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SEERC Activities

CIGRE, as one of the oldest global international technical organizations, has a strong tradition in Central and Southeast Europe, operating under the SEERC.

The SEERC region today consists of 17 national committees (note: the Czech Republic and Slovakia are united into one National Committee) including: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Greece, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine.



CIGRE SEERC Region

SEERC's work is organized through the

- Management Board (SEERC MB),
- Technical Advisory Committee (SEERC TAC), and
- Regional Working Groups (SEERC RWGs).

According to the SEERC Rules of Operation, each SEERC member presides over SEERC for two years. The presidency rotates during the SEERC conference held at the end of the two-year mandate in the member country that previously presided.

Bosnia and Herzegovina assumed the role of SEERC President on October 11, 2023, in Istanbul from NC Turkey during the opening ceremony of the 4th SEERC conference. The SEERC President for the two-year term ending with the 5th SEERC conference in Sarajevo in 2025 is Mr. Edhem Bičakčić, a member of the SEERC Management Board representing NC CIGRE Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dr. Maja Muftić Dedović has been appointed by the SEERC President as the CIGRE - SEERC Secretary.

Since assuming the SEERC presidency, Bosnia and Herzegovina has organized

1. Joint meeting of SEERC MB and TAC in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on February 28, 2024.
2. Second CIGRE SEERC Colloquium in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on February 29, 2024.
3. TAC meeting in Cavtat (Croatia) on May 27, 2024.
4. 7th SEERC Workshop in Cavtat (Croatia) on May 28, 2024.

CIGRE SEERC MB/TAC Meeting, February 28, 2024

On February 28, 2024, a joint meeting of the Management Board (MB) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the South East European Regional Council of CIGRE (SEERC) took place in Ljubljana, bringing together representatives from multiple countries. The Meeting commenced with opening speeches from SEERC President Edhem Bičakčić, host Marko Hrast, and CIGRE Secretary General Philippe Adam. They highlighted the significance of regional collaboration in advancing the energy sector and outlined the Meeting's agenda, focusing on the establishment of MB and TAC, and preparations for the upcoming 5th SEERC Conference.



CIGRE SEERC MB/TAC Meeting in Ljubljana, February 28, 2024

The meeting discussed the establishment of the Management Board and Technical Advisory Committee, noting that 16 out of 17 SEERC members had submitted proposals for new members. It was agreed that the next MB and TAC meeting would be held at the end of May 2024. This move is expected to enhance the strategic alignment and operational effectiveness of SEERC.

During the session, Sabina Dacić Lepara was elected as the Chairman of TAC. The Meeting also approved a comprehensive program of activities leading up to the 5th SEERC Conference, ensuring a structured approach to the organization's initiatives and goals.

Convener reports on the progress of existing working groups were presented, leading to the conclusion of tasks for RWG01 (Regional aspects on creation of NNA for new standard for overhead lines EN 50341), RWG02 (Regional perspective of shunt reactor introduction in the transmission system), and RWG03 (Environmental and technical assessment for submarine cables siting issue in Mediterranean area). These groups were subsequently disbanded. RWG04 (Technical and economical features of Hydro Pumped storage power plants (HSPSPs) in power systems), however, will continue with reprogrammed objectives and a new convener will be elected in the next meeting. Additionally, the Working Group on the History of electricity in the SEERC region will maintain its operations, reflecting the group's ongoing relevance.

The inclusion of countries without a National Committee in SEERC as observers was discussed and approved, promoting knowledge exchange and fostering broader regional cooperation. A timeline for a questionnaire process was established, with a call for responses planned for May-June 2024 and results to be presented in January 2025 in Rome. Prof. Massimo Pompili will oversee the preparation of the new questionnaire, which aims to gather valuable insights on the SEERC energy system.

Proposals for new Regional Working Groups (RWGs) were deliberated, with a preference for organizing workshops on specific topics due to readiness and approval considerations. These workshops are expected to facilitate regional consultation and knowledge sharing on important energy issues.

