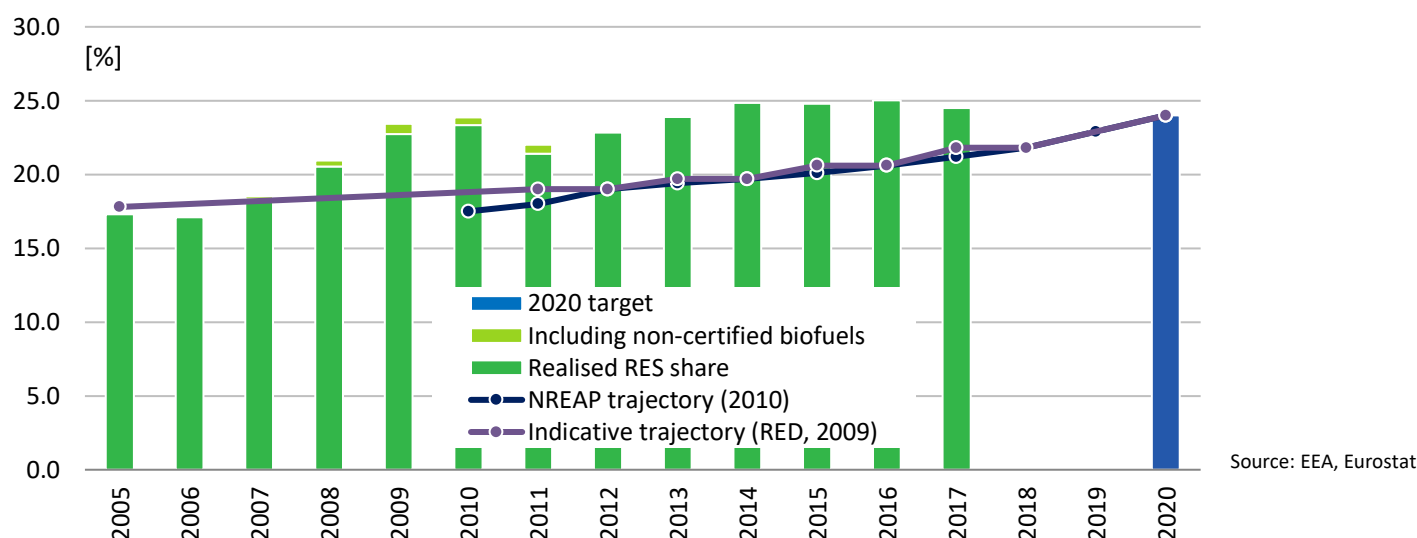


### Summary

The promotion of renewable electricity in Romania relies primarily on a renewable quota scheme. Since 2017 the scheme has been closed for new projects. In March 2017, the government has approved a new Emergency Ordinance No.24/2017 with amendments to the country's main renewable energy law no. 220/2008. The new emergency ordinance cleared up some legal uncertainties and brought some stability and transparency to the Green Certificate support scheme. Additionally, in April 2017 a new state aid scheme has been approved by Government Decision no. 216/2017 to promote energy production from less exploited energy sources, namely biomass, biogas and geothermal energy. According to the 2017 version of the Romanian National Energy Strategy, there are no plans for a further support scheme for new renewable electricity generation installations. Renewable heating and cooling is promoted through investment subsidies. Renewable energy sources in the transport sector are promoted by a biofuels quota scheme and indirectly through a subsidy scheme for the purchase of electric vehicles.

