

“STRUCTURING THE FUTURE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY”



Date: November 12, 2025

Venue: Hotel Limak, Skopje, North Macedonia

MARES 2025 gathers regional and international experts to shape a sustainable energy future. The conference explores key mechanisms for market stability and investment confidence. It highlights smart grid innovation and advanced renewable technologies driving change. Through dialogue and collaboration, MARES 2025 aims to accelerate the low-carbon transition.

08:30 - 09:00

Arrivals and Registration

09:00 - 09:30

Opening and Welcome Remarks



Slobodan Popovski

President of MARES



Fatih Turkmenoglu

Country Head for North Macedonia, EBRD

Panel 1: “From Chaos to Order”

09:30 - 10:30

In a rapidly changing energy landscape, new mechanisms are shaping the path from volatility to stability. This panel will explore how Contracts for Difference (CfDs) and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) can bring clarity and coordination to an increasingly complex system:

- Financial Stability through CfDs – A mechanism that secures predictable revenues for renewable projects, lowers investor risk, and accelerates clean energy deployment.
- Regulatory Balance through CBAM – A framework that levels the playing field by integrating carbon costs into trade, promoting fair competition and low-carbon production.
- From Chaos to Coordination – How these instruments together align policy, finance, and markets to deliver a structured, sustainable energy transition.
- Bridging Public and Private Sectors – The role of governments, banks, and regulators in turning energy disorder into opportunity and long-term climate resilience.

Moderator



Miroslav Divcic

Head of Energy Economics
Department, Wien Energie
International GmbH (BiH)



Vladislav Mishev

Corporate Clients Advisor,
NLB Bank AD Skopje

Speakers



Chris Basinski

Principal Energy Economist,
Sustainable Business &
Infrastructure Climate Strategy
and Delivery (CSD) EBRD (UK)



Slaven Popovic

Senior Investment Officer,
Finance in Motion / GGF (MN-
NM)



Mladen Apostolović

Senior Portfolio and Retail
Manager at Energy Financing
Team (EFT Group) (SRB)



Marko Bislimoski

President, Energy and Water
Services Regulatory
Commission (NM)



Elena Ivanovska

Cabinet Officer for Monitoring
the Strategic Priorities, Ministry
of Energy, Mining and Mineral
Resources (NM)

Coffee Break

10:30 - 10:45

Panel 2: “Smart Grid – Powering the Energy Transition”

10:45 - 11:45

Integrating renewable energy sources into existing grids is transforming how power systems are managed, financed, and optimized. This panel explores the key challenges and solutions driving this transformation:

- Integration Challenges – How variable renewable generation affects grid stability, reliability, and daily balancing.
- Aging Infrastructure – The limitations of traditional networks in accommodating new, decentralized energy flows.
- Regional Experiences – Lessons learned from the Western Balkans and neighboring countries in overcoming grid and market integration barriers.
- Smart Solutions – The role of digitalization, automation, and real-time monitoring in building adaptive, intelligent grids.
- Future Outlook – How coordinated planning, investment, and innovation can turn current constraints into opportunities for a resilient, low-carbon energy system.

Moderator



Zlatko Cherepnalkoski

Board Member, MARES

Speakers



Aleksandar Paunoski

Deputy General Director,
MEPSO (NM)



Fatjon Zekaj

Head of Long-Term Planning
Directory of Transmission
Network Planning and
Development (AL)



Adnan Muharemovic

Deputy Head of Department
for Real Time System
Management NOSBiH (BiH)



Frydas Nikolaos

Executive Member of the
Board of IPTO S.A. (GR)



Andrey Andreev

Head of SCADA/EMS Department
at Dispatching Automated System
Department at ESO EAD (BG)

PANEL 3: “Panels, Wind Blades, Hydro and Batteries – The Hardware of the Green Revolution”

11:45 - 12:45

This panel convenes leaders from wind, solar, hydro and battery sectors to discuss large-scale renewable energy projects with an emphasis on regional impact and relevance across the Western Balkans and neighboring countries:

- Regional Insights – Practical lessons and experiences from PV, wind, hydro and storage projects within the region.
- Context-Specific Challenges – Addressing technical, operational, and investment hurdles unique to regional energy systems.
- Grid Resilience – How battery storage and hybrid systems enhance stability and flexibility.
- Innovation & Learning – Sharing successful approaches and emerging technologies driving the green energy transition.

Moderator



Eva Shukleva

Board Member, MARES

Keynote Speaker



David Wedephol

General Manager, German Solar Association (GER)

Speakers



Aleksandar Tolevski

CEO, INTEBAKO (NM)



Furkan Kiraç

Business Development Manager, Soyak Energy (TR)



Dimitar Dimitrov

Professor, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies, Skopje (NM)



Ronald Upmann

International Project Manager, German Solar Association (GER)



Samoil Celeski

CEO, EMK Small Hydro Power Plants, Board Member of MARES (NM)

Coffee Break - Powered by Sparkasse Bank

12:45 - 13:15

PANEL 4: “Navigating Policy for a Renewable Future”

13:15 - 14:15

This panel examines how energy law and policy shape the renewable transition, highlighting the experiences of regulators, policymakers, and civil society:

- Real-World Regulatory Challenges – Insights from those creating energy legislation in dynamic and complex markets.
- Policy Design & Environmental Priorities – Exploring hurdles, and strategies for effective renewable energy policy.
- Civil Society Engagement – The crucial role of NGOs and advocacy groups in influencing energy and climate policy.
- Aligning Law with Action – How collaboration between regulators, lawmakers, and stakeholders drives a practical, low-carbon energy transition.

Moderator



Ana Kolevska

General Secretary, MARES

Speakers



Darko Janevski

Legal and Project
Management Consultant,
Co-Founder of ACT (NM)



Kalinka Gaber

UNOPS, Project Manager:
EU for Clean Air (NM)



Almir Imamovic

Head of Tariff and Market
Department at State Electricity
Regulatory Commission (BiH)



**Olimpija Hristova
Zaevska**

CEO, Elson Solutions (NM)



Agim Selami

Executive Director and
Co-Founder of ZIP
Institute (NM)

Closing Remarks

14:15 - 15:00

- A wrap-up of the key insights, discussions, and outcomes

Networking Lunch

15:00 - 17:00

- Sky Lounge - LIMAK Hotel
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