Preferential topics for the 5th SEERC conference in Bosnia and Herzegovina were discussed and tentatively agreed upon, pending final decisions in the next TAC meeting. These topics include increasing energy efficiency, new technologies in decarbonization, electricity market development, resilience of the electric power system, and digitalization of the electric power system. The meeting also suggested adding "Pumped storage hydropower facilities" as a preferential theme due to its regional significance.

Also, the importance of enhancing grid resilience amidst the green energy transition was highlighted. The proposal to select top papers from the 5th SEERC conference for submission to the "B&H Electrical Engineering" journal was accepted, ensuring that high-quality research is recognized and disseminated.

This Meeting was a significant step forward in aligning SEERC's strategic goals and preparing for the upcoming Conference, underscoring the importance of regional cooperation in advancing the energy sector.

The tentative date for the 5th SEERC conference in Sarajevo, June 2025, was established along with the preferential conference themes, which include:

1. Increasing energy efficiency of existing facilities and increasing renewable energy capacities (wind and solar) by 2030.
2. New technologies and methodologies in the fast decarbonization of the energy and environmental system.
3. Development of the electricity market, balancing, and dynamic regulation (dynamic tariff system).
4. Resilience issues of the electric power system in the SEERC region (cybersecurity, equipment resilience against climate change, etc.).
5. Digitalization of the electric power system (artificial intelligence, sensor technologies, innovative technologies, etc.).

The final date and themes will be decided at the next TAC meeting scheduled for May 2024.



Joint meeting of SEERC MB and TAC in Ljubljana, 2024

Second CIGRE SEERC Colloquium, February 29, 2024

The Second CIGRE SEERC Colloquium focused on "**National Strategies for Decarbonization of the Energy Sector and Impacts on the Electric Power System.**" This event highlighted various national approaches and challenges across different countries regarding the energy transition and the integration of renewable energy sources into their power systems. The colloquium featured a range of presentations by experts from CIGRE national committees, emphasizing the unique aspects and progress of their respective countries:

1. National Strategies for Decarbonization of the Energy Sector and Impacts on the Electric Power System of Croatia

- Presenter: Goran Slipac, National Committee CIGRE Croatia

2. A Snapshot of the Turkish Power System

- Presenter: Erkan Alan, National Committee CIGRE Turkey

3. Part 1: National Strategies for Decarbonization of the Energy Sector and Impact on the Electric Power System of Kosovo

Part 2: PV Project 100 MW: "SOLAR4KOSOVO I PHOTOVOLTAIC" and Diversification of Energy at the Largest Generation Company in Kosovo KEK J.S.C.

- Presenter: Pranvera Dobruna Kryeziu, National Committee CIGRE Kosovo

4. National Strategies for Decarbonization of the Energy Sector and Impacts on the Electric Power System of Slovenia

- Presenter: Uros Kerin, National Committee CIGRE Slovenia

5. National Strategies for Decarbonization of the Energy Sector and Impacts on the Electric Power System: The Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Presenter: Alja Merzić, National Committee CIGRE Bosnia and Herzegovina

6. CIGRE and the Energy Transition

- Presenter: Philippe Adam, CIGRE Paris

7. NECP 2025-2030 of Serbia and an Overview of the Current Development Phase

- Presenter: Nebojša Petrović, National Committee CIGRE Serbia

8. Overview of the Integration of Photovoltaic Power Plants, Wind Farms, and Storage

- Presenters: Enrico Maria Carlini, and Massimo Pompili, National Committee CIGRE Italy

9. National Strategies for Energy Transition in Greece: Impacts and Challenges to the Hellenic Electric Power System

- Presenters: Babis Pitas, Yannis Kampouris, National Committee CIGRE Greece

10. National Strategies for Decarbonization of the Energy Sector and Impacts on the Electric Power System in Austria

- Presenter: Klemens Reich, National Committee CIGRE Austria

11. National Strategies for Decarbonization of the Energy Sector and Impacts on the Electric Power System in Georgia

- Presenter: Giorgi Amuzashvili, National Committee CIGRE Georgia



SECOND CIGRE SEERC Colloquium in Ljubljana, February 29, 2024

CIGRE SEERC 10th TAC Meeting in Cavtat (Croatia), May 27, 2024

On May 27, 2024, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the South East European Regional Council of CIGRE (SEERC) held a significant meeting in Cavtat, with representatives from several countries. The meeting was initiated by SEERC President Edhem Bičakčić, who welcomed the attendees and emphasized the importance of addressing key challenges in the electric power sector, such as renewable energy integration, energy efficiency, climate change, and cybersecurity.

