

Residential Prosumers in the European Energy Union

EAHC/2013/CP/04

Mapping the legal and regulatory framework in the 28 Member States, Iceland and Norway

Bulgaria



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Residential Prosumers in the European Energy Union Bulgaria

General Description of the national legal and regulatory framework

Energy policy in Bulgaria is developed centrally at the national level. The energy sector is governed by the Energy Act¹ and the national energy strategy. Policy aimed at promoting the generation of energy from Renewable Energy Sources (RES) is outlined in the Energy from Renewable Sources Act² and the national action plan on renewable energy³. The main measures for promotion of electricity generation from RES are feed-in-tariffs and priority access to the grid. However, the relevant legislation has been amended several times since its first adoption, including with a controversial introduction of a tax on the sale of solar and wind energy that was later deemed anti-constitutional.

Overall, the legislative framework in Bulgaria does not distinguish between the different producers of electricity from RES and there are no specific provisions for prosumers or energy cooperatives. Some exemptions or simplified procedures exist for small installations of less than 30kW in buildings that are already connected to the network.

The general functioning of the energy market in Bulgaria is supervised by the Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (EWRC). Its responsibilities include ensuring compliance with signed contracts between energy producers and consumers and network operators and handling of complaints by producers and consumers against network operators.

In 2015, the total installed capacity of RES was 5,004 MW or 39% of the total installed capacity in the country. The largest share of RES was hydropower, followed by solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind installations. In the same year the installed capacity of wind energy was 701 MW, while the PV capacity was 1,041 MW⁴. However, further details about the types of RES producers are not available.

1. What types of residential prosumers are there in your country on the basis of type of RES used and size of the installation?

Information or statistics about residential prosumers in Bulgaria are not available.

¹ Last amended 30.12.2016 and available on the website of the Ministry of Energy: <http://www.me.government.bg/en/library/energy-act-256-c25-m258-1.html> (last accessed 13 January 2017).

² Last amended 18.12.2015 and available on the website of the Ministry of Energy: <http://www.me.government.bg/en/library/energy-from-renewable-sources-act-167-c25-m258-1.html> (last accessed 13 January 2017).

³ Dated December 2012 and adopted in January 2013 and available on the website of the Ministry of Economy and the Public Consultations Portal of the Council of Ministers: <http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=781> (last accessed 20 June 2017).

⁴ EWRC (2016) Annual report to the European Commission, July 2016, available at: http://www.dker.bg/PDOCS/EWRC_Report_EC_16.pdf (last accessed 19 January 2017).

2. What is the institutional framework & division of competences regarding residential prosumers in your country?

The main institutions⁵ responsible for energy and renewable energy policies in Bulgaria, including energy from prosumers, are:

- **Ministry of Energy** – which is generally responsible for the preparation and implementation of the national energy policies, strategies and action plans.
- **EWRC** – a state commission which supports the Ministry in the implementation of the energy policies and regulates the different energy and water supply activities e.g. licensing of companies to generate, transmit and supply energy; approval of conditions of and contracts for generation, access to the grid, transmission etc.; monitoring and control of compliance with these contracts and national regulations related to energy supply; regulation of prices such as access to the grid or end prices for the consumers. In the case of RES the EWRC decides on the preferential prices for the purchasing of electricity from RES, controls the connection of these sources to the grid, monitors and controls whether the transmission operators comply with the requirements for access of RES electricity to the market.
- **Sustainable Energy Development Agency (SEDA)** – an executive agency within the Ministry of Energy which supports it in the implementation of RES and energy efficiency policies. The SEDA supports the preparation of the national action plan on renewable energy, implements the activities necessary to fulfil the objectives and targets of the action plan, gathers and maintains data and statistics on RES in the country and supports the preparation of reports on the implementation of the national RES policies and plans.
- **Municipal and district councils⁶ and mayors** – they are responsible for the implementation of the national RES policies and plans in the territory of their districts, municipalities and cities/ towns.

