

Comprehensive Report on SEERC Activities during Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Chairmanship

Prepared for Joint CIGRE SEERC Management Board (MB)/Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting in Sarajevo

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1. Introduction

CIGRE, as one of the oldest global international technical organizations, has a strong tradition in Central and Southeast Europe, operating within SEERC.

The SEERC region today consists of 17 national committees (the Czech Republic and Slovakia are united into one National Committee) including: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Greece, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

2. Governance Structure and Presidency

CIGRE, as one of the oldest global international technical organizations, has a strong tradition in Central and Southeast Europe, operating within SEERC. The SEERC region today consists of 17 national committees (Czech Republic and Slovakia are united into one National Committee) including: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic and Slovakia, Greece, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

The work of SEERC is organized through:

- Management Board (SEERC MB),
- Technical Advisory Committee (SEERC TAC), and
- Regional Working Groups (SEERC RWGs).

According to the SEERC Rules of Procedure, each SEERC member chairs SEERC for two years. The presidency rotates alphabetically during the SEERC conference held at the end of the two-year term in the member country that previously chaired, unless otherwise agreed due to objective circumstances.

Bosnia and Herzegovina assumed the role of SEERC President on October 11, 2023, in Istanbul from the NC Turkey during the opening ceremony of the 4th SEERC conference. The SEERC President for the two-year term ending with the 5th SEERC conference in Sarajevo in 2025 is Mr. Edhem Bičakčić, a member of the SEERC Management Board representing NC CIGRE Bosnia and Herzegovina. Maja Muftić Dedović was appointed by the SEERC President as the Secretary of CIGRE - SEERC. During the Joint SEERC MB and TAC meeting held on Ljubljana (Slovenia) on February 28, 2024, Sabina Dacić-Lepara was elected as the TAC President.

3. Key Events and Meetings

Since assuming the SEERC presidency, Bosnia and Herzegovina has organized several key events:

- **Joint SEERC MB and TAC meeting in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on February 28, 2024**, where the new TAC composition was appointed, the TAC President for the period 2023-2025 was elected, and the nominal plan of SEERC activities for the period of Bosnia and Herzegovina's presidency was established. Sabina Dacić-Lepara was elected as the TAC President.
- **Second CIGRE SEERC colloquium in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on February 29, 2024**, on the topic 'National Strategies for Decarbonization of the Energy Sector and Impacts on the Power System. 11 SEERC member countries (Croatia, Turkey, Kosovo, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Italy Greece, Austria and Georgia), presented their national strategies for decarbonization of the energy sector through half-hour presentations including presentation titled CIGRE and the Energy Transition given by Philippe Adam, CIGRE Secretary General.
- **TAC meeting in Cavtat (Croatia) on May 27, 2024**, focused on preparations for the upcoming 5th SEERC conference in Sarajevo, scheduled for June 4-5, 2025, at the Hotel Hills Sarajevo. The final conference topics were defined, covering key areas such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, decarbonization technologies, electricity market development, and power system resilience.
- **SEERC workshop in Cavtat (Croatia) on May 28, 2024**, titled 'Managing Spatial, Environmental, and Location Challenges in Energy Infrastructure Development.' The workshop focused on national laws governing the integration of power grids and facilities into the environment, regulations on electromagnetic fields, and procedures for obtaining construction and use permits for energy facilities. After three invited lectures (The people of CIGRE by Konstantin O. Papailiou, NC CIGRE Greece, Are OHL's Really Ugly or What to Do to Make Them More Acceptable, by Krešimir Bakič, NC CIGRE Slovenia, and We Must, or We Want by Aleš Kregar, NC CIGRE Slovenia) representatives from the national committees of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey gave presentations on the workshop topic.
- **Consultative Management Board meeting in Paris (France) on August 28, 2024**, where attendees were informed about the preparations for the 5th SEERC conference to be held in Sarajevo in 2025. Discussions included registration fees, sponsorships, and the process of submitting papers and synopses. The updated SEERC questionnaire for 2024 was also presented, followed by an open discussion and conclusions on the next steps, including confirmation of the date and location for the next TAC meeting to be held on January 22, 2025, in Rome, Italy.
- **The RWG 04 Kick-off Meeting in Rome (Italy) on January 22, 2025**, (RWG 04 - the technical and economic characteristics of Hydro Pumped Storage Power Plants

(HPSPPs)) focused on in power systems. The agenda included participant introductions, national updates, the sharing of innovations, a presentation of RWG-04 objectives, and an open discussion.

