



EUROPEAN  
SMALL HYDROPOWER ASSOCIATION



Zveza društev MHE Slovenije  
Slovenian Small Hydropower Association

## Press Release

### **New rise for Small hydropower - a significant contributor to EU's new energy mix**

12-13 June 2008, Bled, Slovenia

**Hydroenergia 2008, co-organized by ESHA and SSHA in Bled/Slovenia from 11-13 June 2008, gathered more than 200 participants to discuss the new opportunities for small hydropower in Europe and worldwide. Hydropower today accounts for 17 % of EU's electricity generation. Small hydropower contributes about 3 % to the total electricity generation in Europe. With the binding target of 20 % renewable energy in final energy consumption by 2020, the role of hydropower contributing to the EU's energy mix is bound to increase significantly offering a wave of exciting new investment opportunities and challenges in this well-established sector.**

With more than 17 800 small hydropower schemes and a total of installed capacity 12 333 MW in EU-27, the Small hydropower sector plays an important part in meeting today's urgent need for clean energy. The straightforward concept of generating electricity from the energy of water turning the blades of a turbine has been developed and refined so that hydro schemes are able to immediately respond to fluctuations in electricity demand. Hydropower's chief advantage is that it provides a steady and secure source of electricity supply; it can thus counter the intermittency of other renewable energy technologies such as solar electricity and wind. Other advantages of small hydropower include long lifespan (up to 100 years) and very high pay-back ratio.

The remaining European energy potential for small hydropower is still considerable, in particular the Balkan region offers a booming market with excellent opportunities for investment as it contains huge potential and offers very good conditions with predictable economic and political development. HIDROENERGIA 2008 being organized in Slovenia will be a prominent forum for discussion about thrilling opportunities in these booming markets.

Moreover, outside of Europe, the ETS (Emissions Trading Scheme) and CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) markets bring new opportunities for the sector. In fact, approximately 90 % of all clean development mechanism projects in China are small hydropower.

This in turn is important when securing our energy supply as increasing the amount of energy derived from small hydropower reduces dependence on fossil fuels.

Europe has maintained a leading position in the field of hydropower manufacturing ever since the technology started to develop. European industry has tried to respond to growing environmental requirements with innovative solutions, for example with bringing 'eel friendly' turbines to the market. Other environmental mitigation techniques are fish-pass systems, trash rack management systems, multi-purpose schemes combining electricity production with flood control, irrigation channels, waste water treatment and recreational use. Constant technological development together with its maturity gives small hydropower three times bigger energy transformation efficiency than any other technology.

Over 200 leading small hydropower experts, industry and research are meeting today at the Hidroenergia 2008 International Conference. HIDROENERGIA Conferences are organized by ESHA jointly with one of its Member Associations every two years bringing together the leading professionals of the sector to convey knowledge and best practice experiences to investors and professionals from different areas.

HE08 will be held for the first time in one of the newest Member States of the EU, Slovenia - chairing the European Council Presidency. This year program is focused on two critical issues: the role of small hydropower within the EU Energy and Climate Package and Sustainability. Hidroenergia closing session will compile the conclusions of the Conference putting a clear message of increasing the contribution of small hydropower in the Member States energy mix in order to comply with the 20% RES target for 2020.

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**ESHA, the European Small Hydropower Association (ESHA)**, is a non-profit international association representing the sector of small hydropower. ESHA is a founding member of EREC (European Renewable Energy Council), which groups together all main European renewable energy industry and research associations. ESHA is located in Europe's headquarters for renewable energy, the Renewable Energy House, in Brussels. For more information please visit [www.esha.be](http://www.esha.be)

**SSHA - Slovenian Small Hydropower Association (SSHA)**, is a non-profit and non-governmental association representing more than 350 owners and investors in small hydropower schemes. It was established in 1988 with the purpose of representation, professional assistance and training of the members, nature protection, improvement of the grid connection conditions and the electricity pricing. For more information please visit <http://www.zdmhe.si/>

The Hidroenergia 2008 conference is sponsored by