Specific Questions on the regulatory framework for residential prosumers

3. What is the regulatory framework for residential prosumers in your country?

Energy policy in Bulgaria is developed centrally at the national level. In particular, renewable energy is governed by the following key policy documents:

- **Energy Act;**
- **Energy from Renewable Sources Act;**
- **Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria till 2020⁷;**
- **National Action Plan for the Energy from Renewable Sources.**

The promotion of energy from RES in Bulgaria, as defined in these legislative and strategic documents, is based on targeted support to the producers of RES energy. A few special regulations focused on simplifying the administrative procedures for small RES installations (up to 30kW) in urban areas are also available. However, neither of these regulations provides a definition or special objectives for residential prosumers.

⁵ As defined in the Energy from Renewable Sources Act, last amended 18.12.2015 and available on the website of the Ministry of Energy: <http://www.me.government.bg/en/library/energy-from-renewable-sources-act-167-c25-m258-1.html> (last accessed 13 January 2017).

⁶ Bulgaria is divided into 28 districts encompassing 264 municipalities governed by district and municipal councils. The districts are further grouped into six major regions for the purposes of the EU regional policy.

⁷ Dated and adopted in June 2011 and available on the website of the Ministry of Energy: <http://www.me.government.bg/en/themes/the-energy-strategy-of-the-republic-of-bulgaria-till-2020-147-295.html> (last accessed 13 January 2017).

3.1 What is the existing legislative framework regulating Renewable Energy Projects in your country?

Renewable energy in Bulgaria is governed by the following key policy documents:

- **Energy Act** - it lays down the general provisions for the functioning of the energy system in Bulgaria and covers the electricity, heat and gas markets.
- **Energy from Renewable Sources Act** – it complements the Energy Act by providing specific provisions for the generation and supply of energy from RES and covers electricity, heating and cooling, gas and biofuels.
- **Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria till 2020** - the national energy strategy reflects the political vision for the development of the Bulgarian energy sector, in line with the European energy policy framework.
- **National Action Plan for the Energy from Renewable Sources** – it provides further details for the objectives and measures to promote the generation of energy from RES.

3.2 Does the Renewables National Action Plan include any objectives for residential prosumers (if so, please specify)

The National Action Plan for the Energy from Renewable Sources does not include any specific objectives for residential prosumers.

3.3 Is there a definition (legal or regulatory) of residential prosumers (or self-consumption) in your country? If so, state it and describe the elements of this definition?

None of the key legislative and strategic documents listed in point 3.1 provide a definition of residential prosumers in Bulgaria. The Energy from Renewable Sources Act contains only a definition for ‘energy for self-consumption’ which is as follows:

Energy for self-consumption is the amount of energy used for supplying the buildings, branches and factories of the owner of the facilities and installations for production of energy from RES (as defined in point 1.7 of the section ‘Additional regulations’ in the Energy from Renewable Sources Act).

4. What are the permitting requirements for each type of residential prosumer?

Generally, the energy legislation and policy framework in Bulgaria do not make any distinctions between prosumers and other producers of renewable energy. All producers of electricity from RES are subject to the same requirements and fees for obtaining licenses to produce energy and participating in the power market. Some simplified procedures or lower fees exist only for small RES installations (up to 30kW) in urban areas.

4.1 Does your country recognize certain forms of self-consumption and subject prosumers to certain

- requirements,
- application fees and
- one-off costs

in order to give them a permit or licence to generate energy?

Generally, there is no distinction between the rules applied to (residential) prosumers and other RES producers. Each producer who plans to install generation systems from RES prepares an assessment of the renewable energy potential of the planned installation and submits requests with the network operators in the respective region for connection to the grid. The producers that plan to use installations smaller than 30kW of total capacity installed in buildings already connected to the grid do not need to prepare assessments of the resource potential and submit directly requests for '*studies of the conditions for connections to the grid*' with the network operators. The network operators then issue statements about the conditions for connection to the grid and the planned installations can be undertaken. Each year the EWRC publishes a list of the approved installations that can be connected to the grid by regions and electricity tension/ voltage categories⁸.