- **The RWG History of Electricity Meeting in Rome (Italy) on January 22, 2025** session included a recap of previous meetings, the selection of topics for the Sarajevo Panel, the nomination of speakers, and a presentation on the history of UCPTTE.
- **The TAC meeting in Rome (Italy) on January 22, 2025**, was held at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Rome 'La Sapienza.' The meeting was attended by representatives from 11 SEERC countries. Key discussions focused on preparations for the 5th SEERC Conference, scheduled for June 4–5, 2025, in Sarajevo. Two keynote speakers were confirmed and additional keynote suggestions included experts from international CIGRE. Overview of submitted synopses and Topic-specific status reports were presented. A total of 175 abstracts were submitted a new session was added for those outside the main themes. It was concluded that Topic 3 will have only oral presentations, while the others will include both oral and poster formats and that the conference will feature four panels: History, Women in Energy, NGN, and GIZ. Papers were due by March 15, with acceptance notifications by April 15. The Results of 2024 SEERC Questionnaire were presented showing progress toward 2030 goals and emphasized regional cooperation.
- **The 4th CIGRE SEERC Grid Resilience Workshop in Rome (Italy) on January 23, 2025**, at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Rome 'La Sapienza.' The workshop focused on best practices and lessons learned from critical grid situations, innovative strategies and solutions implemented by power system operators and policymakers to improve the cyber and physical security of power grids. The keynote lecture was given by Dr. Konstantin Papailiou, President of CIGRE Paris. Representatives from ten national committees gave presentations (Slovenia, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Greece, Austria, Montenegro, Romania, including representatives from Georgia and Kosovo who gave their presentations online).

4. Insights from the CIGRE SEERC Questionnaire 2025

On **July 31, 2024**, a call was issued to complete the **SEERC Questionnaire 2024**, prepared by **Prof. Massimo Pompili** from **La Sapienza University in Rome**. The updated SEERC Questionnaire for 2024 was presented at the consultative Management Board meeting in Paris. The Questionnaire focused on energy metrics in SEERC member countries, including consumption, production, and infrastructure capacities for 2023.

The initial deadline for submitting responses was set for **October 15, 2024**. This deadline was later extended to **October 31**, and then again to **November 15**.

Responses to the SEERC Questionnaire were submitted by **14 out of 17 national committees** (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia, Turkey)

The data highlighted adherence to climate and energy framework goals for 2030, such as significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and increases in the share of renewable energy. Detailed statistical data on thermal and hydro production capacities, as well as the lengths of transmission and distribution networks, were also included. These insights emphasize the critical need for continued regional cooperation to improve sustainability and energy transition within the SEERC region.

The national committees that did not submit responses were: Czech Republic/Slovakia, Hungary, and Ukraine.

5. 5th SEERC Conference

The main focus of the meeting was the preparation for the upcoming **5th SEERC Conference** in Sarajevo, scheduled for **June 4–5, 2025**, at **Hotel Hills Sarajevo**. The final conference themes were defined, covering key areas such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, decarbonization technologies, electricity market development, and power system resilience:

- I.** Increasing energy efficiency of existing facilities and increasing renewable energy capacities
- II.** New technologies and methodologies for accelerated decarbonization and digitalization of electric power systems
- III.** Development of the electricity market balancing and dynamic regulation
- IV.** Resilience issues of the electric power systems

Following the TAC meeting in Cavtat, active preparations for the 5th SEERC conference began.

The Conference Organizing Committee was formed, and in July 2024, the conference website (www.seerc2025.com) was established, and the Call for Papers was issued in accordance with the previously established key dates. Instructions for submitting abstracts and full papers were prepared. The Conftool system was established, enabling participant registration, abstract and full paper submission, and management of the paper review process. A comprehensive plan and organization of the technical program covering the period before and during the conference were developed. A Call for Sponsors and Exhibitors of technical exhibitions was also prepared and posted on the website.

Key conference dates were established as follows:

- Abstract submission deadline: October 31, 2024
- Notification of abstract acceptance: December 15, 2024

- Full paper submission deadline: February 28, 2025
- Notification of paper acceptance: March 31, 2025

During the **Consultative Meeting of the SEERC Management Board in Paris (France), August 28, 2024**, the proposed **registration fees** for the 5th SEERC Conference were presented as follows:

Category	Until May 10, 2025	After May 10, 2025	Students
CIGRE Members	€450	€550	€150
Non-members	€500	€600	€200

By that date **October 31, 2024**, a total of **81 abstracts** had been submitted.

