

ევროკავშირი  
საქართველოსთვის  
The European Union for Georgia



EU ENI East Twinning project  
Supporting inter-sectoral collaboration possibilities between  
Research and Industry  
GE 18 ENI OT 02 19

Public lecture



# ***“Climate change and renewable energy sources in Georgia”***

24 September 2021, Tbilisi, Georgia,  
in the framework of the “European Researchers’ Night” organized by SRNSFG



science KNOW



by Gilbert Ahamer



business GROW

umweltbundesamt<sup>U</sup>  
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA



JOANNEUM  
RESEARCH

FWF

Der Wissenschaftsfonds.



DLR Projektträger

FFG  
Promoting Innovation.



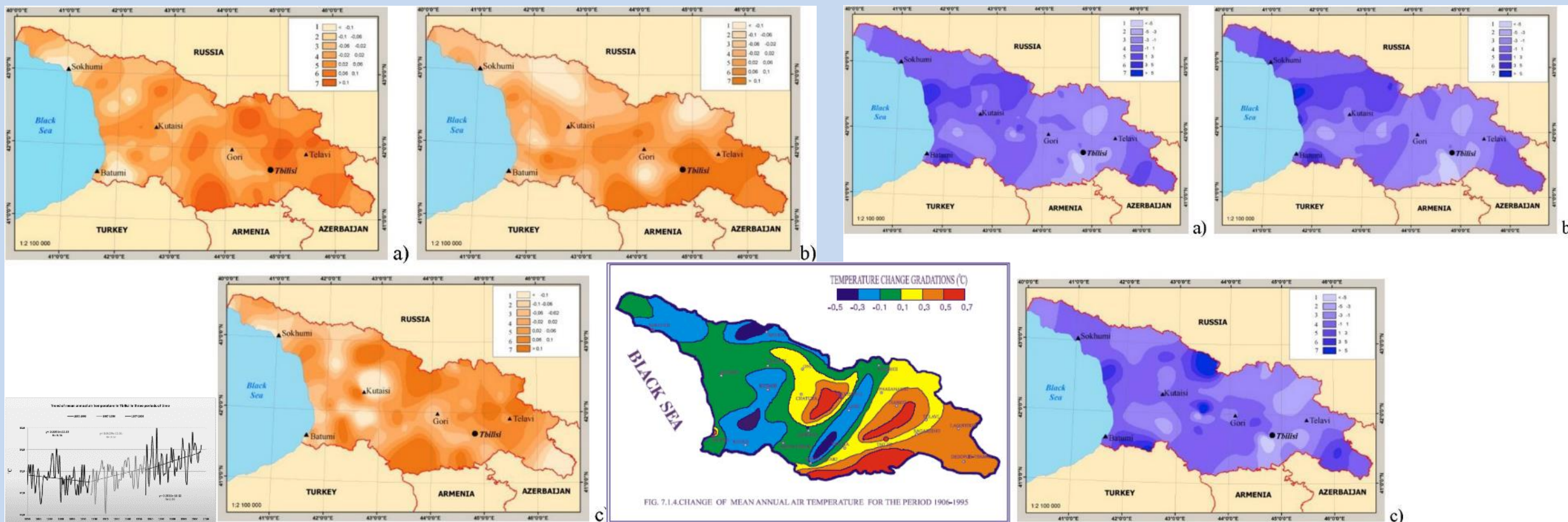


# 2<sup>nd</sup> title: how to communicate science?

*... learn from mistakes & positive examples*

# How did the climate change in Georgia?

Warming is more intense in eastern Georgia (cooling in the west). Precipitation decreased at a rate of 1–3% per decade.



Decadal trend of mean air temperature in °C (at left) and precipitation (at right): a) year; b) January; c) July





# Key climate impacts in Georgia

## CLIMATE PROJECTIONS



0.8°–1.4°C increase in temperatures by 2050



Increased unpredictability and intensity of seasonal rains



Increased incidence of natural disasters such as landslides, mudslides, floods and droughts

## KEY CLIMATE IMPACTS

### Agriculture



Shifts in production zones  
Crop loss in extreme events  
Introduction of new pests/diseases

### Water



Accelerated glacial melt, altering river flows and water availability  
Damage to water infrastructure

### Human Health



Increased incidence of heat-related issues  
Exacerbation of existing diseases  
Risk of spreading vector-borne disease

### Energy



Decreased hydropower potential  
Damage to energy infrastructure, interrupting services

### Tourism

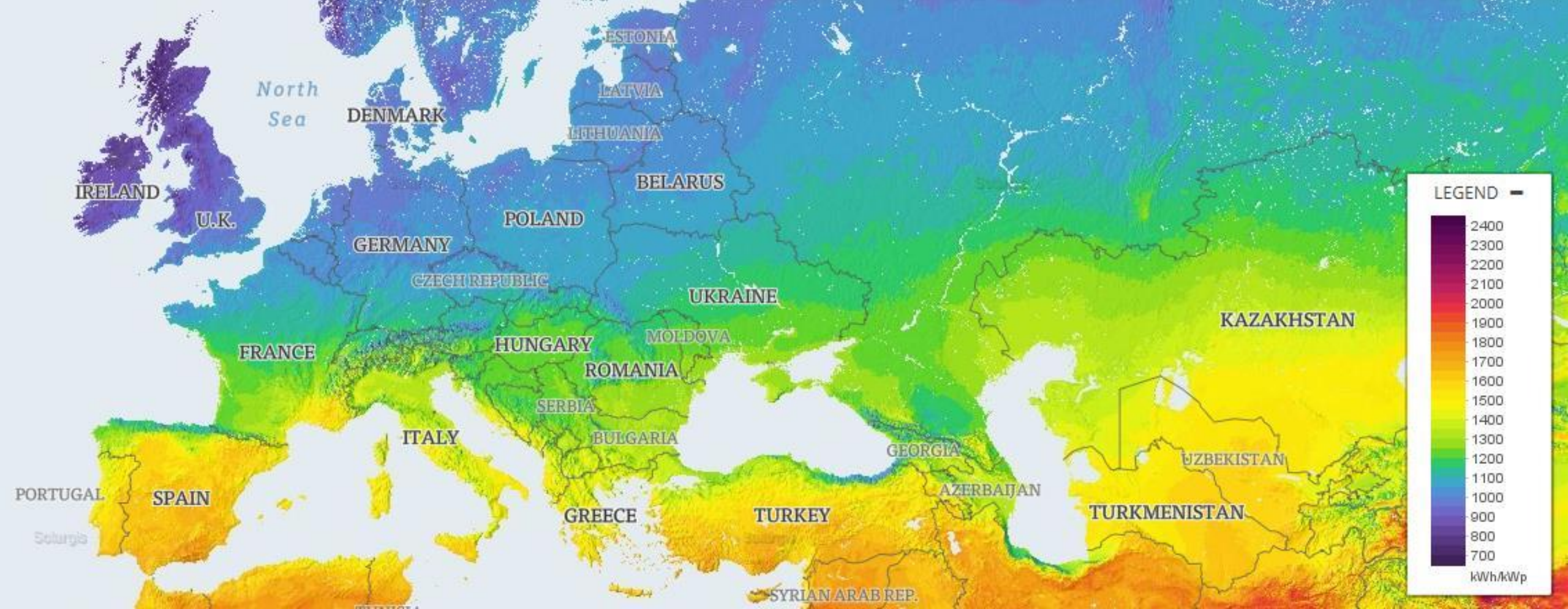


Losses to key tourist centers, particularly ski resorts, beaches, and hiking and birdwatching destinations

### Ecosystems



Displacement/migration of species  
Shift/reduction in forest cover  
Introduction of new pests/diseases

