



# Grenzüberschreitender Ausbau von Erneuerbaren Energien in der CESEC-Region (Central and South Eastern Europe energy connectivity)

EnInnov 2022

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# The study

## “Study on the Central and South Eastern Europe energy connectivity (CESEC) cooperation on electricity grid development and renewables”

**Objective:** To provide significant and practical contributions towards facilitation of the integration of renewable energy sources (RES) in the CESEC region

through

**Approach:** Analysis of studies, data & projects  
Cross-verification with relevant (national) data  
Modelling  
Stakeholder consultation  
Interviews



**1. Highest-potential renewable energy zones** with cross-border dimension

**2. Infrastructure and interconnection needs** to ensure RES integration in the CESEC region

**3. Challenges and barriers to RES deployment and cross-border cooperation** in the CESEC region

**4. Conclusions & recommendations**

## The team

### CESEC team



**Content manager**  
Gustav Resch  
(TU Wien)



**Process manager**  
Marie-Jose Zondag  
(Ecorys)



**Quality Control**  
Monique Voogt  
(SQ Consult)



**1. Renewable  
energy potential**  
Gustav Resch  
Lukas Liebmann



**2. Infrastructure needs &  
potential projects**  
Laszlo Szabo & Karsten Lüdorf  
András Mezősi, Enikő Kácsor,  
Alfa Diallo



**3. Barriers for  
implementation**  
Jenny Winkler  
Ammar Maghnam  
Hazem Abdel-Khalek



**4. Conclusions &  
recommendations**  
Marie-Jose Zondag  
Iulia Falcan  
Laura Heidecke



**5. Stakeholder  
involvement**  
Marie-Jose Zondag  
Laura Heidecke  
Yoeri Dijkhof



# 1. Highest-potential renewable energy zones

## Objectives

- **Identify areas with the highest and most cost-effective potential for RES** (“renewable energy zones”)

(based on energy resources, related cost, commercial interest)

- **Identify possible cost-effective “cross-border renewable energy projects”** with a cross-border dimension

(to be further assessed and taken up in the CESEC framework)

## Approach highest-potential renewable energy zones

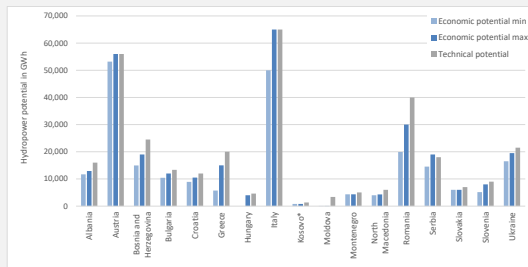
***used as basis for subsequent modelling:***

## Assessment of RES potentials in the CESEC region

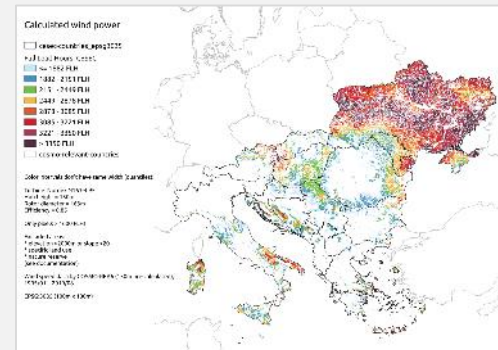
A comprehensive **literature survey** as **basis** for subsequent analysis ...

... complemented by an own GIS-based analysis for solar and wind energy using meteorological and land use data, considering e.g. distance rules and environmental constraints for wind energy

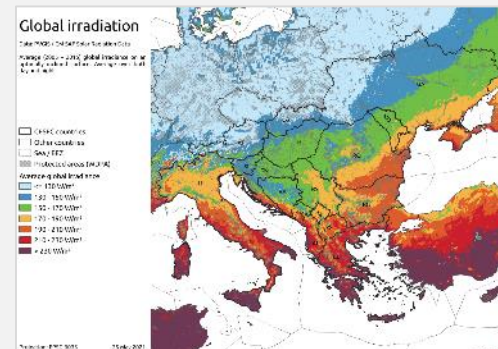
*Example: Literature survey on hydropower potentials in CESEC*



Indicator in MW	Existing installations in 2015	Existing installations 2020	Additional economic potential	Additional technical potential	Additional potential: planned or permitted (March 2020)			
Source	IRENA (2017)	ECN (2004)	IRENA et al. (2017)	Neuharth (2018)	IRENA et al. (2017)	Neuharth (2018)	Witch (2012)	
Albania	1,798	2,039	1,437	3,967	3,300	3,301	4,813	4,800
Austria	13,351	13,558	11,300	n.a.	n.a.	13,223	n.a.	n.a.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,055	2,000	1,219	4,565	4,200	6,014	6,110	1,000
Bulgaria	2,501	2,501	1,401	3,867	4,000	4,377	9,242	9,000
Croatia	1,915	2,125	2,042	2,904	n.a.	3,143	3,015	n.a.
Greece	2,693	3,395	2,523	3,500	6,200	3,425	8,000	8,000
Hungary	72	48	43	n.a.	n.a.	780	n.a.	n.a.
Italy	14,628	19,393	14,927	n.a.	n.a.	19,302	n.a.	n.a.
Kosovo*	43	65	n.a.	180	n.a.	n.a.	495	n.a.
Moldova	16	n.a.	n.a.	16	n.a.	n.a.	840	n.a.
Montenegro	651	675	n.a.	1,947	2,000	n.a.	2,042	2,700
North Macedonia	658	575	880	1,303	1,300	2,119	1,866	2,300
Romania	6,359	6,174	5,756	7,893	n.a.	8,470	15,385	n.a.
Serbia	2,184	2,800	2,451	3,454	3,600	5,879	4,716	5,000
Slovakia	1,406	n.a.	2,405	n.a.	n.a.	1,584	n.a.	n.a.
Slovenia	1,115	1,239	847	1,568	n.a.	1,382	3,840	n.a.
Ukraine	8,697	n.a.	n.a.	10,776	n.a.	n.a.	13,647	n.a.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56,569</b>	<b>59,400</b>						



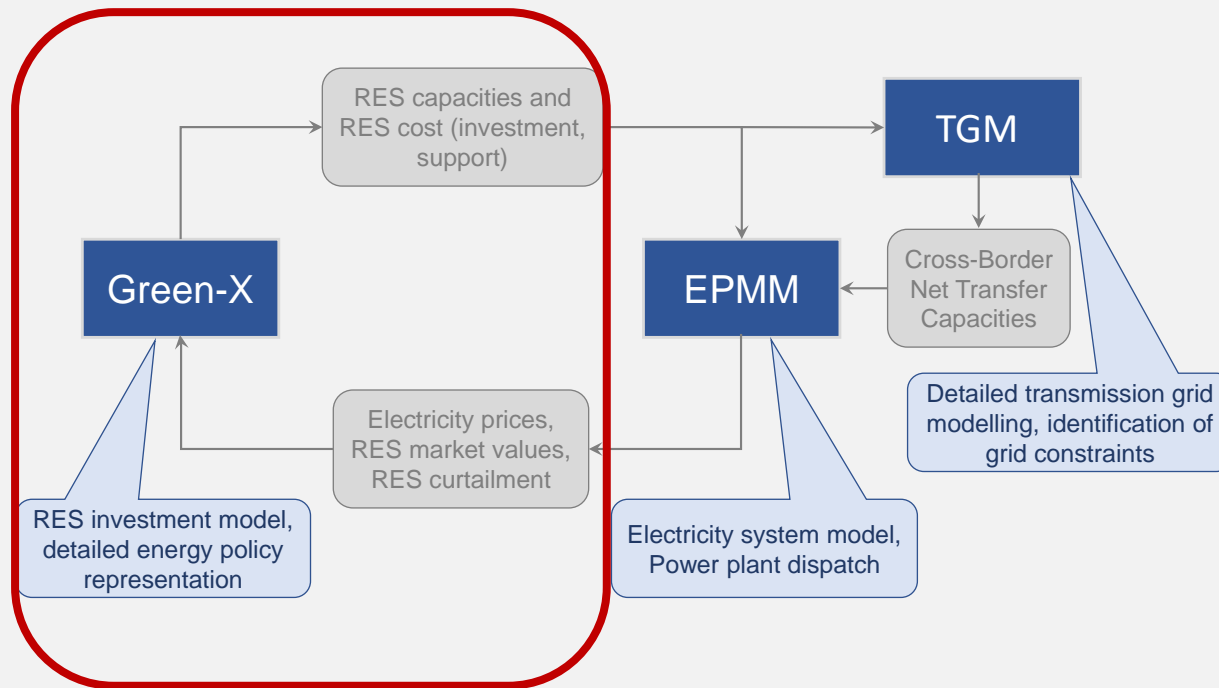
Example: GIS-based analysis for wind (above) and solar (below)



