Press Release

Estimate of the renewable energy share of gross final energy consumption in 2021

By EurObserv'ER's reckoning, the European renewable energy share should reach 22.45% in 2021

Paris, October 2022

EurObserv'ER presents its preliminary assessment of the renewable energy share of each Member State's gross final energy consumption by the close of 2021 as part of its mission to observe renewable energy dynamics. Having achieved 22.09% in 2020, and thus fulfilled the common target of 20%, preliminary estimates for 2021 put their share at 22.45%. The growth pace will have to accelerate dramatically if the 45% share target proposed under REPowerEU[1] is to be achieved by 2030.

According to preliminary EurObserv'ER estimates, the European Union renewable energy share covered 22.45% of gross final energy consumption in 2021. Although renewable energy consumption has increased across all sectors, the renewable energy share increased by a margin of 0.36 point over the officially recorded level for the previous year (22.09%). However, gross final energy consumption of renewable energy in the European Union increased by 15.2 Mtoe between 2020 and 2021. It rose from 209.6 to 224.8 Mtoe, or 7.3% growth in absolute terms. The main reason for this rise is the increase in the renewable electricity contribution from 87.3 to 94.5 Mtoe (an 8.2% improvement). Solar photovoltaic had a particularly good year in 2021. The increase in installed capacities combined with plentiful sunshine in the main producer countries, led to the generation of 13.6 Mtoe of energy over the year (13.5% more than in 2020). Normalised production calculations for hydropower and wind energy output viewed from the climate conditions perspective, indicate that 3.1 Mtoe (5%) more power was generated than in 2020. The increase in renewable heat's contribution was lower. EurObserv'ER puts the 2021 gain at 7.1% for estimated output of 112.02 Mtoe (compared to 104.6 Mtoe in 2020). Solid biomass alone accounted for 80% of renewable heat's additional contribution (6 Mtoe). Renewable heat from heat pumps came second to solid biomass with an additional 1.3 Mtoe, which attests to the increasing trend to electrify space heating in Europe.

As for the denominator, the European Union's total gross final energy consumption (renewable and other) leapt from 948.9 to 1001.6 Mtoe (by 5.6%) in 2021. This surge can be mainly attributed to the rebound in economic activity compared to 2020 which was marked by very strict lockdowns throughout the EU. The sharp upturn in total gross final energy consumption contributed largely to cancelling out the impact of the additional 15.2 Mtoe produced by renewable sources on their relative RES share of European consumption.

The indicators calculated for 2021 presented here are preliminary results. The data will be subject to revision in December once the first official Eurostat data has been published.

[1] COM(2022) 222 final

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Preliminary 2021 indicators about the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption in the EU27

Country	2020*	2021**
Sweden	60,12%	63,23%
Finland	43,80%	47,90%
Denmark	31,68%	42,48%
Latvia	42,13%	41,99%
Estonia	30,07%	38,98%
Austria	36,55%	37,78%
Portugal	33,98%	36,03%
Croatia	31,02%	31,32%
Lithuania	26,77%	27,62%
Slovenia	25,00%	25,08%
Bulgaria	23,32%	23,65%
Romania	24,48%	23,63%
Greece	21,75%	22,53%
Spain	21,22%	21,58%
Germany	19,31%	19,77%
Italy	20,36%	19,60%
France	19,11%	19,30%
Czechia	17,30%	17,41%
Cyprus	16,88%	16,73%
Slovakia	17,34%	16,22%
Poland	16,10%	15,79%
Hungary	13,85%	14,06%
Netherlands	14,00%	13,48%
Malta	10,72%	13,11%
Ireland	16,16%	12,87%
Belgium	13,00%	11,40%
Luxembourg	11,70%	10,01%
Total EU 27	**22,09%**	**22,45%**

Note : Calculations defined by the Directive RED II, use a normalized hydro and wind generation.
** data from Eurostat*
*** EurObserv'ER estimates*
Source : EurObserv'ER 2022

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- **ANNUAL REPORT:** "The state of renewable energies in Europe" 20th edition
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About d'EurObserv'ER

Since 1999, EurObserv'ER regularly publishes market reports (Barometers) containing energy data reflecting dynamics in renewable sources of energy in 10 sectors (solar PV, wind, hydropower, geothermal energy, biogas, solid biomass fuels, biofuels, heat pumps, small hydro, renewable waste) within the EU-27 and worldwide.

Suggested report citation

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