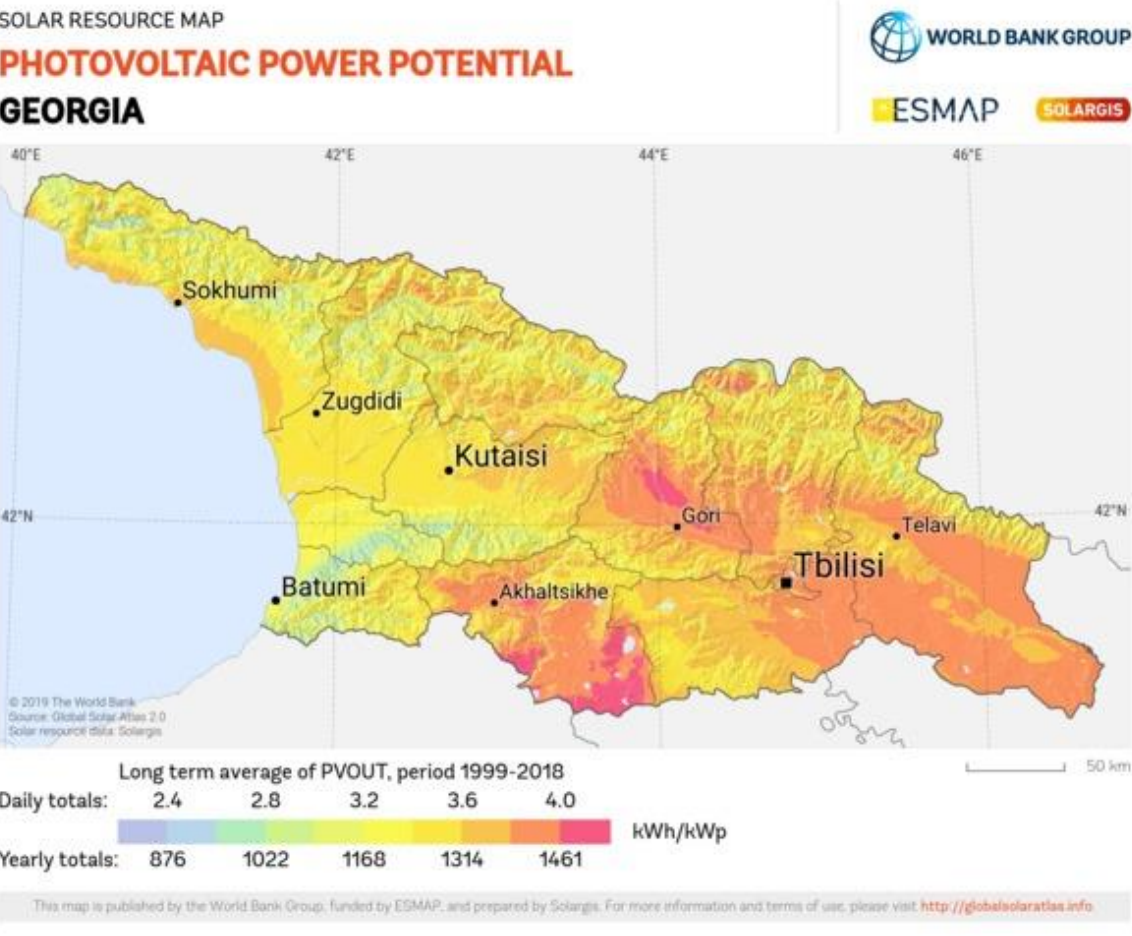


COULD GEORGIA 🇧🇪 BECOME A PIONEER  
IN FIGHTING GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE?



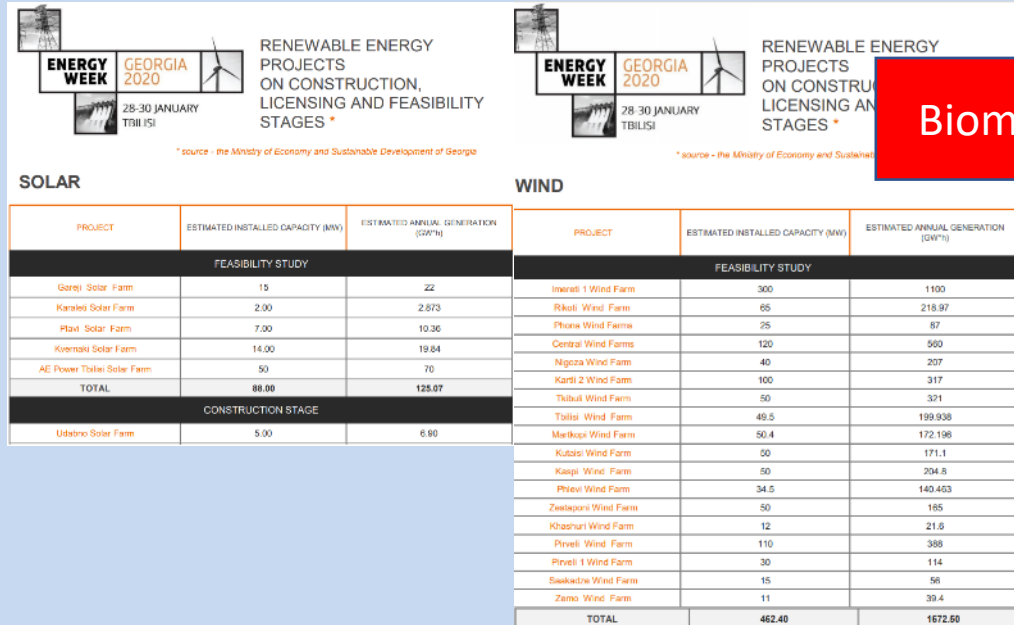
Yes!

(in Georgia, the US state)

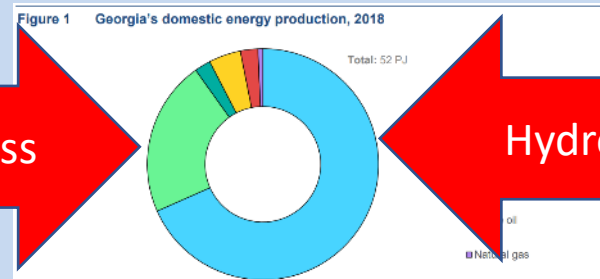




# Examples from Georgia, as it is now: 1

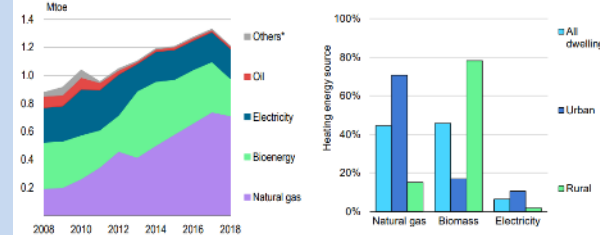


Source: <https://geenergyweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Solar.pdf>



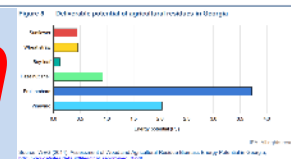
Notes: PJ= petajoule. \*Other renewables\* = geothermal, solar and wind.  
Source: Geostat (2019), Energy Balance of Georgia.

**Figure 2 TFC in Georgia's residential sector (left) and heating fuel by location (right)**



\* Includes coal, solar thermal, geothermal and district heat; not visible at this scale.

Notes: TFC = total final consumption. Mtoe = million tonnes of oil equivalent (1 Mtoe = 41.9 PJ).  
Sources: IEA (2020), World Energy Balances 2020 (database), [www.iea.org/statistics](http://www.iea.org/statistics); Geostat (2017), Energy Consumption in Households.



