



Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

Future-proofing the lignite District Stara Zagora through economic diversification and reduction of the environmental footprint of power production

Final Report on Peer Review Hosted by the District Administration and the Economic Development Agency of Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

26-27 February 2020

1. Background

Stara Zagora is the sixth-largest city in Bulgaria, and the administrative capital of the homonymous Stara Zagora Region. The region is situated in the South-central part of Bulgaria (see Figure 1). Stara Zagora is the administrative centre of Stara Zagora District, part of Yugoiztochen Planning Region. There is total of 11 Municipalities in the region: Bratya Daskalovi (pop. 9,724); Chirpan (pop. 23,470); Gurkovo (pop. 5,273); Galabovo (pop. 14,269); Kazanlak (pop. 76,447); Maglizh (pop. 12,267); Nikolaevo (pop. 4,840); Opan (pop. 3,501); Pavel Banya (pop. 14,703); Radnevo (pop. 21,959); Stara Zagora (pop. 164,472).

The district of Stara Zagora shows stable growth in the economic sector. Between 2007 and 2017, gross regional value added in the region increased by a record 113%, employment increased by nearly 10 points to 70.1% amid minimal unemployment, and average wages of BGN 1,021 came second only to the capital city of Sofia. In 2017, GDP per capita reached BGN 17.6 thousand - second in the country (after BGN 30.3 thousand for Sofia), registering an 8% growth compared to the previous year.

Stara Zagora, in a nutshell, is the champion of Bulgaria in growth and is in the top 3 of the best places to live in the country. In the last ten years, the economy of Stara Zagora has shifted its focus towards industry, which share in value added has increased by 14 points to 65.6% of the total. The key factor for this is the launch of the two US owned coal plants - ContourGlobal Maritza Iztok 3 (2009) and AES Galabovo (2011). Together with the state-owned Maritza-Iztok 2, Brickel and Bulgaria's largest coal mining company Mini Maritza-Iztok, they generate revenues of almost 2.5 billion BGN in 2017 alone. The Maritza-Iztok energy complex employs a total of 30,000 people, and together with the accompanying services, there are twice as many employees.



This sector also is responsible for the high wages in the region, which continue to rise in parallel with the average for Bulgaria. While gross wages in the district increased by 8.9% compared to the previous year and reached BGN 1021, in the energy sector salaries reached BGN 2298 in 2017. The mining industry in Stara Zagora also offers competitively priced remuneration for the country - an average of BGN 1019, which puts the district in third place after Sofia (city and district) and the port of Varna.

In terms of economic growth, the last ten years have been very good for Stara Zagora. However, the next 10 will be key years and very difficult ones. By 2030, there will be major changes in the energy sector of the EU Member States. This will affect the country and the region significantly. According to the regulations, Bulgaria may use emission quotes, but eventually the cost of these quotes will become six times higher, thus making electricity generation from coal into unprofitable activity. The current situation is that the quotas have started to rise significantly even now, which questions the survival of the Energy complex Maritza Iztok altogether and will be followed by serious economic and demographic crisis.

Therefore, early planning is very crucial for the Region to cope with the challenges of the clean energy and coal phasing out. The clean coal opportunities are identified to be the first step along the long and rough path of decarbonization, mitigating the consequences this will have on the economics of the region, country, and the entire energy sector of Bulgaria.

Energy Sector – main players

Ministry of Energy (<http://www.me.government.bg>)

The state energy policy is implemented through the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers, in accordance with Art. 3 of the Energy Act (EA). Energy Policy of the country is conducted by the Minister of Energy according to Art. 4 of the EA. In charge of elaboration and updating of the Energy Strategy 2014 – 2020. The ministry is responsible for the setting the political course of the energy sector.

Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (EWRC) (<http://www.dker.bg>)

EWRC is an independent specialized state body that regulates energy activities in accordance with the provisions of the Energy Act (EE) and of the Renewable Energy Act (ZEVI), as well as water supply and sewerage (C and K) services in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation water supply and sewerage services.



Nuclear Regulatory Agency (NRA) (<http://www.bnsa.bas.bg>)

State regulation of the safe use of nuclear energy and ionizing radiation and the safe management of radioactive waste and spent fuel by the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency.

Agency for Sustainable Energy Development (AUER) (<http://www.seea.government.bg>) - implements the National energy policy efficiency, as well as promotes the production and consumption of energy from renewable sources.

