

Concept note and Programme

Virtual Launch Renewable Readiness Assessment (RRA) Belarus

July 29, 2021 (13:00 – 14:30 GST)

Belarus is well endowed with renewable energy resource potential, although the sector is still in its nascent stage of development, with a limited role in the country's currently overwhelmingly fossil-fueled energy mix. With energy imports accounting for about 85% of all energy supplied, Belarus is one of the most import-dependent countries in the world and exposed to price volatility risk. Reducing imports dependency, improving energy efficiency and moving towards a less carbon-intensive development model of the economy are some of the key challenges the country will have to address in the future.

Thus, through increased deployment of renewable energy technologies, Belarus would be able to increase its domestic energy supply which would have a direct contribution towards the country's GDP and economic growth. Increased deployment of renewables would also pave the way for the Belarusian energy system to lessen its import dependence and thereby increase the country's energy sector security. Furthermore, through greening the energy sector, which is the single largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, a direct reduction of emissions could be achieved thereby supporting the country's sustainable and environmentally-sound development pathway. Increased renewable energy deployment would also contribute towards local value creation, including employment opportunities and industrial development.

While biomass is the most abundant renewable energy resource, there is also significant room for growth for solar PV and wind.

The Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA) aims to further support the country on this path towards the sustainable development of the energy sector through increasing deployment of reliable and cost-effective renewable energy solutions. The RRA calls for more ambitious and coherent renewable targets, combined with long term vision for development of the sector. Implementation of well designed and suitable for local conditions auctions is highlighted as the necessary way forward for achievement of well-planned and cost-efficient renewable energy deployment and for attracting new investments, while reducing the perceived market risk. Further improvement of financial and de-risking instruments is also recommended, as well as actions for harnessing renewable energy potential in heating.

The RRA report highlights the challenges and gives 11 recommendations for actions in the following key areas:

- Policy and regulatory frameworks
- Renewables in end-uses
- Planning and integration of renewables
- Renewable energy financing
- Institutional capacities and skills

Objective

- The virtual launch will feature the official publication of the RRA Belarus. The event will serve as a platform to address important topics relevant to the renewable energy development and deployment in Belarus amongst government officials and the involved stakeholders and partners
- The session will build on the insights from IRENA's analysis, including the key challenges and opportunities for the renewable energy sector and the recommended way forward to harness the potential of renewable energy resources.

Audience.

Using Zoom, a cloud based video conference service, the virtual launch will aim to gather participants from government institutions, private sector, financial institutions and development partners and NGOs.

For any questions, please contact Ms. Petya Icheva (picheva@irena.org) and Ms. Laura Camarut (lcamarut@irena.org).

Agenda

13:00 –13:10	Opening remarks: <i>Launch of the Renewables Readiness Assessment Belarus</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Valentin Boleslavovich Tataritsky, Chairman of the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus• Mr. Francesco La Camera, IRENA Director General
13:10 –13:20	Presentation: <i>Findings of the Renewable Readiness Assessment Belarus</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gurbuz Gonul, Director Country Engagement and Partnerships (CEP), IRENA
13:20 –14:20	Panel Discussion: <i>Post Renewables Readiness Assessment action plan. Opportunities and the way forward</i> Moderator: Petya Icheva , Programme officer South East Europe, IRENA Potential Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Boleslav Kazimirovich Pirshtuk, First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry of the Republic of Belarus• Mr. Mikhail Petrovich Malashenko, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus – Director of the Department for Energy Efficiency• Ms. Natallia Andreyenka, Head of climate change sector, Ecopartnership• Mr. Ivan Shchadranok, Director, Fund Interaction• Mr. Vassily Tarasevich, Associate Director, KPMG in Belarus• Mr. Vladimir Boghach, Head of the Laboratory, Institute for Problems of Energy, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.
14:20 –14:30	Concluding Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Mikhail Petrovich Malashenko, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus – Director of the Department for Energy Efficiency• Mr. Binu Parthan, Head of Regions, CEP IRENA