



# CEESEU-DIGIT

Central and Eastern Europe Sustainable Energy Union's Design and  
Implementation of regional Government Initiatives for a just energy Transition

## TRAININGS conducted for public and private sector

### D2.2 Trainings conducted for public and private

**Author: LEA Spodnje Podravje**

**Editor: UTARTU**

**May 2025**

**101077297/LIFE21-CET-LOCAL-CEESEU-DIGIT**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

The project is financed by the European Union's LIFE programme.  
Administration number: LIFE21-CET-LOCAL-CEESEU-DIGIT/101077297.  
Project acronym: LIFE21-CET-LOCAL-CEESEU-DIGIT.

## Contents

Contents.....	2
Background of the CEESEU-DIGIT project.....	1
Relevance of this Deliverable .....	2
Methodology .....	2
Summary of trainings .....	4
Conclusion.....	32

## Background of the CEESEU-DIGIT project

The Central and Eastern European Sustainable Energy Union's Design and Implementation of regional Government Initiatives for a just energy Transition (CEESEU-DIGIT) aims to build the capacity of public administrators in Central and Eastern Europe to develop Energy and Climate Action Plans (ECAPs) that not only promote increased energy efficiency, sustainable energy, reduced carbon emissions and improved climate change adaptability, helping the region to contribute towards meeting the EU's climate goals, but also plans that follow the intent of the Commission to "leave no-one behind" in the process of the just transition to energy security and the goal of a climate-neutral Europe. To ensure a clear understanding among partners, the project's Advisory Board, and the EC that an ECAP includes sufficient and well-targeted attention to the social justice components of the clean energy transition, the term ECAP+ is used in the project.

CEESEU-DIGIT's primary objective is to build capacity in 6 carbon intensive regions in 6 countries in the CEE for holistic regional ECAPs aligned with NCEP national targets supporting the Green Deal, and will involve marginalised and vulnerable groups, especially energy-poor households. A second objective is to assist municipalities to formulate, fund, and implement their ECAPs aligned with regional ones. At both levels, extensive capacity building will be extended to assist with building ECAPs.

Drawing municipalities into energy regions will help cross-pollinate ideas, share knowledge and tasks, and apply for financing. Public-sector capacity building (WP2, WP3) will help (a) formulate a holistic ECAP with energy provisions and carbon footprint reduction while improving climate-sensitive social goods - mobility, parks, playgrounds, clean air and water, biodiversity conservation; (b) address energy poverty - heating/cooling, adequate ventilation/lighting, domestic hot water, cooking; (c), attend to constituents and act on behalf of their needs; (d) understand financing options and how to apply for these; and (e) work with the private sector to mute opposition to the CET and to encourage and incorporate funding of ECAP initiatives by business (WP5). A just Clean Energy Transition (CET) needs to maximise support, minimise opposition, and overcome apathy, requiring social science/social psychology theory to be applied (WP3). Non-public sector stakeholders (key players, context setters, the crowd, and subjects) will each be targeted by specific social and conventional media outreach (WP6).

Dissemination will be (a) upward to national levels, the CoM, and the EU for use in energy transition planning (WP5, WP6); (b) across a broader CEE geography via the Central and Eastern Europeans Sustainable Energy Union (CEESEN), a recently established NGO, to have by the end-of-project 2500 members using its online platform to share best practices, lessons learnt, and ideas that can advance the EU's climate goals (WP6).

As a result of implementing the CEESEU-DIGIT project, it is anticipated that several important longer-term impacts will be achieved, a selection among which include:

- 6 high-quality ECAP+s formulated that align GHG reduction targets with 2030 goals and address the special needs of energy-poor, elderly, and minority communities, to include people with disabilities;
- Public/private participation of 900 people in ECAP+ planning meetings to voice their concerns;
- 18 Regional Work Groups are formalised to provide ongoing input into ECAP+ implementation and a longer-term, holistic vision for a just transition;
- At least 66 public sector employees are capacitated to develop regional ECAP+s including mapping of stakeholders and collection of baseline data, and to utilise participatory governance structures to ensure involvement of all stakeholders, especially groups that are often marginalised (energy poor, ethnic minorities, migrants, elderly, people with disabilities, Roma, etc.);
- At least 200 people from civil society and vulnerable groups are capacitated to advocate on behalf of their interests in relation to energy policy/transition;
- Regional/municipal governments designate 7% of their budget to energy transition activities.