4.2 Does the national legal/regulatory framework determine the contractual conditions under which prosumers are allowed to feed or sell their surplus back into the grid or to other consumers?

Prosumers are subject to the same rules applicable to all other producers of RES. According to the Energy from Renewable Sources Act the contractual conditions under which RES producers can access the grid and sell power on the market are approved and supervised by the EWRC. Licensed RES producers sign contracts with network operators about connection to the grid and sale of electricity based on general conditions approved by EWRC. The implementation of these contracts is then supervised by the same commission⁹.

5. What are the rules applicable to the access to the grid?

Generally, the energy legislation and policy framework in Bulgaria do not make any distinctions between prosumers and other producers of renewable energy. All producers of electricity from RES are subject to the same requirements and fees for obtaining licenses to produce energy and participating in the power market. Some simplified procedures or lower fees exist only for small RES installations (up to 30kW) in buildings already connected to the grid.

5.1. What is the inter-connection configuration used for each type of residential prosumer?

The RES producers submit requests for connection to the grid with the operator of the electricity network responsible for regions where the RES installation will be connected. The RES producers subject to simplified procedures and/or exemptions (e.g. small installations of less than 30kW in buildings connected to the grid) can directly submit requests for '*studying the conditions for connection to the grid*' with the network operators in the region. The RES producers that plan to use the generated energy for self-consumption need to clearly state this in their requests. Network operators have 30 days to assess the requests and issue decisions as to the conditions for granting them access/ connection to the network. Based on the issued conditions contracts for connection to the grid can then be prepared and signed between the producer and the network operator.

The operators of the electricity networks responsible for regions where the RES installation will be connected have 30 days to assess the received requests and issue decisions as to the conditions for granting the producers access/ connection to the network. Once a positive decision is issued and the access conditions are defined, the RES producer must submit a request for the preparation of a draft contract to the same operator. The operator has 30 days to provide a draft contract. Once the contract is signed the operator prepares plans for the construction of the connection facilities, no later than 30 days after the contract signature. The operator then constructs the required facilities based on the deadlines agreed in the contract. Once the RES producer applies for

⁸ Art. 19, 22, 23 and 24 of the Energy from Renewable Sources Act.

⁹ Art. 26 and 29 of the Energy from Renewable Sources Act.

installation and connection of the RES generator the operator has 30 days to implement connect the RES generator to the grid.

Generally, the costs to connect to the grid are shared between the RES producers (for the costs and equipment necessary in the borders of their property) and the network operator (for the costs occurring outside the borders of the private property of the producer). In addition, some financial guarantees are made to the network operator in case delays or non-compliance with the contracts occur. However, in the case of small installations (less than 30kW) in buildings already connected to the network no guarantees are required and the grid connection cost is individual, it includes the expenses for construction of connection equipment and is determined by a methodology approved by EWRC. These small installations use the transmission and distribution networks to which the buildings are connected under general conditions approved by EWRC and published on the websites of the network operators¹⁰.

5.2. Does the competence to determine the inter-connection configuration lie at State level or at a regional/lander level?

The governance of the energy sector in Bulgaria is rather centralised. The general conditions that govern the contracts for connection and sale on the grid between RES producers and network operators are approved by the EWRC, which is a state commission. The technical specifications or conditions for the connection of RES producers to the grid are prepared by the network operators in the region where the connection has been requested.

5.3. Are there any rules to ensure that prosumers are inter-connected to the distribution network/the grid?

The incentives for promotion of electricity generation from RES outlined in the Energy from Renewable Energy Sources Act include:

- Guaranteed access to the transmission and distribution network for electricity from RES that is in line with the security requirements of the Energy Act;
- Guaranteed transmission and distribution of the electricity from RES that is in line with the security requirements of the Energy Act;
- Construction of necessary infrastructure for regulation of the power supply system;
- Priority with the dispatching of the electricity from RES in line with the security requirements of the Energy Act¹¹.