Due to requests from a large number of interested authors, the deadlines for abstract submission, abstract acceptance notifications, full paper submission, and full paper acceptance notifications were extended as follows:

- **New abstract submission deadline:** November 30, 2024
- **Notification of abstract acceptance:** January 15, 2025
- **Full paper submission deadline:** March 15, 2025
- **Notification of paper acceptance:** April 15, 2025

In the upcoming period the **conference registration fees** have been updated as follows:

Category	Until May 10, 2025	After May 10, 2025
CIGRE Members	€350	€400
Non-members	€450	€500
Students	€100	€150

Additionally, it was defined that **authors and co-authors are entitled to a €100 discount**, while **student authors/co-authors receive a €50 discount**.

As of **November 30, 2024**, a total of **145 abstracts** had been submitted, distributed by theme as follows:

Topic	Number of Abstracts
I. Increasing energy efficiency of existing facilities and increasing renewable energy capacities	37
II. New technologies and methodologies for accelerated decarbonization and digitalization of electric power systems	36
III. Development of the electricity market balancing and dynamic regulation	17
IV. Resilience issues of the electric power systems	55

On **November 30, 2024**, the deadlines for abstract submission and notification of acceptance were extended again as follows:

- **New abstract submission deadline:** December 19, 2024
- **Notification of abstract acceptance:** January 30, 2025

The deadlines for full paper submission and acceptance notification remain unchanged:

- **Full paper submission deadline:** March 15, 2025
- **Notification of paper acceptance:** April 15, 2025

As of **December 19, 2024**, which was the deadline for abstract submission, a total of **172 abstracts** were received, distributed as follows:

Topic	Title	Number of
I	Increasing energy efficiency of existing facilities and	49
II	New technologies and methodologies for accelerated	42
III	Development of the electricity market balancing and	16
IV	Resilience issues of the electric power systems	65

Subsequently, three additional abstracts were received via email—one for Topic III and two for Topic IV—which were unanimously accepted at the meeting. This brought the total number of abstracts submitted for the **5th SEERC Conference** to **175**.

The highest number of abstracts came from **Bosnia and Herzegovina (37)**, followed by **Turkey (25)** and **Croatia (20)**. No abstracts were submitted from **Czech Republic, Slovakia, or Ukraine**, while **20 abstracts** were submitted from **non-SEERC countries**.

Due to the preliminary review revealing that a significant number of submissions—especially under Topic IV—fell outside the defined scope of the themes, during the **TAC meeting in Rome (Italy) on January 22, 2025** was decided to create a **fifth general topic**, which would not have the status of a theme but would be titled “**Session: Functionality of Power Systems and Equipment.**” This session would include all abstracts that did not fit into any of the four main themes. Based on the proposal of the Bosnian National Committee of CIGRE, Session Chair and two co-chairs were appointed.

It was proposed and accepted that **all submitted abstracts be provisionally accepted**, with final decisions on acceptance or rejection to be made upon submission of the full papers.

Following a discussion and recommendations from the chairs of all four themes, some abstracts were reallocated to different themes or to the new Session. The final distribution of abstracts was as follows:

Topic /	Title	Number of
I	Increasing energy efficiency of existing facilities and	41
II	New technologies and methodologies for accelerated	36
III	Development of the electricity market balancing and	18
IV	Resilience issues of the electric power systems	38
Session	Functionality of Power Systems and Equipment	42

It was concluded that **all themes**, except for **Theme III**, which will have **only oral presentations**, will include approximately **20 oral presentations** and the rest as **poster presentations**.

The confirmed keynote speakers for the conference are **Professor Mladen Kezunović** from the USA, who will speak on “*Risk Management of Future Large-Scale Electrification*”, and **Dr. Ajla Merzić** from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who will present on “*Strengthening Cross-Border Collaboration for Energy Transition.*”

Additionally, the following individuals were proposed as keynote speakers: **Rannveig Loken**, Vice President of CIGRE for Technical Affairs; and **Angelo Ferante**, Secretary General of MedTSO.

