Tackling the challenges of the energy transition

New Challenges in Financial and Energy Markets: Math, Data & Al

National Technical University, School of Applied Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Financial Engineering and Mathematical Optimization Lab

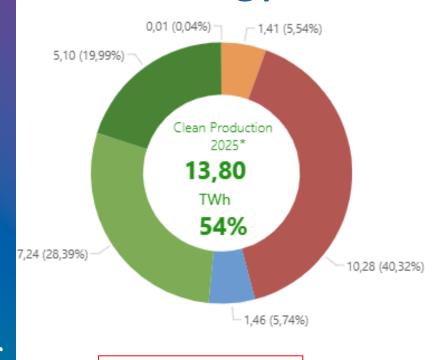
Athens Exchange, 31 October 2025.

Vasileios Gkountis, Director, MMD, IPTO



Electricity market trends

The energy mix



LIGNITE

NATURAL GASHYDRO

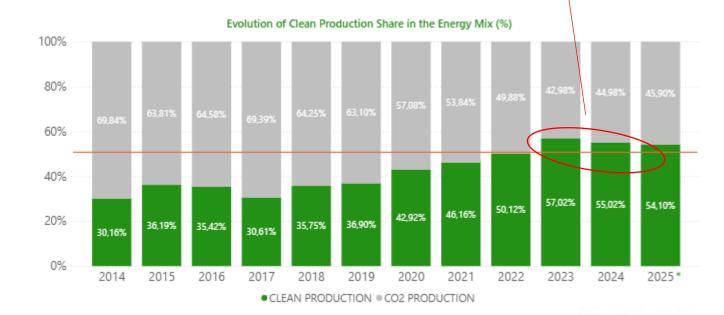
SYSTEM RES

NETWORK RESOTHER FUEL

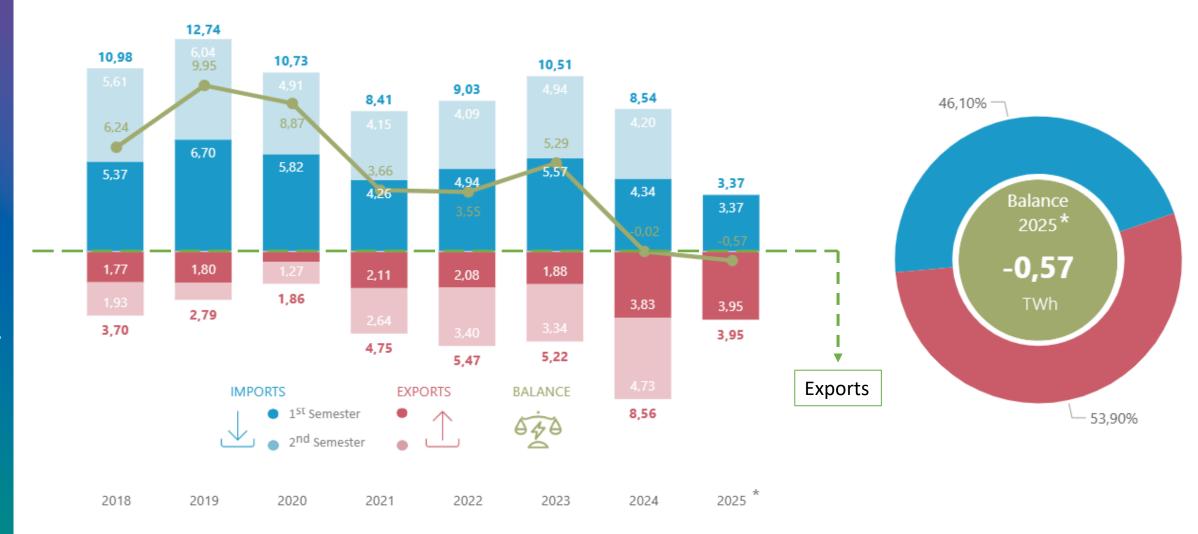
2024 Total Demand up by >2.3TWh YoY



Total RES production (TWh) still went up

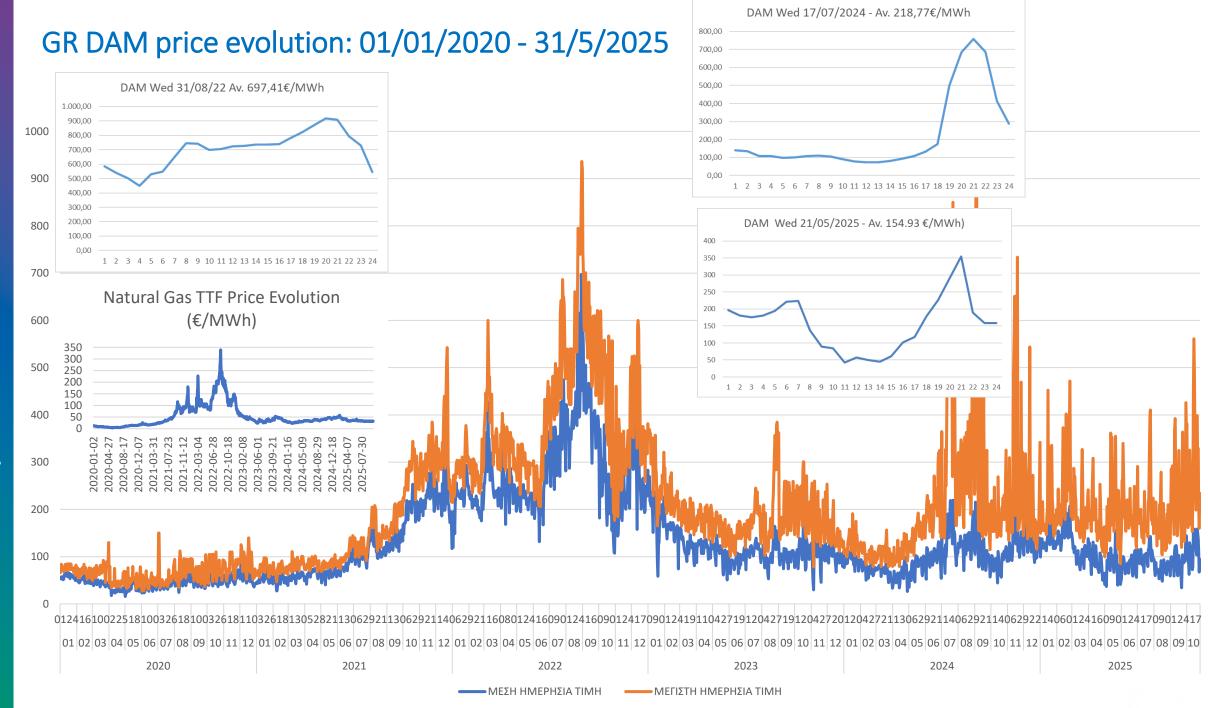


Commercial exchanges



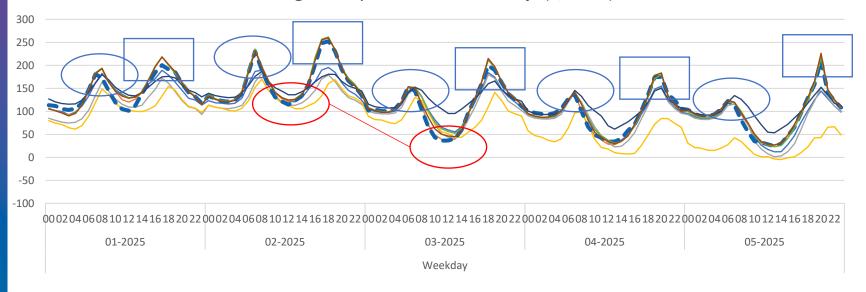
*1st Semester 2025 (certified data)