## Relevance of this Deliverable

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the training activities conducted under the CEESEU-DIGIT project, aimed at supporting the development and implementation of regional Energy and Climate Action Plans (ECAPs) across six countries in Central and Eastern Europe: Poland, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Croatia, and Estonia. The trainings were designed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and capacity of key stakeholders such as public sector employees, local elected officials, private sector actors, and civil society organizations, to drive a socially inclusive and effective energy transition at the regional and local levels.

## Methodology

The training activities conducted under the CEESEU-DIGIT project were implemented across six pilot countries: Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Croatia. The overall objective of the trainings was to enhance the capacities of regional and local stakeholders in the field of sustainable energy and climate planning, with a strong emphasis on multilevel governance, just transition, and stakeholder engagement.

## Training Materials

The core training content was derived from the training materials developed under the previous CEESEU project. These materials were revised and tailored to the specific needs of the CEESEU-DIGIT project, as well as the national and regional contexts of each pilot country. In several cases, new training materials were developed to address emerging or regionally specific issues, such as the topic of energy poverty.

## Training Topics

The training programme was structured according to the project's work plan, aligning closely with designated project tasks. The main topics addressed included:

- **T2.2.1 Training on ECAPs:** Guidance for regional authorities through each step of the Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) development process, ensuring alignment with National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and Covenant of Mayors (CoM) guidelines.
- **T2.2.2 Training on data collection:** Focused on identifying and gathering energy data essential for the Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) and Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment (RVA).
- **T2.2.3 Monitoring implementation:** Training regional staff on data collection and usage for monitoring ECAP progress.
- **T2.2.5 Integration with NECPs:** Guidance on harmonising ECAPs with national and subnational obligations.
- **T2.3.6 Best practices for public sector:** Training on approaches to encourage private sector support for a just and inclusive energy transition.
- **T2.4.2 Just transition for the private sector:** Educating businesses on their role in a just transition.
- **T4.1.4 Advocacy Strategy Training:** Teaching lobbying strategies at the national level using both “insider” and “outsider” advocacy approaches.
- **T4.2.3 Local stakeholder training with vulnerable groups:** Focused on participatory governance and the empowerment of marginalised communities.
- **T5.1.2 Subsidy application training:** Equipping municipal staff with skills to apply for funding to implement energy-saving measures and renewable energy initiatives.

## Target Groups and Participation

A key methodological principle of the training programme was target group differentiation, ensuring that the content was appropriately tailored to the specific needs and roles of each stakeholder group. The target groups were as follows:

- Public sector employees trained on ECAPs
- Public sector employees trained on participatory governance
- Public sector employees trained on adaptation planning
- Public sector employees trained on multilevel governance
- Local elected officials
- Regional stakeholders (public and private)
- Civil society and vulnerable groups
- Financial advisers/officers

## Summary of trainings

Across all six countries, a total of **79 training sessions** were organized, engaging **1970 participants**. These events covered a wide range of topics, including:

- ECAP development and integration with national frameworks (e.g., NECPs),
- Data collection for baseline emissions inventories and vulnerability assessments,
- Funding mechanisms and application processes for energy and climate projects,
- Participatory governance and inclusive planning processes,
- Just transition principles, particularly in relation to vulnerable and marginalized groups,
- Awareness-raising activities, especially targeting youth and communities affected by energy poverty.

