

AN OVERVIEW OF THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE GEOTHERMAL ENERGY IN EUROPE AND SERBIA

by

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In this paper the relevant legislation for the geothermal energy in the European countries and Serbia is reviewed. There is a variety of the incentives for the geothermal production which are well known throughout the European Union. The governmental policies for the support of the geothermal development have so far focused on the power generation only. It is necessary to make serious efforts in order to harmonize the legislation and to simplify the procedures of establishing and implementing the policies for boosting the direct use of the geothermal energy.

The Law on Energy of the Republic of Serbia which was adopted by the Parliament and the Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2015 have defined the privileged power producers, but only by passing the Regulation on the incentive measures for the production of electricity using the renewable energy sources combined with the production of electricity and the thermal energy, which came into force on January 1st 2010.

Key words: *geothermal energy, geothermal legislation, support mechanisms*

Introduction

The use of the alternative sources of energy nowadays is a very important factor for the sustainable economic development. With the increasing world population today the world's electricity consumption has reached 17,000 TWh (2008) and increases each year by over 1.5%, so it is very difficult to meet the growing energy needs by relying only on the traditional energy sources (oil, coal, natural gas) [1]. In the European Union countries an act on the renewable energy resources was passed in 2004 (The Directive 2001/77/ES [2]), which stimulates the building of the facilities for the production of electricity from the renewable energy sources with the aim to increase the share of that kind of energy by 20% by 2020.

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