# Approach highest-potential renewable energy zones

*used in model-based RES analysis:*

## Modelling system



*Figure: **Model coupling** between Green-X, EPMM and TGM for an assessment of RES developments in the electricity sector under distinct grid topologies*

# Approach highest-potential renewable energy zones

*used in model-based RES analysis:*

## Scenario definition

Two pairs of scenarios for the RES uptake towards 2050:

- Reference RES scenarios (RefRES): in accordance with **national planning (National Energy and Climate Plans** or alternative sources where not applicable)
- High RES scenarios (HighRES): assessing the **feasibility of reaching a higher level of RES deployment** in accordance with **decarbonization needs / European Green Deal perspective**



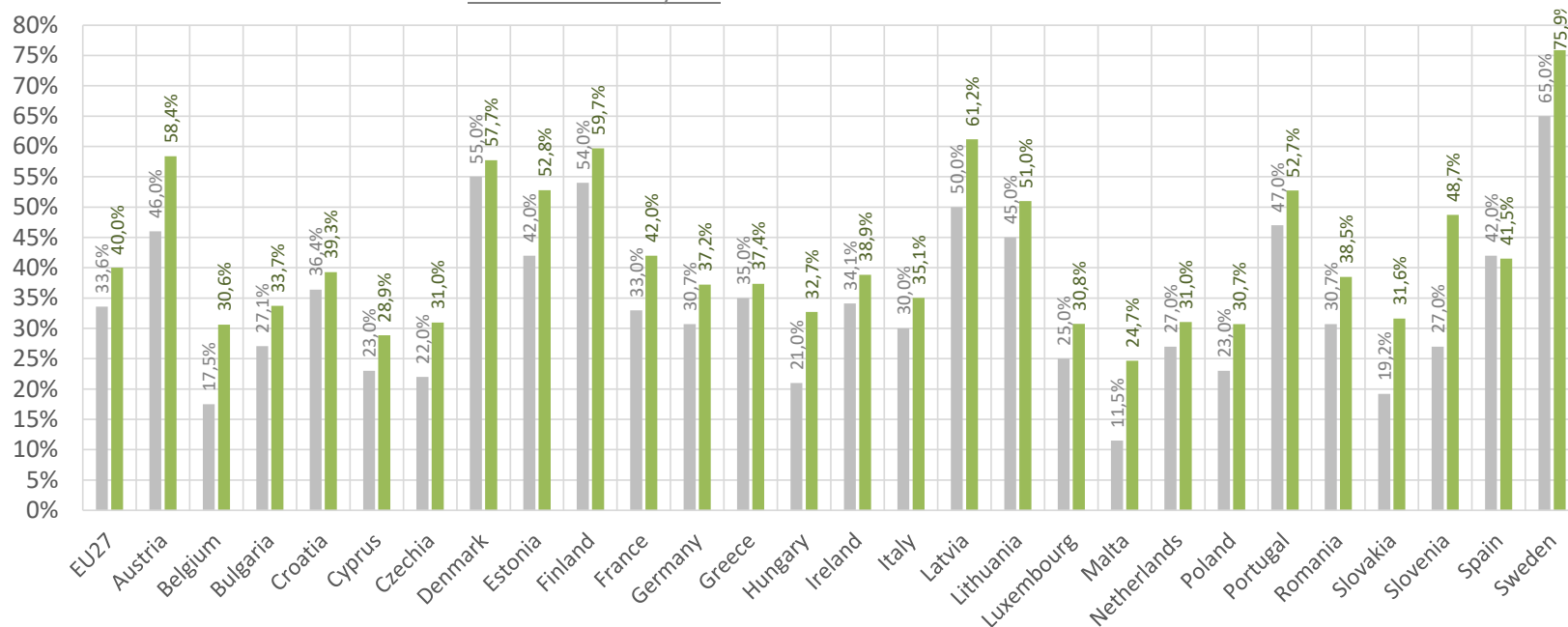
Both scenarios are replicated to analyze the impact of **Cross-Border RES cooperation**:

- Domestic RES target fulfilment (-NoCoop): focus on using domestic resources
- With (full) RES cooperation across the CESEC region (-Coop): a **region-wide, least-cost approach** within the CESEC region.

## Brief recap of 2030 RES targets (at EU level)

2030 RES shares by EU MS according to NECP ambitions vs Green Deal needs

2030 RES shares by MS: NECP ambitions vs Green Deal needs



(Source: NECP  
& own analysis)

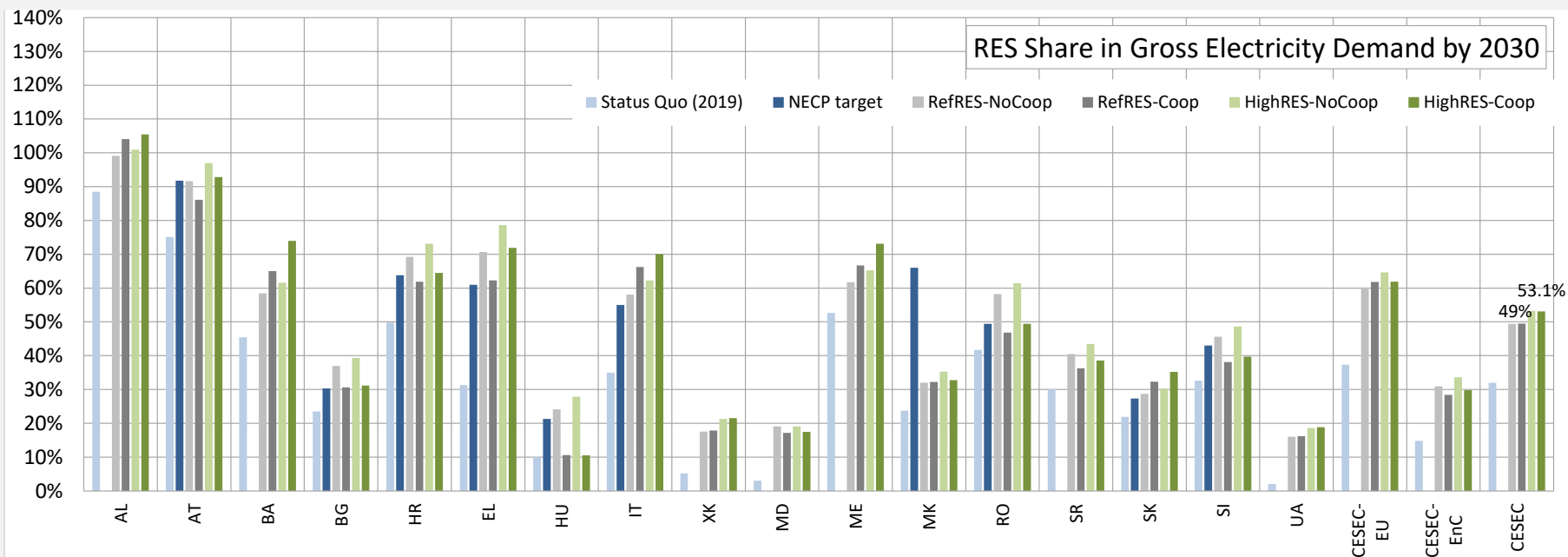


# RES uptake in the electricity sector (CESEC)

At CESEC level:

