

Online workshops for non-environmental CSOs: Environment for CSOs working on social inclusion

Expert: Toni Vidan

Possible role of „non-environmental” civil society on the topic of environment:

- Possible type of the activities
- WB and EU environmental CSOs
- Non environmental aspect of green transition: it will be just or there will be no transition?
- Case studies of possible actions

Possible type of the activities

- **advocacy** (solidarity with environmental initiatives or CSOs)
- **education and inspiration** (in theory CSOs do not treat information as a commodity)
- **“bundling” and assistance in the development of community projects**
(substitution for a lack of self-organization capacity)
- **connecting the EU and local level**
- **assistance to local communities** currently dependent on carbon intensive or heavy pollution jobs

- **WB and EU environmental CSOs**
- EU GREEN 10
- WB „NGO Forum”

Green 10

CEE Bankwatch Network

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

CAN
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK Europe

EEB
European Environmental Bureau

Friends of the Earth Europe

GREENPEACE

HEAL

NATURFREUNDE
AMIS DE LA NATURE
FRIENDS OF NATURE INTERNATIONAL

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT

WWF



REGIONAL NGO FORUM ON THE GREEN AGENDA FOR WESTERN BALKANS

🕒 30.03.2023 | 📍 Belgrade/hybrid

The Regional Cooperation Council, in partnership with the EU4Green Project organizes the first Regional NGO Forum on the **Green Agenda for Western Balkans (GAWB)** as a platform for enhancing the dialogue among interested parties on the latest developments within the framework of the GAWB on 30 March 2023 in Belgrade in hybrid mode.

The NGO Forum serves as a platform for enhancing the dialogue among interested parties on the latest developments within the framework of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB). The event will provide an opportunity for civil society organizations to engage in discussions on the progress of the Green Agenda Action Plan implementation and perspectives for the future. The NGO Forum on the Green Agenda also aims to discuss ways to enhance the role of civil society in implementing the Green Agenda at the regional level.

Civil society organizations are invited to participate in the NGO Forum on the Green Agenda for Western Balkans.

For participation of civil society organisations register [HERE](#).

NGO Forum on the Green Agenda for Western Balkans is also open for others engaged in civil society development, such as bilateral/multilateral donors and international organizations.

For participation of other interesting parties, register [HERE](#).

Deadline for registration was **16 March 2023**.

CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue
29	30	31
5	6	7
12	13	14
	Eighth Region	
19	20	21

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THE WESTERN BALKAN POWER SECTOR

Between crisis and transition

 Bankwatch
Network



Non environmental aspect of green transition:

„it will be just, or there will be no transition”?

- „just transition”
- „leave no one behind”

WHAT ABOUT IT IS?

- COAL MINERS NEW JOB, OR
- LAND AND RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS, OR
- FAIR ACCESS TO GRID OR CAPITAL?

RENEWABLES GRABBING

Land and Resource Appropriations in the Global Energy Transition

Arnim Scheidel, Alevgul H. Sorman, Sofia Avila, Daniela Del Bene, and Jonas Ott

Introduction

A global transition from fossil fuels to renewable energies is urgently needed to mitigate climate change and to reduce the conflictive and contaminating extraction and consumption of coal, oil, and gas resources globally (IPCC, 2018). However, the onset of this transition has come along with the emergence of new geographical and technological frontiers of energy carrier production that are associated with new injustices experienced by local and customary groups (Sovacool, 2021). Vast amounts of land and other resources are required to develop renewable energy infrastructures, which has provoked new processes of land and resource acquisitions globally (Scheidel & Sorman, 2012). Well-known examples are land grabs associated with agro-industrial plantations producing crops for a growing global biofuels market (Borras et al., 2015, 2010), or land dispossessions for hydropower dams flooding vast areas and changing the river ecology on which customary livelihoods depend (McCully, 2001; Del Bene, Scheidel, & Temper, 2018). Justice concerns are also emerging over wind power plants (Avila, 2018; Franquesa, 2018) and the rapid expansion of large-scale solar power (Stock & Birkenholtz, 2019; Yenneti et al., 2016), where conflicts have sparked over the dispossession of local users from land and other environmental resources, lack of procedural justice in the decision-making processes, and questions over who will benefit from these green development projects and in which ways.

