CEESEN Partnership Conference

Program

May 18-19, 2022 Ptuj, Slovenia / Online

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CEESEN PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE



AGENDA WEDNESDAY 18.05.2022

Dominican Monastery - Muzejski trg 1, 2250 Ptuj, Slovenia

08:00-09:00	and the other \$35.5 constants				
Registration and welcome coffee					
09:00-12:00 Morning session					
Opening of the Conference					
Introduction to SECAPs					
EU policy and the Covenant of Mayors - Georg Houben (European Commission) - online					
LIFE Clean Energy Transition: support for local actions - Michele Sansoni (CINEA) - online					
Green transition - Noora Huotari (Micropolis)					
CoM activities, experiences and best practices - Janos Kukoricza (ÉMI Nonprofit LTD) - online					
Joint SECAP - Črtomir Kurnik (LEA Gorenjska)					
12:00-13:00					
Lunch at the Venue					
13:00-14:30 Afternoon session					
Smart urban energy management – from opportunity to impact - Andrei Ceclan (Technical University of Cluj-Napoca) – online					
Alba Iulia on the path of carbon neutrality in the framework of CoM - Florin Andronescu (ALEA)					
Integrated energy planning at district level - Zsófia Pej (Energiaklub)					
14:30-14:50					
Coffee break					
14:50-16:20 Roundtable					
SECAP experiences					
Vienna, Austria	Bratislava, Slovakia	Brno, Czech Republic	Szombathely, Hungary		
16:20-17:00 Closing sess	ion				
Wrap up of the 1st day					
19:00 DINNER					



For further information: ceesen.org/en/conference

May 18-19, 2022 **Ptuj, Slovenia**



CEESEN PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE



AGENDA THURSDAY 19.05.2022

Dominican Monastery - Muzejski trg 1, 2250 Ptuj, Slovenia

08:00-09:00

Welcome coffee

09:00-12:00 Morning session

SECAP template of the CoM, actual situation and next steps - Miguel Morcillo (Climate Alliance)

Towards a sustainable mobility in Romanian cities - Tiberiu Toma (ALEA)

Energy Poverty, Tomislav Tkalec (Focus, SLO), Bajomi Anna, (Habitat for Humanity, HU)

Engaging citizens in local energy planning and investment implementation – project ENES-CE - Niki Radiković and Katarina Drk Hutinec (Menea)

WWF One Planet City Challenge - Anthony Pearce (WWF) - online

12:00-13:00

Lunch at the Venue

13:00-14:00 Afternoon session

City Storage and Sector Coupling, (ConPlusUltra) Demo centres in Stegersbach (Austria) and Destrnik (Slovenia)

Introduction to the networking session

14:00-14:20

Coffee break

14:20-16:00

Networking session (not available for online participants) CEESEN Steering Committee meeting

16:00 Closure of the conference



For further information: ceesen.org/en/conference

CEESEN Partnership Conference 2022

Is your municipality ready to take part in the global fight against climate change and rising energy prices? Are you a municipal employee or NGO engaged in the Clean Energy Transition, or a business looking to make a difference? Are you worried about energy poverty, a just transition, leaving no-one behind?

Then join us and learn from experts and pioneer cities, build partnerships and share your results and solutions!

The Central & Eastern European Sustainable Energy Network is committed to support municipalities in the region to adapt to help mitigate the climate crisis and realize a climate-friendly future.

Our conference gathers municipalities, local decision makers, and experts to learn about great ideas, acquire information about possibilities, and build useful connections with one another as well as with actors from the governmental, NGO, and corporate sectors.

We address those municipalities who are planning to take the first steps and would like to know more about the Covenant of Mayors and the SECAP.

The range of our programme's trainings, lectures, round tables, and workshops will help you to become familiar with the dos and don'ts of developing a climate strategy. Invited speakers from the Covenant of Mayors, DG Climate, and other expert institutions will help to understand the benefits of having a strategic view on climate and energy.

For those who already know what they are aiming for, the most crucial question might well be how to finance the desired action plan. For the more experienced, we offer the options to deep dive into diverse topics – tackling energy poverty, adaptation, establishing energy communities to make the SECAP the core of your sustainability strategy. Learn directly from the most trusted sources:

DG Climate, and Climate Alliance among others.