Spot markets in Europe

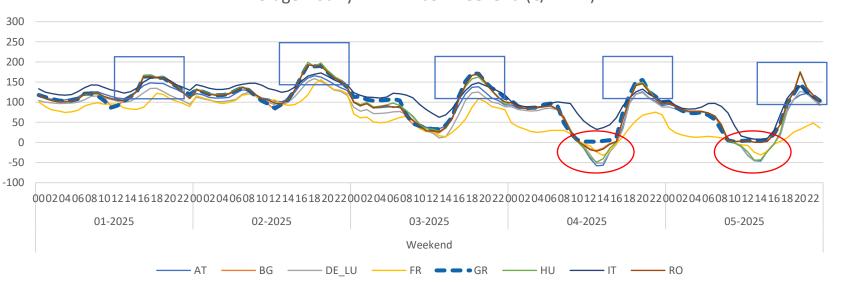


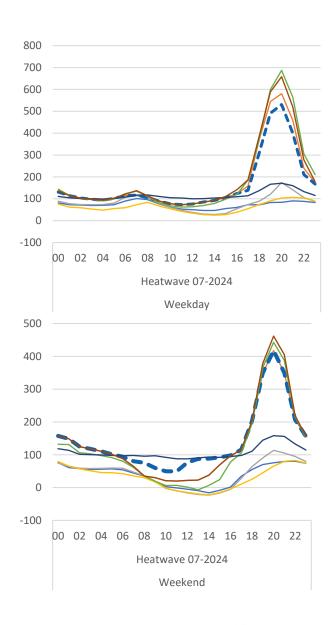
DAM price evolution: July 2024 and January – May 2025

Average Hourly DAM Price -Weekdays (€/MWh)



Average Hourly DAM Price -Weekend (€/MWh)





DAM monthly base price evolution: 2025





170.00 €/MWh

127.50 €/MWh

85.00 €/MWh

42.50 €/MWh

KABUL•

HSTAN



DAM daily base price selected dates







Tackling the challenges

Addressing the need for flexibility

- Build new interconnections (IPTO investment plan)
 - Enforce current interconnections
- Increase storage (In Public consultation Coming Soon)
 - Water, chemical etc
 - Push for RES/storage hybrid systems
- Increase Demand Side management (*Progress*)
 - Increase Demand response
 - As a minimum move consumption to low residual demand hours
 - Redefine tariffs
 - Real time pricing infrastructure required (Smart meters)
 - As a minimum change the hours of the current "night tariff"
- Incentivize flexible generation (Getting some traction)
 - Achieve more RES flexibility (Dispatchable RES)
- Facilitators
 - Enhanced control (Ramping up)
 - Finer Granularity (15mins FOCUS)

Focus: Transition to 15-Minute Market Time Unit

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The Single Day-ahead Coupling (SDAC) mechanism (up to September 2025):

- Integrates national Day-Ahead electricity markets across Europe into a single coupled market.
- Enables electricity trading between different countries using a common algorithm, Euphemia, which determines optimal electricity flows and prices, based on supply and demand
- The standard Market Time Unit (MTU) in the SDAC is one hour
- Currently, each day, a single auction is conducted at 12:00 CET, during which market participants submit their bids and offers for the subsequent delivery day. The auction clears 24 MTUs, each corresponding to one hour of delivery

The current framework has provided transparency for participants and predictable scheduling for Transmission System Operators (TSOs). Nevertheless, the hourly resolution has certain limitations such as:

- In reflecting intra-hour variations in generation and demand and facilitating the full participation of flexible resources.
- Not fully aligned with the 15-minute imbalance settlement period, used in balancing markets



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Regulatory Framework

Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2195 (EBGL)

- Requires all regions to have an equal imbalance settlement period of 15 minutes.
- Does not regulate market time units (MTUs) in the day-ahead / intraday markets

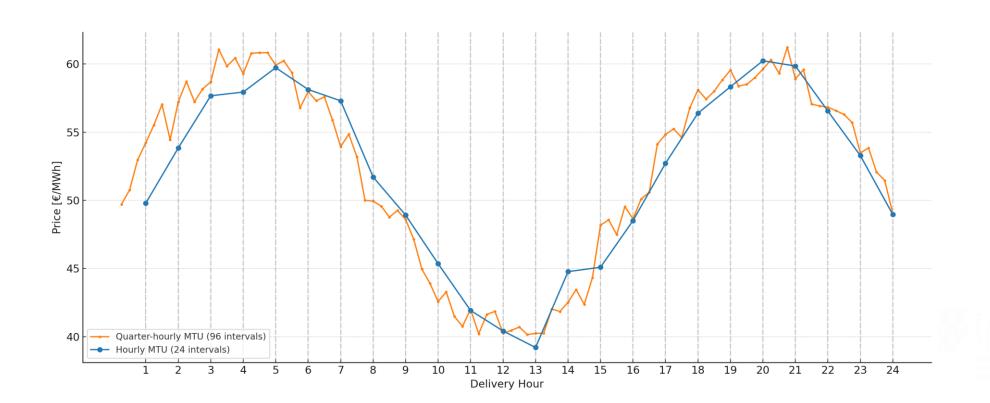
ACER decision 11/2024 (Algorithm Methodology)

