

A map of Europe with a pushpin placed on Romania. The pushpin has a flag with vertical stripes of purple, yellow, and red. The text is overlaid on the map.

VALORIFICAREA FONDURILOR UE PENTRU TRANZITIA CATRE ENERGIA VERDE IN ROMANIA

- REZUMAT -

INTRODUCERE

- **“Europa Centrala si de Sud-Est are un potential extraordinar pentru valorificarea energiei regenerabile”¹**
- **Obiectivele climatice actualizate ale UE pentru 2050 și 2030 au in vedere ca statele membre, precum România, sa actioneze in mod decisiv pentru a-si transforma sistemul energetic**
- **Raportul isi propune sa contribuie la dialogul despre provocarile si oportunitatile pentru energia regenerabila in Romania**

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/renewables-could-cover-more-one-third-energy-demand-central-and-south-eastern-europe-2020-oct-02_en

MESAJE CHEIE

- **Politicile nationale actuale se concentreaza pe sprijinirea gazului natural, in timp ce noile infrastructuri de energie regenerabila se confrunta cu multe obstacole economice si birocratice.**
- **Sume considerabile de finantare publica vor fi puse la dispozitie prin - Planul National de Redresare si Rezilienta al UE, fondurile Politicii de Coeziune și al veniturilor din EU ETS – fonduri ce ar trebui utilizate pentru a sprijini o tranzitie justa si sustenabila.**
- **Cel putin 32 mld € din aceste fonduri ar putea fi puse la dispozitie in scopuri climatice.**
- **Din cele 30 mld € alocate României in cadrul PNRR, doar 1,3 mld € sunt considerate pentru energiile regenerabile si imbunatatirea eficientei energetice.²**

MESAJE CHEIE

- Romania are una dintre cele mai ridicate rate de saracie energetica din UE³; aceasta problema poate fi adresata prin reducerea dependentei de combustibilii fosili si arderea nesustenabila a lemnului.
- Romania are resursele geologice necesare pentru a exploata energia geotermala pentru incalzire, dar acesta este un proces costisitor care probabil va necesita sprijin public pentru dezvoltarea pietei.
- Bioenergia este utilizata in mod proeminent in Romania, dar mai ales ca lemn brut. Bunele practici de bioenergie durabila poate satisface nevoile energetice necesare, in special în zonele rurale, cu conditia respectarii unor criterii stricte de sustenabilitate.

DOMENIU	RECOMANDARI PRIVIND ELABORAREA SI ADOPTAREA UNOR POLITICI PUBLICE
CADRUL PENTRU INVESTITII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ România ar trebui sa “recicleze” veniturile din licitatiile din cadrul EU ETS pentru a sprijini investitiile suplimentare in decarbonizare si Tranzitia Justa ➤ Romania ar trebui sa maximizeze investitiile prin crearea unui plan strategic de investitii pe o perioadă de cel puțin 7-10 ani, ramanand astfel rezilienta la schimbarile politice. PNIESC ar putea fi revizuit pentru a include in mod corespunzator acest lucru si pentru a servi drept portofoliu de investitii.
FINANTARE UE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Autoritatile locale si alti actori responsabili in debursarea fondurilor UE trebuie sa fie mai bine informati cu privire la posibilitatile de finantare a energiei regenerabile, inclusiv geotermale și bioenergetice, și sa promoveze astfel de proiecte in cadrul programelor de finantare nationale si UE, acolo unde este relevant. ➤ Cheltuielile Romaniei in cadrul PNRR ar trebui sa sprijine proiectele energetice care sunt compatibile cu obiectivele climatice ale UE pentru 2050. PNRR ar trebui privit ca o oportunitate de a extinde investitiile in energie regenerabila dincolo de cele planificate anterior. Finantarea proiectelor de gaz natural trebuie reexaminata in mod serios, avand in vedere irelevanța lor pentru tranzitia energetica.
SARACIA ENERGETICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reducerea dependentei de arderea lemnului brut prin finantarea si furnizarea altor optiuni de energie regenerabila, care sa se potriveasca cel mai bine nevoilor de energie locale ale utilizatorilor finali. Imbunatatirea educatiei in ceea ce priveste impactul asupra sanatatii al arderii lemnului brut si a optiunilor alternative pentru incalzirea locuintelor. ➤ Eliminarea dependentei de combustibilii fosili costisitori, inlocuind incalzirea existenta cu sisteme operationale cu costuri reduse, cum ar fi incalzirea urbana bazata pe surse regenerabile. ➤ Eliminarea utilizarii combustibililor fosili in incalzire prin masuri energetice eficiente, eliminarea subventiilor pentru combustibili fosili și stabilirea unor masuri pentru cladirile noi de a exclude utilizarea sistemelor de incalzire pe combustibil fosil .