Source: [https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/5ec8fa6-e6fe-b1b0-661ef84899c/Sustainable\\_Bioenergy\\_for\\_Georgia\\_A\\_Roadmap.pdf](https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/5ec8fa6-e6fe-b1b0-661ef84899c/Sustainable_Bioenergy_for_Georgia_A_Roadmap.pdf)

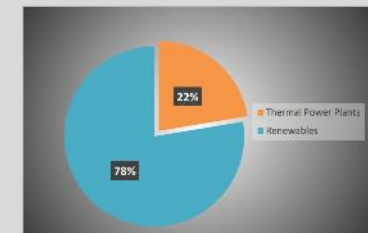
## Total Installed Capacity of the Energy System

Total: 4206.8 MW

Hydro Power:  
87 Operating HPPs  
Installed Capacity – 3260.07 MW

Wind Power:  
1 Operating WPP  
Installed Capacity – 20.7 MW

Thermal Power:  
5 Operating TPPs  
Installed Capacity – 926 MW



## Hydro Potential of Georgia

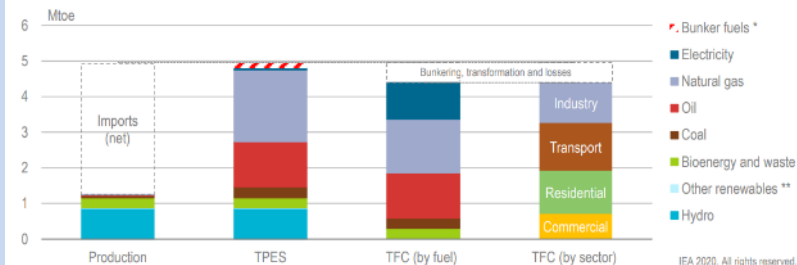
- Untapped hydro resources
- One of the top countries in water resources per capita
- 300 out of 26,000 rivers capable of providing excellent opportunities for hydropower production
- Only 22% of total hydro potential is utilized
- HPP Greenfield potential of 40 TWh
- World's second highest concrete arch dam with a height of 271.5 meters (891 ft)



Source: [https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pp/ge/ge6\\_Oct2019/2\\_RE\\_Auctions/2\\_MArabidze\\_Georgia6th.GERE.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pp/ge/ge6_Oct2019/2_RE_Auctions/2_MArabidze_Georgia6th.GERE.pdf)

# Examples from Georgia, as it is now: 2

Figure 2.2 Energy production, supply and consumption by fuel and sector, 2018



Georgia is a net energy importer, with natural gas and oil dominating the energy supply.

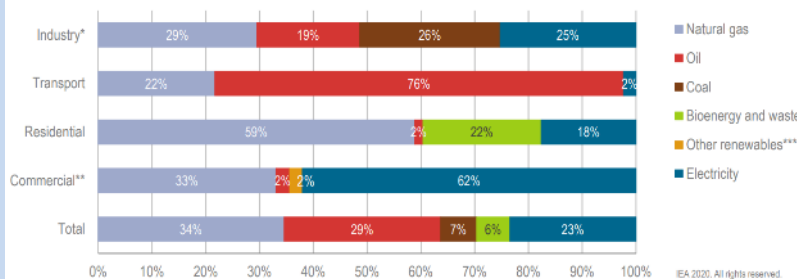
\* Includes international aviation and marine bunker fuel. Not included in TPES.

\*\* Includes wind, geothermal and solar thermal.

Note: Mtoe = million tonnes of oil equivalent.

Source: IEA (2020), World Energy Balances 2020 (database), [www.iea.org/statistics](http://www.iea.org/statistics).

Figure 2.7 Total final consumption by source and sector, 2018



Natural gas and oil dominate except in the commercial sector, which uses mainly electricity.

\* Includes non-energy consumption.

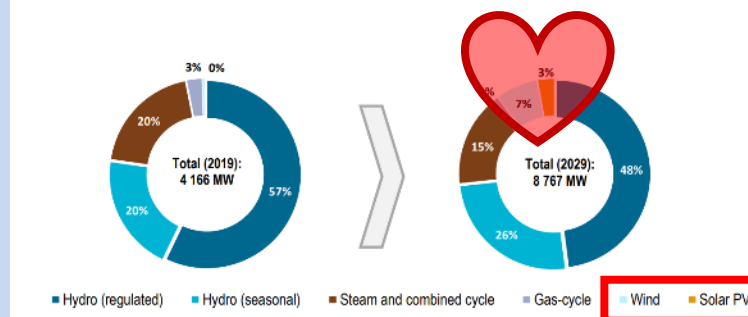
\*\* Includes commercial and public services, agriculture and forestry.

\*\*\* Includes geothermal and solar thermal.

Note: For ease of readability, shares of less than 1% are not shown.

Source: IEA (2020), World Energy Balances 2020 (database), [www.iea.org/statistics](http://www.iea.org/statistics).

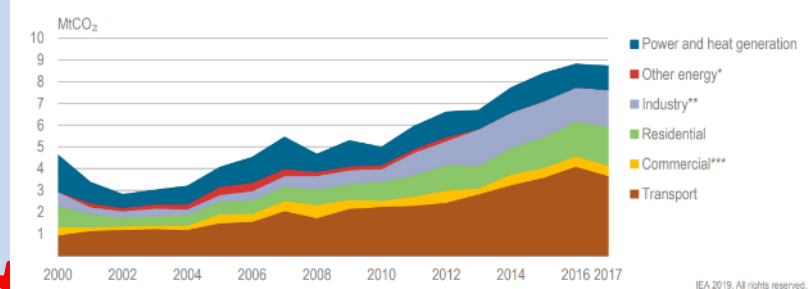
Figure 6.4 Georgia's projected electricity generating capacity



Considering Georgia's recent progress in commissioning new plants, the GSE projection that total installed capacity will more than double by 2029 is unlikely to be realised.

Source: GSE (2019), Ten-Year Network Development Plan of Georgia 2019-2029.

Figure 7.2 Georgia's energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by sector, 2000-17



Georgia's energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have increased mainly because of higher energy consumption in the transport sector.

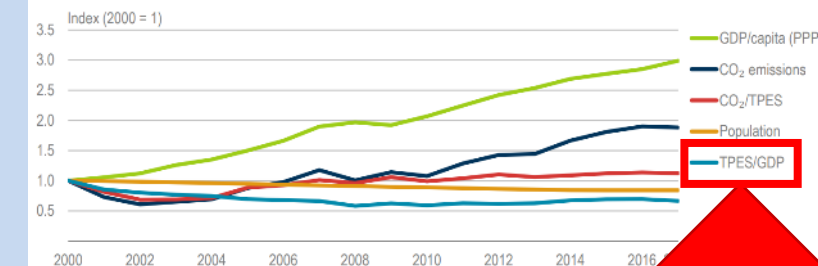
\* Includes emissions from coal mines and oil and gas extraction.

\*\* Includes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from combustion at construction and manufacturing industries.

\*\*\* Includes commercial and public services, agriculture/forestry and fishing.

Source: IEA (2019), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fuel Combustion (database), [www.iea.org/statistics](http://www.iea.org/statistics).