- Requires all Nominated Electricity Market Operators (NEMOs) to offer 15-minute products for trading on both SIDC and SDAC
- The main purpose of these measures is to harmonize market operations across Europe given that the imbalance settlement period is 15 minutes.
- The transition to a 15-minute MTU took place on 31 September 2025 (first delivery date: 1 October 2025)
- ACER has emphasized the need for improved algorithm performance to handle the increased data volume associated with 15-minute MTUs



Transition to a 15-minute MTU "big bang"

- Began with the trading day of 30 September 2025 (delivery on 01/10/2025)
- The daily auction at 12:00 CET remained, but the results are calculated at a finer level of granularity
- The DAM clears 96 MTUs per day, each corresponding to a 15-minute delivery interval
- Market clearing prices are determined for each 15-minute interval
- Cross-zonal flows are optimized at the 15-minute level



Anticipated benefits 1/2

Enhanced System Balancing

- Intra-hour deviations managed by TSOs through balancing markets.
- 15-minute MTUs reduces the size of imbalances
 - Imbalance: difference between market schedules and real-time system conditions.
- Lower volume of balancing energy:
 - More efficient system operation / Lower balancing costs.

Consistency Across Market Timeframes

- Consistency with other European market timeframes.
 - Imbalance settlement period already harmonized at 15 minutes under EBGL.
- Improved coherence between scheduling, settlement, and balancing processes, contributing to a more integrated market design.

Anticipated benefits 2/2

Market Flexibility, Liquidity and Participation

- Bids and offers for four distinct intervals within each hour.
- Flexibility to adapt trading strategies to short-term changes in expected production or consumption.
- May attract a broader set of participants, including distributed and emerging technologies.
 - Broader competitive base for the market.
 - Over time, enhanced competition, improved price formation, more robust market outcomes.

Forecasting & Renewable Energy Sources Integration

- Market outcomes aligned more closely with actual physical system conditions
- Schedules closer to real-time
- More efficient correction of deviations from forecasts
- Reduced risk of imbalances / Enhanced system reliability
- More effective integration of RES resources.
 - Reduced curtailment



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Implementation in Greece

- HEnEx: exclusively 15-minute products for SDAC & IDAs
 - XBID supports 60-min, 30-min and 15-min products.
- Borders/Scheduling: 60-min products still used in cases where 15-min resolution is not yet supported, i.e.
 - GR-BG: 15-min
 - GR-IT (Technical),
 - GR-Al, GR-NM (Regulatory / Readiness)
 - GR-TR: 60-min (No obligation for TR)
- IPTO: Integrated Scheduling Process (ISP) transitioned from 30' to 15' granularity

ISP Problem Formulation

Minimize: Balancing Energy Costs + Balancing Capacity Costs + Expected Energy Cost of Reserves

- Balancing Energy Costs = Total cost for upward Balancing Energy Total profit from downward Balancing Energy
- Balancing Capacity Costs = Total cost for procuring Balancing Capacity (for FCR, aFRR, mFRR in both directions)
- Expected Energy Cost of Reserves = Cost/profit for the Balancing Energy expected to be activated in real time from procured reserves

The ISP optimization problem is subject to various constraints, including:

- System Forecasted Imbalance
- BSE operating state constraints (synchronization, soaking, normal dispatch, desynchronization)
- BSE available min/max power output in each operating state
- BSE max contribution to each type of Balancing Capacity
- BSE min up/down time constraints
- BSE max upward/downward ramping capability constraints
- Logical relations of the commitment binary variables (for virtual units)
- Other operational constraints

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Performance implications for ISP