5.4. What are the grid access and grid use principles and rules for the energy generated by each type of residential prosumer?

There are no specific rules for grid access for residential prosumers. All producers of electricity from RES, with few exceptions, are subject to the same procedures as described in point 5.1 above. Similarly, the incentives listed in point 5.3 are aimed at all RES producers.

¹⁰ Art. 23-29 of the Energy from Renewable Sources Act.

¹¹ Art. 18 of the Energy from Renewable Sources Act.

5.5. What are the network costs and charges for each type of residential prosumer?

There are no specific rules for the network costs and charges for residential prosumers. All producers of electricity from RES, with few exceptions, are subject to the same procedures and fees as described in point 5.1 above.

6. What are the incentives (e.g. through taxes or tariffs) for each type of residential prosumers?

Generally, the energy legislation and policy framework in Bulgaria do not make any distinctions between prosumers and other producers of renewable energy. All producers of electricity from RES are subject to the same requirements and incentives, though, some simplified procedures or lower fees exist for small RES installations (up to 30kW) in buildings already connected to the grid.

The promotion of energy from RES in Bulgaria, as defined in the key legislative and strategic documents¹² referred to under question 3, is based on targeted support to the producers of RES energy. In particular, the key measures to promote electricity from RES include:

- guaranteed payoff with feed-in-tariffs – the generated electricity is purchased on preferential prices determined by the EWRC with long-term contracts of 20 years for the electricity from solar and geothermal energy and of 12-15 years for the electricity from other RES¹³;
- guaranteed purchase of the generated electricity – over 20 or less years depending on the RES;
- priority connection to the grid, transmission and distribution – RES power producers are guaranteed connection to the grid, transmission and distribution having to pay only the direct costs for connection to the transmission and/or distribution systems;
- credit incentives and compensation when access to the grid is limited on the fault of the grid operator.

These measures are further complemented by relief of the administrative procedures for small/ domestic RES generation installations e.g. no assessment of the RES potential is required and a simplified procedure for connection to the grid is available for RES installations smaller than 30kW on facades and rooftops of buildings and property in urban areas that are already connected to the grid.

The national energy strategy further states that specific support to private physical persons for construction of RES installations for household needs in buildings and higher direct financial support for construction of energy capacities to meet house consumption needs are available.

6.1. Does your country apply specific tariffs to prosumers

- to charge them for the electricity they draw from the grid for consumption?
- or to compensate them for the electricity they feed back into the grid?

¹² Energy Act, Energy from Renewable Sources Act, Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria till 2020 and National Action Plan for the Energy from Renewable Sources.

¹³ The National Action Plan for Energy from Renewable Sources from December 2012 (Table 5) indicates that the long-term contracts will be signed for 25 years for the electricity from solar and geothermal energy and for 15 years for the electricity from other RES. However, Art. 31(2) of the Energy from Renewable Sources Act stipulates that the long-term contracts will be signed for 20 years in the cases of solar and geothermal energy, 15 years for hydropower and other RES and 12 years for wind energy.

There are no tariffs which are specifically applicable to prosumers in Bulgaria to charge them for the electricity they draw from the grid for consumption.

Likewise, there are no specific tariffs to compensate prosumers for the electricity they feed back to the grid. The general incentives for promotion of electricity generation from RES outlined in the Energy from Renewable Energy Sources Act are applied:

- Guaranteed purchase of the electricity from RES over a determined period based on long-term contracts of 20 years (solar, geothermal and biomass energy), 15 years (hydropower less than 10MW installed capacity and other RES) and 12 years (wind energy);
- Preferential price for purchasing the electricity produced from RES valid for the whole duration of the purchasing contracts and unchanged until their end date.

In the case of small installations of less than 30kW in buildings already connected to the grid, the long-term contracts start from the date of signature of the electricity purchasing contracts. These contracts are not applied to RES producers that declare their production will be for self-consumption. However, electricity that has not been self-consumed by RES producers that declared for self-consumption can be purchased by distributors at prices determined by EWRC.

