

# Newsletter No. 1

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

## ENES-CE

is addressing the issue of energy efficiency in Central Europe

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### About ENES-CE

Project ENES-CE started on 1st of April 2019. The main objectives of the project are to stimulate citizen engagement in creating local energy strategies, test the implementation of participative tools for citizen engagement and foster co-creation of local energy cooperatives and citizen energy groups.

The project will implement a series of workshops in the local communities, through which citizens will be actively involved in co-designing local energy action plans. The project will develop a set of tools for public authorities that they can use to increase citizen participation in local energy planning. The development of citizen energy groups such as energy cooperatives in municipalities in the CE region will enable a more bottom-up way in developing local energy actions plans.

**5 pilot projects will be developed depending on local needs**

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### ENES-CE kick-off meeting of project partners

All project partners joined the kickoff meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 in Forli, Italy, hosted by the Italian lead partner, Municipality of Forli.



The kick-off meeting was dedicated to getting to know each other, networking and review of planned activities and administration issues. A project manager from the Evaluation and Monitoring unit of Central Europe Joint Secretariat joined as well.



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## Communication Seminar in Budapest

Took place in Budapest on 9th and 10th of September 2019 and a communication manager from the project partner E-institute, Slovenia took part.



Communication managers from the Central Europe Joint Secretariat had a presentation of communication strategy and branding, designing a web page and how to communicate with target audiences on social media.

We have learned that it is important that our message respects the knowledge of the audience, that it's content and language is adjusted. When communicating we need to be truthful, respect emotion and create

experiences. At the end also evaluation and feedback on communication activities should be done.

In workshops we have outlined the design of a project webpage. On the web page we should concentrate on the content and put things in a very simple way, using simple sentences. The essential information should be put first. When communicating with the audiences we should also avoid unnecessary abbreviations.



We have also learned that story telling on social media has to be creative and personal.

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## 1st partners' meeting took place in Budapest on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2019

where first results of the six months work were presented by each partner: Joint methodological framework for developing bottom-up energy planning process - presentation of the developed methodology, Status quo analysis of the local energy plans, Needs assessment for the establishment of citizen energy groups.



Also plans for the next activities were discussed.

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## CROATIA

### SEAP analysis and assessment of need for citizen energy group in the town of Prelog

Within the activities in the ENES-CE project, Town of Prelog in cooperation with Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd., MENE A and an external expert from Cooperative for Ethical Financing, have started to review current Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). The goal of the SEAP is to reduce more than 20% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2020, but furthermore once the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) is developed through the revision of SEAP, the goal will be to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission minimum 40% by year 2030.

The analysis of the SEAP has been conducted with close cooperation with relevant persons from the Town of Prelog which are well informed on the activities that are being conducted in their town. Every measure that has been proposed in the SEAP has been analysed individually and the progress of each of them was assessed according to predefined parameters and ratings. The analysis has shown that due to several very important issues, minimal progress has been made in implementing the measures and implementation of several measures has not even begun. The main reasons for such a state are lack of adequate

sources of funding from national and EU funds, and lack of willingness to take on financial risk from citizens when investing in the projects.

The second step was to identify several relevant stakeholders from the town of Prelog which represent different sectors of community and perform interviews as to get a better insight. The interviews were performed with 6 stakeholders and they covered the main topics concerning the establishment of local energy groups and the implementation of SEAP as well as the development of SECAP. It has been clearly identified that there is a need to establish a citizen energy group in the town of Prelog, however the conclusions from the interviews with local stakeholders indicate



that there will be strong barriers to implementation that need to be taken into account. It will be crucial to bring together a group of stakeholders motivated to contribute to the topic which will in the future be a core of an energy group.

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## POLAND

### Towards community engagement in local energy planning in Lubelskie

#### *What we want to achieve?*

In Lubelskie we seek to enhance the energy planning in Niemce Commune - our co-partner in ENES-CE project. The project is a starting point in designing the bottom-up system, where the local community plays a role in shaping their energy needs.