The Challenge

- ISP optimization problem formulated as an MILP problem
- Integer (Binary) variables doubled
 - 30mins resolution->15mins resolution
- Execution time increased by an order of magnitude (Unacceptable)

The solution

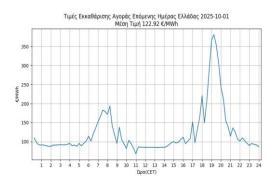
- New, state-of-the-art hardware (Helps, but not enough)
- Solver upgrade (Helps, but, again, not enough)
- Modelling changes to the ISP model:
 - Oil units shall no longer be modelled in the ISP. In case operation of a Bi-Fuel unit using oil fuel is required, its operation schedule shall not be optimized, but determined beforehand and constrained in the ISP
 - Open cycle configurations of multi-shaft CCGT units shall be declared unavailable if the ST of the unit is available.
 Therefore, their operation shall be allowed only when the ST of the unit is fully unavailable
 - Participants shall be constrained to a maximum of 3 bid steps for Balancing Capacity and 6 bid steps for Balancing Energy (previously, a maximum of 10 bid steps were allowed in both)

So how did it all go?

- Technically: Great!
 - Performance implications tackled successfully
- And the prices?
 - They've gotten... even more interesting

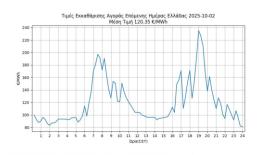
First days (no cherry-picking) 1/10/25 - 4/10/25

Wednesday



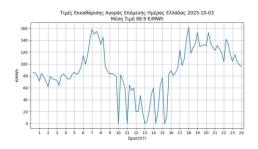
	Ζώνη Προσφορών	€/MWh
1	Σερβία (RS)	145.83
2	Αιθουανία (LT)	125.22
3	Λεττονία (LV)	125.22
4	Εσθονία (ΕΕ)	124.22
5	Ουγγαρία (ΗU)	123.44
6	Βουλγαρία (BG)	123.35
7	Ρουμανία (RO)	123.35
8	Ελλάδα (GR)	122.92
9	Κροατία (HR)	121.9
18	Σλοβενία (SI)	121,57
11	Αυστρία (ΑΤ)	128.75
12	Σλοβακία (SK)	120.5
13	Toexia (CZ)	117.49
14	Itakia (IT)	117.18
15	Γερμανία (DE)	116.57
16	Λουξεμβούργο (LU)	116.57
17	Ολλανδία (NL)	111.34
18	Ελβετία (CH)	110.85
19	Βέλγιο (ΒΕ)	100.17
28	Πορτογαλία (ΡΤ)	87.1
21	Ionavia (ES)	87.08
22	Γαλλία (FR)	63.77

Thursday



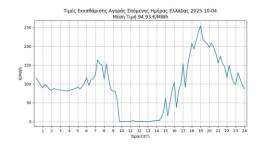
	Ζώνη Προσφορών	€/MWh
	Βουλγαρία (BG)	120.35
	Ελλάδα (GR)	120.35
	Poupavia (RD)	120.35
	Λιθουανία (LT)	116.55
	Λεττονία (LV)	116.55
	Σερβία (RS)	116.38
	Εσθονία (ΕΕ)	114.43
	Ουγγαρία (ΗΟ)	112.86
	Kpoaria (HR)	111.91
9	Αυστρία (ΑΤ)	111.14
1	Σλοβενία (SI)	111.01
2	Σλοβακία (SK)	189.21
3	Toexia (CZ)	106.16
4	Itakia (IT)	104.4
5	čavia (DK2)	103.07
6	Γερμανία (DE)	102.7
7	Λουξεμβούργο (LU)	102.7
8	Σουηδία (SE3)	102.38
9	Ελβετία (CH)	101.72
9	Σουηδία (SE4)	101.44
1	čavia (DK1)	97.84
2	Ολλανδία (NL)	95.35
3	Πορτογαλία (ΡΤ)	86.32
4	Ionavia (ES)	86.19
5	Βέλγιο (ΒΕ)	84.85
6	Φινλανδία (FI)	81.99
7	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ2)	67.61
8	Γαλλία (FR)	57.56
9	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ1)	56.13
9	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ5)	53.3
1	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ3)	14.24
2	Σουηδία (SE2)	4.18
3	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ4)	2.25
4	Σουηδία (SE1)	-7.69