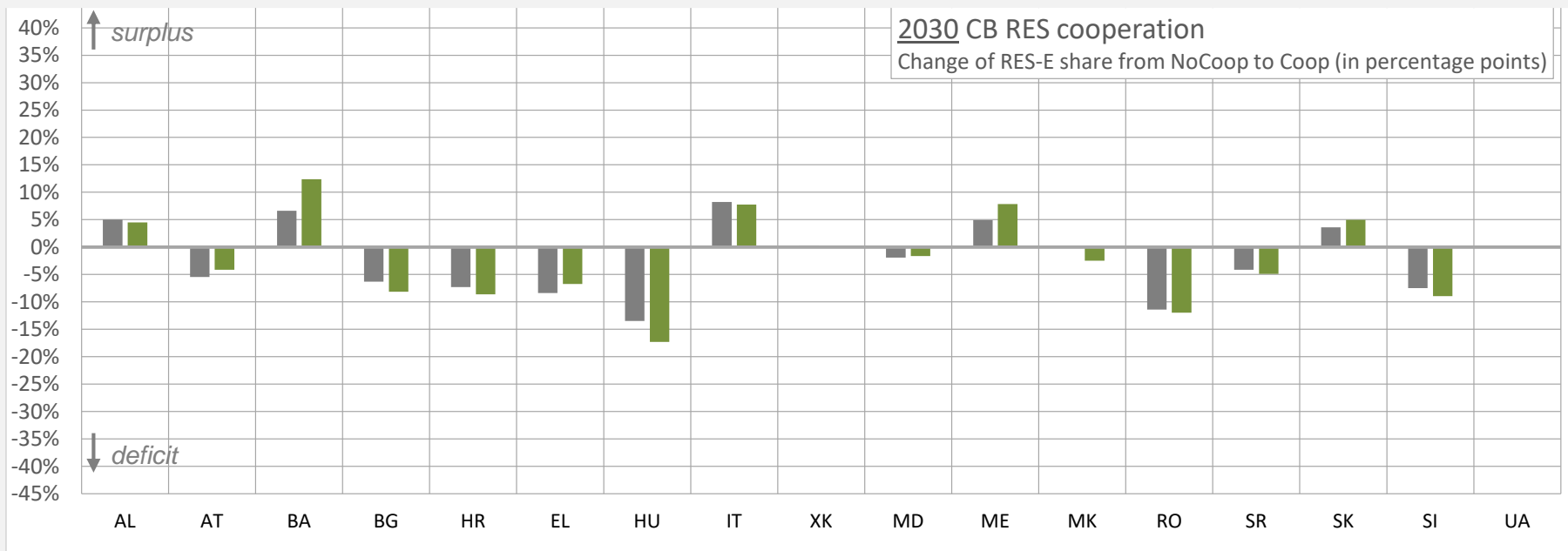
- **53.1%** (HighRES scenarios)
- **49%** (RefRES scenarios)

2030 share of electricity generation from renewables in gross electricity demand



# Cross-border RES cooperation in the 2030 context (CESEC)

**2030: Change of RES-E share in gross electricity demand (in percentage points) driven by RES cooperation**

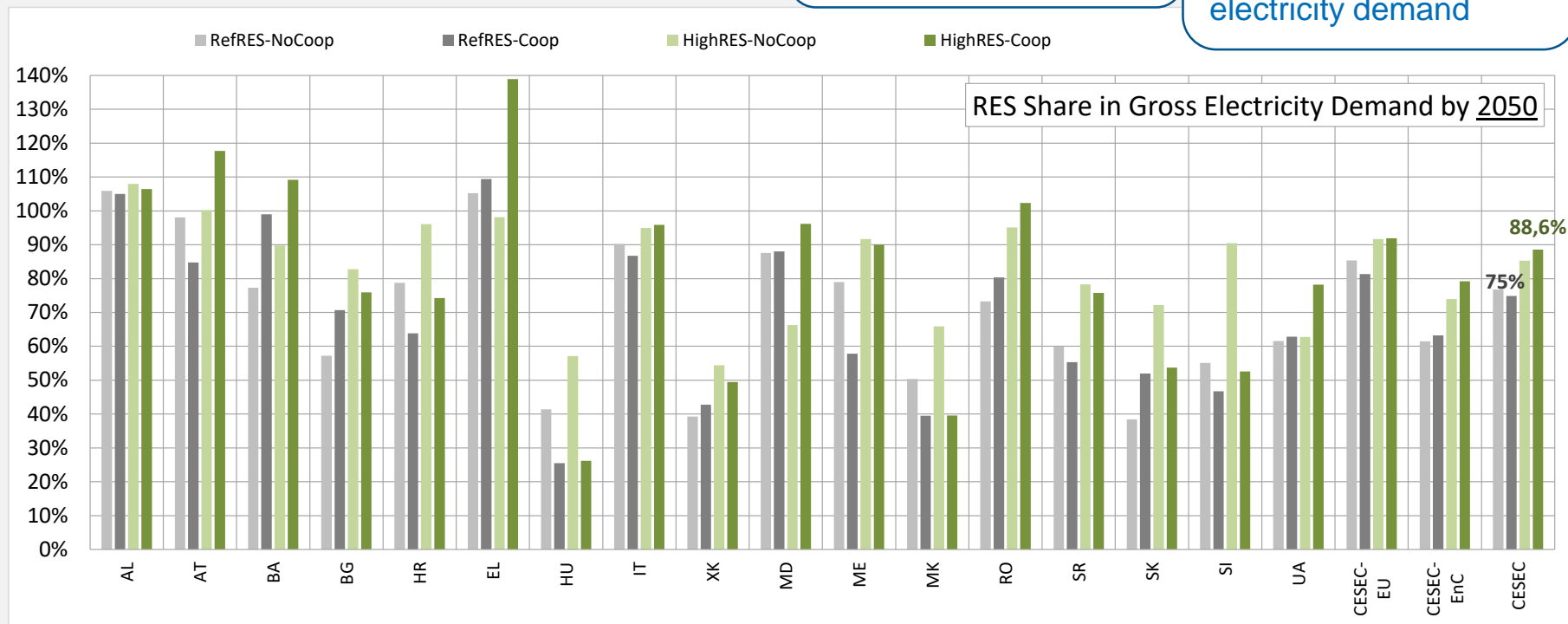


# RES uptake in the electricity sector

## At CESEC level:

- 88.6% (HighRES scenarios)
- 75% (RefRES scenarios)

2050 share of electricity generation from renewables in gross electricity demand

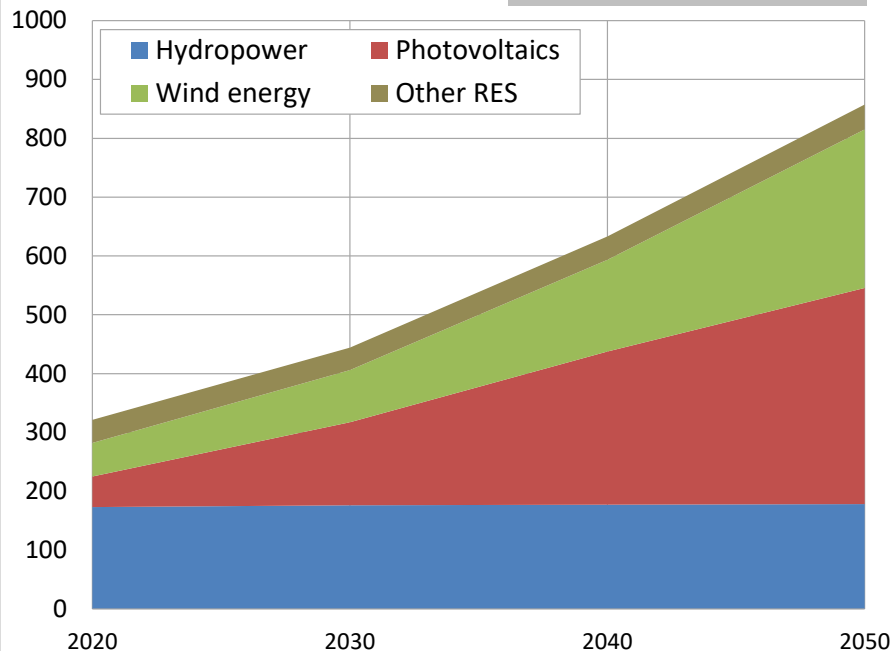


# Development of electricity generation from RES:

(Source: Green-X modelling)

