DEUTSCHE SCHULE THESSALONIKI MODEL UNITED NATIONS | 2022

Committee: Youth Delegate Forum (YDF)

Issue: Enabling the Development of Green Technology in the Balkan Region

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Position: Co - Head

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Emmanouil Kareklas and I am an IB 1 student in Pinewood the American School of Thessaloniki. Honored to welcome you to the 5th DSTMUN as I will be serving you as a Co - Head in the Youth Delegate Forum.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate you for your participation in the 5th DSTMUN sincerely hoping that you are looking forward to the conference as much as I am. This will be my first time as a student officer and my 4th MUN conference. I am glad to be able to meet all of you in-person after several online conferences and pursue an authentic MUN experience.

The Youth Delegate Forum expands the community of MUN including younger delegates enabling them to debate on challenging and appealing topics. Hopefully the committee will enhance your MUN skills allowing you to develop as a delegate and participate in fruitful discussions.

Lastly, I rest completely assured that the experience will be rewarding and hope for a wide participation in the conference. For any arising questions do not hesitate to contact me (<u>ekareklas@pinewood-school.gr</u>), I will be more than pleased to aid you through the study process of this incredible journey.

Best wishes,

Emmanouil Kareklas

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Green Technology has been rapidly expanding throughout the globe, with the innovation of machines capable of creating energy from water, air, and sunlight and having minimal impact on the environment. In this respect, regions acquiring an abundance of such energy sources will be pivotal in the upcoming years, one being the Balkan region. The high population density in key cities is common within the Balkans, a factor which allows the appliance of large green technologies such as turbines, panels, dams, and power plants but also the introduction of multiple types of green transportation which could have an enormous impact on the highly populated cities. Organizations and projects initiated by the UN have begun the movement towards the modernization of the region which is planned to ideally improve the economic state of the states in the area as well as

The relations between them. The development of green technologies is based on legal frameworks, lateral relations, and engineering all of which will be major in tackling the issue of minor green technology presence.

Since the 19th century the Balkan region has been renowned for its

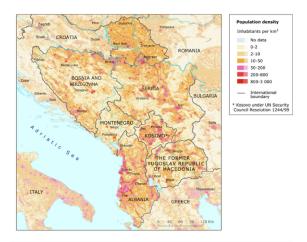


Figure 1: Population density in the Balkan region

complicated state in diplomatic matters. tangled relations The between the countries in the area has led to major conflicts having a bloody history of multiple wars with one another. The events of the two Balkan wars and the collapse of Yugoslavia have elevated tensions and hatred in the region which has scared the states. In this respect the UN may intervene in diplomatic the discussions between the states for the creation of a legal framework which

will be unanimously accepted, improve lateral relations, and enable engineering development of green technology.

In order to enable the said development countries should attempt to resolve such feuds.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Wind turbine

"Wind turbines work on a simple principle: instead of using electricity to make wind — like a fan — wind turbines use wind to make electricity. Wind turns the propeller-like blades of a turbine around a rotor, which spins a generator, which creates electricity."¹

Hydroelectric dam

"A hydroelectric dam is one of the major components of a hydroelectric facility. A dam is a large, man-made structure built to contain some body of water. In addition to construction for the purpose of producing hydroelectric power, dams are created to control river flow and regulate flooding."²

Solar panel

"Most solar panels are made from crystalline silicon type solar cells. These cells are composed of layers of silicon, phosphorus, and boron (although there are several different types of photovoltaic cells). These cells, once produced, are laid out into a grid pattern"³

Balkan Wars

"As a result of the Balkan Wars, Greece gained southern Macedonia as well as the island of Crete. Serbia gained the Kosovo region and extended into northern and central Macedonia. Albania was made an independent state under a German prince. The political consequences of the wars were considerable."⁴

Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7)

"UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 focuses on a concerted global effort to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all."⁵

www.energy.gov/eere/wind/how-do-wind-turbines-work.

¹ "How Do Wind Turbines Work?" Energy. Gov,

² "Hydroelectric Dam." *Energy Education*, 22 Oct. 2021,

 $energy education. ca/encyclopedia/Hydroelectric_dam.$

³ "Solar Panel." *Energy Education*, 28 Apr. 2020, energyeducation.ca/encyclopedia/Solar_panel.