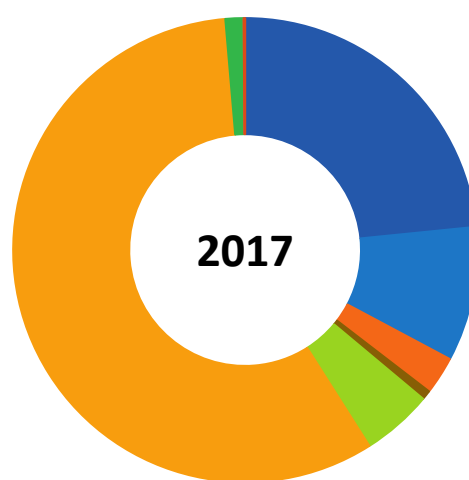
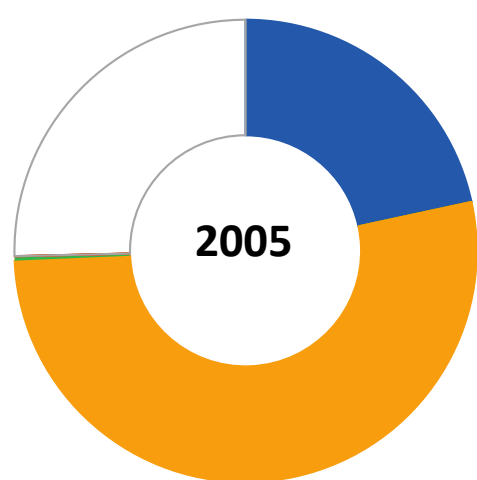


### Abbreviations used:

RES: renewable energy sources  
 RES-E: renewable electricity  
 RES-H/C: renewable heating/cooling  
 RES-T: renewable transport fuels

### Data for 2017

Overall RES share:	24.5%	Avoided fossil fuels:	9.4 [Mtoe]
Overall RES 2020 target:	24.0%	Avoided fuel expenses:	1.8 [billion euro]
Share RES-E in electricity:	41.6%	RES Turnover:	1790 [MEUR]
Share RES-T in transport:	6.6%	RES Employment:	53000 [jobs]
Share RES-H/C in heating:	26.6%		



- Hydropower
- Wind power
- Solar PV, CSP and water heaters
- Solid biomass
- Biofuels in transport
- Renewable heat consumed
- Renewable heat derived
- Heat pumps
- All other renewables
- Gap towards 2017

Source: Eurostat, 2019.

	2005		2017		
	Energy		Energy	Employment	Turnover
Hydropower	1305.2 ktoe		1413.9 ktoe	3400 Jobs	240 MEUR
Wind power	0.0 ktoe		566.7 ktoe	2100 Jobs	160 MEUR
Solar PV, CSP and water heaters	0.0 ktoe		159.6 ktoe	1000 Jobs	70 MEUR
Solid biomass	0.5 ktoe		39.4 ktoe	11400 Jobs	320 MEUR
Biofuels in transport	0.0 ktoe		297.2 ktoe	34300 Jobs	960 MEUR
Renewable heat consumed	3183.5 ktoe		3481.2 ktoe		
Renewable heat derived	18.1 ktoe		76.2 ktoe		
Heat pumps	0.0 ktoe		0.0 ktoe	200 Jobs	10 MEUR
All other renewables	0.7 ktoe		5.9 ktoe		
Gap towards 2017	1532.1 ktoe				

Source: Eurostat, EurObserv'ER, 2019.

Hydropower jobs & turnover only covers 'small hydropower'. PV=Photovoltaics, CSP=Concentrated Solar Power. Biofuels in transport only covers compliant fuels (employment and turnover additionally cover the non-compliant biofuels). Derived heat includes heat produced in main activity producer plants and heat sold produced in autoproducer plants. Its counterpart is the final heat consumption in the final consumption sectors (such as households).



