

# North Macedonia Plugs into a Greener Future through Wind Power

The WBIF has successfully piloted the first renewables scheme in North Macedonia. The first phase of the wind park was completed in 2014 and currently generates 100 GWh per year, providing renewable energy for more than 16,000 households in the Bogdanci region.

Due to its favourable climatic conditions, Bogdanci was selected as the location of the first wind park in North Macedonia. In 2008, WBIF supported the development of the feasibility study of this renewable energy infrastructure; the conclusion of this document argued for the implementation of the investment in two phases. Phase I of the project was completed in March 2014 and has a capacity of 36.8 MW, which supplies green energy for approximately 16,000 households in the south of the country. Phase II is ongoing and will add 14 MW in electricity generation capacity to the existing facilities. This wind park proves that renewables are a realistic alternative to conventional energy sources and sets a precedent in North Macedonia that could attract private investments in green energy.

North Macedonia's energy sector remains in a transition stage characterised by limited private sector participation, insufficient and aging infrastructure, high reliance on fossil fuels – especially coal and lignite, low energy efficiency, often low energy prices and fragmented markets with limited cross-border trade. Under these circumstances, a steady power generation and supply cannot be guaranteed.

Currently, 30% of North Macedonia's electricity demand is covered from imports; therefore, **the development of the wind park is crucial for demonstrating that other sustainable sources of energy can reduce the country's dependency on fossil fuels and energy imports.** The southeastern part of North Macedonia has a large wind energy potential due to high regular average wind speeds; Bogdanci area is thus classified as a good inland wind site with a high probability of reaching the targeted annual production of electricity.

In this context, the pilot project at Bogdanci was developed with the support of WBIF and loans from KfW to **initiate the process of diversifying the country's energy sources**, thus showcasing that renewable energy can enhance the Western Balkans' energy security, as well as potentially **attract private investors for the development of future wind parks.** Following the completion of Phase I, **the wind park at Bogdanci is currently producing approximately 100 GWh on an annual basis**, which is equivalent to supplying energy to **more than 16,000 households** or approximately 65,000 citizens.



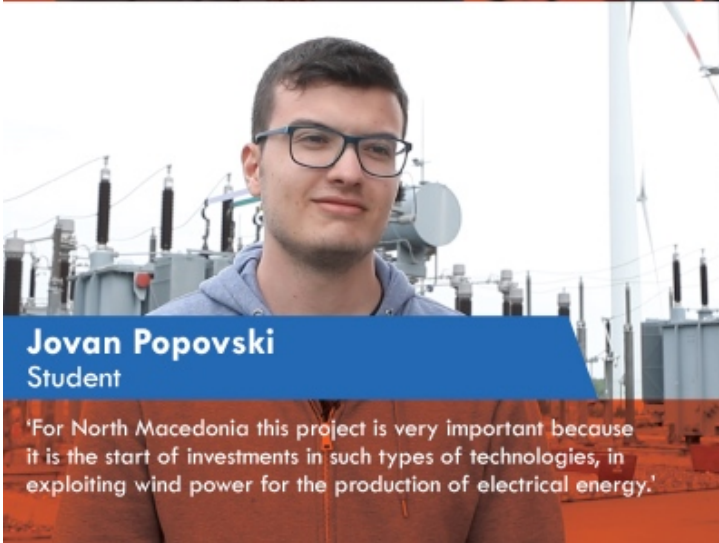
**Dragan Tevdovski PhD**  
Minister of Finance of North Macedonia

'We are proud to say that the pilot project Bogdanci Wind Park contributes to increasing the amount of renewable energy used for power generation and proves that environment friendly wind power is a realistic option for North Macedonia.'



**Ivan Trpeski**  
'Power Plants of North Macedonia' (ESM),  
Manager for Development and Investments

'This powerful and graceful project opens a new perspective in the production of electricity. We continue doing what we do best - completing Bogdanci with the second phase and developing new wind park.'



**Jovan Popovski**  
Student

'For North Macedonia this project is very important because it is the start of investments in such types of technologies, in exploiting wind power for the production of electrical energy.'



**Dragana Krstevska**  
Student

'This plant has enormous significance, because it is the first of its type in our country, it can cover peaks, to quickly place energy in the network.'

Project beneficiaries. (c) EU, ELEM

## Project description

The [Bogdanci Wind Park Pilot Project](#) has increased the amount of renewable energy used for power supply in North Macedonia. The wind park is located in a carefully selected site following an extensive analysis of the results of measurement data and the wind flow simulation carried out for the most appropriate area. **The WBIF-financed feasibility study, including a comprehensive environmental and social impact assessment, identified Bogdanci as the ideal location for the first wind farm in North Macedonia.**

The construction of **Phase I** of the wind park was completed in 18 months and was financed by loans from **KfW and the electricity generation company, ELEM** (AD ELEM Macedonian Power Plants Elektranina Makedonija). This Phase entailed the installation of **16 wind turbines** - with a combined capacity of 36.8 MW - and the construction of an 11 km long 110 kV transmission line, a substation and access roads which connect the wind park with the energy network.