The Bulgarian Energy Holding Jsc. (BEH) is a holding company bringing together companies active in the production and transmission of electricity, the transmission and storage of natural gas, as well as the production of lignite. The company is 100% owned by the Bulgarian state and is the largest state-owned company in the country based on owned assets. State ownership is exercised by the Minister of Energy.

BEH Jsc. is 100% equity owner of: Mines Maritza-East Jsc, Coal Power Plant Maritza-East 2 EAD, Kozloduy NPP EAD, National Electricity Company EAD, ESO EAD, Bulgargas EAD and Bulgartransgas EAD, companies with over 30 years of experience in the energy sector guaranteeing the security of the energy system in Bulgaria.

Strategic documents and Programmes

Regional Plan for Development of Southeastern Region 2014-2020 (NUTS 2 Region), Policy implemented through OP "Regions in Growth" 2014-2020 – in charge of elaboration of this document is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works. The priorities set in this Development plan are the basis for setting up priorities in the National Operational Programmes and the Operational Programme “Regions in Growth” in particular.

District Stara Zagora elaborates the **District Strategy for Development of Stara Zagora 2014 – 2020**, which, along with the other 3 District Strategies for Development are taken as a basis when the Ministry of Development is preparing the Regional Plan for Development of Southeastern Region. Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency is actively involved in the process of developing the District Strategy for Development of Stara Zagora as well as performing analysis on its progress.

A total of 6 Regional Plans for Development are elaborated by the Ministry of Development – one for each Planning region in Bulgaria (NITS 2).

At the end of each Operational programme period, the Ministry of Regional Development and



Public Works performs Socio-economic analysis of the Regions in Bulgaria. These documents are also considered when new measures and priorities are set in the future Operational programmes.

In addition to this process the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works is forming working groups with representatives from experts working in different ministries and agencies, along with representatives from all other stakeholders, including NGOs.

Stara Zagora coal sector – overview

Yugoiztochen Region is situated in the south-eastern part of Bulgaria with Stara Zagora being the administrative center of Stara Zagora District, part of the region. The region is often referred as “The Energy Heart” of Bulgaria. The region hosts a coal mine and 3 (three) big coal power plants, that produce electricity, and one combined thermal and electric coal power plant. They are forming Maritsa Iztok Energy Complex. The Maritsa Iztok Energy Complex is the biggest energy complex in South-East Europe with significant importance not only on regional but also on national level. The complex is in a large lignite coal basin, which includes several mines, enrichment plants, a briquette plant and possesses its own railway system.

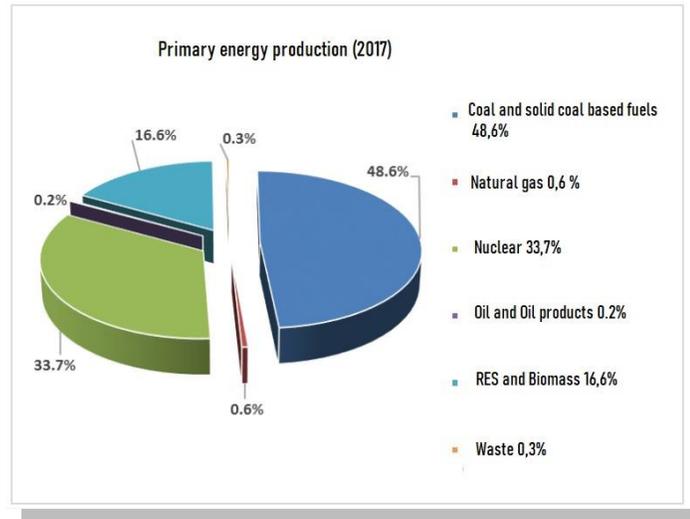
Coal mine sites in the region – 1, open-pit mine, national company

Coal-fired power plants in the region:

- Maritsa Iztok 1 (AES Galabovo Power Plant) – international company
- Maritsa Iztok 2 – national company;
- Maritsa Iztok 3 (Contour Global) – international company;
- Brikel Jsc. – national private company;

Energy Statistics

Primary energy production in the country satisfies around 50% of the gross domestic energy consumption with relatively unchanging structure in recent years and in dynamics stemming from consumption.