TAC President Sabina Dacić-Lepara provided an update on the recent joint MB and TAC Meeting held in Ljubljana, sharing key decisions and strategic

initiatives aimed at enhancing the region's power systems. This overview aligned the attendees with the meeting's objectives and set the stage for the detailed discussions that followed.

A major focus of the meeting was the preparation for the upcoming 5th SEERC Conference in Sarajevo, scheduled for **June 4-5, 2025**. The Conference venue was confirmed to be the Hotel Hills Sarajevo, chosen for its excellent facilities and convenient access. The final topics for the Conference were defined, covering critical areas such as energy efficiency, renewable energy capacities, decarbonization technologies, electricity market development, and resilience of electric power systems. Specific dates and deadlines for paper submission were established, and roles for the conference chairs and co-chairs were assigned, ensuring a structured and organized review process.

The Conference topics were redefined (now 4 instead of 5). Each conference theme has three sub-topics:

1. Increasing energy efficiency of existing facilities and increasing renewable energy capacities

- ✓ Technologies to improve energy efficiency and encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources and decreased emissions of greenhouse gases; presenting interesting projects.
- ✓ Advantages of energy efficiency, including diminished energy expenditures, and enhanced energy dependability, energy audits, regulations, energy management systems.
- ✓ Renewable energy technologies, economic and environmental benefits of solar, wind, hydropower, and geothermal technology; regulatory frameworks for funding; collaborations between the public and private sectors.

2. New technologies and methodologies for accelerated decarbonization and digitalization of electric power systems

- ✓ Advanced renewable energy integration and storage solutions.
- ✓ Internet of things, machine learning and smart grid technologies (artificial intelligence, sensor integration and predictive maintenance).
- ✓ Citizen's initiatives (energy communities, prosumers, e-mobility).

3. Development of the electricity market balancing and dynamic regulation

- ✓ Integration of national balancing markets in Europe, harmonization of requirements for Balancing Service Providers.
- ✓ Opening of ancillary service markets to distributed energy resources and TSO/DSO cooperation.

- ✓ Storage device evolution, technical & economic performances, short/medium term measures for balancing the grid and managing the electric system in the long term.

4. Resilience issues of the electric power systems

- ✓ The impact of climate change on the electric power infrastructure and the functioning of the electric power system.
- ✓ Electric power system adaptation concepts, strategies and innovative solutions to increase operational resilience.
- ✓ Electric power system security and resilience against cyber threats.

The key Conference dates are:

- Synopses Submission Deadline 31.10.2024.
- Notification of Synopses Acceptance 15.12.2024.
- Full Paper Submission Deadline 28.02.2025.
- Notification of Paper Acceptance 31.03.2025.

The Conference chairs and co-chairs for the themes are:

- Honorary Chair: Klaus Fröhlich, President of CIGRE PARIS when SEERC was founded.
- General Chair: Edhem Bičakčić, SEERC President.
- Technical Chair: Sabina Dacić-Lepara, SEERC TAC President.
- Publication Chair: Adnan Mujezinović.

Chairs and Co-Chairs for the preferential themes:

1. Increasing energy efficiency of existing facilities and increasing renewable energy capacities

- Chair: Krešimir Bakić (NC Slovenia)
- Co-Chairs: Anes Kazagić (NC B&H) and Gazmend Kabashi (NC Kosovo)

2. New technologies and methodologies for accelerated decarbonization and digitalization of electric power systems

- Chair: Klemens Reich (NC Austria)

- Co-Chairs: Ajla Merzić (NC B&H) and Umit Cetinkaya, NC Turkey
3. Development of the electricity market balancing and dynamic regulation
- Chair: Enrico Maria CARLINI (NC Italy)
 - Co-Chairs: Dalibor Muratović (NC B&H) and Nikola Tošić (NC Serbia)
4. Resilience issues of the electric power systems
- Chair: Vlatko Ećimović (NC Croatia)
 - Co-Chairs: Marko Hrast (NC Slovenia) and Massimo Pompili (NC Italy)



10th TAC Meeting in Cavtat, May 27, 2024

Additionally, the Meeting addressed the establishment of panels and sponsorship opportunities for the conference. Prof. Massimo Pompili was appointed to organize the history panel, while discussions on incorporating Women in Engineering (WIE) and Next Generation Network (NGN) panels were initiated. Plans for sponsorship and exhibition were delegated to the National Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ensuring comprehensive preparation for the event.

