

D.T3.11.1. PA5 - PL: IMPLEMENTING THE DEFINED PILOT ACTION IN MUNICIPALITY OF NIEMCE



ENES-CE - Collaboration between public bodies and citizen energy groups in implementing local energy strategies in Central Europe

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENES-CE PROJECT IN THE LUBELSKIE VOIVODESHIP AND THE NIEMCE COMMUNE FACT SHEET

The Lubelskie Voivodeship (LV) is a territorial government responsible for decision-making on regional policy and creating strategic documents dealing with innovation policy, support of local industry (including SMEs), etc. Low-carbon emission energy sector is an emerging area of smart specialization in the voivodeship.

LV collaborated with the Niemce Commune on the project implementation: was actively involved in the revision of the SEAP (Low Carbon Economy Plan for the Niemce Commune) in cooperation with citizens.

LV was involved with other project partners in the preparation of tools as planned in WPT2 and contributed with other project partners to the development of the document: Knowledge base with repository of best practices community energy and analysis of citizens investments and other documents in the project. Moreover, LV actively collaborated with the established “Energy Cluster Niemce” and Niemce Commune as Coordinator of the energy cluster on the implementation of the pilot action.

SPECIFICATION OF THE PILOT ACTION

After the “Energy Cluster Niemce” was created in the Niemce Commune in the Lubelskie Voivodeship, the pilot action, consisting in ecological education for the local community, was implemented under the ENES-CE project. The pilot action was named „Every resident and entrepreneur from the Niemce Commune can contribute to clean air in the Commune.”

The aim of the pilot action was to raise awareness among the local community about the possibility of reducing low emissions in the Commune and to inform them about the possibility of choosing air quality notification systems in the future. In addition, cluster members promoted the idea of cooperation within the cluster and the possibility for potential new members to join the cluster and, thus, the common bottom-up energy planning in the Niemce Commune. The target groups were the entrepreneurs and the residents of the Niemce Commune. Under the pilot action, 3 meetings were organized. The total number of participants in the pilot action was 68.

With the first effects of joint work (i.e., the establishment of “Energy Cluster Niemce” and a common update of the Low Carbon Economy Plan), it was possible to inspire public confidence and acceptance for investments in RES in a wider group of inhabitants and stakeholders and encourage them to cooperate in the future.

THE LUBELSKIE VOIVODESHIP AND THE NIEMCE COMMUNE FACT SHEET

- > Country: Poland
- > Region: Lubelskie Region, the Niemce Commune
- > Total area: Lubelskie region: 25 123 km²; the Niemce Commune: 141km² (according to the Central Statistical Office (GUS) - as of the end of 2020)
- > Number of inhabitants: Lubelskie Region: 2 095 258; the Niemce Commune: 20 042 (according to the Central Statistical Office (GUS) - as of the end of 2020)
- > Public authority/government: the Lubelskie Voivodeship, the Niemce Commune
- > Number of stakeholders involved in the pilot projects implementation: 68

PREPARATORY STEPS FOR ESTABLISHING THE CONSUMER ENERGY GROUP

To involve stakeholders in the project through the bottom-up energy planning process and the creation of an energy cluster in the Niemce Commune, several meetings were carried out in the Lubelskie Voivodeship. It was a great opportunity to meet with local residents and discuss with them energy planning in municipality. In total 3 workshops in 2020 and 3 workshops in 2021 were organized.

The project meetings were moderated by an external expert, using the documents and communication tools developed in the ENES-CE project.

During the workshops, the needs and expectations of residents, entrepreneurs and representatives of various institutions in the Niemce Commune were articulated and then incorporated into the updated 2020 LCEP document for the Niemce Commune for the years 2020-2025. Further proposals for investments in renewable energy sources and EE elicited from the local community were included in the draft of the next update of LCEP for the Niemce Commune for the years 2021-2030 with a vision until 2050. This document can be adopted by the Council of the Niemce Commune in the future. It is also the basis to start planning a detailed implementation and financing scheme for the introduced measures and preparation of projects tailored to the announced competitions in order to obtain funds for investments in RES and EE from national or foreign programs.

Effective participation of residents, businesses, NGOs, public organizations, energy experts and advisors in the bottom-up energy planning process in the Niemce Commune had led to the signing of a civil-law agreement on the establishment of an Energy Cluster in the Niemce Commune in the Lubelskie Voivodeship: "Niemce Energy Cluster" and the cooperation of Cluster Members (22.10.2021).



The members of the "Niemce Energy Cluster" are as follows: the Niemce Commune, 3 business entities, 2 associations and 4 inhabitants of the Niemce Commune. All members have in the energy cluster equal rights. The Energy Cluster consists of the following bodies: a) Cluster Council and b) Coordinator of the Energy Cluster. Cluster Council is the highest body of the Cluster, which includes one representative of each Member. The Council is the decision-making and the controlling body of the Cluster.

