



UNIVERSITY
OF TARTU

CEESEU-DIGIT

CEE Sustainable **E**nergy **U**nion – **D**esign and
Implementation of regional **G**overnment **I**nitiatives
for a just energy **T**ransition

Elis Vollmer

University of Tartu



The CEESEU-DIGIT project has received funding from the European Union's Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE 2014-2020) under grant agreement n° LIFE 101077297.



What does CEESEU-DIGIT project want to achieve?

Objective 1: Creation of Local/Regional Policies and Plans in support of the Just Energy Transition

Objective 2: Institutionalize collaborations between local/regional governmental departments and involvement of a wide range of private and civil society stakeholders in planning

Objective 3: Increase skills and capacity of public officers and stakeholders via trainings

Objective 4: Increase Political and Financial Support for Just Energy Transitions

But why?!

- European Green Deal
- Just Transition Fund (JTF)

A just transition >> shifting from an extractive, polluting economy to a sustainable, regenerative one in a way that is fair and inclusive for all affected parties. This concept emphasizes ensuring that workers, communities, and social groups are not left behind during the transition to a greener economy.

Key figures



6 just energy and climate action plans in 6 regions



Target population of 4 413 250



Influence 256 national/regional policies



Help improve CoM/EC guidelines for CEE



Involve 1110 stakeholders



Train 1231 public administrators



Establish climate budgets in municipalities



Trigger 13.5 mil € for ECAP implementation



Develop at least 26 new funding proposals



Direct 273 mil € to ECAP implementation



Save 14% of consumed energy



Increase RE production by 1900GWh



Save 190 Mt CO2 eq

Main stakeholders we work with include:

- **Regional energy agencies, local governments, and regional associations** – they are the authorities that are formally linked to the regional ECAPs.
- **Public administrators from local municipalities** throughout the regions – they will be responsible for implementing various actions in the regional ECAPs. Local municipalities are also responsible for allocating climate budgets for energy and climate activities.
- **Energy related private sector organizations** – giving input and taking up commitment in the planning processes.
- **Citizens, especially those from vulnerable populations** and the organizations that represent them – Their input is vital for just and fair transition.

But how?

CEESEU-DIGIT tackles green transition on the local, national and international levels.

To build public sector capacity we have

- (a) formulated holistic ECAPs in 6 regions
- (b) addressed energy poverty - heating/cooling, adequate ventilation/lighting, domestic hot water, cooking;
- (c) attended to constituents and act on behalf of their needs;
- (d) assessed financing options and teach how to apply for them; and
- (e) worked with the private sector to reduce opposition and increase support for ECAPs by supporting business sector initiatives.

A just CET needs to **maximize support, minimize opposition, and overcome apathy**, requiring the application of social sciences techniques.

What we actually achieved?

- 6 ECAPs with supportive sustainable financing plans
- More than 1200 people trained in 6 regions
- Better multi-level cooperation: NCEPs and ECAPs
- Looked into politics
- Promoted better online and offline engagement
- Promoted active discussion on green transition topics on local level to encourage locals to take responsibility and action
- Brought on board the elderly and the youth the like
- Collaborated with EU level networks and promoted our activities and results on EU level

Contact:
Elis Vollmer
University of Tartu
elis.vollmer@ut.ee
ceesen.org



This project is funded
by the EU's LIFE
programme