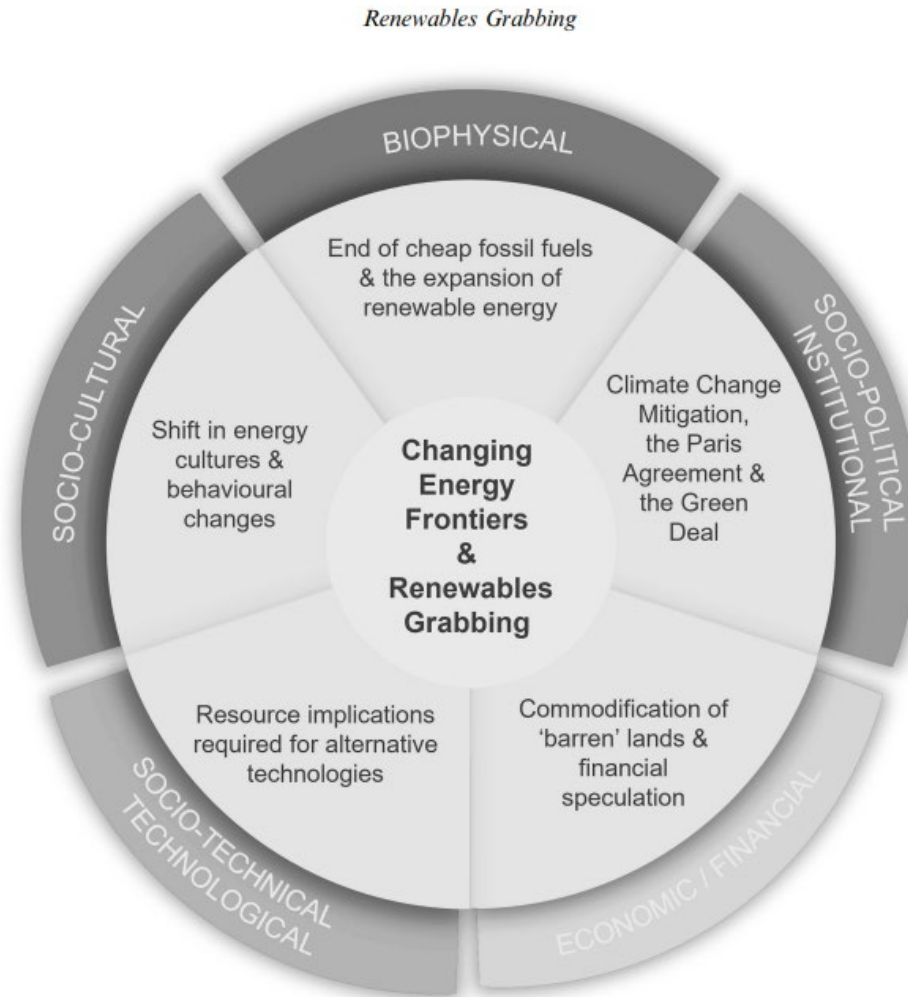
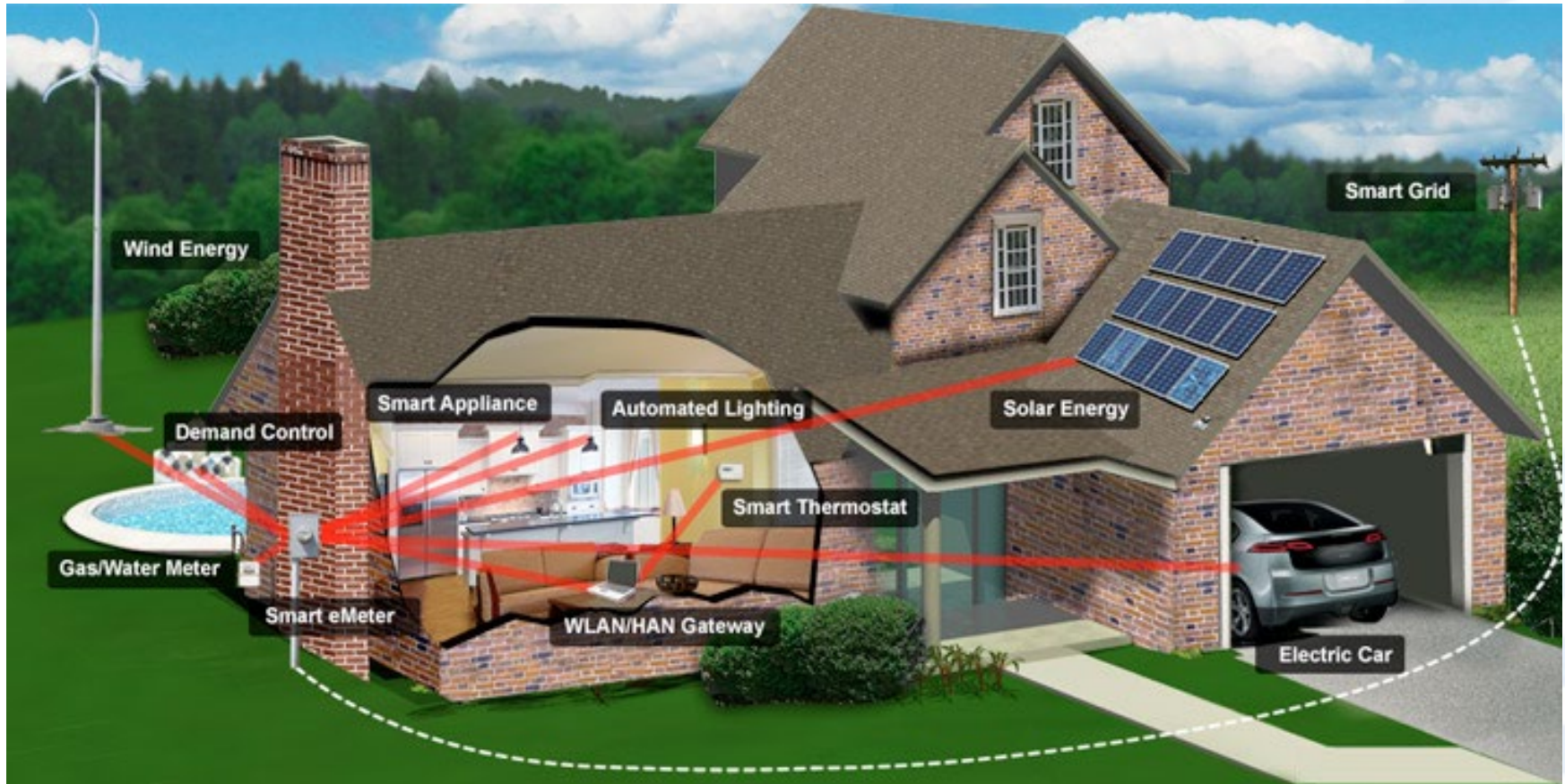


