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*Project RURES has covered the half of its two and a half year activities by June 2018, thus it is high time to evaluate whether the continuously formulating initiative has been able to achieve its aims compared to the original objectives, whether they can really affect the life of the main target group; i.e. the citizens. However, the practical activities of the international partnership programme have just started, at the same time when this article is being written, the results of the first partnership meetings, and the professional workshops are quite promising.*



*Installation of renewable energy sources systems in public utility buildings and private households (best practice) in Niepołomice, Poland – © Łukasz*

The RURES Project formulated in the framework of the INTERREG Central Europe Programme was inaugurated in July 2018 with the main objective to promote the Sustainable use of Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency in Rural Regions.

The project is being realised by the cooperation of eleven partner organizations with the participation of the following six countries: Germany, Croatia, Poland, Czech Republic Slovenia and finally Hungary.

The level of development and degree of exploitation of renewable energy sources varies largely between the Central Europe regions. In the EU currently about a fifth of the population lives in rural areas and about one-third in transition regions. Globally seen there will be a further shifting towards urban areas. On the other hand, it is preliminary rural areas, where the main potentials lie for generating renewable energy. With the RURES project we are focusing on a sustainable regional development in rural regions and taking into account the energy production and consumption side. By exchange of experiences and capacity building between the project partner regions especially the less developed regions in Medjmurje County (CRO), Palecznica (PL) Pomurska Region (SL) Zala County (HU) and Ústí Region (CZ) can positively be supported to threaten their main challenges. The second period comes to an end and we want to inform you what we have achieved so far.





In this semester our Polish partner Paleczinca Municipality hosted the partners of the RURES Project. There we held our Coordination Unit and International Steering Committee meeting and updated each other on the current state of the project. Within this meeting each partner had the opportunity to present his best practices, which was to be researched. The best practices deal with alternative financing energy efficiency / renewable energy sources measures. We heard interesting lectures and could exchange afterwards. A highlight of the partner meeting was the study visit.

There we looked at the local solar systems, which are coupled with an intelligent water metering system. This was assessed by the experts of the partners, who had come specially for it, and carried out a so-called peer review. The intelligent water metering system is the pilot investment of the Municipality of Paleczinca.



*Coordination Unit and International Steering Committee meeting in Paleczinca, Poland*

Therefore, it is foreseen to install intelligent (automatic) water metering (IWM) at the water distribution system of the municipality of Pałecznicza.



*Local support group meeting in Vép, Hungary*

Another important activities are the local support group meetings. There, the partners inform their stakeholders about the project and exchange views with the experts. As a special feature this





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semester a handbook from the best practices will be created, which will be then issued to the stakeholders.

Public relations work is also very important in the project. Therefore, we are pleased that this period of comprehensive leaflet has been completed, which all partners have translated into their language. These are now ready to be issued to interested parties. Furthermore, each Semester a newsletter is distributed, which you can view and subscribe to here.

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/RURES.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/rurescentral/>

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