

Albania holds 1st wind power tender to diversify energy base

June 21 2021



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Albania launched a tender Monday for its first onshore wind power program, trying to diversify its water-based energy production.

Albania produces more than 99% of its energy from hydropower, with the main plants located on northern Drini River. That has made the country vulnerable to [seasonal changes](#) in hydrology and dependent on expensive, emissions-intensive power imports.

Infrastructure and Energy Minister Belinda Balluku said the Balkan country is trying to minimize its vulnerability to dry years. She invited [private companies](#) to offer projects with a capacity of between 10 to 75 MW. Successful bidders will be announced in two years.

The Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs has funded technical assistance for the project and preparation of a report to define zones appropriate for [wind power](#), which cover about 20% of the country's territory.

Last year Albania also launched two tenders for solar energy projects.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is helping the government in Tirana introduce competitive procurement processes for renewable energy projects.

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Citation: Albania holds 1st wind power tender to diversify energy base (2021, June 21) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2021-06-albania-1st-power-tender-diversify.html>

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