Each year the EWRC determines the preferential prices for purchasing of RES electricity from new producers by taking into account different variables e.g. type of RES, installed capacity and technology¹⁴. According to the most recent EWRC decision¹⁵ the preferential prices for small RES installations are:

- PV installations with installed capacity up to 5kW, installed on rooftops and facades: BGN 255.39 per MWh (excluding VAT) or approximately EUR 130.6 per MWh¹⁶;
- PV installations between 5kW and 30kW capacity, installed on rooftops and facades: BGN 213.92 per MWh (excluding VAT) or approximately EUR 109.4 per MWh.

6.2. Does your country

- tax prosumers in a specific way?
- allocate to them a certain part of the cost to upgrade the grid to accommodate the extra generation they feed into the grid?

Generally, and has referred to above¹⁷ there is no distinction between prosumers and other producers of electricity from RES. The provisions of the Energy from Renewable Sources Act stipulate that the costs for connection to the grid are shared between RES producers and network operators¹⁸. However, there are some exemptions for small installations up to 30kW in buildings already connected to the network, they are expected to bear only the individual costs for any new equipment and installations necessary for the connection.

Furthermore, as explained in point 5.3, the incentives for promoting electricity generation from RES includes the construction of necessary infrastructure for regulation of the power supply system. Nevertheless, in 2015 the EWRC accepted some special provisions for the energy from wind and solar sources that were requested by the transmission operator.

The variability of the renewable source and the resulting variations in the electricity supply lead to higher costs for regulation and balancing of the power market. Therefore, the transmission operator was allowed to request a price for the purchasing of wind and solar energy that takes into

¹⁴ Art. 18, 31, 32 of the Energy from Renewable Sources Act.

¹⁵ Decision 17 of the EWRC from 30.06.2016 regarding the preferential prices for purchasing the electricity from RES, available at: <http://www.dker.bg/files/DOWNLOAD/res-c17-2016.pdf> (last accessed 20 February 2017).

¹⁶ The prices are converted using the fixed exchange rate of 1 EUR = BGN 1.9558 as set by the EIB.

¹⁷ Passim.

¹⁸ For details see point 5.1.

account the higher balancing costs caused by the variability of resources¹⁹.

In 2014, the Energy from Renewable Sources Act was amended to introduce a 20% tax on income from the generation of energy from solar and wind sources. This amendment was declared anti-constitutional by the Constitutional Court in July 2014 and repealed as it breached the right to equal business opportunities²⁰.

7. What are the conditions that may encourage or act as barriers for residential prosumers (to entry into activity or during functioning)?

Generally, the energy legislation and policy framework in Bulgaria do not make any distinctions between prosumers and other producers of renewable energy. All producers of electricity from RES face the same potential barriers and incentives. Although, some simplified procedures or lower fees exist for small RES installations (up to 30kW) in buildings already connected to the grid, the incentives for promoting the generation of RES electricity are the same for all producers. Furthermore, there are no specific provisions for energy cooperatives or communities at municipal or national levels.

Overall, the incentives to encourage producers of electricity from RES are those outlined in the Energy from Renewable Energy Act²¹. The potential barriers are related to the administrative procedures necessary for being able to participate in the energy market and the changing policy framework as the renewable energy legislation has been amended since its first entry into force.

7.1. What are the metering systems for each type of residential prosumer? Do these systems provide adequate conditions for prosumers integration in the market?

The Bulgarian legislation does not include any specific provisions about the metering systems for producers of RES electricity in general or prosumers in particular. The minimum technical specifications that RES installations smaller than 30kW in buildings already connected to the grid need to comply with in order to be connected to the grid are defined by the EWRC²².

7.2. What are the billing conditions for each type of residential prosumer?

There are no specific provisions regarding the billing conditions of residential prosumers or other producers of RES energy.

7.3. Are there measures to encourage the creation of energy communities at municipal level, or other schemes to encourage inclusive development of the market?