⁴ "Balkan Wars | Facts, Causes, Map, and Significance." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 22 June 2022, www.britannica.com/topic/Balkan-Wars.

⁵ World Bank Group. "Sustainable Development Goal on Energy (SDG7) and the World Bank Group." *World Bank*, 26 May 2016,

www.worldbank.org/en/topic/energy/brief/sustainable-development-goal-on-energy-sdg7-and-the-worldbank-group.

UNFCCC

"United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) One of the three Rio Conventions, the UNFCCC's ultimate objective is to achieve the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous interference with the climate system."⁶

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Relations and History of the region

Strained relations between the countries in the Balkans have caused issues for organizations who have sought to create regional projects, a result of a troubled past. Subsequently, in order to establish grounds for subjective decision-making, the roots of disputes should be acknowledged to further strengthen the relations of all Member States. First and foremost, events such as the first and second Balkan wars and the Yugoslav war are considered the major basis for present issues of prejudice between the countries and the distressing levels of pollution.

The first Balkan war lasted from the 8th of October 1912 to the 3rd of May 1913 causing major geopolitical change within a short period of time; after centuries



Figure 2: Member states of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

of Ottoman occupation the war was an uprising of most Balkan States in order to gain independence and acquire land by a first come first serve basis. Consequently, even if land was gained, multiple countries sought to occupy more and disputes over territory led to a second Balkan war. The second Balkan war. lasting from the 29th of June 1913 to the 10th of August 1913, shaped the borders of the countries and settled the powerhouses of the region. Alongside the Balkan wars, during the last decade of the 20th century the Western Balkan region suffered greatly from intense political and economical crisis which led to the last

conflict in the Balkans.⁷ The Yugoslavian war concluded the existence of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the ties between the slavic groups of the Balkans.

⁶ "Informing Policy." *IUCN*, www.iucn.org/our-work/informing-policy.

⁷ "The Conflicts | International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia." *ICTY*,

www.icty.org/en/about/what-former-yugoslavia/conflicts.

Warfare was undertaken in inhabited areas damaging infrastructure and polluting air and water in the region. Such conflicts have damaged the environment, atmosphere, and relations of the countries in the Balkan region and should be regarded.

International organizations in the region and basis for application

In the region's transition towards green technology international organizations such as the World Bank, United Nations, and European Union (EU) have monitored the possibilities for expansion on the field, established programs and projects which reinforce green initiatives, and provided financial support for the expenses of several purchases. The rising problems have been recorded by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) which has supplied organizations with statistics concerning green technology integration to the Balkan countries and people. For example, according to the Balkan Barometer, an annual public and business survey conducted by the RCC, "74% of Western Balkan (WB) citizens consider climate changes a problem, as well as growing pollution in the region (73%). On the other hand, 29% of them believe that much knowledge and money are needed to reduce CO2 emissions and bring them close to zero which will enable reaching the region's climate neutrality by 2050. While 32% of respondents believe this will be difficult to reach, only 22% see it as a necessity".8 These statistics help translate the situation from the perspective of the citizens to organizations, expressing the influence of the social branch on the topic.

In recent years great pollution has been recorded in the Balkans as a result of high energy consumption and poor conditions of production, both of which have contributed to horrific events. Moreover the surge in natural resource prices caused by the pandemic crisis affected energy prices subsequently forcing Balkan states to return to energy production from fossil fuels. The outcome is higher CO₂ emission per unit of GDP than the EU average in all economies of the Western Balkans, except Albania due to an 83% gross available energy drawn from fossil fuels in comparison to the EU's 70%. These percentages have resulted in excessive air pollution which, in 2019, was found as the primary reason for the premature death of 30,760 people. Furthermore water pollution has been on the rise due to the poor condition of the water supply network which has caused the loss of 50 percent of drinking water.

According to the RCC's Tanja Miščević, the Deputy Secretary-General and Head of the Program Department, "[f]unds for financing green projects are ever more available and affordable". In this respect ongoing projects such as the Balkan Renewable Energy Program and the Agenda's of the EU and UN, included later in the guide, will increase allowing the reason to accomplish its green goals.

