If you are established in one of the member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and you are engaged in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources, join us in the “BSEC-Green Energy Network” and benefit from it. Contact: promitheas@kepa.uoa.gr
It is now evident, that even if the undertaken National Determined Contributions by all signatories of the “Paris Agreement” are to be implemented only one-third of the necessary reductions will be achieved. It is thus quite understood the emphasis set by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the closing of his speech, to request from civil society and young people to campaign for climate action underlining that “there is no more time to waste”.

11th International Scientific Conference for “Energy and Climate Change and 3rd Green Energy Investments Forum”

The Energy Policy and Development Center (KEPA) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens organized the 11th International Scientific Conference on “Energy and Climate Change” and the 3rd Green Energy Investments Forum during 10-12 October 2018 in Athens. The conference had received the “Academic Conference Excellence” certificate and was under the aegis of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), the Hellenic General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) and the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI).

It consisted of three parts. The 3rd Green Energy Investments Forum took place on the first day under the chairmanship of the Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Mr. Traian CHEBELEU. A video message from Mr. Ramu DAMODARAN, Chief of UNAI was the first opening speech after the welcome from Prof. Dimitrios MAVRAKIS, the Deputy Secretary General of BSEC – PERMIS, Amb. Traian CHEBELEU; Amb. Anna BARBARZAK of Poland; Amb. Anatol VANGHELI of Moldova; Mr. PERICLEANOU of the embassy of Romania and Mrs. Hanna TISCHENKO of the embassy of Ukraine made the opening addresses of the Conference. The second session was addressed to market stakeholders with speakers Mr. PAPASTERGIOU, the mayor of the city of Trikala, Mrs. ILIOU, from Piraeus Bank, Dr. KIARTZIS from Hellenic Petroleum, Mr. PALLANTZAS from the Hellenic Institute of Passive House, Mr. GANEV from Euroallages. Prof. Dimitrios MAVRAKIS, director of KEPA, closed the session by announcing the initiative to tackle sustainably energy poverty in BSEC countries. During the second day scientific papers from Albania, Germany, Hellas, Italy, Norway and Poland were presented. The third day was devoted to presentations and discussions for cooperation and submission of proposals under existing international and European funding programs (H2020, LIFE, Interreg etc). Dr. Patricia KYPRIANIDOU, Secretary General for Research and Technology launched the first session about “Funding opportunities”. The session included speeches from Prof. Hans BRUYINCKX, Director of the European Environment Agency, Mrs. NTEMIRI, Mrs. AGRA and Mrs. VIDALI from the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy and Mrs. PAPADOUILI from PRAXIS Network. The Conference was sponsored by the Hellenic Petroleum.

Albania: The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) conducted its 3rd review of Albania’s environmental performance, analysing progress since the 2nd Environmental Performance Review (EPR), in 2012. This 3rd EPR is the first to integrate the SDGs, and provides recommendations to the government for achieving the Global Goals and implementing climate change commitments.


Armenia: Small businesses in Armenia will have more opportunities to invest in green technology due to a US$ 12.5 million loan the EBRD is providing to Ameriabank for on-lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and corporates for green investments. The loan is co-financed by the EBRD and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the largest international climate fund created in 2010 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The funds to Ameriabank are being provided under the EBRD Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF), a framework to help businesses invest in climate adaptation and mitigation technologies, which also help to improve their productivity and reduce costs.


Bangladesh: The World Bank (WB) approved financing for three projects on improving coastal and marine management, forest management and rural roads in Bangladesh. The projects are expected to further help reduce poverty, create livelihoods opportunities and improve resilience to climate change.


EU: Eurostat, the EU’s statistical agency, updated its reporting on the EU SDG indicator set, providing a quantitative measure of progress and identifying the areas on-track for reaching the SDGs, as well as areas that are off-track. The report titled, ‘Sustainable development in the European Union: monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context,’ finds that the EU is making long-term, significant progress towards 28 indicators, and long-term moderate progress towards 26 indicators.


The Energy Community’s Energy and Climate Committee, in cooperation with the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Climate Action and the EU Regional Implementation of the Paris Agreement project, hosted a multi-stakeholder discussion on climate change under the “Talanoa Dialogue” process on 10 October in Vienna.


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PROMITHEAS - The Energy and Climate Change Policy Network

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) admitted the Energy Community as an observer organization to the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 24) to be held in Katowice, Poland.


The 48th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-48) approved a Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR15) and its Technical Summary, and adopted a Summary for Policymakers (SPM), following its line-by-line discussion. According to IPCC, limiting the global average temperature rise to 1.5°C is still possible; but requires “unprecedented” transitions in all aspects of society, including: the transformation of energy, agricultural, urban and industrial systems; engagement of non-state actors; and integration of climate action into broader public policy and development frameworks.