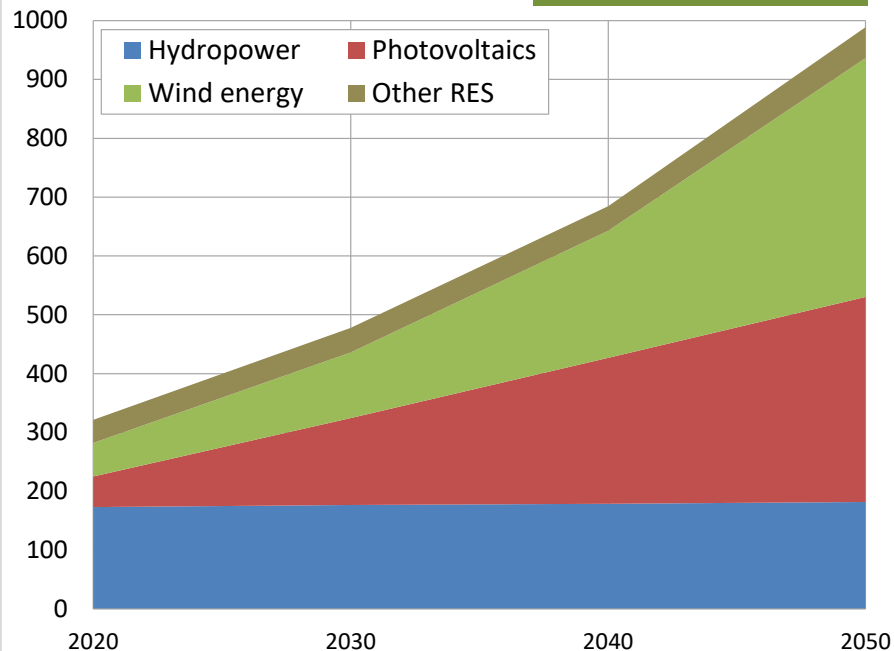
Development of electricity generation from RES  
(in TWh) in the CESEC region

Scenario: RefRES-NoCoop



Development of electricity generation from RES  
(in TWh) in the CESEC region

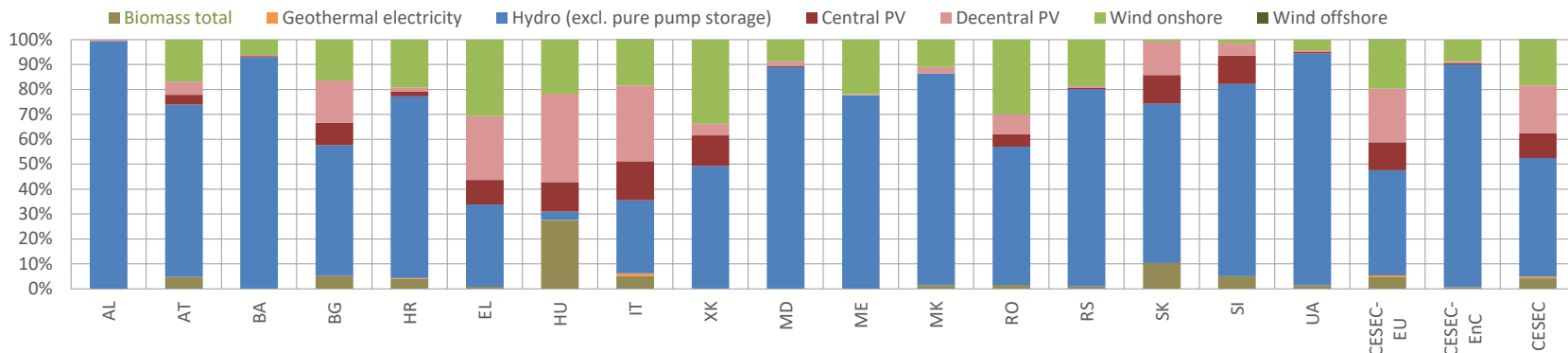
Scenario: HighRES-Coop



# Changing the RES technology mix

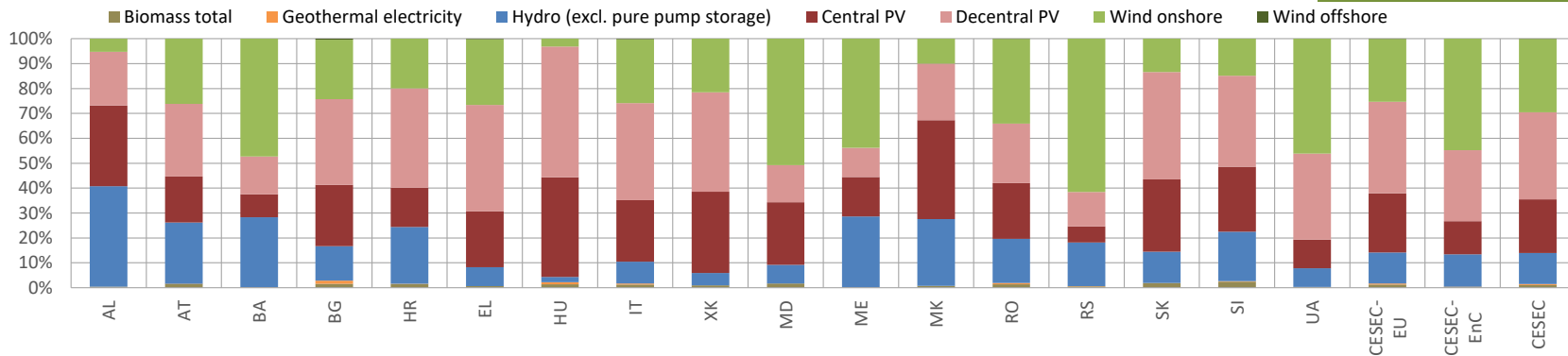
Country-specific technology mix of installed RES capacities at present (2020 - top) and in future (2050 - bottom)

Technology mix of installed RES capacities (in % of total RES) by 2020



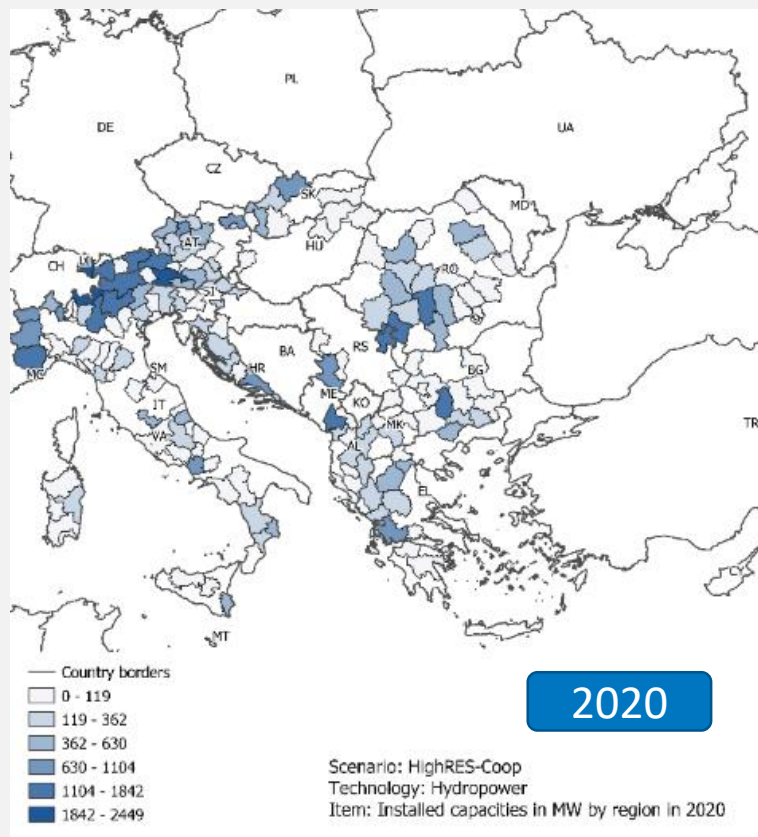
Technology mix of installed RES capacities (in % of total RES) by 2050