Issues related to the Regional Working Groups (RWGs) were also discussed. Key decisions included appointing Federico Falorni as the new convener for RWG04, which focuses on the technical and economic features of Hydro Pumped Storage Power Plants (HPSPPs), with Silverio Casulli as the alternate convener. Krešimir Bakič was appointed as the new convener for the RWG on the History of Electricity.

Massimo Pompili presented the SEERC Questionnaire, designed to gather feedback and insights from member countries to identify areas for improvement and potential future initiatives.

The SEERC Questionnaire timeline is as follows:

- Call for Questionnaire completion: May-June 2024.
- Deadline for response submission: September-October 2024.
- Presentation of Questionnaire results: January 2025.

This Meeting marked a significant step in aligning SEERC's strategic goals and preparing for the upcoming conference, ensuring that the organization remains at the forefront of addressing critical energy challenges in the region.

7th SEERC Workshop on May 28, 2024.

On April 28, 2025, the workshop titled "**Managing Spatial, Environmental, and Location Challenges in the Construction of Power Facilities**" was held in Cavtat (Croatia). *The Workshop focused on national regulations governing the integration of power lines and facilities into the environment, electromagnetic field regulations, and the procedures for obtaining construction permits for power facilities.*

The primary topics addressed included spatial issues related to the placement and construction of power capacities, encompassing legal regulations such as spatial plans, urban planning, site location integration, access roads, connection methods to the power system, architectural appearance, construction, and integration into existing urban complexes.

Special attention was given to the obstacles encountered when obtaining construction permits, including legal regulations for conceptual design preparation, issuance of urban planning approvals, and the competencies of various levels of government.



7th SEERC Workshop in Cavtat on May 28, 2024

During the workshop, three invited lecturers presented:

1. THE PEOPLE OF CIGRE

- Presenter: **Konstantin O. Papailiou**, National Committee CIGRE Greece

2. ARE OHL'S REALLY UGLY OR WHAT TO DO TO MAKE THEM MORE ACCEPTABLE?

- Presenter: **Krešimir Bakič**, National Committee CIGRE Slovenia

3. WE MUST, or WE WANT

- Presenter: **Aleš Kregar**, National Committee CIGRE Slovenia

Following these lectures, presentations from **National Committees of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey were shared**. These presentations focused on spatial issues in the placement of electric power facilities, legal regulations, and standards, including spatial and urban planning, integration of buildings into the existing urban complex, access roads, and connection to the power system.

The titles and presenters of the presentations were:

1. NEWS from CIGRE Greece NC

- Presenters: **Konstantin Papailiou, Yannis Kampouris**, National Committee CIGRE Greece

2. Croatian experience – design engineer's perspective

- Presenter: **Sanja Vinter**, National Committee CIGRE Croatia

3. Study Committees B2 and C3 CIGRE Serbia

- Presenter: **Nada Curović**, National Committee CIGRE Serbia

4. Navigating Spatial, Environmental and Siting Challenges in Electric Power Facility Development- The Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Presenters: **Ajla Merzić, Adnan Mujezinović**, National Committee CIGRE Bosnia and Herzegovina

5. Spatial, Environmental and Siting Issues in Electric Transmission Facility Development in Turkey

- Presenter: **Sena Toker**, National Committee CIGRE Turkey

6. CONTEXT AND PROSPECTIVES TO RES INTEGRATION IN THE ITALIAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

- Presenters: **Corrado Gadaleta, Giuseppe Bonavita**, National Committee CIGRE Italy

7. Speeding-up permitting for grid development

- Presenter: **Corrado Gadaleta, Giuseppe Bonavita**, National Committee CIGRE Italy

8. OVERHEAD LINE 2X400 KV CIRKOVCE PINCE AND SUBSTATION 400/110 KV CIRKOVCE

- Presenter: **Marko Hrast**, National Committee CIGRE Slovenia



10th CIGRE SEERC TAC Meeting and Workshop in Cavtat (Croatia), May 27-28, 2024

In July 2024, the **Call for Papers** was initiated, which is included in the attached report, along with the launch of the conference website at **www.seerc2025.com**.