Let's support each other with sharing experiences and learn from the pioneers!

Get involved into the stories of selected forerunner cities in the region, Vienna, Bratislava, Brno, Kaposvár. Located not far from one another, these cities are in four different countries, thus deal with four different sets of national legislative requirements and varying levels of central government support.



About CEESEN

The aim of CEESEN (The Central and Eastern European Sustainable Energy Network) is to increase communication, cooperation and interaction between local public administrators, stakeholders and policy makers at multiple levels and in multiple directions. CEESEN is a great low-carbon economy knowledge base, a voice for the region at the EU level and a platform for connecting together public administrators, policy makers and other key actors working for low-carbon economies in the CEE.

CEESEN partners devotedly work together to build up the CEESEN network, to enable increased communication and collaboration between CEE sustainable energy actors throughout the region.



Founders



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Climate	Alliance

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CENTRAL EASTERN EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NETWORK

18.05. Wednesday 09:00 - 12:00 Morning session

EU policy and the Covenant of Mayors

Georg Houben (DE) - European Commission

Georg Houben is Policy Officer at the EU Commission's Directorate General for Energy

(DG ENER) since 2010, where he is responsible for Smart Cities & Communities, the Smart Cities Marketplace, the Covenant of Mayors and the Covenant of Companies. Georg is involved in urban matters since 2011, being a proof for his enthusiasm for the urban context and the potential of this area for most major EU policies.

He is a graduate in electro-technical engineering from the University of Aachen (RWTH) Germany. From 2006 – 2010 he worked as Radiation Protection Officer at the JRC Institute for Transuranium Elements in Karlsruhe, Germany, being responsible for dosimetry and radiation protection medical measures.

Before that, Georg Houben worked at Mitsubishi Electric, Ratingen, Germany, responsible for Motion and Servo Technologies as well as project start-up as High Level Support and Project Engineer (Product Specialist and Trainer). He also worked as Project Engineer at Rockwell Automation, Krefeld, Germany, where his responsibilities included worldwide start-ups of large scale automation projects, project design and programming.

LIFE Clean Energy Transition: support for local actions Michele Sansoni (BE) - CINEA

Michele Sandoni works as Project Adviser in the LIFE Energy + Clima Unit of CINEA, the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency of the European Commission, where he focuses on providing support to cities and regions in energy and climate planning and on the development of innovative financing schemes for sustainable energy investments. He is responsible for the ManagEnergy initiative, dedicated to local and regional energy agencies and he contributes to the European City Facility.



Green transition Noora Huotari (FI) - Micropolis

The town of Ii in northern Finland is a green trailblazer. It has managed to stop burning fossil fuels and will have reduced carbon emissions by 80% by 2020; that is 30 years ahead of the EU target. It is also aiming to be the world's first zero-waste town. Noora Huotari is the Business Developer for the Municipality of Ii; she is the CEO of Ii's development company, Micropolis, and is an expert on business development and financing. Noora will share the best practices Ii has developed, focusing on how Micropolis' work towards a Carbon Neutral Community has brought many benefits to the municipality.

CoM activities, experiences and best practices János Kukoricza (HU) - ÉMI Nonprofit LTD

János Kukoricza will share experiences as Covenant of Mayors country coordinator, summarizing their work in helping Hungarian cities to create their sustainable energy and climate action plans. Furthermore he will talk about SECAP review practices, their international collaborations and R&D projects regarding sustainable built environment.

EMI Nonprofit Ltd has a multifaceted role as a public organization, a sectoral knowledge center in line with the expansion of the construction sector. The main activities are technical expertise, quality assurance, investment management, grant management, laboratory testing and innovation management. From July 2016 it supports local and county governments in the strategy-making processes of sustainable settlement development as a National Coordinator under an agreement with the Covenant of Mayors (CoM). We participated in the preparation and review of several county and city SECAPs and the organization of SECAP forums.

Joint SECAP Črtomir Kurnik (SI) - LEA Gorenjska

Črtomir Kurnik is a Director of LEAG with a degree in international and diplomatic studies. He is European Energy Manager and has experience in the commercial sector on cost-cutting projects and analytical work. The Local Energy Agency of Gorenjska assists local institutions in planning projects to reduce energy consumption and maximise energy efficiency. Activities are directed towards raising public awareness in the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. He talks about the challenges in the preparation and implementation of SECAP Gorenjska region. And also shares experiences in how to motivate mayors and experiences in forming a working group for implementation of measures.