Each region adapted the content and format of the trainings to local needs and capacities. In Poland (Mazovia Region), emphasis was placed on ECAP preparation, stakeholder coordination, project financing and awareness raising among vulnerable people. The trainings were designed to build capacity among public sector representatives, local elected officials, municipal staff, financial officers, private sector actors, and socially vulnerable groups. Latvia (Vidzeme Planning Region) focused on

municipal engagement, data collection, and inclusive climate communication. The Czech Republic (Broumovsko Region) prioritized regional energy planning and cooperation with municipalities and schools. Slovenia (Podravje Region) conducted a mix of technical and awareness-raising sessions, targeting both public officials and vulnerable groups, including primary school children. Croatia (Medjimurje County) delivered in-depth trainings on just transition, ECAP+ development, and data management. Finally, in Estonia, the focus was on regional energy planning, energy community development, and stakeholder engagement through expert roundtables and municipal workshops.

The training activities played a pivotal role in building regional ownership of the ECAP development process, strengthening multi-level governance, and ensuring the inclusion of diverse voices - especially those often underrepresented in energy and climate policymaking. This report documents the scope and content of each training activity by country and region, highlighting key outcomes and lessons learned to support continued capacity-building and implementation efforts beyond the life of the CEESEU-DIGIT project.

The CEESEU-DIGIT project conducted a series of training activities across six countries: Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Croatia. These trainings aimed to enhance the capacity of various target groups, including public sector employees, local elected officials, private sector stakeholders, civil society, and vulnerable groups. The training sessions covered a wide range of topics, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders were equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to support a just and inclusive clean energy transition.

## ESTONIA

In Estonia, training activities were concentrated in Ida-Viru County, with additional events held in Tartu and Harjumaa. The primary objective was to enhance the capacity of public sector actors and local stakeholders in preparing and implementing Energy and Climate Action Plans (ECAPs), aligning them with National Climate and Energy Plans (NCEPs), and promoting principles of multi-level governance (MLG) and just transition.

A total of 15 training events were organised, reaching 411 participants. Target groups included municipal employees, elected officials, SMEs, housing associations, civil society, and vulnerable groups. The training topics ranged from data collection and implementation monitoring to subsidy access, adaptation strategies, and biodiversity awareness.

### 1. Training – Jõhvi, 30 January 2023

**Topics covered:** Training public sector actors on best practices.

This session gathered 16 participants, mainly representatives from local municipalities. The training focused on familiarising local public sector employees with energy and climate action planning (ECAP) principles. Participants exchanged views on current practices, challenges, and capacity gaps related to climate planning. The session served as an opportunity to introduce the ECAP concept and explore how to tailor it to local needs, while identifying areas where additional support or training was necessary.

## **2. Training – Narva-Jõesuu, 4–5 May 2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs.

Organised as part of the Narva-Jõesuu Business Conference 2023 – “Ever-Changing World”, this event attracted 80 participants from the regional business community, including stakeholders from both the industrial and tourism sectors. The two-day event focused on regional competitiveness, export opportunities, future trends, and sustainable development. One of the key conference elements was the climate and energy panel, where discussions addressed the impact of climate change in Ida-Viru County and how to effectively set and understand climate and energy policy goals. The panel also explored the integration of ECAPs with national strategies and how to implement them locally. Experts from the University of Tartu (Elis Vollmer) and TREA (Marten Saareoks) participated in the discussion, highlighting current cooperation initiatives between academia and local stakeholders in support of ECAP development.

## **3. Training – Jõhvi, 19 October 2023**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training – workshops with vulnerable groups; educating the private sector on just transition; training local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

This workshop brought together 30 participants from diverse backgrounds, including vulnerable communities, the private sector, and municipal representatives. The training offered targeted sessions on the principles of a just transition, focusing on how the energy transition can be inclusive and equitable. Discussions addressed how local businesses can adapt to upcoming climate-related requirements and benefit from opportunities in the green economy. Public sector advisors received guidance on subsidy application processes and how to assist citizens and organisations in accessing support.

## **4. Training – Sillamäe, 9 January 2024**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training – workshops with vulnerable groups; training local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

Held at the Sillamäe Cultural Centre, this information day targeted housing association representatives. The event was organised in close cooperation with local government and KredEx, Estonia's housing and energy agency. A total of 62 participants were introduced to the importance of residential building

renovation, practical starting points for initiating renovations, and achievable outcomes. Presentations also covered financial mechanisms and support schemes available for retrofitting housing stock. The session aimed to demystify the renovation process and facilitate dialogue between public advisors, housing managers, and KredEx experts.



