

Slovakia Joins IEA SHC!

IEA SHC Newest Member

IEA Solar Heating and Cooling Programme welcomes Slovakia as the first country from Eastern Europe to join the Programme. Participation by the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA) in the IEA SHC builds on collaboration by Slovakia in the Programme's lighting retrofit work.

As explained by Slovakia's IEA SHC Executive Committee member, Artur Bobovnický, "We'd been discussing various options with the staff at the Ministry of Economy's International Energy Affairs Department, and our efforts have resulted in the ministry's approval to finance one pilot participation in a TCP. We chose the Solar Heating and Cooling Programme because a well-respected associate professor, Stanislav Darula, from the Institute of Construction and Architecture of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, participated in [SHC Task 50: Advanced Lighting Solutions for Retrofitting Buildings](#)." Seeing the importance of this Task and other SHC Tasks for Slovakia, it proved to be a natural fit and Slovakian is now participating in [Task 56: Building Integrated Solar Envelope Systems for HVAC and Lighting](#).

SIEA, founded in 1993 and a staff of 225, is an active partner in the growing number of national and international projects dealing with a wide range of issues from energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency to innovative approaches in technology. Bobovnický estimates project funding to reach 2.9 billion between 2014 and 2020.

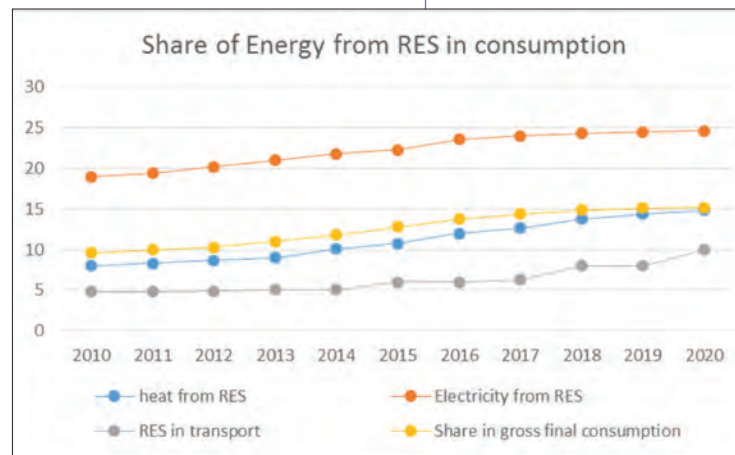
Steady Growth of Renewables

National legislation doesn't set goals for the production of heat from renewable energy sources (RES) nor are there set goals that specific technologies need to achieve. Instead the country uses subsidies as the main market driver. For example, subsidies for district heating as part of the renewal of the network infrastructure are planned, including in the capital city Bratislava. Subsidies are also being used in the residential sector, which starting in 2016 is supporting RES technology up to 10 kW and covers solar heating, wind, solar PV, heat pumps and biofuel boilers.

National Subsidy Scheme Drives Market

Slovakia's subsidy scheme is the major driver behind the country's solar market growth. [Green Homes](#), a subsidy program managed by SIEA, had its first invitation to tender in December 2015 and subsidized 1,260 renewable installations, among them solar water heaters, photovoltaics, heat pumps and small wind mills for residential homeowners as well as apartment associations. The second call in May 2016 resulted in 1,723 vouchers worth EUR 3.6 million, according to a press release from 1 July. The majority of the vouchers were for solar water heaters – 259 during the first call and 897 during the second one. The third call started in July. Only Solar Keymark certified solar collectors are eligible and installers have to be registered at SIEA.

For more information visit Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA) at www.siea.sk or contact the IEA SHC Executive Committee member, Artur Bobovnický at artur.bobovnický@siea.gov.sk.



Source: SIEA

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ARTUR BOBOVNICKÝ
Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency