Trends and Outlook

Investments in Romania’s power sector fell in 2019, which is reflected in slightly lower scores for energy security. However, new significant investment has been made in a gas-fueled power plant with a combined gas-steam cycle, which will be commissioned in mid-2021. Several similar projects are expected to be launched in the near future, which should reflect positively on its performance. Plans to develop natural gas reserves in the Black Sea failed to materialise though construction of the BRUA (Bulgaria-Romania-Hungary-Austria) natural gas pipeline is underway. Romania is using its geographic location to prioritise interconnected natural gas transportation systems to ensure regional energy security.

In July 2020, Romania completed the liberalisation of its gas market to make it more competitive. At the same time, it is adapting pricing policy to ease the burden on vulnerable consumers. Measures to improve energy efficiency in residential buildings through programs financed partially or totally by the state are set to continue in 2020.

In terms of mitigating environmental impact, Romania is implementing the National Integrated Plan for Energy and Climate Change. The plan is aligned with the national plans of other European Union member states to comply with the EU’s common targets. Furthermore, the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) has been in force since 2010 and aims to better integrate renewable energy sources into the national energy system and reduce the negative impact of the energy sector on the environment.

Similar to many other countries, Romania’s economy has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, though the government has been able to establish several programmes to support citizens and companies.