

Newsletter No. 7

2022

ENES-CE

is addressing the issue of energy efficiency in Central Europe

ENES CE achievements in Forlì

In Forlì, Italy, the goals achieved with the ENES-CE project allowed, first of all, the implementation of a participatory process engaging the community and the municipal managers in the energy plan revision from the SEAP to the SECAP.

The actions of the pilot project were fulfilled raising the awareness of a large number of citizens about the use of energy. In particular, the distribution for free of the energy kits led to important reflections about the impact any personal action can have and the importance of act collectively. Consequently, in parallel with the individual engagement on the energy issue, the creation of a Consumer Energy Group gives the opportunity to the citizens to discuss and propose some joined actions or to start an energy community with the support of the Municipal Energy Help Desk.

During the course of the project the Italian legislation about energy communities changed, giving the possibility to start and to incentivize renewable energy communities. The international conference held in Forlì on 01/06/2022 explained such an opportunity to the CEG and to the whole city. The Municipality of Forlì is committed to the realisation and diffusion of the energy communities by disseminating information through the Energy Help Desk and by mapping municipal buildings and land areas in order to decide in matter of potential photovoltaic systems installation.





International ENES CE Conference in Forlì

On Wednesday 1st of June 2022, the Municipality of Forlì, in collaboration with its in-house society FMI s.r.l., organized the International Conference foreseen within the ENES-CE INTERREG Project. All the project partners took part during the event and presented the goals achieved through their Pilot Actions, whereas other national and regional important organizations explained their engagement and effort in developing the regulations of the Renewable Energy Communities in comparison with the European directives. The video recordings (in English) of the event are at disposal on the ENES-CE YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwgXrXXttFgNF_LOzRRF7Pg



Memorandum Of Understanding for the local climate actions in Zugló

On Earth Day, as a closing act of the ENES-CE project, Municipality of Zugló signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the district's partner NGOs and businesses to further implement the district's sustainable energy and climate protection goals.

Deputy Mayor Rebeka Szabó stressed that the Municipality of Zugló alone cannot effectively influence the local effects of climate change. Although more than 80% of people are aware of the problems caused by climate change and are willing to take action to improve the situation, they need help of organisations to give adequate responses to challenges.

According to the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, Zugló committed a 40% reduction in the CO2 emissions by 2030. To achieve the goals, the municipality needs the contribution of the local stakeholders: citizens organisations and businesses.

The initial goal of ENES-CE aimed to create an energy efficiency cooperative in the district. While the Hungarian regulation does not provide sufficient conditions for the legal entity, the Memorandum of Understanding is an expression of the organisations' commitment to continue working towards a climate-friendly Zugló.

Beyond the municipality, the agreement was signed by 6 NGOs and small local businesses, but it is open for further participants to join.



<https://www.zuglo.hu/alairtak-a-zugloi-klimavedelmet-tamogato-megallapodast/>



Works on the installation of a PV power plant on the roof of kindergarten “Fijolica” in Town of Prelog in progress

Two Croatian partners, Town of Prelog and Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd. managed to launch within the ENES-CE project the pilot action which includes the installation of PV power plant with capacity of 50 kW on the roof of recently energy refurbished building of Town Prelog kindergarten “Fijolica”. This investment is considered to be a very important energy community project where citizens and other stakeholders were directly involved from the very beginning - in the process of deciding on the type of pilot action which is being implemented as part of the ENES-CE project.

Building of Town Prelog kindergarten “Fijolica”



The whole process started at the end of March 2022 after signing a contract with the selected constructor, while a positive outcome is expected by the end of June 2022, when the implementation of the ENES-CE project officially ends. The total value of the pilot investment is 55.700,00 EUR and will be partially covered from the ENES-CE project budget in the amount of 15.000,00 EUR. The rest of the investment will be covered from Town Prelog local budget and from additional funds available through national Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund who publishes yearly calls to co-fund installation of RES systems in public buildings. Town of Prelog submitted their application for this year's call in April 2022, while in the case of a positive response, co-financing of the rest of the investment will be provided at a rate of 40%.

Installation of PV power plant on the roof of kindergarten “Fijolica”

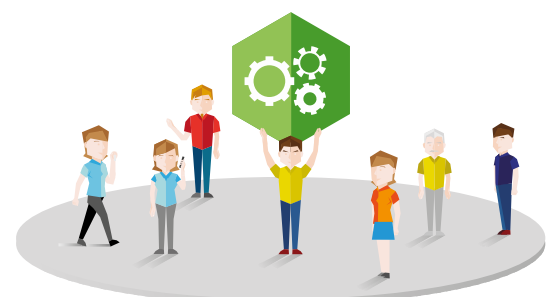




Due to recently enormous increase of energy prices, this initiative selected by local citizens and newly established citizen energy association “Green Energy Club Prelog” within the ENES-CE project will most certainly have a positive effect on the kindergarten’s electricity bills. It should be mentioned that in 2021, the cost of electricity consumed by kindergarten amounted about 7.000,00 EUR and with the growth of energy prices this year, this cost is estimated at about 11.600,00 EUR. According to the relevant calculations this investment will ensure financial savings in the amount of 9.000,00 EUR per year and CO₂ emission reduction in amount of 9 t(CO₂) per year. Since the kindergarten's building was energy refurbished within the last two years, with the additional installation of a PV power plant for generating own renewable electricity, it will become a good example of a building with increased energy efficiency which will consequently ensure a better working environment for kindergarten's staff and affect the quality of service to citizens and their children.