- It was confirmed at the meeting that four panels will be held during the Conference:
 - Women in Energy (WiE):** The role of women in the energy sector and connecting academia with industry
 - Next Generation Network (NGN):** Involving young professionals in the sector
 - History Panel:** Historical development of electrification in the region
 - GIZ Panel:** Distribution networks in the Western Balkans and the EU – challenges and future steps

Important deadlines were set as follows:

- **Full paper submission deadline: March 15, 2025**
- **Notification of paper acceptance: April 15, 2025**

After several short extensions, the final deadline for full paper submission was March 31, 2025, and the notification of paper acceptance was set for April 25, 2025.

The number of submitted abstracts, full papers, revised and accepted papers, as well as the distribution of presentations (oral/poster) across all four themes and the session, is shown in the following table:

Topic	Abstracts	Papers	Revised	Review Notices	Accepted	Oral/Poster
Topic 1	41	28	28	28	28	20 / 8
Topic 2	36	30	30	30	30	20 / 10
Topic 3	18	15	15	15	14	14 / 0
Topic 4	38	29	29	29	29	20 / 9
Session	42	37	37	37	37	0 / 36
Total	175	139	139	139	138	74 / 63

A total of **137 papers** are included in the conference program (oral and poster presentations).

Note: One paper from Topic 3 was withdrawn.

A total of 137 papers were submitted by authors coming from **24 different countries**. Among these, **15 countries are SEERC members**, while **9 are non-SEERC members**. From the SEERC member countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and Ukraine did not submit any papers. The non-SEERC countries from which papers were received are: Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Belgium, USA, United Kingdom, India, Bahrain, and

Canada. A total of **22 international papers were submitted** (authors of these papers are from more than one country).

In total, **448 unique authors and co-authors** from **24 different countries** contributed to the submitted papers. Among them, 38 authors were involved in two papers, either as authors or co-authors, while 5 authors contributed to three papers.

Distribution of submitted papers by country of authors:

#	Country	Number of Papers	Of which joint (international papers)
1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	33	12
2	Turkey	19	2
3	Croatia	18	4
4	Georgia	14	
5	Italy	12	1
6	Slovenia	12	6
7	Serbia	10	4
8	Austria	7	4
9	Kosovo	6	
10	Germany	4	3
11	Greece	3	1
12	Israel	3	
13	Montenegro	3	1
14	Hungary	2	2
15	Norway	2	2
16	Romania	2	
17	Switzerland	2	1
18	Belgium	2	2
19	USA	2	2
20	United Kingdom	2	2
21	Republic of North Macedonia	2	
22	India	1	
23	Bahrain	1	1
24	Canada	1	1

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Honorary Chair

Klaus Fröhlich

General Chair

Edhem Bičakčić, NC CIGRE Bosnia and Herzegovina

Technical Chair

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Zijad Bajramović, University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Electrical Engineering

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Edina Mašnić, NC CIGRE Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Technical Committee

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Topic 1

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Topic 2

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Topic 3

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Topic 4

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Massimo Pompili, University of Roma "La Sapienza", Co-chair

Special Session

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Irfan Turković, University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Co-chair

Publication Chair

Adnan Mujezinović, University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Electrical Engineering

6. Summary and Conclusions

The SEERC region, comprising 17 national committees, has demonstrated strong regional collaboration and technical engagement through a series of strategic events, workshops, and planning activities. Under the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2023–2025), SEERC has successfully organized multiple high-level meetings and thematic workshops, addressing key topics such as decarbonization, energy efficiency, and grid resilience.

A major milestone is the preparation for the **5th SEERC Conference**, scheduled for **June 4–5, 2025**, in Sarajevo. The conference has attracted significant interest, with **175 abstracts submitted** and **137 full papers accepted** from **24 countries**, including **15 SEERC members** and **9 non-SEERC countries**. Notably, **22 papers were international collaborations**, and **448 unique authors and co-authors** contributed, with **38 authors involved in two papers** and **5 authors in three**.

The SEERC Questionnaire 2024, completed by 14 national committees, provided valuable insights into the region's progress toward 2030 energy and climate goals, highlighting the importance of continued regional cooperation.

The conference will feature four main themes and a special session, with a balanced mix of oral and poster presentations, and will host panels on Women in Energy, Next Generation Network, History, and GIZ. Keynote speakers from the USA and Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with other international experts, will contribute to the event's high-level discourse.

In conclusion, SEERC continues to strengthen its role as a regional platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and strategic alignment in the energy sector, with the upcoming conference serving as a key milestone in this ongoing effort.