Figure 13.1 Underlying drivers of changing energy frontiers.

Source: The authors.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ENERGY FOR ALL!



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL!



Case studies of possible actions

- Advocacy activities
- Educational actions, practical workshops
- Green cooperatives
- Citizens science development, independent monitoring
- Clean up actions
- Assistance in applications for support measures for households

Advocacy activities:

- solidarity with environmental initiatives or CSOs
- cooperation with EU based relevant CSOs

Who we are

Consumers on the European stage

BEUC is the umbrella group for 44 independent consumer organisations from 31 countries. Our main role is to represent them to the EU institutions and defend the interests of European consumers. Our acronym originates from our French name, 'Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs'.

Our daily work involves making sure the EU takes policy decisions that improve the lives of consumers. This covers a range of topics including competition, consumer rights, digital rights, energy, redress and enforcement, financial services, food, health, safety, sustainability and trade policy.

The BEUC secretariat is in Brussels and has a staff of more than 50.

BEUC's strength: our members

We were founded in 1962 by consumer groups from six Member States of, what was then, the European Economic Community (EEC). Nowadays our members are from 26 EU Member States as well as Iceland, North Macedonia, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. BEUC is acknowledged as a trustworthy representative by decision-makers, thanks in particular to the collective skills, knowledge and expertise of our member organisations.

For more information about our network, visit '[our members](#)' page.

About BEUC

Who we are

[How we work](#)

[Mission and vision](#)

[History](#)

[Staff](#)

[Executive](#)

[Our members](#)

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Tackling energy poverty – EED paves the way to inclusive public policies.

With the new Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), energy poverty now boasts a consensually harmonized definition at the European level (Article 2). Within this definition, the concept of "affordable housing" is crucial and extends beyond the mere ability to cover monthly energy bills. The overall cost of housing, particularly for tenants in the Private Rented Sector, emerges as a pivotal parameter.

BEUC recommendation:

The European Commission should ensure that Member States really implement the obligation on DSOs to be engaged in Energy Efficiency Obligation Schemes. It should not be a "nice to have", but a key asset.

Moreover, the capabilities of One-stop-shops and Distribution System Operators (DSOs) to identify households facing energy poverty should be coupled. This collaboration extends to designing retrofit programs and implementing changes to heating and cooling appliances.

Another potential area for collaboration lies in financing, with On-bill-schemes emerging as the most effective tool, as highlighted in both the renovation wave and the Fit-for-55 package.

What is the EU Directive and how is it important for consumers?

EED content	Relevance for consumers
<p>Definition of energy poverty - Article 2 (52) <i>'energy poverty' means a household's lack of access to essential energy services, where such services provide basic levels and decent standards of living and health, including adequate heating, hot water, cooling, lighting, and energy to power appliances, in the relevant national context, existing national social policy and other relevant national policies, caused by a combination of factors, including at least non-affordability, insufficient disposable income, high energy expenditure and poor energy efficiency of homes</i></p>	<p>More than one hundred million of Europeans currently experience energy poverty, emphasizing the imperative need for a comprehensive definition to formulate and execute operational solutions and programs aimed at addressing this issue. Such a definition to have operational schemes that can decide on who is eligible and to what.</p> <p>Additionally, the concept of non-affordability plays a crucial role in approaching solutions comprehensively. The housing crisis further complicates matters, making it excessively challenging for low-income households, whether owner-occupiers or tenants, to enter or sustain their position in the real estate market.</p>
<p>One-stop-shops need to address low-income needs – Article 22 4. (b) <i>provide holistic support to all households, with a particular focus on households affected by energy poverty and on worst performing buildings, as well as to accredited companies and</i></p>	<p>In the upcoming years, One-stop-shops will play a pivotal role in delivering significant advice and support services to households. This presents an invaluable opportunity to enhance capacity in addressing energy poverty. Given the specificity of this topic, acquiring dedicated skills and designing retrofit programs with precision is essential to</p>