18.05. Wednesday 13:00 - 14:30 Afternoon session

18.05. 13:00-14:30 Afternoon session

Smart urban energy management – from opportunity to impact

Dr. Andrei Ceclan (RO) - Technical University of Cluj-Napoca

Dr. Andrei Ceclan is a lecturer in the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca in the field of Energy Management. He is actively involved as an energy manager for Cluj-Napoca Municipality and provides technical assistance to several other local communities and public authorities. His work and achievements are related to urban energy management, energy efficiency, renewable sources, and their impact in local communities decarbonation.

The proposed topic is related to the role of the Urban Energy Management in the public local authorities to reach decarbonation, starting from the SECAPs, European Energy Award evaluations, annual energy efficiency programs as strategic and/or operational programs and going through the effective actions of this Urban Energy Manager or team to initiate, develop and implement project and then evaluate their impact.

Alba Iulia on the path of carbon neutrality in the framework of CoM Florin Andronescu (RO) - ALEA

Florin Andronescu – director of Alba Local Energy Agency is specialized in energy management, provides technical consultancy on energy efficiency, energy management and use of RES in public institutions and private households. He possesses solid background in sustainable energy planning as well as expertise as trainer and coacher in the elaboration and implementation energy related strategies and plans.

The presentation approaches the topic of implementing SECAPs, with examples and practical solutions. The focus is on offering a successful example of SECAP implementation in a Romanian CoM signatory city.



18.05. 13:00-14:30 Afternoon session

Integrated energy planning at district level

Zsófia Pej (HU) - Energiaklub

Zsófia Pej is an experienced project leader with a demonstrated history of working in climate adaptation at local level and energy efficiency in the public sector. She is climate programme leader at the Hungarian think-tank Energiaklub Climate Policy Institute which is a Hungarian NGO, policy and applied science center that concentrates on energy efficiency, renewable resources, climate protection, conventional energy resources and energy policy.

The energy transition is a complicated process and calls for integrated solutions that would combine elements of sustainable transport, energy and land-use planning. They will help not only to make our cities more climate friendly but also to create more liveable areas satisfying citizens' various needs. Zsófia Pej will present the EU funded MULTIPLY project and the valuable good practices and supporting tools that are now available local municipalities that participated in the project. They went through an interesting peer-to-peer learning process to design their own energy plans in line with the Covenant of Mayors initiative to mitigate at least 40% CO2 emission by 2030.



18.05. Wednesday 14:50 - 16:20 Roundtable discussion

18.05. 14:50-16:20 Roundtable discussion

Austria - Vienna

Michael Cerveny

Michael Cerveny is an economist and has worked on supporting public authorities in Austria on the federal and state level on how to deliever the energy transition for more than 35 years. Since 2013 he works for Urban Innovation Vienna, the Energy Center of the City of Vienna. He is one of the authors of the "Climate-Roadmap", which has recently been adopted by the Vienna City Council and which clarifies how Vienna wants to phase-out oil and gas by 2040 and become climate neutral.

Czech Republic - Brno

Martin Košťál

Mgr. Martin Košťál - Head of the Incentive Programmes Department at the Department of the Environment. This department is responsible for, among other things, environmental subsidy programmes, energy management of the city of Brno and the #PripravBrno campaign. In his presentation he will introduce us to Brno's experience with the implementation of SECAP and the pitfalls of information campaigns implemented by the Environmental Department of the Brno City Hall."

Hungary - Szombathely

Ákos Németh

Ákos Németh is the councillor for sustainable development and climate policy at the Municipality of Szombathely City with County Rights since 2019. He is a computer technician and after working for some multinational companies and as a service technician in Budapest, he decided to get into public life. As he had been concerned with the problems of the country and of his narrow community, he joined the green party of Hungary, called LMP in 2012. In his position as councillor he is in charge of projects for environment and nature protection, and he works for the future of a modern and green Szombathely.

