

Panel I: Solar technology: Theory, business examples and good practices

Introductory lecture

Ivo Čović, B.Sc. ing., KONČAR – Renewable sources d.o.o., director



Ivo Čović was born in 1961 in Sinj. He has a degree in electrical engineering. During his rich business career, he was a member and chairman of the board of HEP, chairman of the board of Zagreb holding. He is currently the director of Končar - Renewable energy sources.

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Panelists:

1. Matija Sinković, key account manager, E.ON Energy Infrastructure Solutions



Matija Sinković graduated from the Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum in Zagreb in 2011, majoring in oil mining. 2020 he obtained the title of Master of Business Administration (EMBA) at the Swiss School of Business and Management in Zagreb. Since 2022, he has been employed at E.ON Energy Infrastructure Solutions d.o.o. as a manager of key customers in the field of photovoltaic power plants and complex solutions.

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1. Vjeran Piršić, president of the association Eko Kvarner, Krk



Vjeran Piršić was born in 1963 in Rijeka, from where the whole family moved to the island of Krk in 1972, where they still live. He is a mathematician by profession, and an IT specialist by profession, and since 1986 he has been working first as a programmer, then as a project manager, and now as a consultant in the development of IT systems. For the last few years, he has been working on international projects for the development of smart power grids, using blockchain technology and artificial intelligence.

He has been active in the environmental movement since his high school (at the mathematics gymnasium in Rijeka) and student (PMF in Zagreb) days, which culminated in the successful prevention of attempts to realize the "Družba Adria" project (export of Russian oil through the port of Omišalj). He is the co-founder of the association Eko Kvarner in 2002, the Solar Cluster of Croatia in 2009, the energy cooperative Island of Krk (as the first in Croatia) in 2012, and the company "Island of Krk Energy" in 2019. He is currently volunteering on the project Krk Energy Independent and a climate-neutral island by 2030.

He gained additional knowledge through several months of education in several German ecological institutes, in Sweden and Malta.

He is the father of four sons and was an (independent) councilor in the Municipality of Omišalj for several terms.

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1. Mario Valčić, director of Smart Infrastructure Siemens Croatia, Zagreb



Mario Valčić is the director of Smart Infrastructure at Siemens. The role of Siemens Smart Infrastructure is the application of technologies when creating new studies/projects of urban development, their modernization and reconstruction. In this way, readiness is created for

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2. Ognjen Marković, energy expert and member of the ReSET Center for Sustainable Energy Transition, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Mr. Ognjen Marković, a senior consultant with more than 40 years of experience in the energy sector, specializes in the development and implementation of restructuring of the energy sector, management and market reforms in the energy sector. In recent years, he has been working on the preparation of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the preparation of feasibility studies for the construction of solar power plants in the region, as well as the activities of establishing an organized market in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As director of the USAID projects "Energy Investment Activities (EIA)" and "Regulatory Assistance Project in the Energy Sector" in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), he worked on key reform policies in the energy sector, which includes assistance to ministries, regulatory commissions in BiH and companies in the energy sector to develop and implement rules and processes in order to fulfill the requirements of the establishment of the energy market and regional cooperation from the Treaty on the Energy Community.

Panel II: Regulatory aspect: Legal obstacles in implementation and how to remove them

Panelisti:

1. Associate Professor, Ph.D. Mišo Mudrić, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb



Assoc. prof. Ph.D. Mišo Mudrić is an associate professor at the Department of Maritime and General Traffic Law, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb. He is an arbitrator of the Permanent Selected Court at the Croatian Chamber of Commerce for disputes with and without an international character. He received his doctorate at the Faculty of Law of the University of Hamburg in 2013, as a fellow of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg. He is the vice president of the Croatian Society for Maritime Law. At the Faculty of Law, he teaches courses in Energy Law and International and EU Energy Law and Energy Security.

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1. Jan Krčmář, Director of the Czech Solar Association and Renewable Energy Consultant, Prague, Czech Republic



Jan Krčmář is the CEO of the Czech Solar Association, the largest solar energy association in the Czech Republic. With more than 700 members, the Solar Association covers the entire value chain of solar photovoltaic energy, from manufacturers, installers, investors, banks, universities and more. The Solar Association lobbies for an easier implementation of solar photovoltaic energy in the Czech Republic, fighting for faster and easier issuing of permits, connection to the grid as well as the quality of installations. With hundreds of existing large solar SPVs as members, the association also fights for investment protection and a long-term stable business environment.

Jan Krčmář is the executive director of the Czech Solar Association, which is the largest solar power association in the Czech Republic. With more than 700 members, the Solar association covers the entire value chain of solar PV, from manufacturers, installers, investors, banks, universities and more. The Solar association lobbies for easier deployment of solar PV in Czechia, fighting for faster and easier grid connection as well as quality of installations. With hundreds of existing large-scale solar SPVs as members, the association also fights for investment protection and a long-term stable business environment.