The current policies and measures in the energy sector of the country can be summarized in the following priority axes: efficient use of local energy resources, increasing interconnection, increasing the flexibility of the national energy system. Bulgarian is taking into account the heavy dependence on coal for electricity production and for the expected great impact on economic and social sector on Regional and National level, and currently gravitates towards full use of the existing local coal capacities in the country, respecting the environmental requirements and providing a source of electricity for the next 60 years. The use of local coal reserves has a future as a stabilizing source of energy. Locals using indigenous coal provide about 48% of the electricity generation and are the guarantor of Bulgaria's energy security and the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy. These 3 Coal Power Plants, situated in the Region of Stara Zagora are highly important power generation capacities for the Bulgarian power system and are the main provider of balancing services for the system, which is why they are a major factor for the country's electricity security. This determines the role of indigenous coal as a strategic energy resource in terms of the country's energy and national security.

Challenges in the coal sector:

- Diversification of the regional economy by exploring activities that match the skill profile and the infrastructure currently available in the region.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of coal power plants in the region through technological solutions such as CCS or new process technologies such as IGCC (integrated gasification combined cycle)

Stara Zagora district is called “the energy heart” of Bulgaria. The region is strongly focused on industry and energy is a leading sector. The Maritsa East lignite complex is the key factor for



the fast-growing economy of the region, relatively high wages and low unemployment rates. In terms of economics, the last ten years have been very good for Stara Zagora. However, the next 10 will be a great challenge for the lignite region, since by 2030, there will be major changes in the energy sector of all EU Member States. This will affect the country and the region significantly. According to the regulations, Bulgaria may use emission quotes, but eventually the cost of these quotes will become six times higher, thus making electricity generation from coal into unprofitable activity. The current situation is that the quotas have started to rise significantly

even now, which questions the survival of the Energy complex Maritza Iztok altogether and will be followed by serious economic and demographic crisis in the region.

Thus, the main arguments for the need of peer review in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria is the realized necessity of both social and economic diversification in the lignite region. This policy shift is expected to happen not only in regard of energy generation (through discovering new economy sectors with good potential away from energy branch), but within the power sector into renewable energies as well. This, however, requires the relevant technological solutions for clean power production, clear and reliable financing options for the expected major investments, as well as governance, administrative and technical capacity of the population as a pre-requisite for a successful transition.

2. The participants

After approval of the project call and analyzing the background paper, Interreg Europe made a selection of peers from Greece, Czech Republic, Denmark and the Netherlands with essential expertise and experience on low-carbon economy for regions in transition. Stara Zagora Regional economic development agency also invited relevant to the topic stakeholders – experts, national and regional authority representatives, private company executives, representatives of the academic community, ecologists – to also participate in the peer review, delivering input for common strategy development.



List of Participants
INTERREG EUROPE & Policy Learning Platform
Elena Ferrario, Thematic Manager, INTERREG EUROPE Policy Learning Platform
Katharina Krell, Thematic Expert Low-Carbon Economy, INTERREG EUROPE Policy Learning Platform
Verena Priem, Policy Officer Low-Carbon Economy, INTERREG EUROPE Joint
Peer experts
Dionysios Giannakopoulos, Centre for Research & Technology Hellas / Chemical Process & Energy Resources Institute (CERTH/CPERI), Western Macedonia, Greece
Jana Nedrdová, Regional Authority of the Usti Region, Czech Republic
Karel Tichý, Ministry of Regional Development, Czech Republic
Magda Kowalska, PlanEnergi, Denmark
Zoe Kapetaki, Project Officer, DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Petten, the Netherlands
Stara Zagora district and local stakeholders
Ms Petya Chakarova, Deputy Governor of the District Authority of Stara Zagora
Dr. Rumyana Grozeva, Executive Director, Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency



Ms Mihaela Dineva, DeCarb INTERREG Europe, Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency
Ms Sofiya Savova, DeCarb INTERREG Europe, Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency
Assoc. Prof. Neli Grozeva, Thrakia University Deputy Rector
Assoc. Prof. Kancho Peychev, Thrakia University Deputy Rector
Mr Dian Dimitrov, Maritza East 2 EAD Member of the Board of Directors
Mr Oleg Stoilov, Chamber of Commerce - Stara Zagora Executive Director
Mr Slavtcho Neykov, Institute for Energy Management Chairman of the Board
Mr Ivan Tsankov, AIS TPP 1 EAD Executive Director
Mr Svetoslav Marinov, Deputy Mayor, Radnevo Municipality
Mr George Simeonov, Head of Investment and EU projects Department, City of Stara
Mr Rumen Radev, Association of Industrial Capital in Bulgaria Deputy. Chairman of the Board of Association of Industrial Capital in Bulgaria, representative for Stara Zagora
Mr Alexander Zagorov, Labour Confederation Podkrepa
Mr Michael Michailo, Labour Confederation Podkrepa
Ms Nadya Sinigerska, Contur Global TPP 3
Ms Nevena Dimitrova, Contur Global TPP 3
Mr Dimitar Chorbadzhiski, City Councilor
Mr Rumen Dimitrov, City Councilor
Mr Tsvetan Chetashki, Prodronsys Ltd.

