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# Regulatory and Energy Assistance

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **ELECTRICITY SECTOR TESTED MARKET PROCESSES IN BiH**

Vlašić, December 6, 2012 – USAID Regulatory and Energy Assistance Project (USAID REAP) organized in Vlašić, Bosnia and Herzegovina a Workshop on Market Processes in the Electricity Sector on December 5 and 6. The Workshop was opened by USAID/BiH Mission Director David Barth, and the attendees were representatives of all major stakeholders in the electricity sector in BiH, including the state and entity ministries in charge of electricity, the three regulatory commissions for electricity, Brčko District Utility Company, the three Elektroprivredas, the Independent System Operator and Elektroprenos BiH.

As of January 2015, the electricity Market in BiH will be open for all customers, including households. That means that each electricity consumer will be able to purchase electricity in the market, inside the country or from abroad, if they find an offer that is better than their current one. However, in order for the customers to be actually able to do so, the market processes and the relations between all the market participants have to be established and clearly set out for the public to understand them.

“As we move to an open market and commercial electricity prices, you should remember and take special care to mitigate the impact on the country’s most vulnerable populations. We must demand that the government ensure that any plan to open the electricity market includes provisions to protect our most vulnerable citizens.” – said David Barth, USAID BiH Mission Director in his opening remarks.

The participants of the Workshop on Market Processes considered a hypothetical case where a customer wants to be supplied with electricity by an independent supplier. That way the attendees tested if open market processes are really established and whether they are clear and transparent. At the end of this two-day workshop the attendees agreed on the missing processes and legislation as well as the next steps that need to be undertaken to improve the functioning of a competitive electricity market.

“The workshop was practical and helped the sector understand what needs to be done to have an orderly and successful competitive electricity market.” – concluded Sanela Pokrajčić, member of Regulatory Commission for Electricity in FBiH.

To date, the U.S. Government, primarily through USAID, has provided almost \$1.6 billion in assistance to support economic, democratic and social progress in BiH. For more information about USAID, visit <http://bosnia.usaid.gov> or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/USAIDBIH](http://www.facebook.com/USAIDBIH).

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