

PRESS RELEASE

Kick-off of BES, the Balkan Energy School

In Albania the first General Assembly of the association based at ARERA

Milan, 31 March 2023 - The first General Assembly of the *Balkan Energy School* – BES, the Association based in Milan at ARERA, consisting of the regulatory authorities of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Montenegro and North Macedonia and chaired by the member of the ARERA Board Stefano Saglia, was held on 29 March in Tirana, Albania in Tirana, at the Albanian regulator ERE.

BES was born from the experience of the KEP (Know How Exchange Programme) project, promoted and coordinated by ARERA as part of the Central European Initiative (CEI) funding program with the aim of supporting the harmonization of the regulatory framework at regional level, supporting the development of the Balkan energy market and its effective integration at European level.

ARERA thus expands its international activity already carried out in the field of Acer, Ceer, Medreg, Ecrb, Icer, Wareg.

During the meeting, the plan of activities for 2023 was approved, which will provide for the organization of seminars and conferences during the year on topics useful to promote the integration of Euro-Balkan markets.

In addition, at the headquarters of the *Residence of Italy* in Tirana, the project of exchange of technical knowledge and *capacity building* co-financed by the intergovernmental forum Central European Initiative with beneficiary the Albanian regulator "*Supporting the Albanian Regulatory Authority to improve the efficiency of the wholesale electricity market*" was presented. The project implemented within the BES activities will focus on the evolution of the Albanian electricity market following the entry into operation of the ALPEX electricity exchange. The first seminar under the BES activity plan was also held in Tirana on 30 March.