Slovakia - Bratislava Ingrid Konrad

Ingrid Konrad studied architecture in Bratislava and Vienna, and also lectured on architecture and public spaces at the University of Vienna. She worked in the commission for spatial planning in the Vajnory district of Bratislava, and currently runs a private architectural studio in Vienna. Her aim is to have architecture and urbanism to help change Bratislava's relationship with the city.



19.05. Thursday 09:00 - 12:00 Morning session

SECAP template of the CoM, actual situation and next steps Miguel Morcillo (DE) - Climate Alliance

Miguel Morcillo is Environmental and security engineer, authorized waste and emissions agent and consultant instructor for health and safety by the Technical University of Giessen in Germany, he is responsible of CO2 monitoring in Climate Alliance and has developed CO2 monitoring municipal methodologies used by more than 2.000 local entities in the countries of Germany, Austria, Italy, Luxemburg, Ukraine and Georgia. He has developed the Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) of municipalities and counties like Hammel-Pyrmont, Worms, Wiesloch, Kaiserslautern and Hanau, and has worked as an adviser for the development of several SEAPs in Ukraine like, Lviv, Dolyna, Vinnytsia and others. He has been working from the early beginning as Technical Helpdesk the Covenant of Mayors and Covenant of Mayors East, playing a big role in the development the SEAP/SECAP methodology. He is actually part of the CoM EU office working in CO2 monitoring and reporting and also NKE the Covenant of Mayors East and Japan, being also involved in the technical working groups the Global Covenant of Mayors.

Description the actual SECAP template, highlighting the most important aspects and new and explanation of the future plans the CoM to make the SECAP template more comfortable for municipalities.

Towards a sustainable mobility in Romanian cities Tiberiu Toma (RO) - ALEA

Tiberiu Toma – communication expert in the implementation of EU funded projects within ALEA. He possesses experience in the organization of energy related campaigns as well as

technical activities: stakeholders' engagement, awareness raising activities, media relations, reporting, development of learning contents and activities, implementation of capacity building activities.

The presentation will detail the elaboration of the 1st e-mobility plans in Romanian cities detailing the national and local context concerning e-mobility and the challenges local authorities face when engaging in e-mobility development



Energy Poverty

Tomislav Tkalec (SI) - Focus

Energy poverty and gender; Structural injustices lead to more and more people in Europe being affected by energy poverty. As we emphasize in project EmpowerMed, women are particularly vulnerable to energy poverty, but they can also be a strong actor.

Project EmpowerMed - Empowering women to take action against energy poverty in the Mediterranean – aims to contribute to energy poverty alleviation and health improvement of people affected by energy poverty in the coastal areas of Mediterranean countries, with a particular focus on women.

Bajomi Anna (HU) - Habitat for Humanity

Anna Zsófia Bajomi is an energy poverty expert at Habitat for Humanity Hungary (HfHHU) with a background in social policy and urban planning, working on energy transition, energy poverty and solid fuel user households. She has experience in working at Hungarian and international public and research institutions and NGOs. She is a PhD candidate at the Polytechnic University of Milan.

At the CEESEN conference Anna Bajomi will talk about biomass use of energy poor households in three Central Eastern European countries. The presentation is based on the results of the study "Fuel of the poor - household biomass is Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania", written in the frames of the LIFE- BiO-BALANCE project. The study highlights that in CEE the poorest rural households often face energy poverty. They typically heat with wood, as often they have no access to gas and district heating networks. They live in houses that are in bad condition with very poor heat insulation and they have no financial means to buy more efficient and more expensive heating equipment. Therefore a poor family needs to spend considerably more from their income on wood than a better-off family would in a same sized house, while they also face rapidly increasing prices of firewood.



Engaging citizens in local energy planning and investment implementation – project ENES-CE Niki Radiković and Katarina Drk Hutinec (HR) - Menea

The topic covered by this presentation is concerning the importance of citizens involvement in local energy planning and implementing concrete energy community investments through the experience of Croatian partners within the project ENES-CE – Collaboration between public bodies and citizen energy groups in implementing local energy strategies in Central Europe. Creating a functional low carbon economy plans (like SEAP/SECAP) requires tapping into the human and financial potential of citizens which is a common challenge for most local governments. Having this in mind, the main goal of the project is to stimulate citizen energy groups in creating local energy strategies and other forms of citizen energy groups in creating local energy strategies and implementing concrete energy community investments in different Central European regions.

