

Gas operators release a new Central European investment plan (CEE GRIP)

GAZ-SYSTEM together with TSOs of the CEE region are pleased to publish the Gas Regional Investment Plan 2019 (CEE GRIP) which provides a specific regional view of supply, demand and capacity developments in the CEE region for the upcoming decade.

The Gas Regional Investment Plans are prepared to promote regional cooperation as enshrined in Directive 2009/73/EC, Article 7 and further detailed by Regulation 715/2009, Article 12. The aim of CEE GRIP 2019 is to support and add to the previously published EU-wide Ten-Year Network Development Plan 2018 (TYNDP 2018) prepared by the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG). The goal is to provide additional information focusing on the CEE region and to emphasize the regional gas infrastructure outlook by assessing the basis for identification of potential future gas infrastructure needs in the region.

Beyond the TYNDP 2018, the CEE GRIP provides an additional overview of broader gas market dynamics by looking at aspects linked to supply scenarios, market integration, and the security of supply (SoS) on the regional level. The key analysed areas which formed the main focus of this report are:

- the future development of gas infrastructure in the CEE region,
- specific simulations of network modelling to assess market integration and SoS,
- the development of a regional approach to SoS demand and supply scenarios,
- CEE GRIP Regional N-1 analysis up to a 10-year-time frame.

On top of that, the present edition of the CEE GRIP takes a closer look at the role played by natural gas in Central-Eastern Europe to build low-emission economies and meet the climate and energy objectives of the European Union in the long-term perspective. Considering the dependence of the CEE region on carbon intensive fuels, it is of paramount importance to fully exploit the potential of infrastructures and assets available in the EU and meet the EU climate and energy objectives in an efficient and affordable manner. To this end, the report makes an assessment how natural gas may contribute towards ensuring emission reductions and mitigation of air quality problems in the CEE region based on selected case studies.

In relation to the planned investments of GAZ-SYSTEM which have been included in CEE GRIP 2019, including in particular the cross-border interconnections with Ukraine and the Czech Republic, we would like to inform that at the time of preparing the report, no investment decision was taken to continue the implementation of the above mentioned projects and discussions with the adjacent operators were ongoing. However, on the date of publication of this report, it should be borne in mind that:

- the connection with the Czech Republic is currently subject to the 2019 incremental procedure,
- a decision was taken not to build a new connection to the Ukrainian system.

The CEE GRIP working group is launching a post-publication consultation on the CEE GRIP and that is why the member TSOs would like to encourage all stakeholders and other interested parties to provide their proposals and comments in the open public consultation process. The consultation process will be open until 24 March 2020. **All remarks along with relevant comments on the CEE GRIP should be sent in English by 24 March 2020 to Sylvia Angyalová (sylvia.angyalova@eustream.sk).**

CEE GRIP 2019 is available [at the GAZ-SYSTEM website](#).

The CEE GRIP region covers 10 countries, with the involvement of 17 TSOs from Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

GAZ-SYSTEM is a strategic company for the Polish economy. It is responsible for the transmission of natural gas, manages the most important gas pipelines in Poland and owns the President Lech Kaczyński LNG Terminal in winouj cie.

As part of the 2015-2025 investment programme, GAZ-SYSTEM is constructing over 2000 km of new gas pipelines in the western, southern and eastern parts of Poland. Over a dozen new gas pipelines are under construction within the North-South Gas Corridor and the compressor station in K dzierzyn Ko le, as well as interconnections with Lithuania and Slovakia. Onshore gas pipelines are planned to connect the planned FSRU floating terminal in the Gulf of Gdansk with the national transmission system. The LNG Terminal in winouj cie is also being extended, as a result of which the regasification capacity of this facility will be increased by more than a half.

The company is also implementing one of the most important infrastructural projects in the country - the Baltic Pipe project which consists in the construction of a two-way offshore gas pipeline connecting Poland and Denmark, expansion of the local transmission network and three gas compressor stations.