



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION



Ministry of Energy

## Activity Overview

### Energy Security Seminar “Contribution of Western Balkan Countries to Regional Energy Security: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation”

IRC-P4-S-17

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, HR-10437 Bestovje,  
CROATIA

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**Dates** 18-21 June 2017

**Venue(s)** RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation  
Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia

#### Background

Imports represent the biggest share in the energy consumption in SEE and being heavily reliant on a single supplier is a common problem. This import dependency represents a disadvantage as it causes vulnerabilities linked to supply disruptions created by political or commercial disputes. The European Commission took these concerns, together with other relevant considerations, into account when it developed its Energy Security Strategy and the Energy Union Strategy Framework in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Both documents aim at ensuring a stable and safe supply of energy for the European citizens and the European economy. At the same time, for the neighbouring countries, the efforts made by the Energy Community Secretariat towards assisting the Contracting Parties on their path to transposing the European *acquis* are quite relevant.

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation has initiated an Energy Security project that was carried out in 2015 and 2016 through the Seminars “*Regional Approach to Energy Security*” (March 2015, Bucharest, Romania) and “*Energy Security - the Regional Dimension and the Need for Diversification*” (June 2016, RACVIAC, Rakitje, Republic of Croatia) wherein Romania assumed the role of the leading nation.

This year’s event will be organised under the aegis of RACVIAC - *Centre for Security Cooperation* in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Romanian Ministry of Energy.

The 2017 event will focus on the challenges and opportunities that the SEE region faces in the field of energy security. Taking stock of the conclusions and lessons of the two events organised in 2015 and 2016, a natural evolution towards more technically-oriented discussions based on the regional cooperation formats and the role of the Energy Community seemed appropriate. A special focus should be given to measures dealing with high levels of import dependency and the exchange of information and best practices in energy market development, as well as to the new technologies and renewable energy.

## **Purpose and Objectives**

The purpose of this event is to continue to enable open expert debates on common energy security challenges in the context of the Energy Security Strategy and the Energy Union Strategy Framework. The Seminar main objectives are:

- To identify the developing energy security challenges for SEE and opportunities for regional co-operation
- To provide participants with the opportunity to share the best practices in terms of specific national regulation, energy market development process or measures to deal with high levels of import
- To learn more about the role of the Energy Community and the efforts made to integrate the energy market through technical cooperation and policy dialogue for facilitating cross-border energy trade
- To learn more about the role of the EU energy strategy in the context of the Energy Union in relation to the political dialogue with the neighbouring countries in various regional cooperation formats (e.g. CESEC)
- To discuss and assess the security of the energy infrastructure and the diversification of sources and routes
- To discuss the alternative energy sources - Renewable Energy and usage of New Technologies.

## **Participation**

The aim of the Seminar is to bring together SEE representatives active in the field of energy security. Approximately a total of 40 participants - senior level officials and experts from governmental institutions and agencies, relevant international and regional organizations, and selected experts in the field of energy security – is foreseen. Participants are expected to take an active part in presenting the latest developments as well as to share their knowledge and experience in the field of energy security, energy market development and renewable energy and new technologies. Detailed information and other arrangements regarding this event will be specified in the corresponding materials that will be sent accordingly.

## **Methodology**

The event will last two days and will be comprised of lectures, presentations and discussions. The event will include a study visit to the TPP Plomin. The working language of the Seminar will be English.

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