## 5. Training – Kohtla-Järve, 11 January 2024

**Topics covered:** Same as above.

This information day was a continuation of the renovation-focused outreach programme and drew 50 participants. As in Sillamäe, the session was held in cooperation with local government and KredEx. Participants were housing association representatives and local advisors, who discussed the technical, financial, and administrative aspects of initiating and managing apartment building renovations. Practical examples were shared to illustrate potential benefits and challenges.

## 6. Training – Kiviõli, 18 January 2024 (Session 1)

**Topics covered:** Same as above.

A third information day on renovation for housing associations and local advisors, this time in Kiviõli, attended by 24 participants. The session followed the same format, focusing on how to initiate renovation projects, understand support mechanisms from KredEx, and mobilise community participation. It also provided an opportunity to share lessons learned from other towns in the county.

## 7. Training – Tartu, 5 June 2023

**Topics covered:** Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs.

This was a learning exchange between municipal officials and kindergarten staff from Kohtla-Järve, held in Tartu. Sixteen participants explored how ECAP principles could be applied at the intersection of circular economy and early

childhood education. The programme included visits to Tartu kindergartens implementing sustainable practices, such as gardening, composting, and food literacy. Participants toured the Agricultural Centre of the Estonian University of Life Sciences, where they learned about the “Growing with Your Food” project. The day concluded with a workshop at the Forest House, where Tartu educators shared experiences on integrating biodiversity education into daily preschool activities.

## 8. Training – Narva-Jõesuu, 17 January 2024

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training – workshops with vulnerable groups; training local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

This housing renovation info day followed the same structure as previous events in Sillamäe, Kohtla-Järve, and Kiviõli. With 25 participants, the event focused on apartment building renovation as a tool for improving energy efficiency and living conditions. In partnership with KredEx and the local authority, the training addressed renovation project planning, cost management, and engaging residents in the process.



## 9. Training – Oxforell Recreation Centre, Harjumaa, 16 August 2023

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training – workshops with vulnerable groups.

This “Green Playroom” event was specially designed for children aged 8–19 from orphanages in Ida-Viru County, with 27 total participants (16 children, 2 caregivers, and 9 volunteers). Organised in collaboration with local NGOs, the workshop focused on environmental education. Children learned about waste sorting, biodiversity protection, and the value of nature through hands-on activities. The event aimed to build environmental awareness in a playful and inclusive way, supporting just transition outreach to often-overlooked communities.

**10. Training – Narva, University of Tartu Narva College, 24 April 2024**

**Topics covered:** Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies. The first Renovation Fair in Narva, titled “Renovating from Different Angles – Why, What, and How to Renovate?”, brought together 20 participants, including public officials and housing association representatives. The fair aimed to raise awareness about apartment building renovation and was organised jointly by TREA and UTARTU. Participants learned about available technical solutions, heard from experienced renovation practitioners, and had the opportunity to network with stakeholders across the renovation value chain.

**11. Training – Jõhvi, 20 May 2024**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs; training on monitoring the implementation; training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs. This training, attended by 14 participants, included expert presentations and interactive discussions on energy and climate planning. The session began with a climate quiz led by A. Roose (TREA), followed by presentations from R. Lehtla (Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities) on state and local planning roles, and M. Sepp (UTART) on adaptation strategies. The day concluded with a panel (M. Saareoks, A. Roose, M. Kikas – all from TREA) exploring challenges in implementing ECAPs and building municipal capacity. Topics covered included governance structures, skills development, data management, cost planning, and stakeholder engagement.