This pilot investment was triggered by series of interactive and collaborative workshops with citizens and relevant stakeholders from year 2019 until the finalization of creation of citizen energy association “Green Energy Club Prelog” in year 2021. Organized workshops combined with other relevant communication activities have encouraged the involvement of interested citizens in process of revision of current energy plan (SEAP), development of new energy plan (SECAP) and identification of most relevant measures to be implemented in Town of Prelog.

Finally, with this investment, the town administration stimulated additional interest of citizens in investing in the installation of PV power plants on their private homes. In addition, it also encouraged launching additional sustainable energy projects and initiatives such as installation of an integrated charging station for electric vehicles to the kindergarten building and the purchase of an electric car for Town of Prelog business





purposes. With this, Town of Prelog provided momentum for further green local investments and went a step further in its intention to become a carbon neutral and sustainable town.

Municipality of Koper successfully implemented a pilot action investment into a smart lighting and laid the foundations for the establishment of first solar energy cooperative

With the aim of achieving an efficient and secure energy supply, the Municipality of Koper has been discussing energy policy in detail for years. In February 2021, the Mayor of Koper, Aleš Bržan, signed the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. In this way, the Municipality of Koper joined the European movement, which advocates increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources. In 2022, the Municipality of Koper will also adopt a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, which will include a set of measures to achieve the goals of the Covenant of Mayors - reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030 compared to the reference year 2005 and increasing the ability to adapt to climate change.

As part of the ENES-CE project foundations for the establishment of the first solar energy cooperative have been prepared. Local residents were invited to join the cooperative and to take an active role. With the aim of developing and improving energy self-sufficiency, the municipality decided to connect with citizens and establish Sunny cooperative Koper. The first project of the cooperative will be the installation of a community solar power plant on the roof of the Primary school in Sv. To Anton. As part of the priority tasks of the municipality, the expansion of the cooperative with similar projects on the roofs of municipal buildings is planned.

Besides the creation of solar energy cooperative, Municipality of Koper successfully implemented a pilot action investment into a smart lighting. Modernisation of public lighting for the Slemenska road was made in accordance with the Decree on limit values due to light pollution of environment, with amendments and supplements.

36 inefficient luminaires were replaced with new LED luminaires. Energy savings and operating costs of the installed SCADA system, together with LED lighting technology, will contribute up to 60 percent lower lighting costs. On the other hand, this technology prolongs the life of the lamps and further contributes to the reduction of light pollution.





Energy consumption after the implementation of the investment will decrease by 9.876 kWh per year.

We are aware that local administration is a key stakeholder in promoting the energy transition and combating climate change at the level of governance, as it is closest to the citizens. It is therefore right that local authorities take the lead in this area and set an example for their citizens and other authorities.





Energy Cluster Niemce created in Lubelskie Region

Thanks to cooperation between residents, entrepreneurs and local authorities in energy planning in the municipality of Niemce „Niemce Energy Cluster” was established in October 2021.

The aim of the Niemce Energy Cluster is to support the development of local distributed energy, improve energy security in economically effective manner, invest in RES, as well as ecological education.

Niemce Energy Cluster started with the organisation of the pilot action „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 municipality and to inform 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 join the common bottom-up energy planning in Niemce. The pilot action meetings participants gained knowledge about available programs dedicated to RES investments and improvement of energy efficiency. They also found out how to change everyday behaviours/habits in order to reduce energy consumption and thus the CO₂ emissions.

Niemce Energy Cluster is ambitious in their prospects for the future. They made land inventory in order to plan investments in photovoltaics and wind energy. The Niemce Municipality (cluster member) has also announced tender for the implementation of the project - investment in PV under the project "Eco Effective Niemce Municipality". This project is currently one of the priority projects. Cluster will also continue activities dedicated to the ecological education.

Niemce Energy Cluster closely cooperate also with local authorities in order to develop local energy policy. They will be a very good support tool in the bottom-up energy planning process, in building the understanding, trust and cooperation of the local community in the implementation of investments in RES and EE, and for saving energy.





Establishment of Niemce Energy Cluster

The first community bicycle storage in Hungary is now up and running

To the best of our knowledge, the first community bicycle storage facility in Hungary was set up in Zugló by the Esélykert Foundation, with the support of the Energiaklub in the framework of the INTERREG ENES-CE project.

Community bike storage is needed because in urban environments, condominiums often do not have adequate indoor storage space for bicycles, especially when it comes to vehicles that can carry children or luggage. It can also be a barrier if there are some suitable spaces, but they may not be enough for the residents. In Zugló, the local community recognised this lack, and with the help of volunteers, they built a storage facility to improve the conditions for cycling and bicycle use, which can be an incentive for the people living in the area. The storage facility also acts as a community lending facility: local residents using the storage facility can also offer their bikes for hire. This type of sharing economy allows us to buy fewer goods (in this case bicycles), which require less energy to produce.

In addition, given that emissions from transport are a major contributor to climate change, reducing motorised, individual modes (driving) and switching to cycling is a huge step forward in living a climate-friendly lifestyle.





In the framework of the ENES-CE project, four local actions were implemented in Zugló with the involvement of local communities.

Local authorities face many challenges in meeting their climate targets: financial constraints, lack of staff with specific skills, and often the provision of adequate information to local communities is not progressing at an ideal pace. All of this could call into question the target of 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 that many are committed to. The involvement of local communities and community actions, civic initiatives are essential to achieve climate targets. Active participation can also encourage others around us to join in similar climate-conscious actions.

