



EUROPE GREECE

Greece energy market in 2021 was highly affected by Europe's Gas crisis, leading to unprecedentedly high energy prices/ This directly affects all levels of residential and business customers, but especially low income and energy poor households and energy intensive businesses. Greek energy leaders have selected **Geopolitics, Commodity Prices, Economic Growth and Affordability** as critical uncertainties and highlighted **Renewable Energies, Electric Storage Innovation, Energy Efficiency and Market Design & Regulations** as action priorities.

Geopolitics appears as the highest critical uncertainty for Greece's energy leaders reflecting the impact of geopolitical tensions in the Russia-Ukraine front along with the reviving turbulences in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Gas prices surging all over Europe highly affected the country's gas-dependent electricity production industry. The continuous rise of fuel prices coupled with the lack of **Raw Materials** due to Covid-19 pandemic, are affecting all industries horizontally and creating a high-risk environment for investors.

The **affordability** of energy and basic consumer goods is affected greatly by the energy crisis as well, leading to the high uncertainty shown in the results.

A social tariff scheme applies to protect vulnerable consumers from energy poverty. The eligible customers are increased due to crisis, based on the income and social criteria specified by the law, and thus the needed budget needs to be increased.

Climate Change management was also a critical uncertainty for Greece. The region has been impacted by extreme weather events during 2021, including fires that destroyed large forest areas. The recently proposed Climate Law further enhances the need for clear and ambitious national climate policy which is in line with and supportive of the EU energy and climate targets towards 2030.

Greek energy leaders unanimously recognise nuclear energy technology, as the issue with the most negligible impact on Greece's energy planning. This is in line with the non-existent presence of the technology in the Greek electricity mix and the specific geomorphological features of the region (high seismic activity) that act as deterrents.

Renewable energies maintain their high impact and low uncertainty position being a key priority, given Greece is well on track with the ambitious goals of de-lignification and the targets set towards energy transition. By 2030, renewables are expected to reach 70% of Greece's electricity mix, 30 percentage points up from today's level. The congested transmission and distribution systems need to be upgraded, reinforced, and expanded. New storage and flexibility technologies must be developed and adopted to further enhance **Renewables'** penetration, as it is noted by our Leaders. Although a net metering system for autonomous producers was for the first time introduced in Greece in 2014 followed by virtual net metering in 2016-2017, there were delays in the grids' adaptation and development. A large-scale tender for investments in smart meters is expected to be commenced in 2022 that could be paired with **Electric Storage Innovations** to provide more options for both commercial investors and prosumers. Cooperation activities in energy production, through the establishment of energy communities gain more and more popularity and provide the means and potential to strengthen efforts to alleviate energy poverty and insure clean and low-cost energy for all.

The Greek government recognising the need for **Energy efficiency** in private and public buildings contributes to this aim by creating publicly funded support programs towards energy efficiency investments, aiming in curbing energy consumption and alleviating energy poverty.

By implementing the Target Model, Greece accomplished a key **energy markets** improvement. With the upcoming Market Reform plan, Greece aims to repair long-standing issues in the electricity markets, in enhancing its position in interconnected energy markets.

TESTING PERSPECTIVES WITH THE WEC GREECE MEMBER COMMUNITY

The results of the World Energy Issues Survey were discussed within the Greece Member Committee in February 2022. The workshop supported the emerging findings while drawing out three key highlights to summarise the country's current energy landscape:

1. Gas prices connected to the high energy import dependency of Greece.

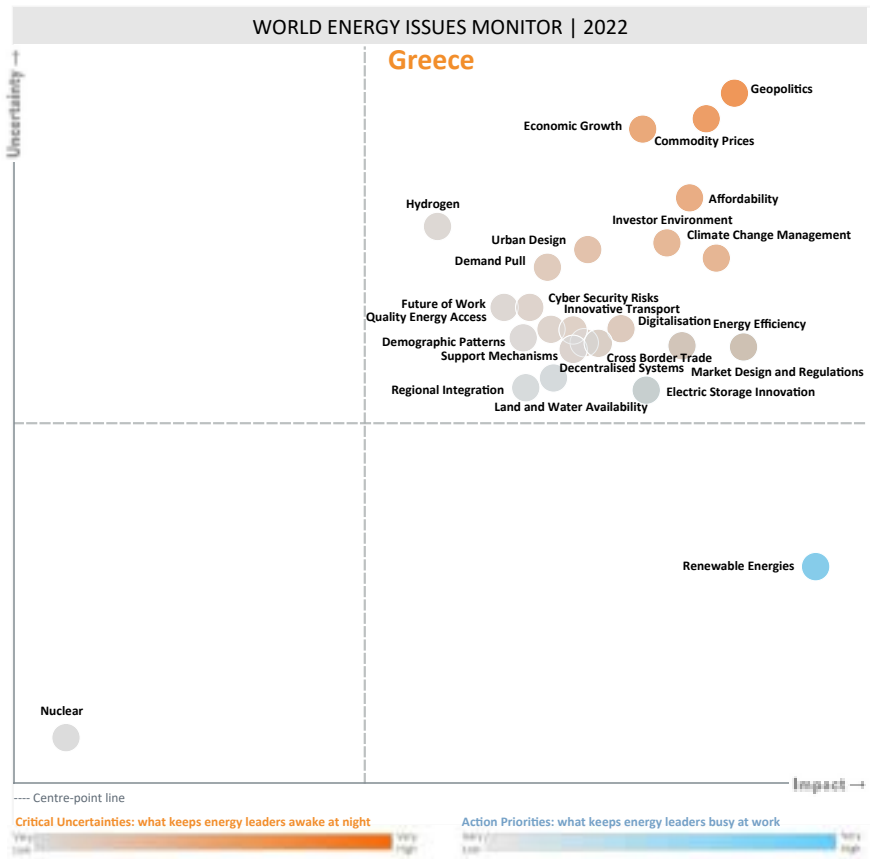
It is crucial for Greece to lower dependency on imported gas and become more resilient to energy price fluctuations as clearly noted during the ongoing Gas price crisis.

2. Renewable energies is linked to natural gas uncertainty.

Wind, solar and geothermal potential in Greece can be fully exploited, providing low costs even for citizens, business and the agricultural sector when appropriately coupled with energy storage, through cooperation activities that are strongly promoted by EU (Energy Communities).

3. The energy-efficiency-first principle has the most important impact after renewables.

Increase of volume of investments is necessary to upgrade building of the residential and commercial sector by exploiting the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility.



WORLD
ENERGY
COUNCIL

Acknowledgements
Greece Member Committee
Haris Doukas