Figure 7.3 Georgia's energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and main emissions drivers, 2000-17

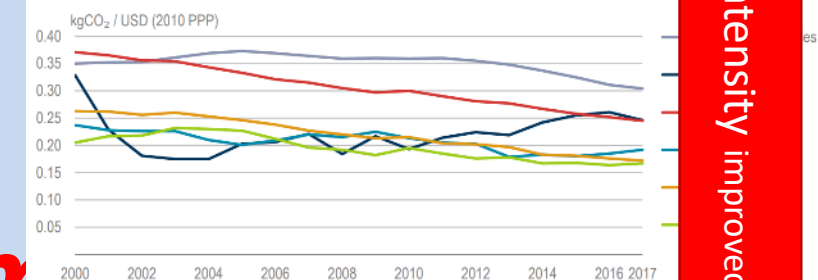


Georgia's GDP per capita (at PPP) has grown by over 150% since 2000, and there has been a significant increase in energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Notes: TPES = total primary energy supply. GDP/capita (PPP) is constant GDP in USD 2010 prices.

Source: IEA (2019), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fuel Combustion (database), [www.iea.org/statistics](http://www.iea.org/statistics).

Figure 7.5 CO<sub>2</sub> intensity in Georgia and selected countries, 2000-17



Georgia's CO<sub>2</sub> intensity is on an upward trajectory, contrary to the average of Annex I countries. The increase is linked primarily with the country's economic growth.

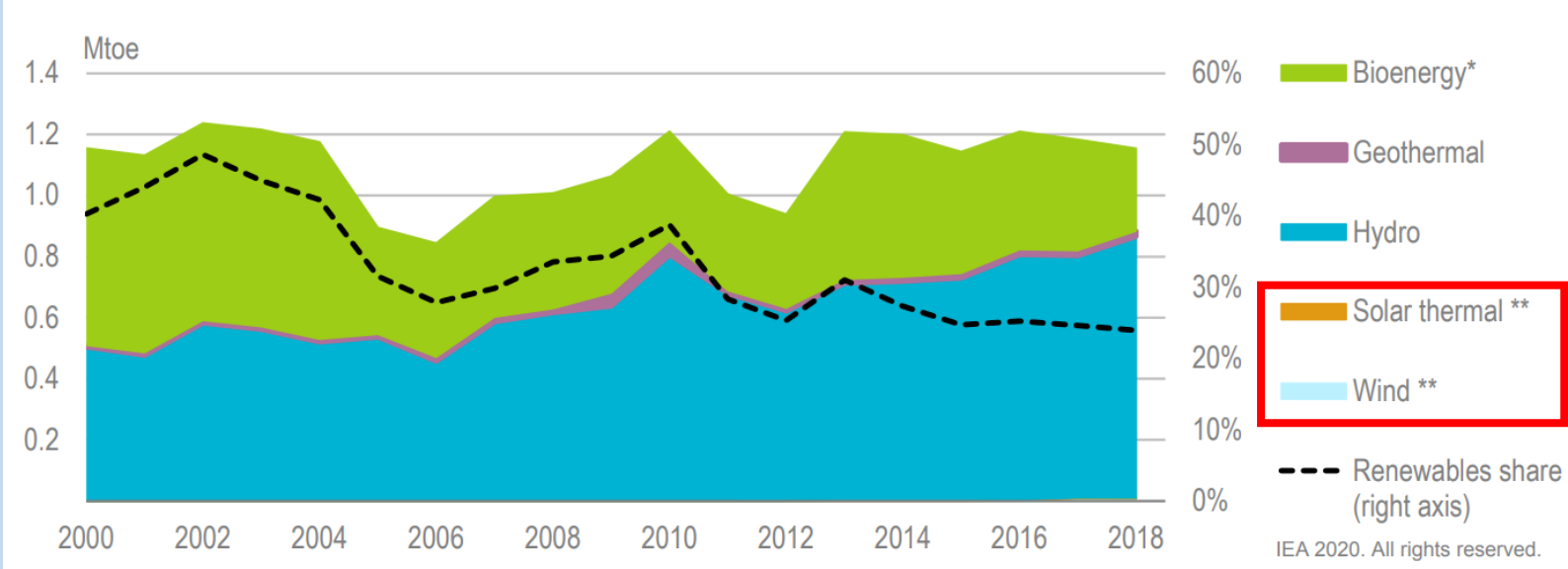
Source: IEA (2019), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fuel Combustion (database), [www.iea.org/statistics](http://www.iea.org/statistics).

energy intensity improved, then worsened



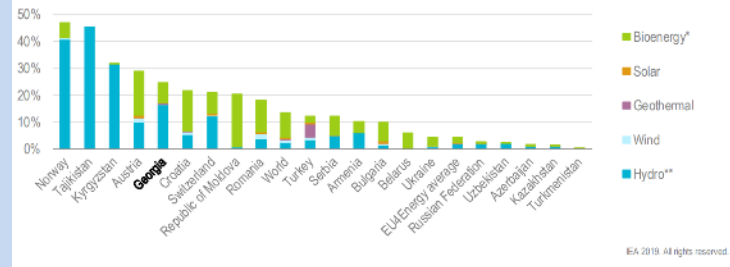
# Examples from Georgia, is more possible?

Figure 9.2 Renewable energy in Georgia's TPES, 2000-18



While Georgia ranks high ...

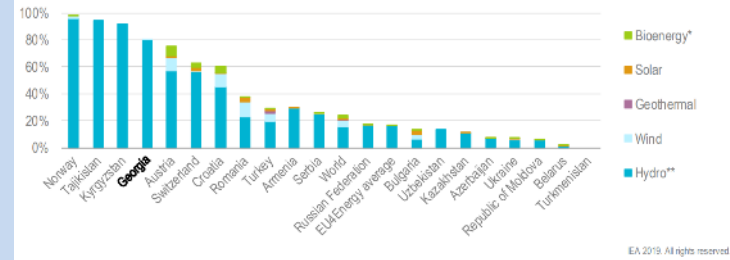
Figure 9.4 Renewable energy shares in TPES of selected countries, 2017



Georgia's share of renewables in the TPES (almost 30%) is two times higher than the world average.

\* Includes solid biofuels, renewable waste, liquid biofuels and biogases.  
 \*\* Includes hydropower (excluding pumped storage) and tidal, wave and ocean energy.  
 Source: IEA (2019), *World Energy Balances 2019*, [www.iea.org/statistics](http://www.iea.org/statistics).

Figure 9.6 Renewable energy in electricity generation in selected countries, 2017



Georgia's renewable share in electricity generation (almost 80%) is notably higher than the world average of just above 20%.

\* Includes solid biofuels, renewable waste, liquid biofuels and biogases.  
 \*\* Includes hydro power (excluding pumped storage) and tidal, wave and ocean energy.  
 Source: IEA (2019), *World Energy Balances 2019*, [www.iea.org/statistics](http://www.iea.org/statistics).