**12. Training – Kiviõli, 18 January 2024 (Session 2)**

**Topics covered:** Training public sector actors on best practices; training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs; training on monitoring the implementation. Held in cooperation with the EC4Rural project, this seminar focused on local energy planning, renewable energy, and community energy solutions. With 5 participants, the session provided a deep dive into the role of ECAPs in promoting sustainable energy transitions. Discussions addressed how to integrate ECAPs with other development strategies and effectively monitor their implementation. Emphasis was placed on how municipalities can support small-scale energy solutions, such as energy communities, in alignment with local climate goals.

**13. Training – Narva, University of Tartu Narva College, 8 January 2025**

**Topics covered:** Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies. The second Renovation Fair in Narva, titled “We Are Boosting the Renovation Wave”, welcomed 15 participants and expanded on the themes of the first fair. Organised by TREA, the event introduced available financing schemes, legal frameworks, and technical options for apartment renovation. Practical case studies, prefabrication methods, and one-on-one advice stations helped

demystify the process for participants. The fair also served as an awareness-raising platform to support community uptake of renovation programmes.

#### 14. Training – Jõhvi, 5 March 2025

**Topics covered:** Training on monitoring the implementation.

This small-scale training with 5 participants focused on building local capacity for monitoring ECAP implementation. Participants examined tools and indicators for tracking progress, discussed institutional responsibilities, and considered how to integrate monitoring into municipal work routines. The session aimed to foster a culture of accountability and evidence-based adaptation.



#### 15. Training – Jõhvi, 28 May 2025

**Topics covered:** Training on sustainable and innovative financing for ECAP activities

The training brought together 22 trainees from 6 municipalities in Ida-Viru region. We focused on novel financing mechanisms for financing their ECAP related activities, energy communities and funding and support we have available for this. And at the end of the training, we had an interactive workshop on bringing together novel financing and sustainability of funding the ECAPs long term. The training was carried out together with IVOL, associated partner of CEESEU-DIGIT, and the Estonian Green Movement, that is EPAH contact point in Estonia.

The Estonian training programme was notable for its strong practical orientation, widespread engagement of local communities, and thematic diversity. The emphasis on

housing renovation and just transition, combined with multi-stakeholder collaboration, created momentum for local climate action. The consistent involvement of institutions like TREA, UTARTU, and KredEx ensured credibility and technical depth. The trainings contributed significantly to building governance and implementation capacity in Ida-Viru County, laying the groundwork for more resilient and inclusive climate and energy efficiency planning.

## LATVIA

In Latvia, the CEESEU-DIGIT project's training activities were conducted across the Vidzeme Planning Region, with a strong emphasis on enhancing the capacity of public sector employees and municipal staff in energy and climate planning. Over the course of the project, 10 training events were held, involving a total of 186 participants. The trainings covered a wide array of topics including ECAP development, climate data collection, integration with national policies (NCEPs), participatory governance, climate adaptation planning, advocacy strategies, and subsidy application processes. Special attention was also given to vulnerable groups, ensuring a just transition by addressing energy poverty and promoting inclusive engagement. The training sessions employed a variety of formats, including lectures, workshops, field trips, and practical exercises, and targeted a diverse group of stakeholders, from elected officials and municipal officers to vulnerable citizens and private sector actors.

### 1. **Training – Kocēni, Valmiera Municipality, 4 October 2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on collecting data; Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs; Training public sector actors on best practices

This session informed 31 municipal representatives about national climate and energy legislation and the progress of the National ECAP, with expert input from the Ministry of Climate and Energy. The training included market forecasts and practical advice on electricity and heating trends. The second part focused on collecting local climate data and exploring adaptation strategies. Participants also exchanged best practices and challenges in ECAP development, creating a collaborative and informative environment.



2. **Training – Valka, Valka Municipality, 29 November 2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs; Training on collecting data

Attended by 15 participants, this training included lectures and a workshop for municipal representatives involved in ECAP development. It emphasized public engagement strategies, data collection from the private sector, and the use of indicators in the building sector, providing participants with theoretical knowledge and practical skills to support their planning activities.