- Educational actions, practical workshops



- Green cooperatives





RES Foundation

Partnerships for Resilience

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EVENTS

Cross-Border Cooperation for Local Energy Transition in the Western Balkans

JUN 20, 2024 #EnergyTransition



On Thursday, 20th June, RES Foundation, in cooperation with German Energy Agency (dena), delivered a project workshop "Cross-Border Cooperation for Local Energy Transition in the Western Balkans" at Mona Plaza Hotel.

The energy transition presents a significant opportunity for the Western Balkans to achieve their strategic goals of EU integration, support economic growth, and tackle climate change. The Western Balkan countries have committed to this approach through various national strategic documents and plans. With the recent *Interoperable Energy Transition in the Western Balkans*, the German Energy Agency (dena) supports the German government's commitment to





- Citizens science development, independent monitoring



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.7.2020
SWD(2020) 149 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Best Practices in Citizen Science for Environmental Monitoring

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Press release | 22 November 2023 | Brussels

Commission proposes comprehensive monitoring to improve resilience of European forests

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The Commission is proposing a **Forest Monitoring Law** that will **plug existing gaps in the information on European forests and create a comprehensive forest knowledge base**, to allow Member States, forest owners and forest managers to improve their response to growing pressures on forests and strengthen forest resilience.

Forests are an **essential ally in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss**, and crucial for flourishing rural areas and bioeconomy. Unfortunately, Europe's forests suffer from many different pressures, including climate change and unsustainable human activity.

Better monitoring will enable action to make forests more resistant to the **cross-border threats of pests, droughts and wildfires** that are **exacerbated by climate change, enable new business models such as carbon farming, and support compliance with agreed EU legislation**. Ultimately, it will help strengthen the capacity of forests to **fulfil their multiple environmental and socio-economic functions**,



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Grants and Public Procurements

Grants and Public Procurements

For procurements related to the Copernicus Space Component and dissemination infrastructures please refer to the [EU TED portal](#), the [ESA tender information public system](#) or the [EUMETSAT tender information public system](#).

Calls, competitions and prizes

For procurements related to the Copernicus Climate Change and Atmosphere Monitoring Services please refer to the [EU TED portal](#) or the [ECMWF dedicated eProcurement portal](#).

For public authorities

The following contract opportunities have been opened or are planned to be opened in the context of the Copernicus Service and In-situ activities:

For Start-ups

*(Please note that the information on this site is provided **for information only**. For any formal information about these procurements, please refer directly to the [EU TED portal](#), the [Procuring Entity](#) respectively.)*

For education

Useful links:

[Opportunities](#) 

- Clean up actions



- Assistance in applications for support measures for households

Links to major sources:

- https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Policy_brief_Green_Agenda_Western_Balkans_Energising_enlargement_May_2021.pdf
- https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/polls-reveal-citizens-support-energiewende?pk_campaign=daily_newsletter_2023-11-28&pk_keyword=polls-reveal-citizens-support-energiewende&pk_source=newsletter&pk_medium=email&pk_content=title
- https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/germanwatch_impacts_of_the_cbam_on_the_western_balkans_and_ukraine_2023_0.pdf
- https://www.agora-energiewende.org/fileadmin/Projekte/2021/2021_01_EU_Balkan_Green_Deal/A-EW_251_CBAM_WB-6_WEB.pdf
- https://bankwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-12-05_The-Western-Balkan-power-sector.pdf
- <https://www.resfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Tackling-the-Immediate-Challenges-of-Energy-Poverty-in-the-Western-Balkans.-The-possible-role-for-the-EU.pdf>



**Thank you for the
attention**





EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Q&A



Funded by
the European Union



CALL FOR PROPOSALS “SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ENVIRONMENT”

- Aim: strengthen local communities resilience on environmental pressures, develop local capacities for sustainable development initiatives, and broader understanding about Green Agenda.
- Eligibility: minimum three youth CSOs, preferably from two or more countries in a WB&T region.
- Duration of action: minimum 6 months, maximum 12 months.
- Max budget: 50 000 EUR. Own contribution min 10%, possible in-kind contributions.



THANK YOU!