There are no measures to encourage the creation of energy communities at municipal level or other schemes to encourage inclusive development of the market. There are also no provisions about energy from RES or energy communities at municipal level in general. The roles of the mayors

¹⁹ EWRC (2016) Annual report to the European Commission, July 2016, available at:

http://www.dker.bg/PDOCS/EWRC_Report_EC_16.pdf (last accessed 19 January 2017).

²⁰ Reuters (2014) Update 1 – Bulgaria's top court revokes 20 pct charge on solar, wind firms, available at:

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL6N0Q64NL20140731> (last accessed 18 January 2017).

²¹ See points 5.3 and 6.1.

²² Regulation No 6 from 24.02.2014 regarding the connection of producers and consumers of electricity to the transmission or distribution electricity networks, last amended and in force from 13.05.2016, available at:

<http://www.dker.bg/files/DOWNLOAD/naredba-6-24feb2014.pdf> (last accessed 19 January 2017).

and municipal councils outlined in the Energy from Renewable Sources Act include conducting information campaigns about the benefits and opportunities of RES among local citizens and simplifying the administrative procedures for ‘*small decentralised installations for the generation of energy from RES*’ to the extent possible²³. However, the national legislation does not provide further details.

- 7.4. Are there rules facilitating the creation of energy cooperatives to provide a legal entity to energy communities? Are there measures facilitating other type of schemes and if so which ones?

The national legislation does not include any specific provisions about energy cooperatives.

- 7.5. What are the procedures/provisions for establishing cooperatives for prosumers? Are they more simple/less costly than those for other schemes?

The national legislation does not include any specific provisions about energy (prosumer) cooperatives.

8. Other questions on the regulatory framework

- 8.1. What are the provisions for establishing a complaint procedure? What are the complaint handling procedures for each type of residential prosumer?

There are no specific procedures for complaint procedures for residential prosumers. All complaints by both producers and consumers against (transmission or distribution) network operators (e.g. regarding access to the system, pricing) are submitted to and handled by the EWRC, which supervises the compliance with the signed contracts about connection of producers and consumers to the grid and ensures competition on the energy market. The EWRC can either moderate voluntary resolutions of the received complaints or issue binding decisions about the non-resolved complaints within two months. When additional information is requested or needed, the procedure can be prolonged with two months. The decisions of the EWRC can be appealed at the Administrative Court.

The EWRC reports that only around 3% of the total complaints received in 2015 concerned problems of the producers of electricity from RES. The majority of the complaints concerned consumers challenging the amounts or quality of the energy they had been asked to pay²⁴.

- 8.2. Are there any specific redress procedures available only to residential prosumers?

There are no specific provisions for redress procedures for residential prosumers. All complaints by both producers and consumers against (transmission or distribution) network operators (e.g. regarding access to the system, pricing) are submitted to and handled by the EWRC, which supervises the compliance with the signed contracts about connection of producers and consumers to the grid and ensures competition on the energy market. If the EWRC deems any redress procedures necessary, these may be included in their decisions about received complaints.

²³ Art. 10, 11 of the Energy from Renewable Sources Act.

²⁴ EWRC (2016) Annual report to the European Commission, July 2016, available at: http://www.dker.bg/PDOCS/EWRC_Report_EC_16.pdf (last accessed 19 January 2017).

Country fiche (Summary and ranking)

The **country fiche** below summarises the information from the report and ranks the **level of favourable impact** of measures in relation to its favourable impact to the take up of residential prosumers.