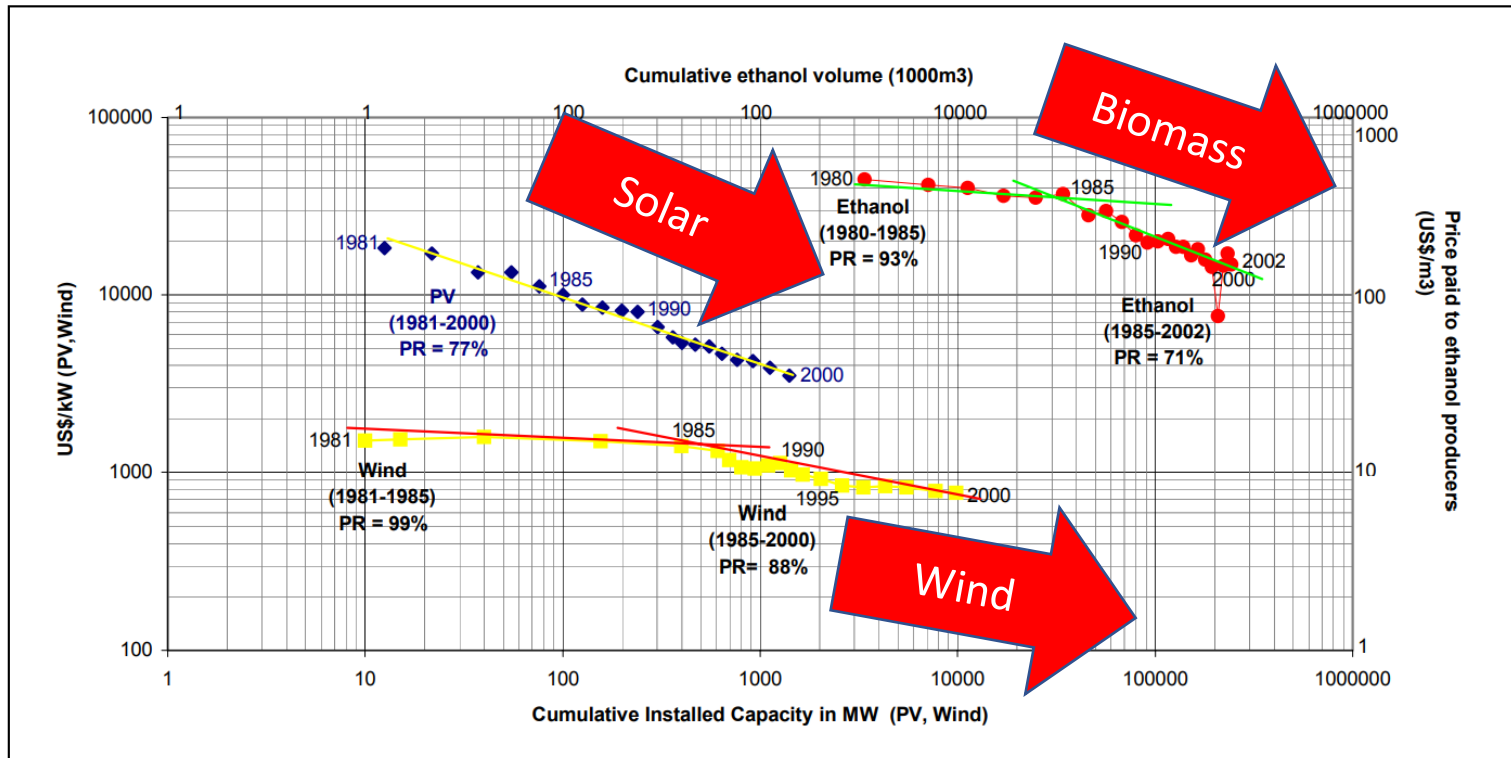
Bioenergy and hydro are currently Georgia's main renewable energy sources.

\* Includes solid primary biofuels  
 \*\* Not visible at this scale.  
 Note: Mtoe = million tonnes of oil equivalent  
 Source: IEA (2020), *World Energy Balances 2020* (database), [www.iea.org/statistics](http://www.iea.org/statistics).

Solar & wind: too small to be seen NOW!

# Prices for renewables decrease strongly

Figure 1: Experience Curves for Photovoltaics, Windmills, and Ethanol Production

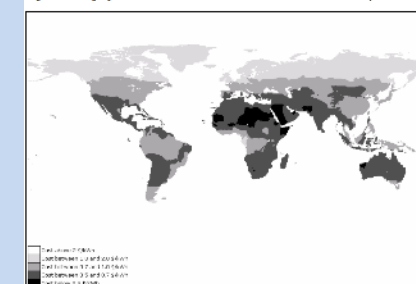


Sources: for wind turbines, L. Neij, P. Dannemand Andersen, M. Durstewitz, P. Helby, M. Hoppe-Kilpper, and P.E. Morthorst, Experience Curves: A Tool for Energy Policy Assessment (2003); for photovoltaics, V. Parente, R. Zilles, and J. Goldemberg, "Comments on Experience Curves for PV Modules," Progress in Photovoltaics: Research and Applications, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd (2002); for ethanol, J. Goldemberg, S.T. Coelho, P. M. Nastari, and O. Lucon, "Ethanol Learning Curve: The Brazilian Experience," Biomass and Energy (Submitted for publication).

Source: <https://ren21.net/Portals/0/documents/irecs/renew2004/The%20Potentials%20of%20Renewable%20Energy.pdf>

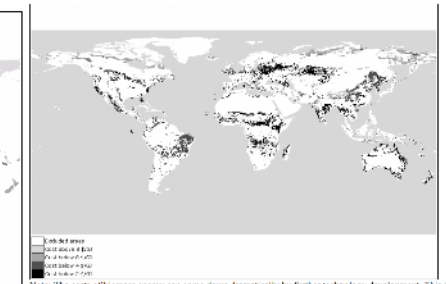
With increasing capacity installed, **prices** for solar, wind and biomass energy) **decrease** considerably – and already overtook attractiveness of fossil fuels as of now!

Figure 3: Geographical Distribution of Present Costs for Solar Electricity



Note: The costs of PV electricity can come down dramatically by further technology development. Source: Hoogwijk, M., de Vries, B., Winkler, J. & Tuckersburg, W. Submitted for publication. Assessment of the global and regional technical and economic potential of photovoltaic energy.

Figure 4: Geographical Distribution of Present Costs for Biomass Energy



Note: The costs of biomass energy can come down dramatically by further technology development. This image is available in greater detail that shows specific regions. Source: Hoogwijk, M., de Vries, B., Winkler, J. & Tuckersburg, W. Submitted for publication. Potential of green biomass for energy under four land-use scenarios.



# Examples from Georgia: the IEA assessment

## Assessment

Georgia has vast renewable energy resources, but there has been no comprehensive assessment of their economic potential. Although hydropower sites have been inventoried,<sup>31</sup> there seems to be no systematic resource assessment indicating potential locations for the construction of HPPs or other RES plants. Such an assessment should be done using a comprehensive methodology that analyses production potential, cost of deployment for individual renewable technologies by region, the existing and planned grid, estimated environmental and social impacts, and resource-sharing across sectors. In assessing hydropower potential, alternative water uses – for irrigation, drinking, tourism, etc. – should be considered, as well as projections of climate change effects. Site selection should be made public and transparent to give clear signals to investors.

Georgia's net metering programme for small-scale RES installations (less than 100 kW) is off to a good start. The incentives have begun to attract small business and household investments in rooftop PV, and total capacity had reportedly reached 1.2 MW by September 2019. These distributed generation sources have numerous benefits, including network loss reductions (because the energy is generated close to where it is consumed) and improved energy security (because many small generation sources are less likely to fail simultaneously, compared with one large generation source with a complex delivery system). However, seizing these opportunities may require that changes be made to connection codes, regulations and market rules. It is important that the government keep this in mind as Georgia's power market reform advances.

Regarding medium- and large-scale projects, the PPAs introduced in 2008 offered predictable conditions and a protective framework for investors. They successfully attracted hydropower investment even though the allocation of PPAs and price determination were not transparent. Because of the high fiscal liability created by them, however, they have been abolished. No new RES support schemes had been introduced as of late 2019 to replace PPAs for medium- and large-scale projects, although the MoESD is studying several mechanisms.

### Box 9.1 Barriers to RES development in Georgia

In 2019, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) assessed barriers to RES development in Georgia, and the developers and investors surveyed reported the following problems:

- Complex administrative procedures, and a lack of clarity and certainty about some processes.
- Lack of guaranteed offtake at an attractive price or alternate support. The cap of USD 0.06/kWh in the new PPAs for HPPs is considered unattractive by investors.
- Uncertainties about the structure and functioning of the new electricity market, which is a risk.
- Grid connection delays and refusals for small projects; inappropriate connection points for larger ones.
- Opposition of the local population.
- Lack of hydrology data and resource assessments for other RESs.

