

Montenegro's state-owned power company, Elektroprivreda Crne Gore (EPCG), is pioneering the installation of battery energy storage systems (BESS) to enhance energy system efficiency and support renewable energy integration.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is providing a sovereign-guaranteed loan to Crnogorski Elektroprenosni Sistem (CGES) for the upgrade of the electrical substation Brezna in north-western Montenegro. The project also benefits from significant EU funding under the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF).

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The power utility will use the proceeds of a 32 million euro loan from the EBRD to develop a "fully functioning smart grid" and will begin tendering the delivery of meters and concentrators in November.

Additionally, EUR 21 million will be invested in modernising the electricity distribution grid, including upgrading substations, and transformers, and installing smart meters to improve network reliability and integrate renewable energy.

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In addition to expanding renewable energy sources, Montenegro is prioritizing energy efficiency and smart grid integration. The Energy Efficiency Action Plan aims to reduce energy consumption across sectors, encouraging businesses and households to adopt energy-efficient technologies and practices.

The objective is to enhance Montenegro's grid capacity to integrate new renewable energy sources and reduce losses, contributing to Montenegro's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The cooperation programme also includes studies on deploying digital solutions and optimising Montenegro's grid management and monitoring.

Investments in energy renovation and the electricity distribution grid are part of the project Decarbonization of the Energy Sector of Montenegro. Funds for its implementation will be provided from a EUR 31 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and EUR 2.8 million from the state budget.

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