Friday



	Τιμές Εκκαθάρισης Αγοράς Επόμενης Ημέρας ανά Ζώνη Προσφορών γ Ζώνη Προσφορών	€/MMb
1	Αιθουανία (LT)	141.78
2	Aerrovia (LV)	141,78
3	Εσθονία (ΕΕ)	124.49
4	Boulyapia (BG)	99.6
5	Poupavia (RO)	99.6
6	Σερβία (RS)	98.56
7	Ελβετία (CH)	98.4
8	Ιτολίο (ΙΤ)	96.11
9	Ouvyapia (HU)	94.83
10	Kpoaria (HR)	93.26
11	Πορτογαλία (ΡΤ)	93.25
12	Ionavia (ES)	93.25
13	Αυστρία (ΑΤ)	92.78
14	Σλοβενία (SI)	92.76
15	Σλοβακία (SK)	91.15
16	Ελλάδα (GR)	88.9
17	Toexia (CZ)	81.03
18	Ολλανδία (NL)	72.35
19	Feguavia (DE)	66.76
20	Λουξεμβούργο (LU)	66.76
21	čavia (DK2)	66.39
22	Βέλγιο (ΒΕ)	59.52
23	Σουηδία (SE4)	59.03
24	Σουηδία (SE3)	51.92
25	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ2)	47.64
26	Γαλλία (FR)	46.58
27	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ1)	43.91
28	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ5)	41.7
29	čavia (DK1)	29.0
30	Φινλανδία (FI)	15.96
31	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ3)	14.49
32	Σουηδία (SE1)	4.13
33	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ4)	3.2
34	Zounbia (SE2)	1,66

Saturday



θέσες Τιμές Εκκαθάρισης Αγοράς Επόμενης Ημέρας ανά Ζώνη Προσφορών για την ημέρα 2025-10-0			
	Ζώνη Προσφορών	€/MAh	
1	Ουγγαρία (HU)	182.7	
2	Βουλγαρία (BG)	98.59	
3	Ρουμανία (RO)	98.59	
4	Itakia (IT)	97.56	
5	Σερβία (RS)	96.75	
5	Ελλάδα (GR)	94.93	
7	Σλοβενία (SI)	91.73	
В	Ελβετία (CH)	91.55	
9	Kpoaria (HR)	91.55	
10	Austria (AT)	83.68	
11	Πορτογαλία (ΡΤ)	53.13	
12	Ionavia (ES)	53.1	
13	Σλοβακία (SK)	36.15	
14	Toexia (CZ)	30.78	
15	Λιθουανία (LT)	10.25	
16	Aerrovia (LV)	10.25	
17	Eσθονία (EE)	8.06	
18	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ5)	7.85	
19	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ1)	4.85	
20	Γαλλία (FR)	4.62	
21	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ2)	4.07	
22	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ3)	3.76	
23	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ4)	1.58	
24	Σουηδία (SE1)	1.21	
25	Σουηδία (SE2)	1.09	
26	Φινλανδία (FI)	0.95	
27	Σουηδία (SE3)	0.73	
28	davia (DK2)	0.56	
29	Σουηδία (SE4)	0.53	
30	Βέλγιο (ΒΕ)	0.16	
31	čavia (DK1)	-0.04	
32	Γερμανία (DE)	-0.29	
33	Λουξεμβούργο (LU)	-0.29	
34	Ολλανδία (NL)	-1.11	

Βάσει δημοσιευμένων στοιχείων στην πλατφόρμα διαφάνειας του ENTSO-(λαμβάνονται τα διαθέσιμα στοιχεία με τη χαμηλότερη χρονική ανάλυση).