Scenario: HighRES-Coop



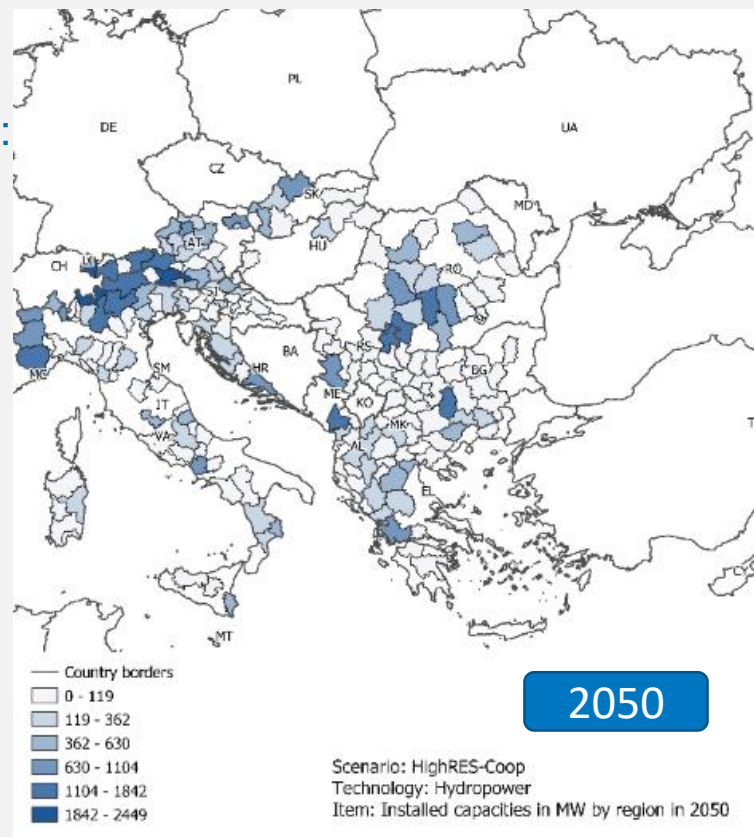
(Source: Green-X modelling)

## Identification of promising CB RES projects in the CESEC region



Insights from the  
mapping exercise:  
Trends in  
**hydropower  
exploitation**

(Source: Green-X modelling  
& own analysis)



## Identification of promising CB RES projects in the CESEC region

### Global irradiation

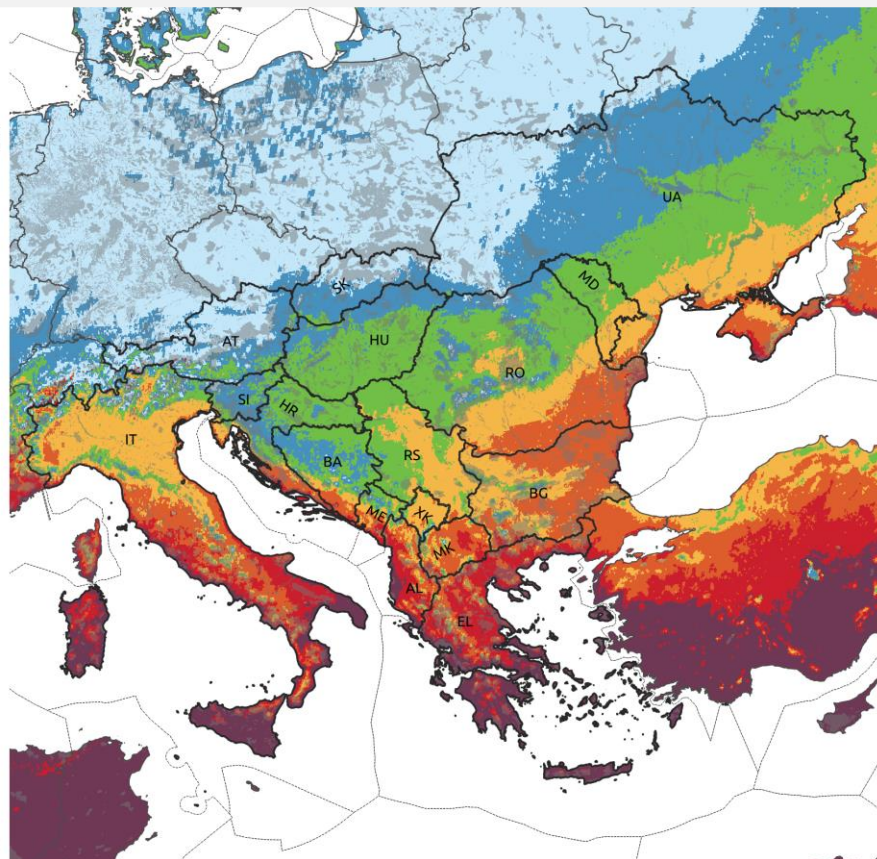
Data: PVGIS / CM SAF Solar Radiation Data

Average (2005 – 2015) global irradiance on an optimally inclined surface. Average over both day and night.

- CESEC countries
- Other countries
- Sea / EEZ
- Protected areas (WDPA)

Average global irradiance

- $\leq 130 \text{ W/m}^2$
- $130 - 150 \text{ W/m}^2$
- $150 - 170 \text{ W/m}^2$
- $170 - 190 \text{ W/m}^2$
- $190 - 210 \text{ W/m}^2$
- $210 - 230 \text{ W/m}^2$
- $> 230 \text{ W/m}^2$



Projection: EPSG:3035

25 May 2021

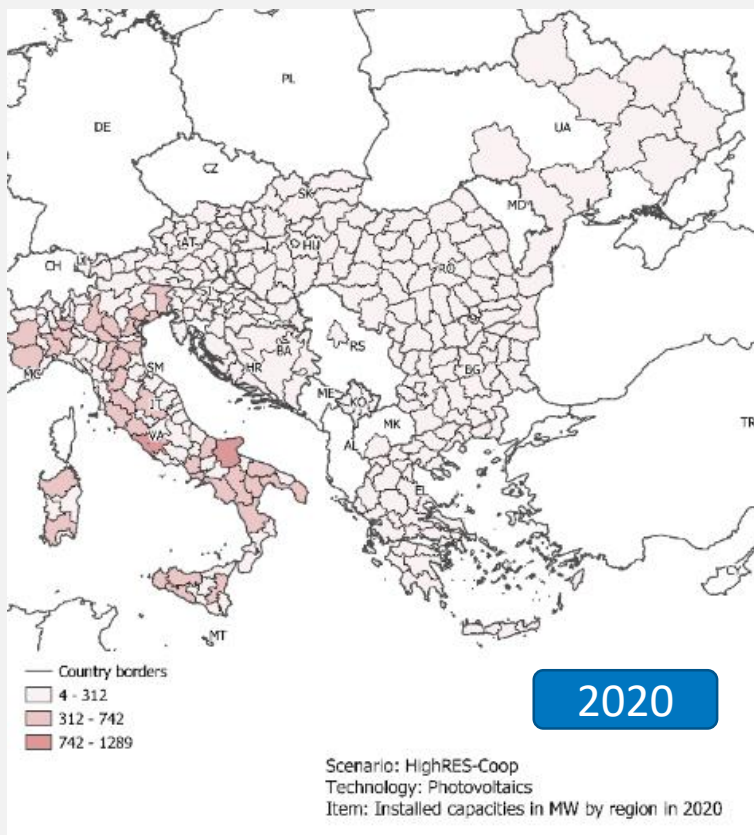
**GIS-based  
analysis of  
solar  
potentials**

(Source: Own analysis)

