interest in the Dubrovačka-neretvanska area, but also in Slavonia, Lika and Istria.

### **How many new wind and solar power plants might Croatia have in a few years?**

It is hard to predict the number of wind power plants since this will depend on their capacity. There is interest for solar power plants in the coastal area, where for now mostly bigger projects are mentioned, such as projects for high-temperature solar thermo-power plants with parabolic concentrators, with a considerably greater fitted power in comparison with those fitting on roofs of family houses and buildings. Applying such technology would enable, amongst other things, greater competitiveness from photovoltaic technology and giving a great fillip and challenge for the local processing industry. There is also great interest in the continental part of the country and there are many applications in the area of Zagreb, north-western Croatia and Istria.

### **Does Croatia have the potential to trade with green energy?**

The development of a green energy market and EU membership will offer us a possibility to trade with this energy source. There is great potential here. We are now slowed down by the competitiveness of the price and local conditions for using RES and the development of certain technologies. However, the market for green energy will be systemised before we enter the EU, whereas the development of technology and synergy of producers will remove barriers, and the price will become competitive with fossil energy sources. ■