

An international conference in Vienna discussed the hydropower potential of the Western Balkans countries, in an attempt to facilitate closer cross-border cooperation of the stakeholders in building modern, larger hydropower plants, but also protecting water resources in the region.

The organiser of the “Western Balkans Sustainable Hydropower Conference,” held in Austrian capital Vienna from November 29 to December 1, was the International Financial Corporation. The formal host of the conference was the Austria’s Federal Ministry of Finance. The co-organisers were the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.

The attendees from Austria, Switzerland and Norway presented the experiences from their countries, where hydro-potentials have been developed to a level considered as the highest in Europe and among the leading in the world.

The event gathered experts from the hydropower plants, chambers of commerce, and political representatives from the Western Balkan countries. The participants from the region presented a wide palette of hydropower projects, and the conference working groups tried to shortlist high-quality projects, which could be considered the most suitable for investment.

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