⁸ Mikser. "Can the Western Balkans Be an Example of a Green Transition?" *euPOLIS*, 26 May 2022, eupolis-project.eu/2022/05/26/can-the-western-balkans-be-an-example-of-a-green-transition.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

United Nation

A worldwide organization created in 1945, the UN is devoted to the preservation of global stability in the form of territorial security, environmental well being, and peacekeeping actions. The organization has been taking actions to fulfill its role on the global scale through the implementation of the UN Goals and sub-organizations. In this respect the UN seeks to introduce projects such as the SDG 7 and the UNFCCC to aid regions, such as the Balkans, in the development towards green technologies. Moreover, in the post 2015 development agenda the issue of green technology, energy, and sustainability was stressed thus initiating the negotiations for the necessity of a UN goal outlining significance of the aforementioned in the 21st century.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC began its mission on the 21st of March 1994 with its purpose being the prevention of dangerous human interference with the climate.⁹ The goal of the organization hints at the basis for its existence which are the aftermath of World Wars, the Cold War, and several local conflicts during the 20th century. The UNFCCC is present in the Balkan region due to the conflicts regarding Yugoslavia (now Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia) and its surroundings, conflicts that resulted in incredible greenhouse gas emissions. Such conflicts and ongoing pollution caused by several factors, some being energy sources and poor transportation quality, invite the UNFCCC to be a major organization for the development of green technologies in the Balkan region. Currently the UNFCCC has an ongoing project named the Balkan Renewable Energy Program which has been operating in the Western Balkan countries since 2010.

World Bank

Affiliated with the UN the World Bank serves as a sponsor for many worldwide projects with the Balkans being no different. The World Bank has shown its support through the years to the countries within the region supporting them in post-conflict eras and by funding projects aiming to develop the countries in several areas. In present times, the World Bank has shown significant interest in the region particularly the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR

⁹ "What Is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change?" United Nations Climate Change,

unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-convention/what-is-the-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change.

DEUTSCHE SCHULE THESSALONIKI MODEL UNITED NATIONS | 2022

Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia) in the field of green technology establishing itself as an investor to projects and acting on its own.¹⁰

European Union

The European Union (EU) established in 1993 is formed of countries within the territory of the European continent with the aim of providing an economic and political alliance.¹¹ The Republic of Greece, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia are all currently members of the EU but plans for an expansion in the Balkan region are ongoing through the EU Neighborhood initiative in an attempt to strengthen the economic and political well-being of the countries in the Balkans.¹² ¹³ The European Union membership supplies joining countries with immediate monetary and diplomatic aid which is directed towards the increase of the Human Development Index (HDI) of individual countries. Furthermore the EU has portrayed its position concerning green technology specifically in the Balkan region leading projects and making investments summing to billions of euros.¹⁴

BLOCS EXPECTED

Bloc 1

The first Bloc should consist of More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) which are interested and supportive in the shift of the Balkan region from fossil fuels to green energy. Countries within this Bloc will have policies which have shown serious engagement towards the shift to green technology and encourage international projects to undertake action in their territory. They will be less dependent on non-renewable energy sources from a financial aspect and their policies will depict a keen attitude towards change. Lastly, this Bloc of countries will maintain a positive perspective according to the topic and will endorse and outline the importance of the development of green technology in the Balkans.

¹⁰ "EU Trade Relations with Western Balkans." Trade, 21 Dec. 2020,

policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/western-balk ans_en.

¹¹ "European Union Summary." Encyclopedia Britannica,

www.britannica.com/summary/European-Union.

¹² "EU Trade Relations with Western Balkans." Trade, 21 Dec. 2020,

 $policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/western-balk ans_en.$

¹³ "EU Neighborhood Initiative in the Western Balkans." *European Cluster Collaboration Platform*, clustercollaboration.eu/international-cooperation/western-balkans.

¹⁴ "European Commission Launches €3.2 Billion Investment Package to Advance Sustainable Connectivity in the Western Balkans." *European Commission - European Commission*, 25 Feb. 2022, ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_1362.