The host organization put efforts in gathering relevant experts, executive bodies and authorities in order to create objective environment for effective discussion based on experience, expertise and skills. However, even from the first moments it became clear that the topic is highly sensitive for all parties involved. Therefore, good and timely planning, spread of believable information in line with proposal of adequate transition and displacement measures are crucial stones for the region to cope with the challenge of the transition to clean energy production and coal phasing out.



3. Main recommendations

Essential output of the peer review is the set of recommendations drawn up by the peers with input from the host region authorities and stakeholders during the peer review. These recommendations should be examined by the host region in view of their feasibility and their inclusion in the District Strategy.

3.1. Governance

3.1.1. Regional / District governance structure:

The District should have a permanent committee involving all stakeholders with the aim to discuss, plan and monitor strategies and activities related to economic diversification (and transition *if and when* this becomes a strategy at national level):

- All regional key stakeholders should be involved in this committee (triple helix);
- The Committee should have a dedicated coordination team with the resources and the responsibility to animate the Committee activities;
- This structure could be financed through OP TA or by contributions by local municipalities
- It could be built on existing structures (e.g. the Councils for development (NUTS2 and 3 levels);

Good practice: Regional permanent conference (Usti region, CZ).



3.1.2. Mechanism:

- Steering group of main stakeholder representatives: meets twice a year for more strategic discussions, planning and monitoring;
- Working groups: meet more often as required; they are in charge of individual concrete projects and this is where the work is done. They are executive bodies – no political nature.

3.2. Capacity

To be able to professionally absorb regional funds and to plan and implement new socio-economic diversification projects, the District should reinforce its **management capacity** and **technical capacity**.

3.2.1. Create a regional innovation centre (not a national centre, it should be dedicated to the transition region):

- triple helix approach – involve the chamber of commerce & local academia;
- The structure could be funded by the OP for education and R&D;
Good practice ICUK from CZ.

3.2.2. Build technical capacity for economic diversification:

- E.g. create scholarships for 10 regional engineering graduates to attend the “European Master in Renewable Energy” with the obligation to come back to the District and work for 5 years as technical experts for the renewable energy transition;
- E.g. build new IT labs, for example a virtual reality laboratory;
- Locate this new and reinforced technical capacity centres at the local university, or other existing academic bodies.

3.2.3. Set up a Regional open data platform:

- Open data can enable and inspire local innovation projects from the private sector and from students;
- Open data on energy, transport, waste and water is also useful for the public sector for new smart projects;
Good practice – project PORTABO, CZ, project EMPOWER, IT.



3.3. Diversification of the power sector

What can be done at regional level in case of an absence of a national strategy?

3.3.1. Renewable energy potential analysis & positive communication about renewable energy:

- Identify local renewable energy potential AND map it on the regional territory (The EC report has well identified the potential for PV and wind, but not so much biomass. Complete this potential analysis for biomass. Then identify where in the territory these potentials are located. Then assess permitting and prepare to launch local renewable energy projects);
- Engage the municipalities into investigations for local energy potentials;
- Start positive communication towards stakeholders about renewable energy to raise awareness and build public support (positive public dialogue).

3.3.2. Explore voluntary commitments:

- Build alternative energy scenarios with your companies;
- Invite power plants to examine voluntary measures, such as fuel-switch options/biomass co-firing;
- Intensify the work of companies environmental commitment.

3.3.3. Energy efficiency measures create new jobs, build on local energy expertise, reduce energy demand and benefit local stakeholders:

- Assess the local grid efficiency (distribution infrastructure at local level) and plan loss-reduction upgrades;
- Join the Virtual Power Plant association;
- Good practice – Virtual Power Plant Program, HU, LOCARBO project;
- Support building energy efficiency for multi-apartment blocks with help of financial instruments.

