



Digital Readiness of Central America's Energy Sector

SITUATION:

The Central American countries have committed themselves to a sustainable energy development. The region produces over 70% of renewable energy for electricity supply and – as a frontrunner in hydropower and geothermal energy – it is exploring its potential for expanding these technologies in a sustainable manner. All countries are connected through a unique regional grid, the Central American Electrical Interconnection System (SIEPAC for its acronym in Spanish), which provides security and reliability of service.

OBJECTIVE:

Recognizing the tremendous opportunities that digital solutions could provide to the energy sector in the region, particularly in grid integration and energy efficiency, the “Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency Program (4E) in Central America”, commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and in collaboration with its counterpart, the Central American Integration System (SICA) initiated a process to leverage digitalization in the energy sector in Central America.

APPROACH:

The “Digital Readiness Process” initiated in 2018 and consists of a series of activities and events. Central American stakeholders get to learn about digital opportunities in their respective field, exchange information with experts, receive advisory and eventually develop digital roadmaps and first prototypes using digital solutions.

Events included an introductory training on digitalization and blockchain for the energy sector in collaboration with the GIZ Blockchain Lab, a two-week study trip to Germany with high-level energy stakeholders from the region and a series of webinars conducted in collaboration with the Regional Committee of Central America and the Caribbean of the Regional Energy Integration Commission (CECACIER) on deep-dive topics, such as advanced analytics and Internet of Things (IoT).

A final step of the process is the development of a regional study, “Digital Readiness in the Central American Energy Sector: Benchmarking and Preparing for a Digital Future”.



APPLIED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY:

Introductory training on Big Data, blockchain and IoT for the energy sector in collaboration with the GIZ Blockchain Lab.

ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH DIGITALIZATION:

The study, "Digital Readiness in the Central American Energy Sector: Benchmarking and Preparing for a Digital Future", conducted in collaboration with Roland Berger, focuses on the current conditions and the identification of digital opportunities in the energy sector of six Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. It features input from almost 100 experts and data from extensive desk research. The outcome of the study was presented to relevant stakeholders from the energy value chain to address a vision and strategy for implementing digital technologies and to jointly develop country-specific roadmaps as recommendations.

As next steps, lessons learnt of the process will be shared with other regions and identified prototypes ("use cases") shall receive further support in their implementation.



For more information on the study: [Link](#)

POINT OF CONTACT:

Isabel von Griesheim

Head of Project

isabel.von-griesheim@giz.de

Address

Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency Program (4E) in Central America

GIZ Office San Salvador

Boulevard Orden de Malta, Casa de la Cooperación Alemana,

Urbanización Santa Elena, La Libertad, El Salvador, Central America

Country

El Salvador, Central America



IMPRINT

Published by
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36+40
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 228 44 60-0

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0

E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Responsible
Florian Moder, Henderikus Geert Velzing

Credits

© p.1+p.2 Study Trip "Digital Readiness of the Energy Sector", Berlin, Germany, 11/2019, @GIZ

© p.3 © p.3 Studie "Digital Readiness of the Energy Sector", @GIZ

Layout
SCHUMACHER – Brand + Interaction Design
www.schumacher-visuell.de

Place and date of publication
Eschborn, August 2020

More information

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/13518.html>