The Conftool system is established, enabling participant registration and the submission of full papers and synopses.



Call for papers

Technical Program Planning and Organization of the 5th SEERC Conference

A comprehensive plan and organization of the Technical Program have been developed, covering the period before and during the conference. This includes the selection of preferential topics, the preparation of the review process, and the definition of deadlines and procedures for the submission, review, and selection of synopses and full papers for oral or poster presentations. Additionally, a Conftool system for the review process is established, along with the assessment of the expected number of submissions and their status, including acceptance, rejection, and revision requests.

The program sessions are defined as follows:

- Opening Ceremony and Keynotes and Handing over Ceremony of SEERC Chairmanship to NC Croatia.
- Parallel Sessions: Conducted in three parallel tracks over two days.
- Special Panels: Including the History Panel, NGN Panel, and WIE Panel.
- Closing Session: Scheduled for June 5th at 17:30h.

The social events are planned as follows:

- Conference Dinner: Scheduled for June 4th at 19:00h at Hotel Hills.

The submission guidelines are clearly defined:

- Synopses: Should be 300 words or less, providing a clear overview of the research objectives, methodology, and key findings.
- Full Papers: Should be in English, between 5,000 to 8,000 words (including references), adhering to the prescribed formatting guidelines.

- Presentation and Publication: Accepted papers will be presented during dedicated sessions and included in the conference proceedings. Selected papers will receive awards and be published in the journal B&H Electrical Engineering.

Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee is determined as follows:

- Edhem Bičakčić
- Zijad Bajramović
- Sabina Dacić-Lepara
- Maja Muftić Dedović
- Esad Tanović
- Ajla Merzić
- Adnan Mujezinović
- Edina Mašnić
- Aida Toromanović

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is determined as follows:

- Sabina Dacić-Lepara
- Krešimir Bakić
- Anes Kazagić
- Gazmend Kabashi
- Klemens Reich
- Ajla Merzić
- Ümit Çetinkaya
- Enrico Maria Carlini
- Dalibor Muratović
- Nikola Tošić
- Vlatko Ećimović
- Marko Hrast
- Massimo Pompili

In addition to the technical sessions, an **exhibition** will be organized alongside the conference. This exhibition will provide an invaluable platform for a wide range of participants, including companies, research institutions, and other organizations, to present their latest technologies, innovative products, and cutting-edge solutions in electric power systems. The exhibition is designed to foster collaboration and networking, allowing exhibitors to engage directly with industry leaders, researchers, policymakers, and key decision-makers from across the region.

Authors are strongly encouraged to submit their papers and presentations that align with the conference themes. These submissions are crucial for sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and contributing to the ongoing dialogue in the energy sector. Authors are invited to explore various topics, including advancements in energy efficiency, renewable energy integration, digitalization of power systems, and strategies for enhancing grid resilience.

Moreover, all interested parties are invited to **register as exhibitors** for the exhibition. This opportunity allows participants to showcase their contributions to the industry, from new technologies and solutions to innovative approaches to tackling current challenges. By participating in the exhibition, exhibitors can gain visibility among a highly targeted audience, build brand recognition, and establish valuable connections with peers and potential clients.

To secure a place at the exhibition and participate in the conference, please visit our official conference website at www.seerc2025.com for more information on registration, booth reservations, and other details.

The 'Call for Papers' will be published in the August issue of **ELECTRA**. The 5th SEERC Conference - Call for Papers is available on the CIGRE website and has been submitted to the CIGRE Central Office for distribution to all delegates.

Join us to share your insights, explore new opportunities, and be a part of shaping the future of the electric power industry.

Edhem Bičakčić,
SEERC president