#### *What actions do we take?*

To involve the local community at the very beginning of the planning process we conducted a survey among citizens and other stakeholders, in which we asked to: 1) assess the implementation of Niemce LCEP, and 2) include their expectations and proposals for actions to be taken into consideration in the planned update of the LCEP.

### ***What are our first results?***

From the survey it could be seen that the majority of the respondents were satisfied with the activities of the Niemce Commune carried out in the years 2015-2019. The investments which were regarded to be the most beneficial to the community are: installation of solar farms and solar collectors in households and public buildings and thermo-modernisation of public buildings. The citizens were also in favour of creating a citizen energy cooperative. One of the interesting proposals was creation of an online portal/discussion forum enabling two-way communication and exchange of views, which would in addition serve as an information point.



Photo by Wniebowziete by Rafal Michalowski

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## **HUNGARY**

### **Practical help from Energiaklub: guidelines for stakeholder involvement and status quo analysis of energy strategies**

ENES-CE project is designed to involve citizens at the very beginning of strategic planning processes. Energiaklub prepared a document that can provide methodological assistance for partners in involving experts, civil groups, decision makers in energy and climate plans of a municipality or a county.

Energiaklub also designed guides that helped partners gather information about the status quo of their energy and climate plans through analyses and interviews. The analysis of the situation showed a different picture in different countries, but by exchanging the experience gained, partner institutions can effectively help each other in their future work.

### **Progress in implementation of SECAP in Zugló**

An early assessment of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan of Zugló was elaborated in the ENES-CE project. While the deadline of the regular revise of the document is 2021, some progress is already visible.

The SECAP of Budapest XIV. district Zugló was adopted in Spring 2019 with 30 actions in field of mitigation and 17 actions in adaptation. The work of implementation already started: energy retrofit and PV systems in public buildings, establishment and enlargement of city ‘Climate Forest’, rainwater harvest and greywater reuse system as a pilot project in a kindergarten, new bike storages show the engagement of the municipality with climate issues. The analysis clearly shows, involvement of residential and business sector still needs strong interventions.



Parallel with the SECAP status quo analysis interviews were made with local stakeholders to map out the feasibility of the co-creation process in local energy plans. Several stakeholder groups from cyclist associations to social service institutions and action points were identified. The main statement of the analysis declares the principles of the co-creation process: clear targets and frames, visible and transparent workflow, proper documentation, tailored information for different stakeholders.

The common methodology of performing the analysis documents was elaborated by Energiaklub, thematic partner of the project.

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## GERMANY

### “Energie für alle Woche” in Pfaffenhofen from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019

As part of the European Interreg ENES-CE program the municipal utilities and the citizen-energy-cooperatives in Pfaffenhofen hosted „the energy for everyone week“ from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019. For a week different subjects of renewable energies and climate protection were presented to the public. For the younger generation a solar race was organized. The main goal is to educate pupils how energy from light is converted into energy. Then, this stored energy was used to accelerate the self-built cars of pupils to a speed which should be as high as possible.





## ITALY

### ENES-CE at the International Fair in Italy



Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, the project ENES-CE was presented to KEYENERGY during the international fair ECOMONDO, held in Rimini. ECOMONDO is a point of reference in Europe for everyone works with the issue of sustainability whether it means waste treatment or environmental protection. In particular, KEYENERGY is a further exhibition included in the fair and set specifically to handle the theme of energy sustainability. In this frame, the Municipality of Forlì presented the activities founded by the EU program

Central-Europe Interreg ENES-CE through the participation of the director of its in-house society, which deals with the revision of the existing SEAP and the update towards the new SECAP. Mr. Claudio Maltoni's presentation the participants of the event explained which opportunities the ENES-CE Project offers to the Municipality and which key points are the most important to achieve sustainability and to fulfil all the SEAP/SECAP goals. The conference has been organized by RENAEL, which joins many energy agencies in a net and provides to them some useful services in order accomplish their objectives, such the adoption of a well developed SECAP.