Bloc 2

The second Bloc will be made of the Developing Countries in the Balkan region which due to their dependency on non-renewable sources for energy will not seek to support a green technology takeover. These states rely on non-renewable energy for income and trade as well as diplomatic ties between major anti-green energy supporting countries. In this respect alongside the aforementioned states, countries against the expansion of a green technology market will attempt to boycott green technology development in the region. Lastly, the countries in this Bloc will illustrate the significance of non-renewable energy sources as a dominant power source due to its properties, less economic burden, a property which will appeal to multiple countries in the conference.

Date	Description of event
	Description of event
8 October 1912 - 3 May 1913	The 1st Balkan War had an immense
	impact in the region straining lateral
	relations and participating in ecological
	destruction.
29 June 1913 – 10 August 1913	The 2nd Balkan War had a larger
	influence on today's Balkan countries.
	Hatred grew from sorrowness of loss and
	the region suffered more ecological
	destruction due to advancement of
	weapons.
1944	The World Bank was established in a post
	- World War II era in order to financially
	support rebuilding in countries through
	loans. Today the World Bank funds
	multiple green energy projects globally.
24th of October 1945	After the 2nd World War the world
	decided to establish an organization which would mediate relations in order
1991 - 2001	to avoid war, namely the United Nations.
1991 - 2001	The beginning and end of the Yugoslav wars which resulted in the termination of
	the Socialist Federal Republic of
1 November 1002	Yugoslavia.
1 November 1993	The economic alliance of the European
	Union was formed, welcoming its first
	members. The European Union has taken

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

	interest in the Balkan region due to its
	location in the continent of Europe.
21 March 1994	The UNFCCC entered into force in order
	to prevent human malice towards the
	environment and climate.
2003-2004	The European Neighbourhood Policy
	(ENP) launches and develops throughout
	the year with a purpose of strengthening
	prosperity, stability, and security. ¹⁵
2010	The UNFCCC launches in the Balkans with
	the "Balkan Renewable Energy
	Program". ¹⁶
2012	The UNFCCC countries in the Balkans
	double with 3 more countries joining the
	"Balkan Renewable Energy Program".
2015	After multiple decades of conventions all
	UN Member States unanimously agreed
	on a list of Goals which portrayed the
	importance of clean, sustainable, and
	renewable energy in the 21st century
	and would establish a feasible time frame
	to achieve the aforementioned Goals.
18 November 2015	The ENP decided to re-examine its initial
	goals due to several events which shifted
	the policies of multiple countries within
	the ENP.

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Green Agenda for the Western Balkans¹⁷

The European Union (EU) has taken the initiative to launch an agenda consisting of concrete steps in order to align the Western Balkan countries to align with EU standards. The agenda aims to tackle key issues as presented by statistics concerning the areas climate, circular economy, pollution, agriculture, and biodiversity. In cooperation with the EU Climate Law and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme the Western Balkan countries will develop and improve their current green technology status. The aforementioned EU organizations focus on the climatic state of the region which is a major issue caused by the dependency of the countries on

¹⁵ "European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations." *European Commission*, 4 Apr. 2022, ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/european-neighbourhood-policy_en.

¹⁶ "Balkan Renewable Energy Program – Western Balkans." United Nations Climate Change,

unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/activity-database/momentum-for-change-balkan-rene wable-energy-program.

¹⁷ "Implementing a Green Agenda for the Western Balkans." *European Commission*, Oct. 2021, ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/system/files/2021-10/factsheet_wb_green_agenda_en.pdf.

coal mining consequently emitting large amounts of CO_2 . Alongside coal, agriculture is also significant to the region making up 10% of the Balkan's GDP, even though its sustainability is neglected as drawn from large amounts of food waste. However, the concept has not been implemented yet due to its recent creation but it is a possible project that could be financed and undertaken by multiple organizations.

Annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly A/66/100¹⁸

On the 20th of June 2011 during the Sixty-sixth session, the Sixth Committee provided the General Assembly with the "Annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly". The list at hand discusses nine mainstream topics and attempts to establish frameworks in order to tackle them. The primary section fixates on the "Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development" discussing the issue with reference to the Economic and Social Council's report and the Millennium Development Goals.