## ***CURRENT RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY***

The main support scheme for *electricity from renewable sources* is a renewable quota scheme. In principle, this scheme covers all commercially non-viable renewable power generation technologies. Yet it has been closed for renewable power installations, commissioned after 31 December 2016. The scheme is still valid for installations commissioned before 2017 and will remain in place until 2031. Under the renewable quota scheme electricity suppliers and producers (e.g. industrial companies) have to comply with pre-set annual renewable electricity quota (expressed in the number of green certificates to be surrendered for every MWh of their annual total deliveries and consumption respectively). The quota for a certain year is decided upon by the competent authority, ANRE, in December of the preceding year. To that effect, ANRE projects next year's electricity consumption and seeks to curb the cost of the scheme in terms of € / MWh of final electricity consumption. Obligated parties have to prove compliance by surrendering the adequate number of tradable green certificates to the competent authority. Electricity-intensive producers can be granted partial compliance exemption up to 85% over a 10-year period. To the operator of each installation participating in the renewable quota scheme a pre-set technology-specific number of certificates is issued by the transmission system operator for each MWh of renewable electricity injected into the grid. The scheme support contract period starts at the commissioning date of the beneficiary plant with typically an initial duration of 15 years. However, the government can decide on an ad hoc basis to suspend issuance of certificates for certain technologies or change the number of certificates per MWh of power from the certificates-eligible source. These regulatory risks have turned out to be serious for renewable electricity project developers and operators in Romania.

For installations commissioned after 2016 project developers can apply for investment subsidy to one of the available investment subsidy programmes. The National Rural Development Programme offers subsidies in the agricultural sector: Measure 4 "Investment in physical assets". These promote amongst others the use of renewable energy sources for the applicants' own consumption. Wind power, solar, geothermal, biogas and biomass energy sources are eligible. Additionally, in April 2017 a new state aid scheme has been approved by Government Decision no. 216/2017 to promote energy production from less exploited energy sources, restricted to biomass, biogas and geothermal energy. The new support scheme is supported by the Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and 85% co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. It aims to increase the electricity and thermal energy production from these sources by additional 60 MW capacity until 2023 with large, medium, small and micro enterprises as targeted beneficiaries. Furthermore, starting from 1 January 2019, investment subsidy will be available for PV systems which could cover up to 90% of the total system cost. The maximum subsidy per system is RON 20,000 (approximately € 4,300). Rooftop as well as ground-mounted systems with a minimum capacity of 3 kW are eligible. While Law No 122/2015 foresees the introduction of a feed-in tariff for installations smaller than 500 kW, the methodology for the application of this scheme has not been developed yet.

Support for installations producing *renewable heating and/or cooling* is provided by investment subsidy programmes of the Romanian Environmental Fund, the Rural Development Programme and Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds. The Romanian Environmental Fund provides subsidies both for natural persons and administrative-territorial units,

religious institutions and public institutions for the installation of heating systems using renewable energy sources. The National Rural Development Programme subsidises renewable heating installations of farmers and agricultural cooperatives for own consumption. Furthermore, there is a recommendation in place considering the use of renewable energy sources in new buildings with a surface of more than 1000m<sup>2</sup>. An investment subsidy programme encourages investment in the district heat infrastructure using bioenergy on local level and provides co-financing at concessional terms.

In April 2017 through Government Decision no. 216/2017 a new state aid support scheme was put in place to stimulate energy production from biomass, biogas and geothermal energy. This scheme, co-financed for 85% by EU regional development funding, is to increase renewable electricity and thermal energy production capacity by 60 MW until 2023.

*Renewable energy sources in the transport sector* are promoted by a biofuels quota scheme. Fuel retailers are obliged to ensure that biofuels make up the prescribed minimum share of their annual petrol and diesel fuel sales. They have to prove this by submitting annual reports to the competent authority, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment, with adequate compliance documentation. Only certified biofuels satisfying specific sustainability criteria can be taken into account for fulfilling the prescribed quota. Furthermore, fuel retailers are required to achieve certain percentage point reductions in the greenhouse gas emissions per unit of market fuel sold.

The uptake of battery electric and hybrid electric cars are promoted with respectively an approximately € 4450 (RON 20000) and an approximately € 1100 (RON 5000) purchase subsidy. Both battery electric and hybrid electric vehicles are exempt from registration tax. They also get a CO<sub>2</sub> based reduction on car ownership tax. Furthermore electricity recharging stations in cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants are eligible to a maximum investment subsidy of €2,500 for stations < 22 kW and €30,000 for stations ≥ 22 kW.

