

 Early Warning System

EBRD-20176

Support to the Bulgarian and Romanian Ministries of Energy on the
Development of Low Carbon and Renewable Electrolytic Hydrogen



Quick Facts

Countries	Bulgaria, Romania
Financial Institutions	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
Status	Approved
Bank Risk Rating	U
Borrower	Government of Bulgaria, Government of Romania
Sectors	Energy, Law and Government, Technical Cooperation
Investment Type(s)	Advisory Services



Project Description

As stated by the EBRD, hydrogen, primarily used in industrial processes like fertilizer production and oil refining, has the potential to become an energy carrier that replaces fossil fuels in the energy transition. Currently, most hydrogen is produced via steam methane reforming (SMR), an energy-intensive process that generates significant CO₂ emissions. For hydrogen to contribute to decarbonization, its production must become low and ultimately zero carbon.

The EU's hydrogen strategy, adopted in 2020, outlines policy actions across investment, production, market creation, research, and international cooperation. The Fit-for-55 package, introduced in 2021, translates the strategy into concrete policies, setting targets for renewable hydrogen uptake by 2030 in industry and transport. The EU has also introduced the hydrogen and gas decarbonization package to build dedicated infrastructure and create an efficient hydrogen market.

In 2024, the EU reinforced its net-zero technology manufacturing ecosystem through the Net-Zero Industry Act, promoting the development of hydrogen valleys. Two delegated acts under the Renewable Energy Directive set criteria for renewable hydrogen and life-cycle emissions standards. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), through the EU Technical Support Instrument, is supporting Bulgaria and Romania's Ministries of Energy in establishing a regional hydrogen network in Southeastern Europe.

The objective of this Assignment is to support the Bulgarian and Romanian Authorities to identify and resolve a number of outstanding legal, regulatory and market barriers to the development of a regional market for low carbon and electrolytic hydrogen. Scope of work includes:

Task 1: Legal and regulatory review

Task 2: Review of national competitiveness and options to provide investment support

Task 3: Review of the options for certification of green and low carbon hydrogen

Task 4: Hydrogen blending standards

Task 5: Regional Hydrogen Council (establishment of a Joint Regional Expert Group)

Task 6: Capacity building materials and workshop

Task 7: Communication materials and final conference



Investment Description

- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Investment information not provided at the time of disclosure.



Contact Information

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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