THE LUBELSKIE VOIVODESHIP
POLAND

<https://www.lubelskie.pl/aktualnosci-fundusze-europejskie/klaster-energii-niemce-utworzony-w-ramach-projektu-enes-ce-podczas-warsztatow-nr-3-w-2021-r/>

https://promocja.lubelskie.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/LubelskiePL-05-2021_INTERNET.pdf

<https://www.niemce.pl/strona-glowna/aktualnosci/n,232919,klaster-energii-niemce-utworzony-w-ramach-projektu-enes-ce-podczas-warsztatow-nr-3-w-2021-r.html>

PREPARATORY STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PILOT ACTION

While planning the pilot action, it was vital to ensure the following:

- The organization of workshop meetings had to reach as many stakeholders as possible through the available communication channels, engaging all participants in the discussion on future RES investments with the support of the external expert, the energy advisor and other persons and/or entrepreneurs who are well-respected in the Commune.
- High participation, active engagement and open cooperation of the local authorities during workshops in the planning phase of the investment/pilot action with residents and other stakeholders or experts by finding the solutions to problems with the support of the Commune employees, the attorney-at-law, the energy expert.
- Showing the meeting participants that the voices of the residents, entrepreneurs, NGOs, other institutions, and stakeholders are heard and accounted for in the energy planning by the local authorities.
- Moderating the communication prior to, after as well as during the meetings; coordination of all activities; summary of the discussion; settings aims and conclusions from the arrangements; description of the planned steps, distribution of tasks.
- Preparing a good pilot action plan and, after agreeing on a common goal, target groups and the distribution of tasks and financial issues, signing the agreement on the implementation of the pilot action.

The main activities carried out to ensure the successful implementation of the pilot action were as follows:

- Hearing the voice of the Commune inhabitants and other stakeholders, discussing the proposals during workshops and taking account of opinions, when planning the future investments in RES and the pilot action.
- Preparing the description of the ecological education pilot action plan and a Letter of Intent on the decision, of the members of the energy cluster in the Niemce Commune, in the Lubelskie Voivodeship: "Niemce Energy Cluster," on the choice of the pilot action to be implemented in the timeframe of the ENES-CE project in the Niemce Commune in the Lubelskie Voivodeship.
- Signing the Letter of Intent and performing the pilot action for the ecological education of the local community as part of the information and promotional meetings to raise the inhabitants' awareness of the possible reduction of low emissions in the Commune, and of the possibility of choosing air quality notification systems in the future: „Every resident and entrepreneur from the Niemce Commune can contribute to clean air in the Commune.”
- The cooperation with the energy cluster members in organizing meetings with residents, active participation of cluster members in the discussions, who promoted the idea of cooperation within the cluster.



<https://www.niemce.pl/strona-glowna/aktualnosci/n,234169,zaproszenie-na-spotkanie-kazdy-mieszkaniec-i-przedsiębiorca-z-gminy-niemce-ma-wplyw-na-czyste-powietrze-w-gminie.html>

<https://www.niemce.pl/strona-glowna/aktualnosci/n,234320,zaproszenie-na-spotkanie-w-ramach-klastra-energii-niemce-do-krasienina.html>

<https://www.niemce.pl/strona-glowna/aktualnosci/n,234415,spotkanie-pilotazowe-organizowane-przez-klaster-energi-niemce.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/gminaniemce/posts/pfbid0ZuhWeEWwnN2WvbcXnyf1gL7tAXoJAWeZnAiXqtZGPZ71zcG2t3PBgEaPpiR5rrU2wl>

<https://www.facebook.com/gminaniemce/posts/pfbid0P2v9M6ENNSE4jmx9EZa52wrr8V33Zwzh29nh2Jvq6xq6htvVsPL14ohj7LXqGsU8l>

RESULTS

The main result of implemented pilot action was raising the awareness among the local community about the possibility of reducing low emissions in the Commune. The participants of the pilot action meetings gained knowledge about available programs dedicated to RES investments and improving the energy efficiency of their buildings. The participants in the pilot action also gained knowledge about what low emissions are and their root causes, as well as about energy/heat sources which do not contribute to low emissions. Having gained knowledge during the pilot action, the residents of the Niemce Commune also reflected on the question regarding everyday behaviors/habits they would like to change in order to reduce energy consumption and thus the CO₂ emissions, and therefore influence the quality of air in the Commune, mentioning i. a: reducing the use of cars, refraining from leaving appliances on the stand-by mode, saving energy, saving the consumption of hot water, using appropriate fuel and wood with appropriate humidity, making use of electric heating, photovoltaics, replacing the central heating boiler.

The ecological education aroused public confidence, acceptance and understanding for the planned investments in RES in a wider group of inhabitants and stakeholders of the Niemce Commune. This will also help the public bodies to implement their strategies in a more efficient and a bottom-up approach, which was also one of the objectives of the ENES-CE project.