## **OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORTING POLICIES**

The main renewable energy support measures applied in Romania are summarised in Tables 1 and 2 below. See the previous section and the notes to Table 1 for more details.

**Table 1: Overview of support schemes to promote renewable energy in Romania**

	NON-FISCAL SUPPORT SCHEMES						FISCAL AND OTHER STATE FUNDED INCENTIVES			
	Feed-in tariffs	Feed-in premiums	Tenders	Quota obligation with Tradable Green certificates 1)	Quota obligation without Tradable Green certificates	Net-metering/ net-billing	Investment subsidies	Tax credit mechanism I	Tax credit mechanism II	Soft loans
<b>RES-E</b>										
- Offshore wind				x						
- Onshore wind				x			x			
- Solar				x			x			
- Hydro				x						
- Geothermal				x			x			
- Solid biomass				x			x			
- Biogas				x			x			
<b>RES-H/C</b>										
- Solar thermal							x			
- Geothermal							x			
- Biomass							x			
- Biogas							x			
- Small scale installations, e.g. solar thermal collectors, heat pumps, biomass boilers and pellet stoves							x			
- Others, i.e. aerothermal, hydrothermal							x			
<b>RES-T</b>										
- Bio gasoline					x					
- Biodiesel					x					
- Electric vehicles							x			

1) Since 2017 the renewable quota scheme is closed for new projects.

Sources: EurObserv'ER, RES-Legal Europe

Table 2: Overview of main instruments used at present in Romania

<b><i>Instrument</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
Renewable quota scheme	Suppliers are mandated to source annually a set annual minimum share of their total electricity deliveries from generators of power from renewable energy sources, to be proven by surrendering certificates. Since 2017 the renewable quota scheme is closed for new projects.
Investment subsidy	Developers of electricity generation and heating & cooling projects from renewable energy sources can apply for an investment subsidy from the National Rural Development Programme.
Vocational training programmes for installers	Applicable, among others, to technicians installing heating & cooling appliances.
Government recommendation to use renewable energy in new buildings	Applicable to new buildings with a floor surface of more than 1000m <sup>2</sup> .
Investment subsidy for district heating	Also applicable to installations using bioenergy.
Biofuels quota scheme for transport fuels	Suppliers of transport fuels have to meet a certain minimum share of their annual turnover by biofuels that are certified to comply with regulated minimum sustainability criteria. Moreover, their transport fuel deliveries have to comply with certain minimum GHG emissions standards. The biofuels quota scheme does not encompass other renewable transport fuels.

## ***For further information:***

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IEA/IRENA Joint Policies and Measures database

<https://www.iea.org/policiesandmeasures/renewableenergy/?country=Romania>

Member State Progress Report, available at the Renewable Energy pages of the European Commission, <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/renewable-energy>

RES Legal database, <http://www.res-legal.eu/search-by-country/romania/>  
<https://www.iea.org/policiesandmeasures/pams/romania/>

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<https://www.iea.org/policiesandmeasures/pams/romania/name-33751-en.php>

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<http://www.mai.gov.ro/> (legislation regarding renewable heating and cooling)

<http://www.electrans.co.uk/romania-introduces-new-fangled-ev-policy/> (regards announcement of an electric vehicles subsidy programme.)

[http://www.economica.net/promisiunea-psd--vouchere-de-10-000-de-euro-si-20-000-de-statii-de-incarcare-a-masinelor-electrice\\_131123.html#n](http://www.economica.net/promisiunea-psd--vouchere-de-10-000-de-euro-si-20-000-de-statii-de-incarcare-a-masinelor-electrice_131123.html#n) (regards announcement of an electric vehicles subsidy programme)

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<http://globalcompetitionreview.com/insight/the-european-middle-eastern-and-african-antitrust-review-2017/1067815/eu-energy> (Amendments to renewable quota scheme meet EEAG: DG COMP decision SA.37177 on 4 May 2015)

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