Niki Radiković (MSc in mechanical engineering) graduated in 2019 from Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb (Croatia). He currently works as energy expert associate at Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd. where he gained extensive experience in technical coordination of energy projects co-financed by various national and EU funds as well as in communicating with relevant stakeholders and their involvement in overall energy and climate planning process at regional and local level. He showed quality skills and knowledge in implementing community energy projects and developing relevant local and regional energy and climate planning documents including Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans.

Katarina Drk Hutinec (MSc in economics) graduated in 2018 from Polytechnic of Međimurje in Čakovec (Croatia) and currently works as project manager at Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd. and is known for her active involvement. She spent her rich career mainly in social sector working on community relevant projects and directly interacting with citizens especially those who are vulnerable and socially excluded. During her working time at Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd. she gained extensive experience in development and application of various projects linked to energy and climate. She has also participated in activities related to implementation of various projects oriented towards energy poverty, enhancing energy efficiency in households and fostering the use of renewable energy sources.



WWF One Planet City Challenge Anthony Pearce (SE) - WWF

Anthony Pearce is Policy co-lead for WWF Cities, which coordinates WWF's approach on urban policies internationally and runs the One Planet City Challenge. He is based in Stockholm, Sweden.

The One Planet City Challenge is WWF's invitation to cities to join us on our ongoing mission: the creation of cities that enable people to thrive in balance with nature now and in the future. In this friendly competition, we celebrate national and global frontrunners. We review cities' climate actions and ambitions, and assess whether they align with the goals set forth in the Paris Agreement. WWF supports cities in accelerating their climate transformation and showcases participants' best practices. The OPCC format creates friendly competition between cities while celebrating the best and brightest ideas, actions, people, and policies. Joining the Challenge is an ideal way for cities to keep themselves motivated to make needed and desired changes. Over the past ten years almost 600 cities from 53 countries and five continents have participated. It is the largest and longest-running challenge of its kind.



19.05. Thursday 13:00 - 14:00 Afternoon session

19.05. 13:00 - 14:00 Afternoon session

City Storage and Sector Coupling - Demo centres in Stegersbach (Austria) and Destrnik (Slovenia) - ConPlusUltra

City Storage and Sector Coupling relates to the process whereby the renewable energy produced in the electricity, heating and transport sector (or at least two of these) is used in another sector with the help of appropriate technologies (EV chargers, hydrogen production, heat pumps and electric boilers) both on a small and a large scale.

The CSSC Lab project allows for sector coupling and city storage technologies to be tested in a real-life context. During this session, the project will be introduced and speakers from both demo centres will share information on the sector coupling and city storage solutions (photovoltaics, battery storage, thermal storage etc.) being tested at their centres in Austria and Slovenia.

Michael Niederkofler (Energie Kompass, Austria) holds a degree of applied physics from Technische Universität Graz. He managed large international greenfield projects in the steel and raw materials industry and has worked and lived in Venezuela, Kazakhstan and China. After his international career he worked as an independent consultant for project management and internationalization. Since 2018 is the head of the Innovation Lab act4.energy, a living lab initiative with the goal of developing regional, renewable energy systems. He is working on solutions for the energy transition with a focus on demonstration and pilot projects and the replicability of results.

Roman Kekec (LEA Spodnje Podravje, Slovenia) is project manager at LEA Spodnje Podravje, graduated as a civil engineer at the University of Maribor, Faculty of Civil Engineering. He is involved in designing, conducting and implementing of local and international projects. Currently he is involved in several Interreg Europe, Horizon 2020 and Danube transnational Programme projects. He works also as support in energy auditing and preparation of local energy concepts.



19.05. Thursday 14:20 - 16:00 Networking session



Make new contacts to bring about your project ideas or showcase your expertise!

The dedicated networking session is as an extended coffee break right before the end of the conference.

Help us prepare for it even better by signing up here.

Networking session sign-up



Share your contacts and interests in advance so we can help you to get the most out of the session.

If you agree - after the conference we are going to share the contact information with the conference participants to build partnerships even more effectively.



Thank you for supporting our event by attending and contributing. We hope you enjoy the experience and receive beneficial information.



Central Eastern European Sustainable Energy Network

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