The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) released a report that finds economic losses from climate-related disasters increased by 151%. The report recommends integrating disaster risk reduction into investment decisions to ensure sustainable development in a changing climate.

(UNISDR, 10-10-2018) – Details at: https://www.unisdr.org/archive/61121

Mongolia: Mongolia launched the Asia-Pacific region’s first nationally determined contribution (NDC) Partnership Plan to help combat the impacts of climate change, and mitigate the effects of desertification, deforestation and the loss of biodiversity, which are threatening the country’s traditional nomadic culture. The country has adopted a holistic approach regarding climate action, as well as technologies to facilitate cooperation and coordination on NDC implementation.


Namibia: Namibia released a strategy to deliver on its Paris Agreement commitments, building on progress already made through its existing climate plans and policies. Namibia’s NDC Partnership Plan connects international resources for climate action to priority areas set by the government for implementing its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and builds a community around climate action in the country (NDC Partnership, 13-9-2018) – Details at: https://ndcpartnership.org/news/namibia-launches-ndc-partnership-plan-climate-action

Serbia: On 26 September, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) officially launched the start of a new Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF) for Serbia that will provide loans to households for energy efficiency improvements. The GEFF, established with the support of the Energy Community Secretariat, will help Serbia to put measures under the Energy Efficiency and Energy Performance of Buildings Directives into action.


Ukraine: The EBRD-managed programme supporting energy efficiency in Ukrainian homes reached a milestone of investing over UAH 1 billion (equivalent of over €30 million). More than 30,000 Ukrainian households took out loans from local commercial banks which participate in the programme to invest in green technologies for their homes; of those, over 20 thousand projects have been verified as eligible for investment grants. The loans have been made as part of Ukraine Residential Energy Efficiency Financing Facility (UREEFF), otherwise known as IQ energy, designed to promote energy efficiency investments.


International: The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) published the report ‘Hydrogen from Renewable Power: Technology Outlook for the Energy Transition,’ about the potential of hydrogen to enable a deeper energy transition. It outlines the state of hydrogen technology, the potential of renewable-based hydrogen uptake in the industry, buildings and power, and transport sectors; and policies needed to realize this potential.


The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Argentina’s Ministry of Energy and Mines released two technical reports focusing on progress and challenges of energy transitions for G20 countries. The publications address climate change mitigation through energy transitioning, and the role of high-quality data collection for policy.


C40 Cities, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and the New Climate Institute released the report titled, ‘Climate Opportunity: More Jobs; Better Health; Liveable Cities’. According to it premature deaths of over one million people per year from air pollution and traffic accidents can be prevented through climate actions.


The World Bank, in partnership with the governments of Gambia and the United Kingdom, announced a US$145 million Global Risk Financing Facility (GRF) to help vulnerable countries manage the financial impact of climate change and natural hazard-induced shocks.

November


Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, 12 - 15 November 2018, Congress and Exhibition Centre “Parkovy”, 16a Park Road, Kyiv-Ukraine


Ukrainian Energy Week '18, 19-21 November 2018, NSC Olympiyskiy, Ukraine, https://a7conf.com/uww


December


Internship with Ramsar Convention Secretariat: The Ramsar Internship Programme supports four regionally-oriented positions, one each for Africa, the Americas, Asia/Oceania, and Europe. Candidates should be nationals of countries from the region being applied for. All are normally 12- to 24-month positions. Details at: https://www.ramsar.org/jobs

Internships with the UN Global Compact: Unpaid, timing flexible. Details at: https://www.unglobalcompact.org/about-opportunities/internships


Internships with UNFCCC. Duration: 2 months. Details at: https://unfccc.int/about-us/internships

ETH Zurich, Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering. Position: Professors or Assistant Professors (Tenure Track) of Energy Science and Technology or Chemical/Process Engineering. Deadline: Submissions will be reviewed starting on 1 December 2018, but applications are welcome until the positions are filled. Details at: https://www.ethz.ch/en/the-eth-zurich/working-teaching-and-research/faculty-affairs/ausgeschriebene-professuren/ingenieurwissenschaften/professors-or-assistant-professors--tenure-track--of-energy-scie.html


Natural Resources Canada - Strategic Policy and Results Sector - Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation, Position: Physical Scientist / Physical science policy and planning analyst – Inventory. Deadline: Not available. Details at: https://emploisfpsjobs.cfp-psgc.gc.ca/psrsrpt/applicant/page18007?poster=1159034

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January