The implementation of this pilot wind project in North Macedonia, which took less than six years from conception to operation, is one of WBIF's success stories. Currently, the Public Company ELEM is **implementing the second phase of the project in order to increase the total capacity of the wind park up to 50 MW/123 GWh** on an annual basis.



**Nicola Bertolini**  
EU Delegation to North Macedonia,  
Head of Cooperation

'When we created the WBIF back in the days, we had one vision: to support projects that can make tangible change! This was one of the first projects we approved in the Commission under IPF, and has proven to be the driving force behind North Macedonia's renewable energy efforts.'



**Thomas Norbert Gerberich**  
German Ambassador to North Macedonia

'The wind farm in Bogdanci is a highly important project of development cooperation. It increased North Macedonia's production of renewable energy, thus contributing to the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and helping to diversify country's energy mix.'



**René Eschemann**  
KfW Office Kosovo and North Macedonia,  
Director

'As a pilot project, the project demonstrates that the technology is viable in North Macedonia and attracts further investments in green energies. The wind farm supports the country in its energy transition and saves more than 70,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.'



**Violeta Kogalniceanu**  
Energy Community Secretariat

'The Secretariat welcomes the development of renewable energy generation in North Macedonia and the operation of the first wind park in Bogdanci, as it sets the track of using the WBIF as a vehicle for combining technical support with financing, in a sustainable way.'

Stakeholders of the WBIF funded project. (c) EU, KfW, German Embassy in Skopje

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## Building the European Future Together

WBIF was jointly launched in 2009 by the **European Commission** (DG ELARG now DG NEAR), **International Financial Institutions** and **Bilateral Donors** to enhance harmonisation and cooperation in investments for the socio-economic development of the Western Balkans. Together with the **Western Balkan beneficiaries**, WBIF forms a unique partnership, defining priorities and support packages needed for strategic investments and institutional reform. WBIF contributes to the European perspective of the Western Balkans by supporting not only investment projects improving competitiveness and growth, but also by reinforcing regional cooperation and connectivity. Eligible sectors include digital infrastructure, energy, environment, social, transport, and private sector development through WBIF's dedicated initiative **EDIF** (Enterprise Development

and Innovation Facility). This cooperation is only possible due to the close and coordinated interaction among the European Commission, International Financial Institutions and Bilateral Donors, together with the Western Balkan beneficiaries.

This year marks **WBIF's 10th anniversary**, and during the past decade **over €1 billion in grants** were allocated for preparation and implementation of infrastructure projects. Starting with 2015, around **€200 million in investment grants per annum** is allocated to the Western Balkan beneficiaries for the implementation of **Connectivity Agenda**. The EU grant channelled through the WBIF since inception, will support investment projects with an estimated total investment cost of **€18 billion**. The successful implementation of the EU grant have resulted in many tangible and intangible gains, including but not limited to: significantly **reduced travel times; increased transport safety; reduced emissions; improved quality of life and urban environment; better learning conditions; and increased competitiveness**, etc.

Some of the concrete benefits of the infrastructure projects supported by WBIF will entail:

- Construction or rehabilitation of **800 km of roads**;
- Refurbishment or construction of approximately **1,000 km of railway lines**;
- **40 MW of new electricity generation** from renewable energy resources (sufficient to supply the energy needs of a medium sized city);
- Access to **clean drinking water for around 1 million people**;
- Refurbishment and construction of **24 healthcare and over 80 educational facilities**.

Besides physical infrastructure, these investments will reduce existing barriers making the horizon of European accession visible and obtainable.





Bogdanci Wind Park Pilot Project. (c) EU

‘Bogdanci is a small, typical town in the southern part of the country. There is one thing, making it very different. It has the first wind park in the region.’

**Nevenka Jakimova-Filipovska, Project manager, ELEM**

WBIF 10th Anniversary Video. (c) EU

## **Key Impacts**



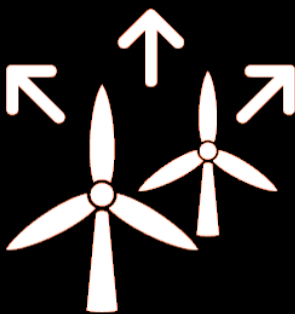
**22,000 HOUSEHOLDS SUPPLIED  
WITH CLEAN ENERGY  
(PHASE I AND II)**



**REDUCTION IN CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS  
BY 153,600 TONS ANNUALLY  
(PHASE I AND II)**



**REPLACEMENT OF 2% OF CURRENT  
CONVENTIONAL FOSSIL FUEL  
ELECTRICITY (PHASE I)**



**DIVERSIFICATION OF NORTH  
MACEDONIA'S ENERGY SOURCES**