1. Mario Krka, Divjak, Topic, Bahtijarevic & Krka OD d.o.o., Zagreb



Mario Krka is a senior partner in the law firm Divjak, Topić, Bahtijarević & Krka and head of the competition law team. In his long legal career, Mario has acquired extensive knowledge and experience in the field of commercial and corporate law, including M&A (mergers and acquisitions), especially in the field of energy and media. He advises clients from numerous industries, including telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, tourism, higher education, etc., and is a regular speaker at numerous conferences and panels. He is the co-author of the book "Distribution Agreements in EU-Croatia Competition Law". He graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb and obtained the title of Master of Law and Business at Bucerius Law School and WHU-Otto Beisheim School of Management in Germany.

2. Naida Taso, expert for renewable energy sources. Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna



Ms. Naida Taso has ten years of international experience in areas of renewable energy, sustainable development, energy modelling and electricity markets. Currently working in the Energy Community Secretariat as Renewable Energy Expert within the European Green Deal Unit, Ms. Taso is responsible for all activities related to renewable energy. Her work is primarily focused on supporting Energy Community Contracting Parties in the transposition and implementation of the EU acquis, including work on design of market-based support scheme, system for guarantees of origin, self-consumption, corporate PPAs etc. Prior to the Secretariat, Ms. Taso worked for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Ms. Taso holds a master's degree in Electrical Power Engineering from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering- University of Sarajevo and is Certified Expert in Climate & Renewable Energy Finance from Frankfurt School of Finance & Management. In 2023, Ms. Taso attended the advanced Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Academy conducted by Pexapark.

3. Sonja Risteska, Green Enesys Group GmbH, Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany



Sonja Risteska is a Senior Manager Business & Development for East Europe in Green Enesys GmbH, German-based renewable energy developer, which has developed utility solar projects in 14 countries around the world, currently also working on green hydrogen. Sonja Risteska has extensive work and results behind her related to the many aspects of decarbonisation of the energy and power systems in Southeast Europe and emerging economies. She has been part of the non-profit, governmental and private sector, working on different aspects of phasing-out fossil fuels, renewables, just transition, hydrogen development, financing, from policy and strategy to business development. She has authored, co-authored and contributed to more than 30 policy papers, briefs, studies etc., on different energy and environmental topics.

3. Associate Professor, Ph.D. Ratko Brnabić, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Split



Associate Professor, Ph.D. Ratko Brnabić is the dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Split. Prof. Brnabić graduated from the Faculty of Law in Split, and received his doctorate in 2010 with the title "Breakthrough of Legal Personality and Responsibility for Obligations". He has been employed at the Faculty of Law since 2000, and since 2014 he has held the role of head of the Department of Commercial and Corporate Law and is also the head of all the Department's courses. He is the head of the Legal Clinic for providing free legal assistance to citizens.

Panel III: Economic benefits and challenges: The best use of solar energy?

Panelists:

- 1. Mirko Budiša, Deputy Director of the Fund for Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia**



Mirko Budiša is a graduate engineer in chemical technology. During his professional career, he participated in the implementation of numerous environmental protection projects. He worked as the head of the department for technical implementation of projects at the Zagreb Center for Waste Management.

- 2. Leon Stille, New Energy Institute, Sweden**



Leon Stille has a background in energy sciences (MSc and BSc) and pursuing a PhD on energy policy. He currently runs his own company as an independent energy expert through his label new energy institute. He is manager education and partnerships of impact hydrogen and Lector sustainable energy systems at NCOI University of applied sciences. From the start of his career he has focused on conventional and renewable energy technology development, innovation and

education. He has held commercial roles in several energy companies (Alliander and current plug power) and is a frequent speaker, author, and moderator at energy related events. Furthermore, he worked for the Netherlands Organisation for applied scientific research (TNO) as international business development manager dedicated to enabling and accelerating the energy transition. After TNO Leon became manager of energy business school, energy delta institute, managing a team of 12 with an international office. Leon also provided much of the content of various programs and the executive MBA energy policies as key lecturer and expert. Leon also worked in the HEAVENN project, Europe's first hydrogen valley, as expert and consultant. Leon holds three patents and several ancillary positions as scientific advisor of the european biogas association and hydrogen europe, sustainability committee member of the international gas union and top author of Illuminem.

3. Joris Heijdt, Projectleider Hernieuwbare Energie en Projecten Afdeling Verhuur, Nizozemska



Joris Heijdt has a background in Earth Sciences from the University of Utrecht. From the start of his career he has focused on education and project management. He has held commercial roles in event management companies dealing with security and organization of large scale events. As well as several educational roles aimed towards youth and professionals.

Currently, Joris is working as energy analyst at the Energy Delta Institute part of New Energy Coalition, dedicated to providing education and promotion towards the energy transition. Here Joris is the key expert on all the hydrogen programs and activities. He is responsible for building

hydrogen programs for open market and incompany courses as well as working in other innovative projects related to the energy transition and hydrogen.

4. Dr.sc. Zorana Božić, The Solar Fund. Aarhus, Middle Jutland, Danska/Beograd, Republika Srbija



Zorana Božić received her doctorate at the Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad, on the topic of analyzing the volatility of electricity prices on different European stock exchanges. She is the co-founder of the company "The Solar Fund", which deals with the democratization of investing in solar power plant projects. She gained many years of experience in the field of energy by working in the Oil Industry of Serbia in the position of expert coordinator for the analysis of the electricity market, and made further progress in her career in Denmark, as an electricity trader.