3.3.4. Waste management and circular economy:

- There are new obligations and targets from EU level for municipalities with regard to waste management that need to be addressed any way. We recommend addressing them in a way that helps diversifying the power sector at the same time as meeting the waste targets;
- Plan and implement separate collection of waste fraction as requirement from Circular economy package at municipal level;



- Use the separately collected waste fractions to generate renewable energy:
 - Build biogas plants to transform organic (kitchen) waste into biogas;
 - Build RDF gasification plants to transform the non-recyclable rest waste into heat and electricity;
 - *Good practice Celje, SI*;
 - Such new waste management infrastructure can be funded by OP!

3.3.5. Regional public renewable energy programs:

- PV on all public buildings' roofs (university, bus shelters, etc.)

3.4. Technological solutions to clean power production

3.4.1. Further assess technical and economic merits of the innovative technologies presented by Prof. Ganev (High temperature vacuum pyrolysis....):

- Prof Ganev should seek publication in scientific journals;
- Clarify the patents;
- What is the real technological readiness level (TRL), how mature is the solution?
- CCS is technically feasible but has many practical limitations:
- Very expensive and energy-demanding process; no examples of CCS at power plants in EU due to lack of economic viability. Viable scenarios can only be built with economic uses for the CO₂.

3.4.2. In general, it is recommended to privilege mature technological option due to “time to impact”:

- e.g. conversion of coal-fired power plants to biomass co-firing plants (many examples exist in EU; depends on biomass potential in the region, but new biomass can also be planted);
- Good practice – BIOFIT project;
- e.g. concentrated solar thermal energy can produce steam that can be transformed to energy at existing coal-fired power plants (depends on solar thermal potential in the region).

3.4.3. Encourage local investigation into alternative uses of lignite – technologies of ground / soil improvement (e.g. fertilizers, chemicals);



3.4.4. Encourage local development of know-how on technologies to clean coal power production;

3.5. Financing options

- Consider a support from different sources: local, national, EC, World Bank;
- Use TA (from CRIT, EC, World Bank);
- Suggest “priority lanes” options in the OP to specifically support calls for proposals
- from coal regions, for examples through:
 - Territorial-specific calls (only for transition regions);
 - Bonus points for projects in coal regions;
 - Specific criteria for selection of projects in coal regions.
- Consider financial instruments (e.g. FI for Energy Efficiency with TA from EIB – thematic event recommendation);
- Interregional cooperation funds available for knowledge exchange (Interreg Europe, interregional coop. within ERDF OP);
- Consider state aid rules.
- Incentives – creation of supporting and enabling conditions (rather than financial support):
 - Ensure additionality of incentives for eco/industrial zones in coal regions vs. other regions in BG;
 - Invest in attractive infrastructure (e.g. data cables, fast transport links, etc.);
 - Identify positive differentiating opportunities vs the neighbouring competing regions (Plovdiv, Bourgas), e.g. be “the only place in BG” where some innovative activities are possible (see Usti specialisation on autonomous vehicles in CZ);
 - Create an innovation and business friendly environment that allows economically viable projects and businesses to thrive.

3.6. National level recommendations

In recognition of the limitations of the competence of the Stara Zagora District Authorities and the local authorities, a number of recommendations were addressed to the national level which has competence over the energy sector.

- Build a national strategy and a vision for the energy sector – in cooperation with stakeholders at different administrative levels and backgrounds.
- Re-introduce RES support to ensure investment in RES projects are economically viable: it is imperative to introduce again some sort of support for renewables since currently there is no support at all. The transition and economic diversification of the coal region cannot be accomplished without renewables, and these need a small support to make them economically viable in an environment that is characterised by very low energy prices (also because BG does not need to pay for



CO2 from its coal plants).

- Legally enable RES self-production and consumption at household and company level while allowing feeding any excess electricity into the grid: this regulatory change does not require investments, but this legal change can unlock the RE market for pro- sumers.
- Translate EU level targets and commitments quickly into a national level strategy (good practice RE:START strategy, CZ).

4. Follow up

District of Stara Zagora is committed to disseminating results from the Peer review to all municipalities and stakeholders which have been involved during the discussions. Moreover, the District along through Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency is involved in the examination of the recommendations in view of their feasibility and their inclusion in the District Strategy. The host organization will also analyze all the tools, measures and good practices mentioned by the peers to see to what extend and in what timeline are applicable to the region or if they can be used as an inspiration for further tool development.

Furthermore, the Host would like to stay in touch with the peers to exchange on more concrete topics and ideas gained from peers' work approaches. The District is open for further collaboration in future projects as a project partner or to share experiences on other topics the peers are interested in. On the long-term the Host would like to develop best practices that are specific for the region of Stara Zagora and can serve as an inspiration for other regions in their efforts for achieving cleaner economy.