Source: Data provided at meeting with donors and IEA, 2 October 2019, Tbilisi.



JOA  
RES

The Energy and Water Supply Law and the Law of Georgia on Promoting the Production and Use of Energy from Renewable Sources were approved by the Georgian government in late 2019 after the review mission took place. The next step would be to put in place the relevant secondary legislation. Until then, framework conditions and legal certainty for investors will remain insufficient and investment in RESs will therefore likely continue to stall.

To comply with the EU acquis, Georgia should introduce market-based support schemes for RESs to ensure the smooth integration of renewable-energy generators into the future power market. Even during the transition period – i.e. before the electricity market is fully functional – competitive and transparent mechanisms for RESs can be put in place. Auctions could be a good option, and to limit the risk of collusion, annually adjusted price caps could be introduced.

Although the government adopted the Energy Strategy in October 2019, the country still lacks a comprehensive document of the work process to develop a strategic vision, specific targets, and clear and transparent prioritisation of development projects, especially for RESs. This adds to uncertainty about the future of RESs in Georgia.

The development of targeted strategies needs to be underpinned by good data. The Georgian government should therefore produce and publish comprehensive data on renewables following international standards (e.g. the UN International Recommendations for Energy Statistics), including:

- Resource data for different RESs (e.g. solar and wind atlas).
- Deployment data for individual renewable technologies under specific policy mechanisms.
- Deployment cost data (e.g. in terms of levelised cost of energy).

The whole process – from the selection of projects, gathering of data for project evaluation and planning, to negotiating terms and conditions with the government – is a complicated and lengthy process. There is a lack of co-ordination within and among the different government agencies, and there is no single point of contact or one-stop shop. The licensing process should therefore be streamlined and co-ordination among government agencies improved through establishment of a one-stop shop. The newly established Public-Private Partnership Agency could assume this role.

The lack of water-use permits and only symbolic water-use fees have created a legal and contractual gap that hinders the resolution of conflicts over water use, both upstream and downstream. Water rights have not yet been a serious issue as most HPPs are run-of-river installations and their sites neither have use of the river upstream nor affect downstream irrigation. However, as more HPPs are added (some with storage capacity), issues and conflicts over water use may well emerge. Also, as Georgia is required to align its regulations with the EU Water Framework Directive, which has some rather strict provisions, the government and policy makers are encouraged to continue working towards integrated river basin management.

Growing opposition to new HPPs by NGOs and local populations stems from the environmental and social impacts of these plants as well as some implementation flaws. In some cases, opposition is caused by a lack of understanding, whereas in others the assessments of environmental and/or social impacts do not correspond to international standards of quality. Clear government commitment to the development of certain

hydropower projects, coherent communication with local communities, and better-quality impact assessments could help facilitate the development of new projects.

An issue that requires urgent attention at the highest policy level is the unsustainable use of biomass. Illegal biomass use has devastated Georgia's forests, especially around towns and villages and in the vicinity of forest roads. The disappearance of biomass resources results in biodiversity loss, landslides and land erosion, flash floods and greater energy poverty.

The government should therefore enhance efforts to ensure the replacement of unsustainable biomass use by more viable alternative solutions, keeping in mind that the transition to more modern fuels can be financially challenging for households. First, the ongoing forestry reform should be accelerated to implement robust forest resource management. Second, the use of waste and residue resources should be supported, for example by developing logistical solutions and targeted support mechanisms for small businesses. Third, more efficient stoves should be introduced along with other energy efficiency measures to reduce consumption.

As climate change is making it more challenging to generate renewable energy from water and biomass, its impact on hydropower production should be assessed and Georgia's reliance on hydropower could be reduced through the development of other RESs. Hydropower development should be incorporated into the wider context of water resource management and climate change adaptation.

## Recommendations

### The Government of Georgia should:

- Ensure that the NREAP and the overall national **Energy Strategy** have a strategic vision for RES development, including production targets for hydropower and other RES technologies, and that a transparent methodology is used to prioritise RES projects on the basis of this strategic vision.
- Establish a monitoring and reporting system to produce and publish comprehensive data on renewable resources, the deployment of RES technologies under specific policy mechanisms and the cost of deployment.
- Create competitive and transparent mechanisms, such as auctions, to attract investment for RES projects, and consider setting price caps as part of an auction mechanism.
- Clarify and streamline the authorisation and licensing process for new RES plants, for example by establishing a single point of contact.
- Define a transparent communication strategy for contentious RES projects and support project developers with awareness-raising campaigns and stakeholder involvement.
- Develop and apply a methodology for comprehensive resource assessment and identification of RES potential to select the best locations for RES plants, taking environmental and social impacts into account.
- Enhance efforts to stop the unsustainable use of forest wood.

# The new mindset

**Table 12: Renewable Energy Paradigms**

Old Paradigm	New Paradigm
Technology assessment	Market assessment
Equipment supply focus	Application, value-added, and user focus
Economic viability	Policy, financing, institutional, and social needs and solutions
Technical demonstrations	Demonstrations of business, financing, institutional and social models
Donor gifts of equipment	Donors sharing the risks and costs of building sustainable markets
Programs and intentions	Experience, results, and lessons
Cost reductions	Competitiveness on the market place

Adapted from: Martinot, E., Chaurey, A., Lew, D., Moreira, J.B. & Wamukonya, N. 2002. Renewable Energy Markets in Developing Countries. Annual Review of Energy and the Environment. 27: 309-348.





## Global evolution as seen by evolutionists

# Energy systems ... mirror ... social systems



Pyramids = *vertical*



Noosphere = *horizontal*



# Energy systems ... mirror ... social systems



**Centrally** planned energy systems:  
nuclear, fossil –  
need strong protection



**Distributed** energy systems:  
solar, efficiency improvements





# What are the obstacles to a renewable energy future?

Our survey in a typical post-socialist country (Ukraine) yielded answers:

- The **key obstacles for further Renewable Energy increase** were identified to belong to the following main five groups:

1. **Financial**, e.g. how to obtain suitable and cheap credits
2. **Administrative**, e.g. how to master the complex application process
3. **Technological**, e.g. types of RES installations and how to choose them
4. **Social**, e.g. energy cooperatives
5. **Fact-based information** on RES



# Can we reach the target?

# How?



# What was going on in Europe in 2019?



Youth says: **we** are now the “good examples” for you!







Alexander

Source: Kleine Zeitung





After these demonstrations, in 2020, the **political result** was: “**EU Green Deal**”!

- ... a respectful result for engaged European Youth!