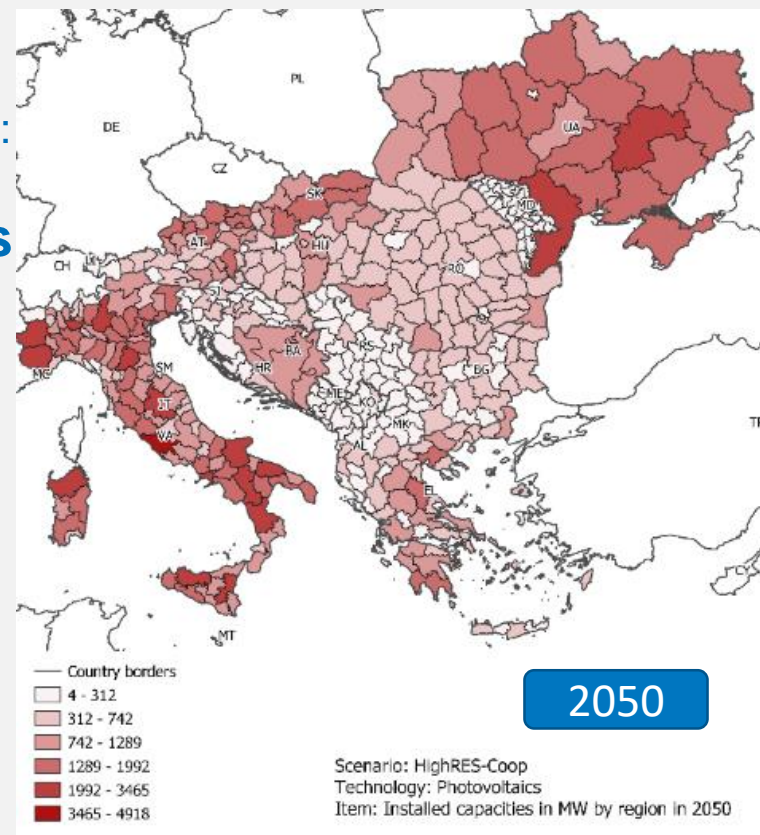


## Identification of promising CB RES projects in the CESEC region

Insights from the  
mapping exercise:  
Trends in  
**photovoltaics**  
exploitation



(Source: Green-X modelling  
& own analysis)





# Identification of promising cross-border RES projects in the CESEC region

## Calculated wind power

cesec-countries\_epsg3035

Full Load Hours: CESEC

<= 1882 FLH

1882 - 2151 FLH

2151 - 2449 FLH

2449 - 2878 FLH

2878 - 3085 FLH

3085 - 3221 FLH

3221 - 3350 FLH

> 3350 FLH

cosmo-relevant-countries

Color intervals don't have same width (quantiles)!

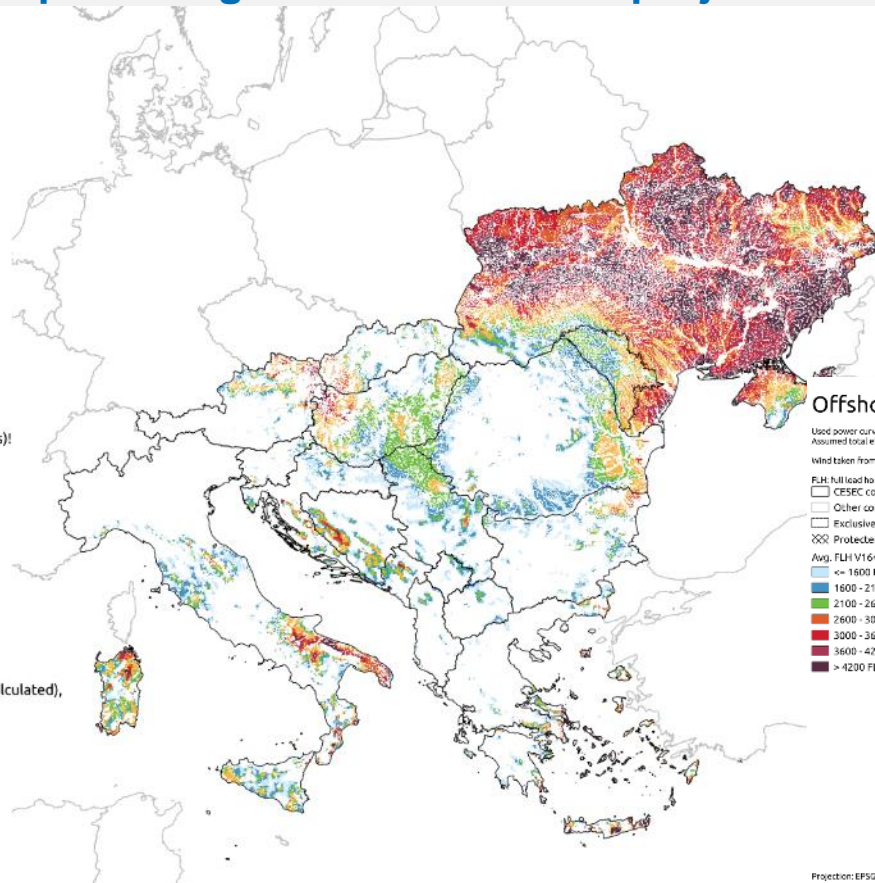
Turbine: Nordex N163-4.95  
Hub height = 150m  
Rotor diameter = 163m  
Efficiency = 0.85

Only pixels > 1600 FLH!

Excluded areas:  
\* elevation > 2000m or slope > 20°  
\* specific land use  
\* nature reserve  
(see documentation)

Wind speed data by COSMO-REA6 (150m pre-calculated), 1995/01 – 2019/08

EPSG:3035 (100m x 100m)



## GIS-based analysis of wind potentials (onshore & offshore)

(Source: Own analysis)

## Offshore wind

Used power curve: Vestas V164/8000 (150 m)  
Assumed total efficiency: 85%

Wind taken from: COSMO-REA6 1995 – 2019/08

FLH: full load hours

CESEC countries

Other countries

Exclusive Economic Zones

Protected areas (WDPA)

Avg. FLH V164/8000 at 150m (85% eff.)

