



# Europe and Central Asia Energy Knowledge Network News

Nov/Dec 2025 Issue

## Utility Scale Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Buildings Communities of Practice

Dear Colleagues,  
Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter!

As the year winds down, we're excited to share highlights from recent Community of Practice (CoP) activities, along with a preview of what's coming up in November and December. This edition features recaps from our September–October knowledge exchanges, including sessions on enabling battery energy storage, demystifying energy service models, and improving power sector resilience.

Plus, don't miss industry news, CoP member spotlights, and more opportunities to connect and collaborate. I hope you enjoy this issue and continue to find value in being part of our growing knowledge-sharing community.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Gil, Energy Practice Manager, ECA, World Bank

## News & Activities

### Key Dates

#### Utility Scale RE CoP

- **11 Nov** - Enabling Battery Energy Storage Series: BESS Technical Design and Deployment
- **4 Dec** - RE Incentives & Tenders Series: Innovations in Auctions
- **11 Dec** - Enabling Battery Energy Storage Series: Business Models and Example Approaches

#### EE in Buildings CoP

- **3-6 Nov** - EE and Resilience in the Built Environment Technical Deep Dive ([VDKC](#))

- **25 Nov** - Financing EE Retrofits of Multi-Apartment Buildings: Lesson Learnt and Future Design  
(See the [ECA Energy CoP Events Page](#) for access. Sign Up to [Connect4Impact](#) required for most event materials.)

## Past CoP Events

### [Enabling BESS Series: Energy Storage for Power System Support](#)

First of three online events highlighting government actions to attract private investment and optimize benefits from BESS. This session featured example use cases of BESS with global examples from World Bank's experience, and a deep dive from IFC on a hybrid solar + BESS project in Uzbekistan representing a milestone for the region.



### [Demystifying ESCOs and Energy Performance Contracts](#)

This online session aimed to clarify how ESCOs and EPCs operate and what lessons can be drawn by looking at ESCO experience from Czechia, Latvia and Armenia. The objective was to “demystify” ESCO models—exploring what makes them successful, and how they can be adapted to different market and policy contexts.



### [RE Incentives & Tenders Series: Working With the Private Sector](#)

The second event in the online series highlighted best practices for attracting private sector interest in renewables. The session featured Poland's success in RE growth including addition of BESS, and how transparency in government planning and flexibility in auctions can facilitate optimized projects from qualified renewables developers.



### [Increasing Power Sector Resilience to Natural Disaster Risks in ECA Region](#)

This knowledge-sharing event in Vienna brought together 35 participants from ECA ministries, system operators, and industry experts. The sessions focused on hazards to the power system particularly from floods and droughts and methods to boost resilience. Participants visited the Freudenau Hydropower Plant to see innovation at work.



### [Hydropower Modernization and Dam Design and Safety Technical Seminars](#)

This series of two in-person technical seminars provided hydropower specialists from utilities and ministries the chance to build their capacity leveraging Austria's hydropower expertise. The first week-long seminar focused on Dam Safety and Design, and the second seminar focused on Dam Rehabilitation and Modernization.



(Sign Up/Log In to [Connect4Impact](#) required to view event materials)

## News Briefs



### **IFC Supports Energy Resilience and Earthquake Reconstruction in Türkiye**

IFC announced a landmark sustainability-linked loan to Enerjisa Enerji A.Ş., a leading private utility company in Türkiye. The aim is to refurbish the power distribution network impacted by the February 2023 earthquakes and modernize parts of the grid. Sustainability performance indicators include reducing distribution system losses and increasing women in senior management and leadership roles. [Learn more from IFC.](#)

### **Re-Introducing the Energy Storage Europe Association**

Industry groups can contribute meaningfully to dialogue on policy and innovation. As the role of energy storage has grown, the Energy Storage Europe Association (rebranded after 15 years as EASE) is aiming to increase engagement and visibility around this

technology. See more about their [upcoming events](#).



### **Piloting Near Zero Energy Building (NZEB) Retrofit**

Croatia's Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar's building has undergone a retrofit to meet NZEB standards, including a 50 kW rooftop PV system covering 30% of its energy demand. The upgrade reduced heating and cooling energy costs by 65%, demonstrating the feasibility of NZEB retrofits. More details at [Advancing Building Energy Performance](#).



### **Maximizing Benefits with BESS4Hydro**

In northern Italy, Enel Green Power is pioneering the combination of pumped reservoir hydropower with a 4 MW lithium-ion battery system. This BESS4Hydro project gives added flexibility in managing the energy produced with 2 hours of storage. The battery can also be charged from the grid to cover downtime and provides grid services as an integrated package. Learn more at [BESS4Hydro](#).

## CoP Member Spotlight



### **[Tigran Poghosyan](#), Acting Head of Investment Projects Implementation Department, [High Voltage Electric Networks, Armenia](#)**

Featured speaker on Armenia's power sector resilience to floods, at the [Increasing Power Sector Resilience to Natural Disaster Risks Workshop](#) (Vienna, Sept 2025)



### **[Karen Asatryan](#), Director of [Armenia Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency Fund \(R2E2 Fund\)](#)**

Featured speaker on Armenia's experience with EPC contracts to implement EE retrofits in public buildings, at the [Demystifying ESCOs and Energy Performance Contracts Workshop](#)



### **[Besiana Berisha](#), Director of Project Implementation Unit for [RES, Ministry of Economic Development, Kosovo](#)**

Featured speaker on Kosovo's experience with RES auctions, at the upcoming [Innovations in Auctions](#) online event



### **[Raluca Constandache](#), Counsellor, [General Directorate for Energy Policies, Romania](#)**

Featured speaker on Romania's experience with RES auctions, at the upcoming [Innovations in Auctions](#) online event



### **[Driton Hetemi](#), Managing Director, [Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund](#)**

Featured speaker on Kosovo's experience with implementing EE retrofits in buildings during the [Vienna EE & Resilience in the Built Environment Deep Dive](#)



## Did You Know?

**Did you know** that each **\$1 invested** in boosting the **resilience** of critical infrastructure such as **power systems** returns **~\$4 in benefits**?

*Stakeholders discussed resilience to natural disasters at the recent [Increasing Power Sector Resilience Workshop](#).*

**Did you know** that the global ESCO performance contracting market is expected to double this decade to exceed **\$40 billion in 2030**, according to [Guidehouse Insights](#)?

[Demystifying ESCOs and Energy Performance Contracts](#) explored how this market is evolving in ECA region.

**Did you know** that electricity generation from **renewables exceeded** generation from **coal** globally for the first time ever?

*This record was set in the first half of 2025, according to Ember, as reported by [BBC](#).*

## Key Links

- [Europe and Central Asia Energy Community of Practice Events](#)
- [ECA Utility Scale RE Community of Practice](#) (Sign Up/Log In to [Connect4Impact](#) required)
- [ECA EE in Buildings Community of Practice](#) (Sign Up/Log In to [Connect4Impact](#) required)
- [World Bank Group Energy Future of Europe and Central Asia](#)

## About the Energy Knowledge Network and CoPs

The Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Energy Knowledge Network is a new platform that connects energy sector stakeholders across the region, fostering collaboration and the exchange of technical, policy, and financial solutions. Within the Network, the Communities of Practice (CoPs) are:

- **Utility Scale RE CoP** (managed by Erica Zell, [ezell@worldbank.org](mailto:ezell@worldbank.org))
- **EE in Buildings CoP** (managed by Marina Olshanskaya, [molshanskaya@worldbank.org](mailto:molshanskaya@worldbank.org)).



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