**Politica Energetica Nationala
(Strategia Energetica a Romaniei)**

- **Modificarile periodice ale sprijinului politic pentru energiile regenerabile creeaza incertitudine** pentru potentialii investitori. **Schemele de sprijin pentru energia regenerabila ar trebui sa fie previzibile si stabile**, permitand totodata includerea noilor tehnologii pe masura ce acestea devin disponibile.
- **Proiectele de energie regenerabila care genereaza numai energie termica ar trebui incluse in schemele de sprijin pentru energia regenerabila**, alaturi de generarea de energie și cogenerare. Fluxurile de finantare vizate ar putea fi alocate opțiunilor de decarbonizare a caldurii.
- **Estimarile oficiale privind potentialul surselor geotermale și bioenergetice sunt vagi si inechitate.** Potentialul realizabil al acestor resurse ar trebui evaluat in mod corespunzator, in conformitate cu criteriile stricte de sustanbilitate, și cu rezultatele utilizate pentru a informa politica energetica.
- **Romania are nevoie de legislatie specifica, punctuala, care sa acopere energia geotermala si bioenergia** ca parte a unei politici energetice nationale, aliniata la obiectivele climatice ale UE pentru 2030 și 2050.
- Procesele lungi de aprobare pot contribui la asigurarea integritatii de mediu a proiectelor geotermale, dar pot actiona și ca elemente de descurajare. **Procesul de aprobare pentru proiectele geotermale trebuie reevaluat pentru a determina daca procesul poate fi simplificat** fara a compromite protecția mediului.
- **Optiunile regenerabile pentru incalzire si racire, cum ar fi pompele de caldura geotermale și incalzirea centrala alimentata cu surse regenerabile, pot aduce avantaje semnificative in ceea ce privește eficienta energetica si protectia mediului.** Trebuie elaborata o strategie nationala pentru dezvoltarea sistemelor regenerabile de incalzire si racire, care ar putea include reglementari specifice, **stimulente la nivel local si de stat** și infiintarea unei asociatii nationale pentru solutii de incalzire regenerabile.

A map of Europe with a pushpin in the center of Romania. The pushpin has a purple, yellow, and red top section, representing the Romanian flag. The map shows various countries and bodies of water like the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.

HARNESSING EU FUNDS FOR ROMANIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY -

INTRODUCTION

- “Central and South Eastern Europe has a tremendous potential for renewable energy” ¹
- The EU’s updated 2050 and 2030 climate targets mean that Member States, like **Romania, must act decisively to transform their energy system**
- The report aims to contribute to the dialogue around the opportunities and challenges of Romania’s renewable energy future

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/renewables-could-cover-more-one-third-energy-demand-central-and-south-eastern-europe-2020-oct-02_en

KEY MESSAGES

- The **current national policies focus on supporting natural gas**, while new renewable energy infrastructure faces many economic and bureaucratic hurdles.
- A huge amount of public funding will be made available through the **EU Recovery and Resilience Facility**, **Cohesion Policy** and **EU ETS revenues**, significant proportions of which **must be used to support a just renewable transition**. At least **€32bn** could be made available for climate purposes.
- Of the €30 bn allocated to Romania under the RRF, **only €1.3 bn** is being considered for renewable energies and energy efficiency improvements.²

KEY MESSAGES

- Romania has one of the **highest energy poverty rates** in the EU³; this can be addressed through reducing dependence on fossil fuels and unsustainable wood burning.
- Romania has the geological resources to exploit **geothermal energy for heating**, but this is an expensive process that will likely require public support for early market development.
- Bioenergy is used prominently in Romania, but mostly as raw wood. **More sustainable bioenergy practices** can meet certain energy needs, particularly in rural areas, provided **strict sustainability criteria** are observed.

POLICY	POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>FRAMEWORK FOR INVESTMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Romania should seek to recycle its revenues from auctioning under the EU ETS towards supporting further investments in decarbonisation and the Just Transition ➤ Romania should aim to maximise its investment attractiveness by creating a strategic investment plan to span over a period of 7-10 years, remaining resilient to further political changes. The NECP could be revised to properly encompass this and serve as an investment portfolio.
<p>EU FUNDING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local authorities and other actors responsible for the disbursement of EU funds must be better informed of the possibilities for renewable energy funding, including geothermal and bioenergy, and enabled to promote such projects under national and EU funding programmes where relevant. ➤ Romania's spending under the RRF should support energy projects which are compatible with the EU's 2050 climate goals. The recovery package should be viewed as an opportunity to further expand investment in renewable energy beyond that which had been previously planned. Funding for gas projects should be seriously re-examined in light of their irrelevance for the energy transition.
<p>ENERGY POVERTY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduce dependence on the burning of raw wood by funding and providing other renewable energy options, as best suit the needs and local circumstances of end users. Improve education around the health impacts of raw wood burning in open fires, and of alternative options for home heating. ➤ To tackle energy poverty, focus on eliminating dependence on costly fossil fuels, replacing existing heating with systems with low operational costs like renewables-based district heating. Phase out fossil fuel use in heating through energy efficiency measures, economic disincentives (e.g. ending fossil fuel subsidies) and setting requirements for new buildings that exclude the use of fossil heating systems.

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

- Regular changes to policy supports for renewable energies creates uncertainty for potential investors. **Renewable energy support schemes should be predictable and stable**, while allowing for the inclusion of new technologies as they become available.
- **Renewable energy projects that generate only thermal energy should be included under renewable energy support schemes, alongside power generation and cogeneration. Targeted funding streams could be allocated to heat decarbonisation options.**
- **Official estimates on the potential of geothermal and bioenergy sources are vague and out-of-date.** The achievable potential of these resources should be properly assessed, in line with strict sustainability criteria, and the results used to inform energy policy.
- **Romania needs specific legislation covering geothermal and bioenergy** as part of a broader national energy policy aligned with the EU's 2030 and 2050 climate objectives.
- Long licencing processes can help ensure the environmental integrity of geothermal projects, but can also act as deterrents. The licencing process for geothermal projects could be reassessed to determine whether the process can be streamlined without compromising on environmental protection.
- Renewable options for heating and cooling, such as geothermal heat pumps and renewables-powered district heating, can bring significant advantages in terms of energy efficiency and environmental protection. **A national strategy for the development of renewable heating and cooling systems should be elaborated**, which could include specific regulations, incentives at local and state level, and the establishment of a national association for renewable heating solutions.