<= 1600 FLH

1600 - 2100 FLH

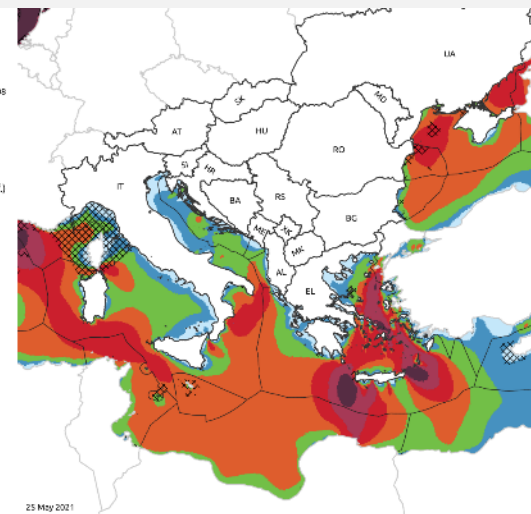
2100 - 2600 FLH

2600 - 3000 FLH

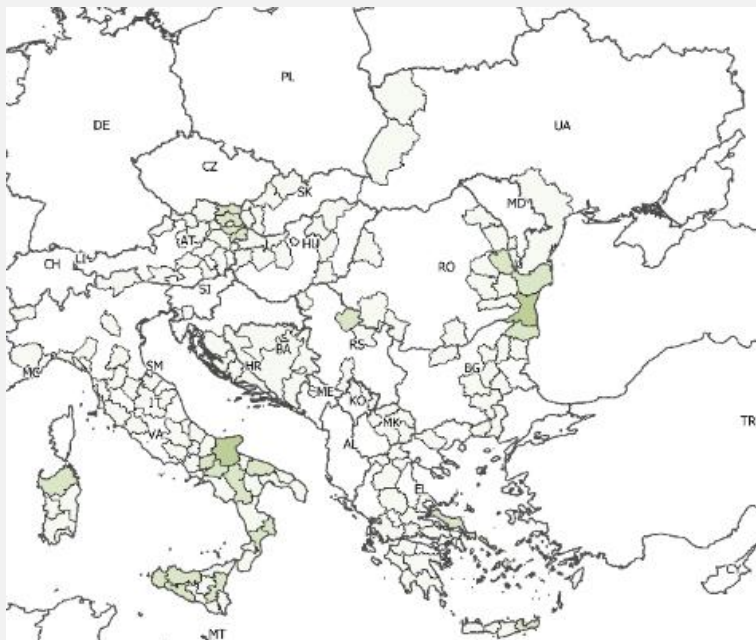
3000 - 3600 FLH

3600 - 4200 FLH

> 4200 FLH



# Identification of promising CB RES projects in the CESEC region

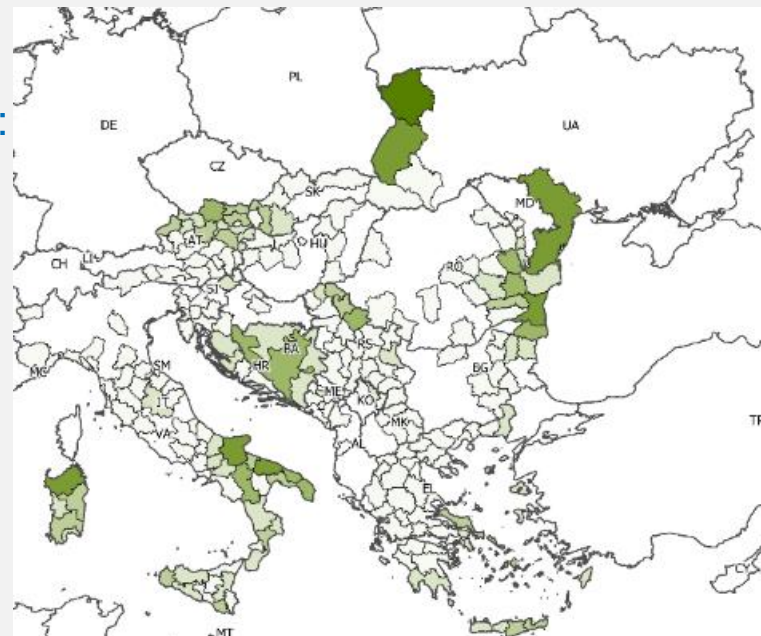


— Country borders  
0 - 305  
305 - 1048  
1048 - 2264

2020

Scenario: HighRES-Coop  
Technology: Wind onshore  
Item: Installed capacities in MW by region in 2020

Insights from the  
mapping exercise:  
Trends in **wind**  
**(onshore)**  
**exploitation**



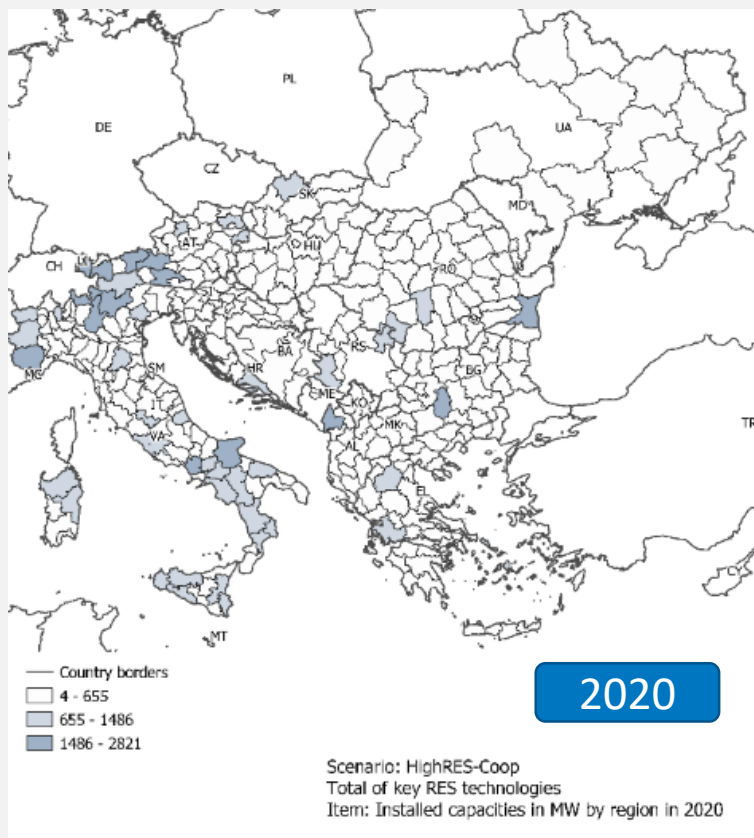
— Country borders  
0 - 305  
305 - 1048  
1048 - 2264  
2264 - 4212  
4212 - 9224  
9224 - 22054

2050

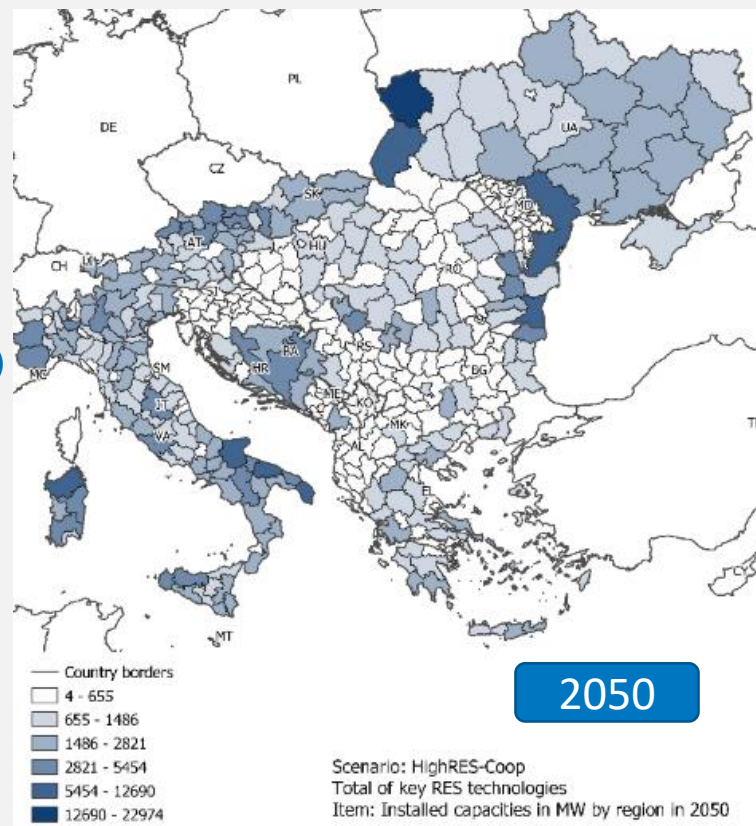
Scenario: HighRES-Coop  
Technology: Wind onshore  
Item: Installed capacities in MW by region in 2050

(Source: Green-X modelling  
& own analysis)

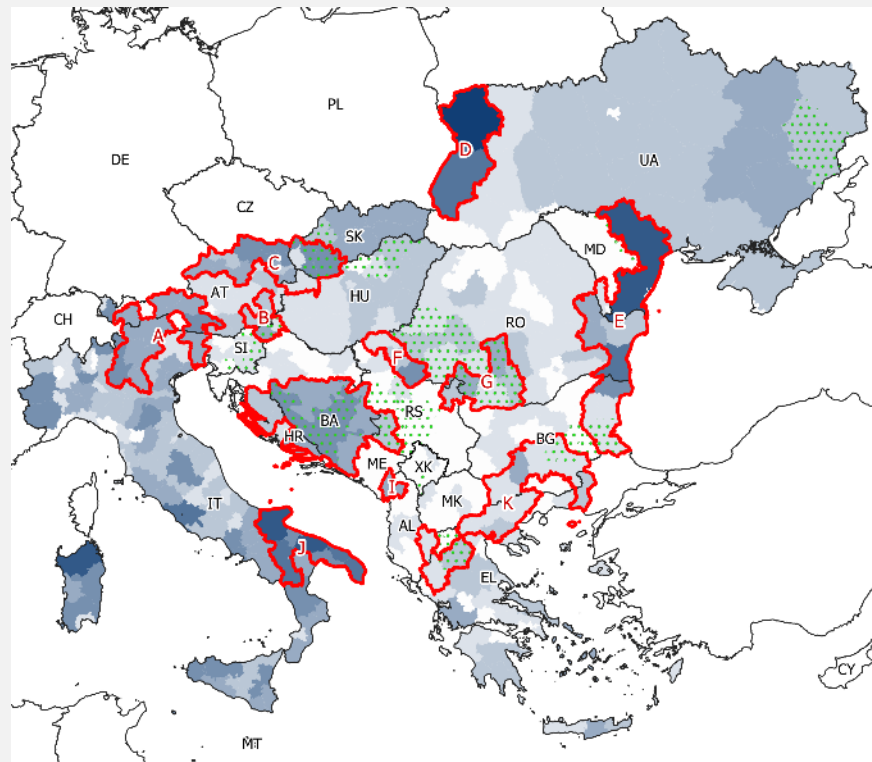
## Identification of promising CB RES projects in the CESEC region