In the upcoming 12 months the host would follow up with the stakeholders on regional and national level which of the recommendations, outcome of the Peer Review could be included in the policy instruments on national and regional level. It is important to once again underline, that currently Bulgaria does not have an official political decision regarding decarbonization. The main directions for the Energy Sector the state stand by as of now are included in the Climate and Energy Plan. Up until an official political decision, some of the measures otherwise applicable for the district could be postponed or not favoured to be implemented. Nevertheless, the Host will be working actively towards clean coal, economic diversification and decarbonization measures, recommended during the Peer Review.

In Annex I to this report you can find the follow-up plan.



5. Conclusion

Host Organization District of Stara Zagora and Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency would like to thank Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform and the peers for their time, willingness to support the region of Stara Zagora and the shared invaluable experience in regard of low-carbon economy. Despite an extremely sensitive topic, the experts made reasonable arguments, giving hope of the local society that the transition period can really be fair, smooth and painless. The emphasized good practices showed clearly that other regions with similar profile had already succeeded in achieving clearer but still growing economy, good governance and capacity building together with multiple diversification of its energysupply.

Disclaimer: The Report and Annex I to it are elaborated as part of the Peer Review, organized by Policy Learning Platform. The recommendations, the applicability and the timeline are indicative and are only bounding to this document. They do not represent the current local, regional and national policy in the Energy sector.



Annex I – Follow-up Plan														
Applicability [1]	Recommendations	Mar '20	Apr '20	May '20	June '20	July '20	Aug '20	Sep '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Justification
	Governance													
	Regional / District governance structure - permanent committee involving all stakeholders with the aim to discuss, plan and monitor strategies and activities related to economic diversification (and transition <i>if and when</i> this becomes a strategy at national level.													It is expected dialogues towards dedicated committee to start just after a National political decision is taken. Giving the current world situation it is expected this process to be further delayed.
	Capacity													
	Regional innovation centre													Measures, already proposed by us to the working group to draft OP Competitiveness and innovations 2021 - 2027



	Build technical capacity for economic diversification													Measures, already proposed by us to the working group to draft OP Competitiveness and innovations 2021 - 2027
	Set up a Regional open data platform													Very good idea. Efforts will be put for this to be introduced in the Regional / District Development Plans.
	Diversification of the power sector													
	Renewable energy potential analysis & positive communication about renewable energy													According to the current version of the National Plan on Energy and Climate there is a will for increasing the RES in all sectors – heating, electricity, industry
	Explore voluntary commitments													
	Energy efficiency measures create new jobs, build on local energy expertise, reduce energy demand and benefit													Targets already set in National Plan on Energy and Climate and OP Competitiveness and



	local stakeholders													Innovations and OP Regions in Growth, expected
	Waste management and circular economy													Efforts will be put for this to be introduced also in the Regional / District Development Plans.
	Regional public renewable energy programs													Efforts will be put for this to be introduced also in the Regional / District Development Plans.
	Technological solutions to clean power production													
	Further assess technical and economic merits of the innovative technologies													Efforts will be put for this to be introduced in the Regional / District Development Plans.
	CCS is technically feasible but has many practical limitations: Very expensive and energy-demanding process; no examples of CCS at power													Alternative options to be further discussed.



	plants in EU due to lack of economic viability																
	Recommended to privilege mature technological option due to “time to impact”																Alternative technologies to be further discussed. Ongoing process of identifications of suitable solutions.
	Encourage local investigation into alternative uses of lignite – technologies of ground / soil improvement (e.g. fertilizers, chemicals);																Ongoing process and constant work with innovative companies and stakeholders towards this
	Encourage local development of know-how on technologies to clean coal power production																Ongoing process and constant work with innovative companies and stakeholders towards this
	Financing options																
																	Constantly ongoing process for exploring suitable funding instruments on district, regional and National level.



National level recommendations																	
	Build a national strategy and a vision for the energy sector – in cooperation with stakeholders at different administrative levels and backgrounds.																It is expected dialogues towards National Strategy to start just after a National political decision is taken. Giving the current world situation it is expected this process to be further delayed.
	RES support to ensure investment in RES projects are economically viable: it is imperative to introduce again some sort of support for renewables																According to the current version of the National Plan on Energy and Climate there is a will for increasing the RES in all sectors – heating, electricity, industry. This is a basis for introducing of incentives for RES
	Legally enable RES self-production and consumption at household and company level																According to the current version of the National Plan on

