# **SOLAR** PRO. Solar system irrigation project Slovakia

#### Are solar-powered irrigation systems sustainable?

dernizationOverview of practiceSolar-powered irrigation systems (SPIS) are a clean technology option for irrigation, allowing the use solar energy for water pumping, replacing fossil fuels as energy source, and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emis ions from irrigated agriculture. The sustainability of SPIS greatly depends on

#### Is solar irrigation a viable solution for off-grid farmers?

The increasing demand for solar-powered irrigation systems in agriculture has spurred a race for projects as it potentially offers a cost-effective and sustainable energy solution off-grid farmers while helping food production and sustaining livelihoods.

#### Can solar energy be used for irrigation?

Using solar energy for irrigation makes a lot of sense. First, irrigation is often implemented in rural areas with poor access to reliable electricity or fossil fuel supplies. Second, solar radiation is an abundant resource, especially in regions where rain water scarcity makes irrigation essential to food security and international trade.

How many wind turbines are there in the Slovak Republic?

There are currently five wind turbinesin operation in the Slovak Republic with a total installed capacity of 3.1 MW and annual production of approximately 5.5 GWh of electricity. Wind turbines in the conditions of the Slovak Republic fail to compete with other sources of electricity.

What is solar-based groundwater pumping for irrigation?

In order to address the need to increase water access for growing populations, produce renewable and clean energy, and feed the planet, solar-based groundwater pumping for irrigation (referred to SGPI) has been put forward as part of a sustainable energy portfolio for both developed and developing countries.

### How much electricity does Slovak Republic produce a year?

Its annual production (2,200 GWh)is almost half of the total electricity production of hydroelectric power plants in the Slovak Republic. There are currently five wind turbines in operation in the Slovak Republic with a total installed capacity of 3.1 MW and annual production of approximately 5.5 GWh of electricity.

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Solar energy is one of the most accessible and cleanest forms of renewable energy that can be obtained from the sun. Its use has no negative impact on the environment. There are already many principles of transferring solar energy to other forms of energy: most often transferring solar energy to electric energy or thermal energy.

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In this quest for sustainability, the emergence of solar irrigation (SI) is proving to be a game changer. The EU-funded SolAqua project, which concluded in September 2023, has made huge advances in overcoming ...

In a solar-powered irrigation systems (SPIS), electricity is generated by solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and used to operate pumps for the abstraction, lifting and/or distribution of irrigation water. SPIS can be applied in a wide range of scales, from individual or community vegetable gardens to large irrigation schemes.

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The Slovak Republic places great weight on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, mitigating climate change, and ensuring energy security and affordability. At the policy level, the country is taking numerous proactive steps. In November 2014, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Energy Policy

A solar generator provides electricity for an electric motor pump, which delivers water either directly into an irrigation system or to an elevated reservoir. Fundamental design criteria for SPIS include minimum maintenance, maximum reliability as well as resource efficiency.



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