Insights from the  
mapping exercise:  
**The  
aggregated  
trend**  
(hydro + wind + PV)

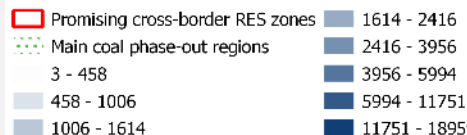


(Source: Green-X modelling  
& own analysis)



## Identification of promising (Cross-Border) RES projects in the CESEC region

- A. (AT-IT): Strong dominance of storage hydropower in mountainous parts, complemented by photovoltaics.
- B. (AT-SI): Offering a balanced mix of wind, photovoltaics and hydropower.
- C. (AT-HU-SK): Wind available at several hotspots at favourable conditions (despite not used equally in all three countries involved), combined with run-of-river hydropower and photovoltaics.
- D. (UA): Favourable wind conditions, waiting to be exploited at large scale and complemented by some photovoltaics in mainly rural areas.
- E. (BG-MD-RO-MD): Wind is generally available at favourable conditions, waiting to be exploited at large scale, complemented by photovoltaics and minor small-scale hydropower developments.
- F. (RS): Promising wind potentials, complemented by photovoltaics.
- G. (RO-RS): Offering a balanced mix of hydropower and photovoltaics, complemented by some wind developments at best available sites.
- H. (BA-HR-RS): Balanced mix of wind, photovoltaics and (mainly existing) hydropower.
- I. (AL): Providing a balanced mix of wind and photovoltaics, complemented by (mainly existing) hydropower.
- J. (IT): Favourable wind sites still waiting to be exploited and room for a strong uptake of photovoltaics.
- K. (AL-BG-EL): Offering favourable potentials for photovoltaics and (mainly existing) hydropower, complemented by wind at certain hotspots.



Scenario: Average of all four scenarios  
 Total of key RES technologies  
 Item: Installed capacities in MW in 2050



## Conclusions and recommendation

- Mapping exercise for the CESEC region **reveals the massive energy transition envisaged: Renewables expected to dominate power supply in future**
- **Photovoltaics is** a key technology already today and in future, **representing a promising generation asset at a local level**  
→ **broadened geographical distribution of RES installations**
- **If certain areas offer economically viable potentials also for other key RES technologies (onshore wind) → power density increases significantly**
- **Combination of solar PV and wind energy** at regional level  
→ **areas with most promising site conditions**, serving as basis for further elaboration of CB RES and infrastructure cooperation
- **2040 is marked by a series of challenges:** the uptake of RES is expected to accelerate and the power grid stability faces serious concerns of curtailment and bottlenecks. However, already planned infrastructure projects seem suitable to address these challenges. **We recommend ensuring that they will be realized on schedule**

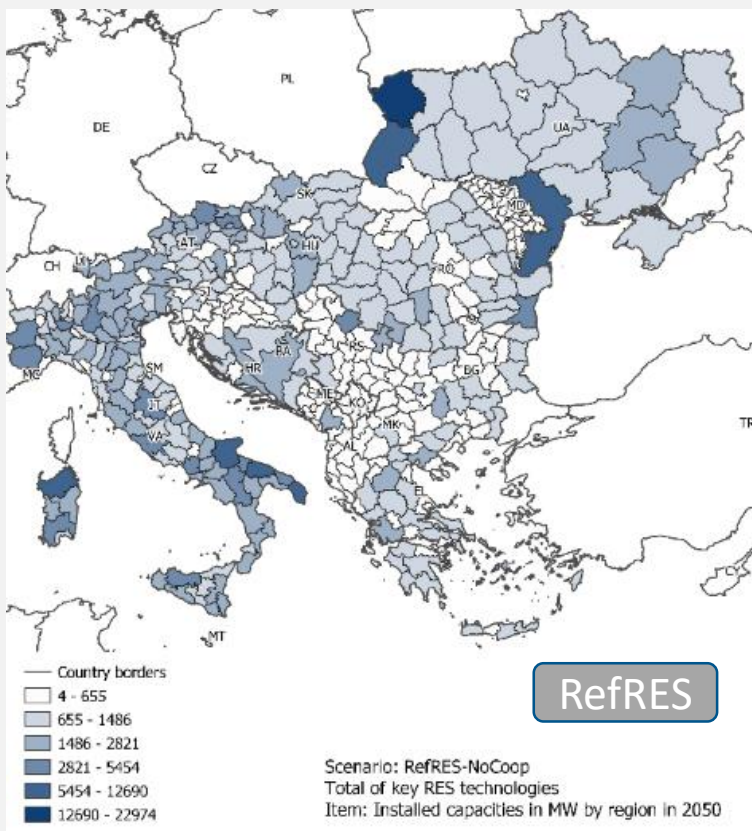
# Thank you

Details and contact of project coordination:

<https://www.ecorys.com/netherlands/our-work/study-central-and-south-eastern-europe-energy-connectivity-cooperation#>

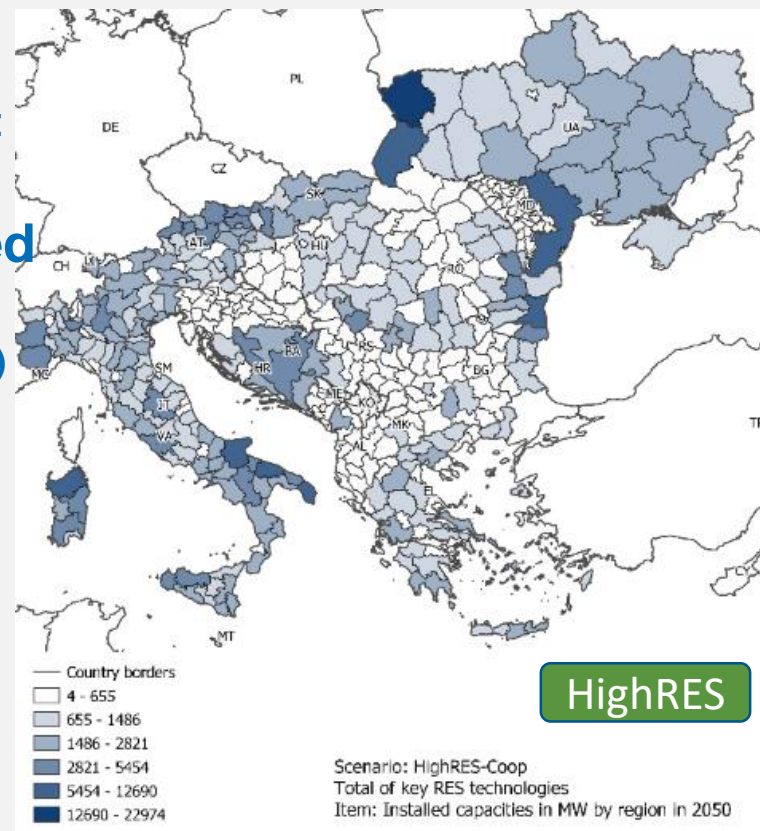
Lukas Liebmann, liebmann@eeg.tuwien.ac.at  
Gustav Resch, resch@eeg.tuwien.ac.at

## Identification of promising CB RES projects in the CESEC region



RefRES

Insights from the  
mapping exercise:  
**Comparing  
the aggregated  
trend by 2050**  
(hydro + wind + PV)



HighRES

(Source: Green-X modelling  
& own analysis)