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Resolution 70/1¹⁹

On the 25th of September 2015 during the Seventieth session the General Assembly adopted the Resolution 70/1 regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Resolution marked history being the first unanimously passed resolution which established a global initiative for green technology and clean energy. The Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

United Nations Goals on Sustainable Development

Following a series of requests by UN members in 2015 a unanimous decision was made to establish an Agenda of 17 Goals which would address the lack of Sustainable Development on a global scale. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) are divided into a list of 17 Goals all of which are being implemented by the UN and its subsidiaries globally, nationally, and locally. Goal 7, directly correlates with

¹⁸ "Responsibility of International Organizations." *United Nations Digital Library System*, 27 Feb. 2012, digitallibrary.un.org/record/724634?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header.

¹⁹ "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." *United Nations*, 21 Oct. 2015,

 $www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf.$

the matter at hand as it states that the UN will ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all ideally by 2030, this will be further analyzed below. The UN has applied annual reports in order to monitor the progression of the 17 Goals indicating the organization's devotion towards green technology since progress is visible even through times of struggle, for example, COVID-19.

Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7)

The seventh goal promotes green technology and sustainable development. This goal is a result of global scale conflicts, fossil fuels combustion, and deforestation along many other harmful actions which caused anomalies to the earth's climate. In recent years the severity of climate change has been acknowledged by many and is now being combated with the advancement of technology capable of producing renewable energy in an attempt to balance environmental anomalies. In order to successfully apply green technology world-wide the UN will tackle a major issue faced when forms of clean energy are discussed, finance. The majority of the Balkan states have been reluctant towards a shift to green technology due to high prices of the machinery involved, an issue which seems to be solved through the purpose of SDG 7. However, due to the Goal's recent establishment, the Balkan region has not yet accepted a green technology monopoly.

Balkan Renewable Energy Program

The world wide Great Recession forced Balkan countries into excessive fossil fuel burning and coal mining for trade, in the early 2000's, in an attempt to stabilize their economic situation, although having devastating effects on the region's climate. To portray the UN's support towards renewable energy the UNFCCC launched a long-term program to expand the presence of green technology in the Balkan region and recover from coal mining and fossil fuel damage. The program exceeded expectations, having a major impact within a couple of years and doubling in members from 2010 to 2012. Furthermore the program has donated over 20 million USD for the development of hydro power and the creation of projects seeking to improve renewable energy and energy efficiency in Albania and is aiming to educate local institutions of the significance concerning clean energy.^{20 21}Even though effort by the program is obvious there needs to be more attention given and investments should be made to all countries of the region.

²⁰ "Balkan Renewable Energy Program – Western Balkans." *United Nations Climate Change*, unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/activity-database/momentum-for-change-balkan-rene wable-energy-program.

²¹ Mikser. "Can the Western Balkans Be an Example of a Green Transition?" *euPOLIS*, 26 May 2022, eupolis-project.eu/2022/05/26/can-the-western-balkans-be-an-example-of-a-green-transition.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Reconciliation of the countries in the region in order to have unanimous decisions

The positive enhancement of the relations between the countries in the region would be of significant importance towards the succession of a green technology in the Balkans. Currently ongoing projects in the region have not attempted to cooperate with multiple states simultaneously expressing the influence of politics in the region. In this respect, it is crucial that unanimous decisions will be made in order to pursue the development of green technology in the countries although organizations seeking to do so would need to approach the states diplomatically. Diplomatic approaches would consider the establishment of incentives enticing countries to collaborate and comprehend the merit of green technology enabling the possibility of major, positive, change.

Presence of organizations and financial support for green technology applications

Multiple countries in the region are dependent on coal and other such resources for income and energy, thus many will be reluctant to damage a country's economy to implement expensive green technology. Major international support from organizations such as but not limited to the UN, EU, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund (IMF) should be demanded in order to aid the states of the region and depict worldwide support. The countries of the region, of course, differ from developed and developing countries thus many factors should be considered when actions will be taken. For example, a country's participation in international matters, financial and political status, could be some of the factors that would be important to examine in order to reassure the Balkan countries of their support.

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