- *Hopes turned into a political plan:*

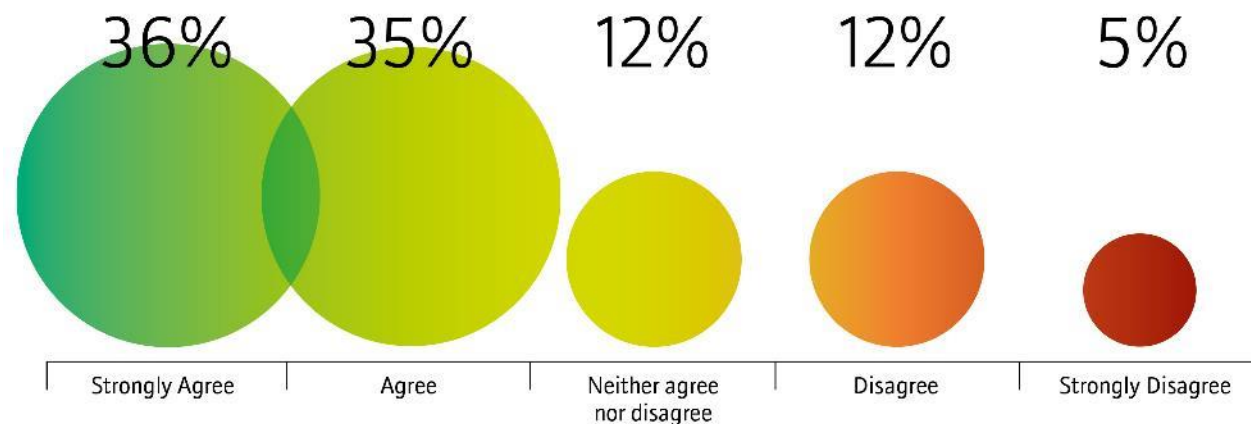
- Climate neutrality
- Clean, reliable & affordable energy
- Financing the transition
- “Leave no one behind”



# ARE WE ALL REALISTS? – WHAT EXPERTS THINK:

- 71% agree that a transition to 100% renewable energy is globally feasible

Is the transition to 100% renewables on a global level feasible and realistic?



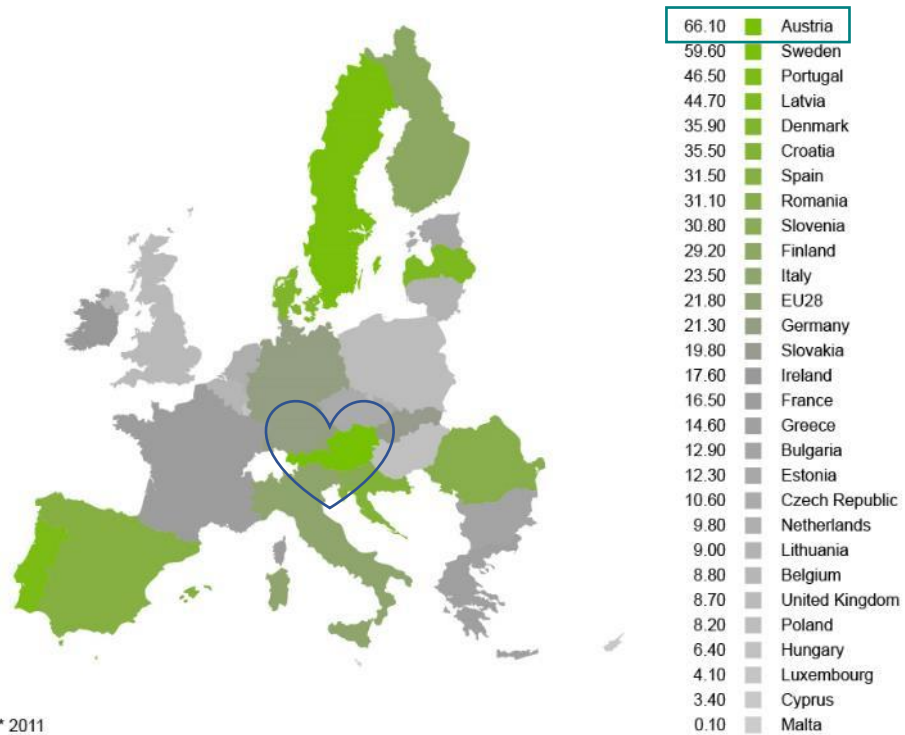
(114 expert interviewees from energy institutions worldwide)



# AUSTRIA IS A NUMBER 1: TODAY'S REALITY

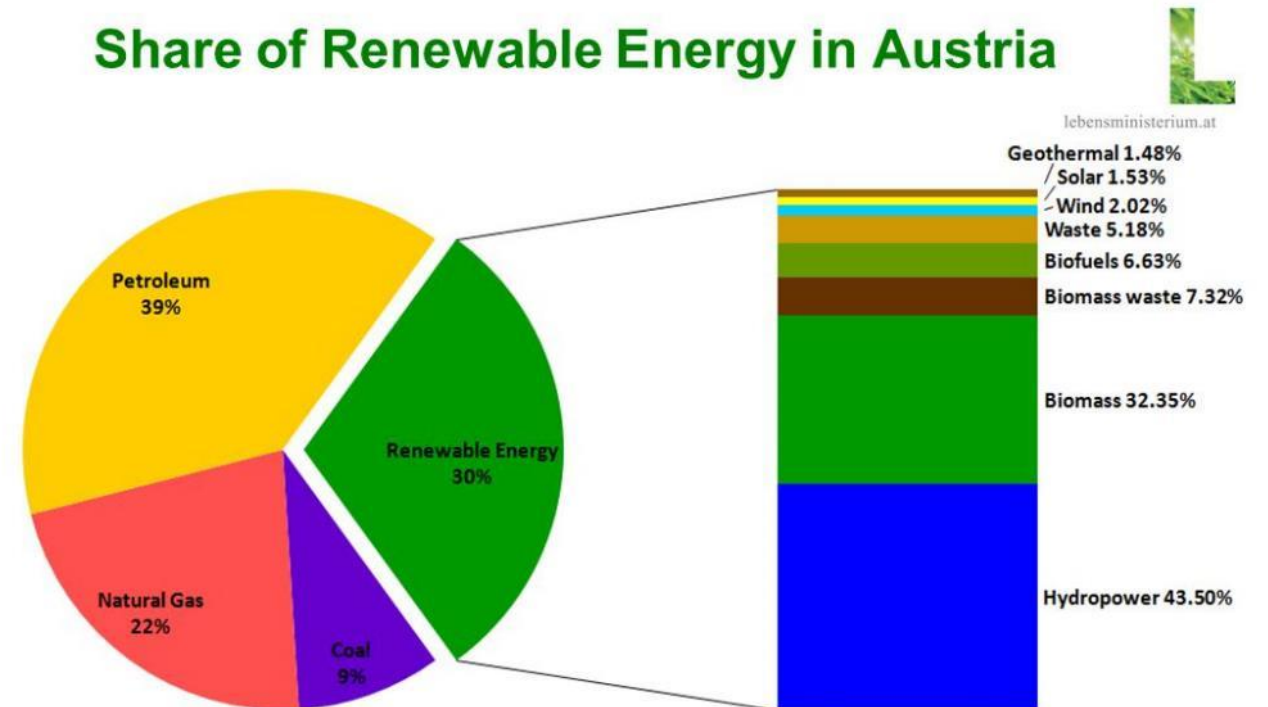
## Austria No. 1 for Renewable Electricity Generation in the EU

Share of electricity consumption in the EU from renewable energy sources\* (in %)



\* 2011

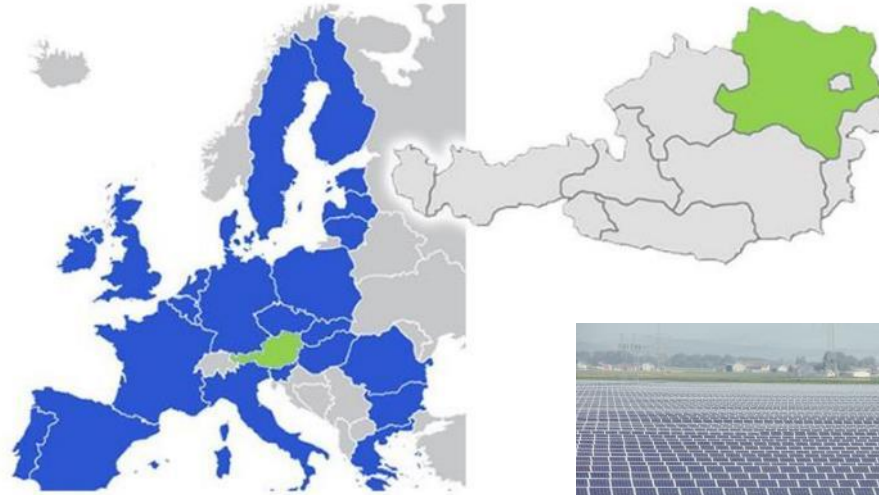
## Share of Renewable Energy in Austria



# LOWER AUSTRIA: 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY

- All electricity in Austria's largest federal state is now produced from renewables
- Hydroelectric power, wind energy, biomass and solar provide 100% of electricity for 1.65 million people