Zig-Zag (chainsaw) pattern

Βάσει δημοσιευμένων στοιχείων στην πλατφόρμα διαφάνειας του ENTSO-E (λαμβάνονται τα διαθέσιμα στοιχεία με τη χαμηλι

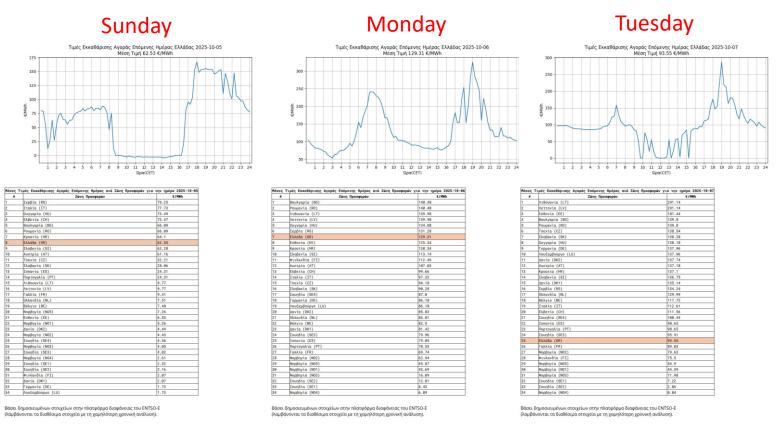
High Base volatility

- Huge within day volatility
- High locational spread volatility

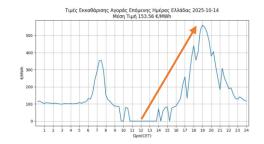
Βάσει δημοσιευμένων στοιχείων στην πλατφόρμα διαφάνειας του ENTSO-E (λαμβάνονται τα διαθέσιμα στοιχεία με τη χαμηλότερη χρο Βάσει δημοσιευμένων στοιχείων στην πλατφόρμα διαφάνειας του ENTSO-E

First days (no cherry-picking) 5/10/25 - 7/10/25

& 14/10/25 (ok, some cherry-picking)



Tuesday 14/10



	Ζώνη Προσφορών	€/MWh
1	Αιθουανία (LT)	283.58
2	Acttovia (LV)	283.58
3	Εσθονία (ΕΕ)	198.73
4	Φινλανδία (FI)	198.37
5	Σερβία (RS)	193.68
6	Ουγγαρία (ΗU)	198.63
7	Βουλγαρία (BG)	188.1
8	Poupavia (RO)	188.1
9	Kpoaria (HR)	171.97
10	Σουηδία (SE3)	178.99
11	Σουηδία (SE4)	168.83
12	Δανία (DK2)	167.56
13	Σλοβενία (SI)	167.86
14	Αυστρία (ΑΤ)	162.23
15	Toexia (CZ)	157.23
16	Δανία (DK1)	155.85
17	Ελλάδα (GR)	153.56
18	Σλοβακία (SK)	151.02
19	Ολλανδία (NL)	144.58
20	Γερμανία (DE)	139.67
21	Λουξεμβούργο (LU)	139.67
22	Ιταλία (ΙΤ)	124.22
23	Ελβετία (CH)	121.51
24	Βέλγιο (BE)	120.86
25	Ισπανία (ES)	188.24
26	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ2)	97.61
27	Γαλλία (FR)	95.11
28	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ1)	81.65
29	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ5)	54.9
30	Σουηδία (SE1)	28.88
31	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ3)	23.01
32	Σουηδία (SE2)	16.23
33	Νορβηγία (ΝΟ4)	2.55

Βάσει δημοσιευμένων στοιχείων στην πλατφόρμα διαφάνειας του ENTS (λαμβάνονται τα διαθέσιμα στοιχεία με τη χαμπλότερη χρονική αγάλυσ

- Zig-Zag (chainsaw) pattern
- High Base volatility

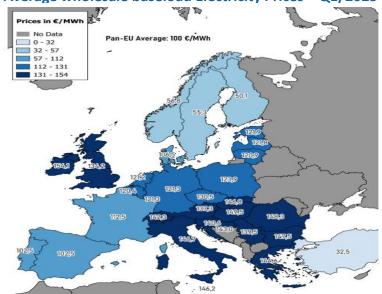
- Huge within day volatility
- High locational spread volatility