Country fiche	Ranking Low/Medium/High²⁵
<i>General Description of the national regulatory framework</i> • A definition or statistics for the types of prosumers in Bulgaria is not available and generally no distinctions between RES producers are made. • The national RES policy and legislation is developed by the Ministry of Energy. The implementation of the policies is largely under the responsibility of the state Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (EWRC). • The renewable energy sector in Bulgaria is covered by the Energy from Renewable Sources Act and the National Action Plan for the Energy from Renewable Sources. However, there are no specific targets for (residential) prosumers.	Low Medium Low
<i>Specific Questions on the regulatory framework for residential prosumers</i>	
Permitting requirements for each type of residential prosumer According to the simplified procedures for small installations (less than 30kW) in buildings already connected to the grid, RES producers are exempted from the need to prepare an assessment of the available renewable resources on site.	High
Rules applicable to the access to the grid According to the simplified procedures for small installations (less than 30kW) in buildings already connected to the grid, RES producers need to request directly a ‘study of the conditions for connection to the grid’ without having to pay any financial guarantees to the network operators. Excluding the time needed for construction of the RES generator and the necessary grid connection facilities, the administrative procedure for connection to the grid for these small RES producers can take around 120 days. More specifically: the operators of the electricity networks responsible for regions where the RES installation will be connected have 30 days to assess the received requests and issue decisions as to the conditions for granting the producers access/ connection to the network. Once a positive decision is issued and the access conditions are defined, the RES producer must submit a request for the preparation of a draft contract to the same operator. The operator has 30 days to provide a draft contract. Once the contract is signed the operator prepares plans for the construction of the connection facilities, no later than 30 days after the contract signature. The operator then constructs the required facilities based on the deadlines agreed in the contract. Once the RES producer applies for installation and connection of	High

²⁵ The ranking has been set as “low” whenever provisions about prosumers are completely missing; “medium”, where the provisions are the same for all RES producers; “high” where (although not explicitly defined for prosumers) favourable provisions exist. In the case of “high” the criteria suggested in the template have also been considered.

the RES generator the operator has 30 days to implement connect the RES generator to the grid.	
Incentives (e.g. taxes and tariffs) for each type of residential prosumers All RES producers are subject to the same incentives outlined in the Energy from Renewable Sources Act. The main incentives are feed-in-tariffs and guaranteed access to the grid. Each year the EWRC determines the preferential prices for purchasing of RES electricity from new producers by taking into account different variables e.g. type of RES, installed capacity and technology. Currently the preferential prices are set at EUR 130.6 per MWh PV (excl. VAT) for PV installations with installed capacity up to 5kW, installed on rooftops and facades, and EUR 109.4 per MWh (excl. VAT) for PV installations between 5kW and 30kW capacity, installed on rooftops and facades.	Medium
Conditions encouraging or acting as barriers for residential prosumers There are no special provisions about the metering systems or billing of (residential) prosumers. There are also no provisions about energy communities at municipal level or energy cooperatives.	Low
Other questions on the regulatory framework There are no specific complaint or redress procedures for (residential) prosumers. All complaints from consumers or producers against the network operators are handled by the EWRC, which supervises the signed contracts and can issue binding decisions about the received complaints within two months of the receipt of the complaints. When additional information is requested, this period can be prolonged with two months. The decisions of the EWRC can be appealed at the Administrative Court but there is no specific information about the duration of such procedures.	Medium

Executive summary

In Bulgaria, energy policy, including renewable energy policy, is developed centrally at the national level. The legislative framework **does not distinguish between the different producers of electricity** from renewable sources and the same incentives, rules and fees apply to all renewable energy producers for obtaining licenses to produce energy and participating in the power market. There is also **no specific definition of ‘energy prosumers’ or specific provisions** for prosumers or energy cooperatives. The main measures for promotion of electricity generation from renewable sources are **feed-in-tariffs and priority access to the grid**. The power from renewable sources is also purchased at preferential rates for a certain period of time set for each type of renewable source.

However, the legislation concerning the incentives for promotion of renewable energy has been amended several times since its first adoption, including the controversial introduction of a tax on the sale of solar and wind energy that was later deemed unconstitutional. Some exemptions, **simplified administrative procedures or lower fees** exist only for small installations of less than 30kW in buildings that are already connected to the grid (e.g. no assessments of the renewable energy potential on site or financial guarantees to the network operations are required for such installations). There are also no specific complaint or redress procedures for (residential) prosumers. All complaints from electricity consumers or producers against the network operators are handled by a state commission, which supervises the signed contracts and can issue binding decisions about the received complaints within two months of the receipt of the complaints.