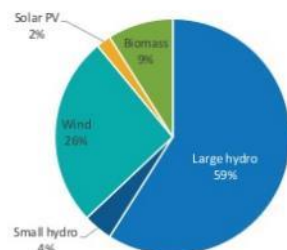
Lower Austria ... one of nine federal states in Austria



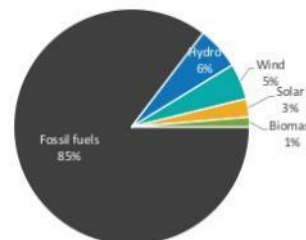
GO100%  
RENEWABLE ENERGY  
www.go100percent.org

100% renewable energy is not a fantasy for someday, but a reality today.

Lower Austria:  
100% Renewable Energy



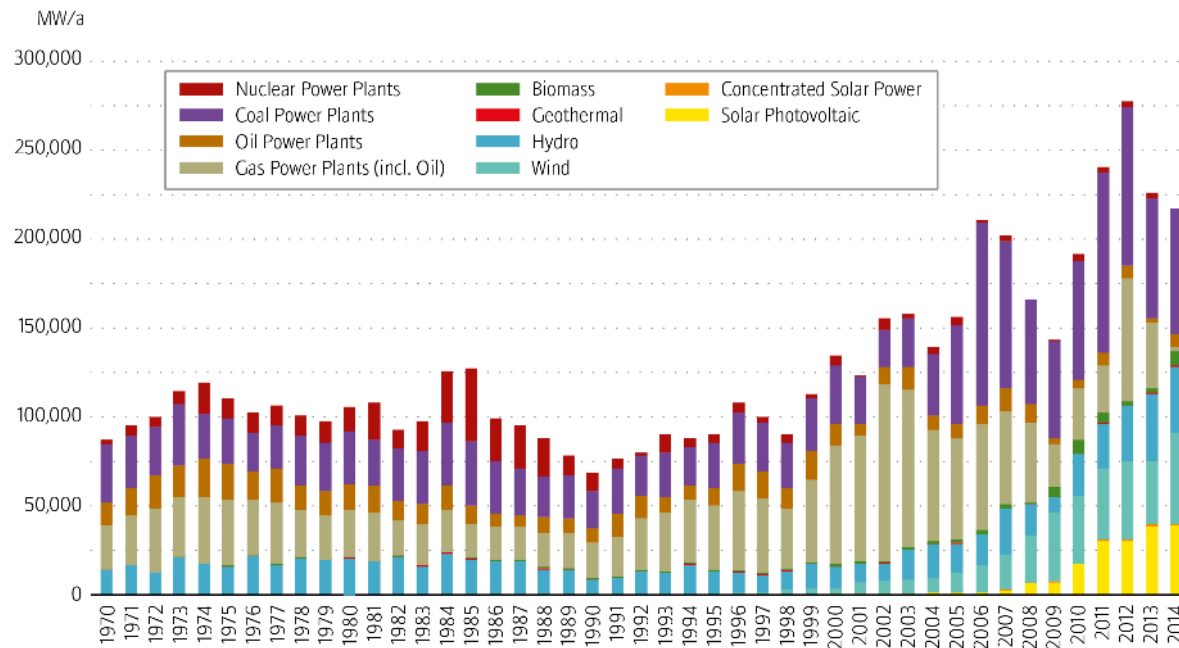
Austria:  
14.6% Renewable Energy





# WORLDWIDE: WHAT DOES REAL MARKET TELL US?

Global power plant market, 1970 – 2014



Fuels for **new** power plants:

- Gas and Oil: ↓↓
- Nuclear: ↓↓
- Solar: ↑↑
- Wind: ↑↑
- Hydro: ↑↑

Renewables Global Futures Report Great debates towards 100 % renewable energy

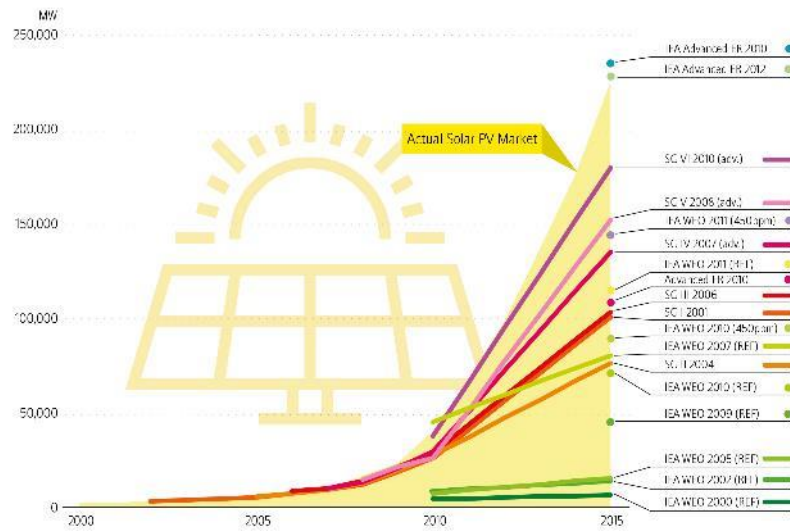


Source: Data: Platts, GWEC, SolarPowerEurope, REN21, Greenpeace, Data compilation: Dr. Sven Teske, UTS/ISF

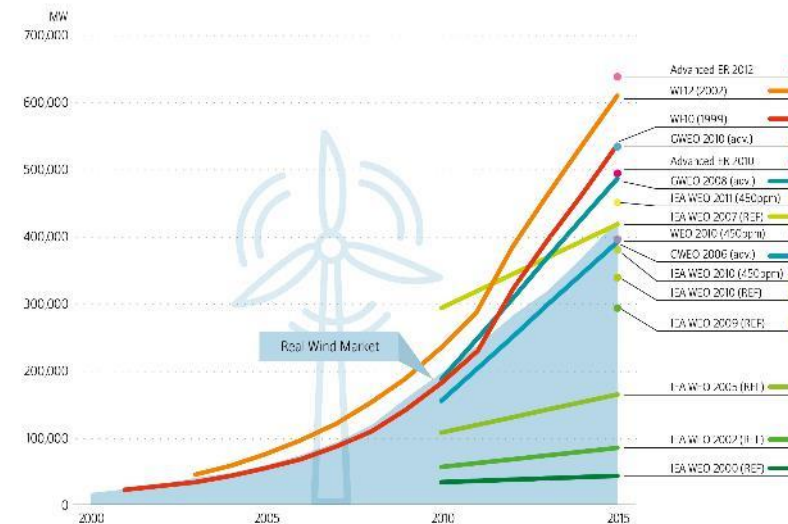
# DID SCENARIOS TRULY TELL THE FUTURE?

- For solar (and wind), earlier scenarios were even **“under-optimistic”!**

Solar photovoltaic projections versus real market developments



Wind power projections versus real market developments





## My personal conclusion:

**The energy system is the  
*manifestation of values*  
of the societal system.**

*I suggest: Self-responsible, reliable, sustainable, democratic values*





ევროკავშირი  
საქართველოსთვის  
The European Union for Georgia



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