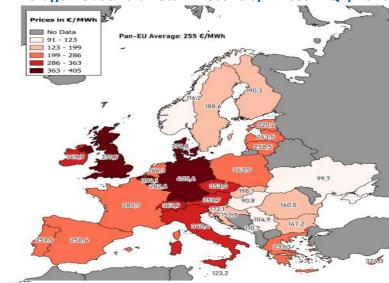
Retail prices

Wholesale vs Retail European prices



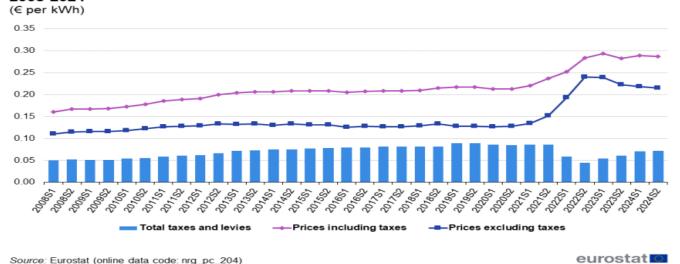


Average household retail Electricity Prices - Q1/2025

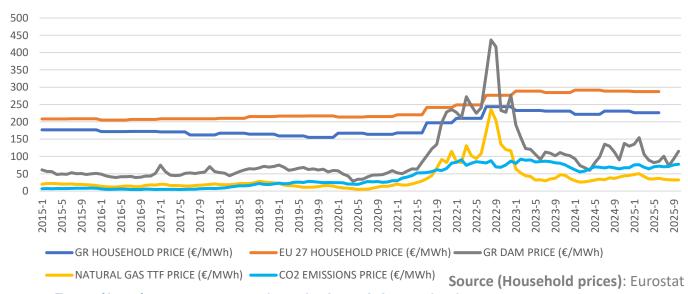


Source: New Quarterly Report on European Electricity markets Q1 2025

Development of electricity prices for household consumers, EU, 2008-2024



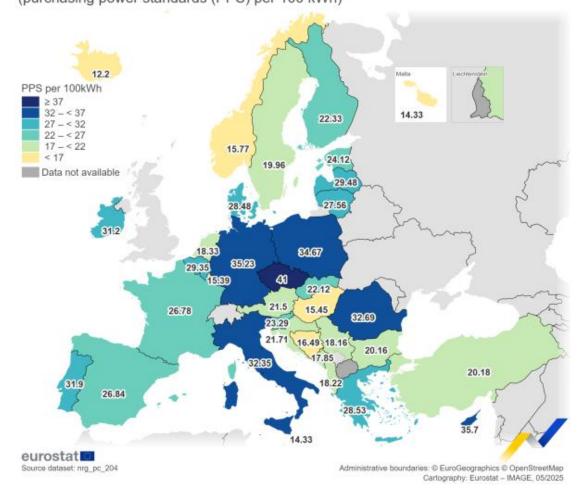
Greece - Monthly Market Evolution



Retail prices are not (and should not be) linearly linked to DAM prices

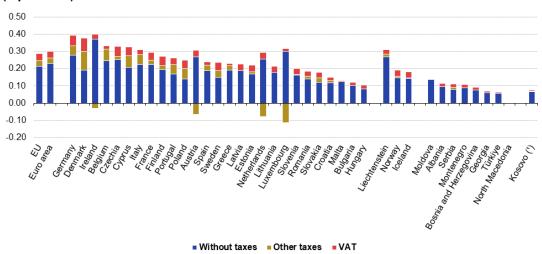
Wholesale vs Retail European Electricity prices

Electricity prices for household consumers, second semester of 2024 (purchasing power standards (PPS) per 100 kWh)



Source: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Electricity_price_statistics

Electricity prices for household consumers, second half 2024 (€ per kWh)

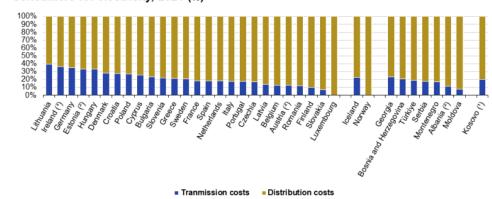


(¹) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg pc 204)

eurostat 🔼

Share of transmission and distribution costs paid by household consumers for electricity, 2024 (%)



(¹)This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

(²) Estimate

(3) Provisional

- Data for Malta and North Macedonia are not available Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_pc_206)

eurostat