

## Activity Overview

### “Challenges in the EU’s Neighbouring South-Eastern Countries – International Energy Security Seminar RACVIAC 2019”

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**Dates** 4-7 June 2019

**Venue** RACVIAC, Rakitje

#### Background

In the context of strengthening the energy security in EU’s neighbouring South-Eastern countries the biggest share of the energy consumption in SEE is dependent on imports and being heavily reliant on a single supplier is a common problem. This import dependency poses 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 economies.

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation initiated an Energy Security project that is being carried out since 2015 when Romania assumed the role of the leading nation in the area of energy security in RACVIAC context.

The 2019 edition of the Seminar, “*2019 RACVIAC International Energy Security Seminar*”, will be organised under the auspices of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Energy, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Croatian Ministry of Environment and Energy.

This event will focus on the main issues that the South-Eastern European countries are facing in the field of energy security, taking into account the conclusions of the previous events organised from 2015 to 2018. A natural evolution towards cooperation formats between EU’s neighbouring South-Eastern countries (e.g., Energy Community and CESEC) and concrete solutions and measures to minimize the threats in energy supply have been borne in mind. Special attention will be paid to the exchange of information regarding the best practices in the oil and gas sector and renewable energy sources, as well as best practices in energy efficiency on the national level and in the defence sector.

## **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 main objectives are:

- to define the role of the EU energy strategy in the context of the Energy Union in the light of the political dialogue with the neighbouring SEE countries in various regional cooperation formats (e.g., CESEC);
- to analyse the energy challenges of the SEE countries and opportunities for regional co-operation;
- sharing best practices in terms of specific national energy regulation, energy market development process or measures to deal with import dependency;
- the security of energy infrastructure and the diversification of energy sources and transport routes;
- information sharing and best practices in the oil and gas sector and renewable energy sources;
- information sharing and best practices in energy efficiency on the national level and in the defence sector.

## **Participation**

The aim of the Seminar is to bring together SEE representatives active in the field of energy security. Approximately a total of 30 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 - are expected to attend the activity.

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 comprise lectures, presentations and discussions. It will include a study visit to the Varaždin Hydroelectric Power Plant site.

The working language of the Seminar will be English.

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