3. **Training – Limbaži, Limbaži Municipality, 2 December 2023**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training – workshops with vulnerable groups

Aimed at vulnerable groups, this training involved 21 participants and focused on energy efficiency and reducing household consumption. Discussions and presentations covered renovation opportunities, electricity consumption habits, and financing options. Real-life stories and expert guidance helped raise awareness and build capacity among communities affected by energy poverty.

4. **Training – Cēsis, 17 January 2024**

**Topics covered:** Training public sector actors on best practices

This session focused on climate adaptation, bringing together 21 municipal employees to learn about water management, flood prevention, and heat adaptation. It included both theoretical best practice overviews and a hands-on mapping exercise, encouraging participants to identify local risks and design potential solutions.

## 5. Training – Alūksne, 3 April 2024

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs; Training on collecting data

With 12 participants, this training explored energy poverty and just transition strategies. It introduced key concepts, indicators, and methods for integrating energy poverty considerations into SECAPs. Using a 7-step diagnostic tool, participants practiced identifying vulnerable groups and proposing practical responses.

## 6. Training – Cēsis, 29 May 2024

**Topics covered:** Advocacy Strategy Training; Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs; Training on collecting data

This training, attended by 27 municipal representatives, combined data collection methodology with advocacy strategy development. Participants mapped regional climate risks and assessed their relevance for ECAP inclusion. The session also equipped them to advocate for stronger integration of local needs in national planning.



## 7. Training – Cēsis, 3 July 2024

**Topics covered:** Advocacy Strategy Training; Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs; Training on collecting data

A follow-up to the May session, this event focused on risks in the clean energy transition. With 20 participants, the training included practical guidance on accessing energy data and evaluating risks for policy advocacy. It further built

municipal capacity for effective ECAP development and alignment with NCEP priorities.

**8. Training – Experience Exchange Trip, Rīga, Saldus, Liepāja, Jelgava, 17–19 June 2024**

**Topics covered:** Training public sector actors on best practices; Training on collecting data

This study trip included 23 participants from Vidzeme municipalities. Through site visits and peer discussions, the training highlighted best practices in energy monitoring, private sector engagement, and vulnerable group support. The hands-on exchange strengthened regional networks and inspired cross-regional cooperation.

**9. Training – Online (MS Teams), 29 November 2024**

**Topics covered:** Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs

This session for 10 elected officials presented the completed regional ECAP, explaining its development, alignment with national strategies, and the negotiation process with the Climate Ministry. It aimed to equip decision-makers with the knowledge needed to use the ECAP as an advocacy and planning tool.

**10. Training – Online (MS Teams), 14 December 2024**

**Topics covered:** Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies

This final training, with six participants from development units, introduced funding opportunities identified during ECAP development. It provided a practical overview of application procedures, eligibility, and tips for successful proposals, ensuring municipalities are well-positioned to implement ECAP measures.

The training programme in Latvia's Vidzeme Planning Region successfully addressed both technical and strategic aspects of energy and climate planning. The combination of in-person, online, and experiential learning formats allowed for a flexible and inclusive training environment. Public sector employees significantly improved their competencies in ECAP development, data collection, and integration with national policies. The inclusion of vulnerable groups and elected officials ensured a broad engagement spectrum, promoting a socially just and politically supported energy transition. The structured approach, practical exercises, and inter-municipal collaboration helped build a foundation for long-term regional capacity and cross-sectoral cooperation in climate action planning.

## POLAND

Between April 2023 and November 2024, a total of 911 stakeholders participated in 26 training sessions held across the Mazovia Region, Poland, as part of the CEESEU-DIGIT

project. The trainings were designed to build capacity among public sector representatives, local elected officials, municipal staff, financial officers, private sector actors, and socially vulnerable groups. Core topics included the development and integration of Enhanced Climate Action Plans (ECAPs) with national and regional frameworks (NCEPs and NECPs), data collection for energy and climate planning, financing mechanisms and subsidy applications, and addressing systemic challenges such as energy poverty and social inclusion.

These sessions combined theoretical input with practical discussions, focusing on local needs and policy alignment. In addition to strengthening technical knowledge, the trainings helped build a network of regional actors committed to implementing just, inclusive, and data-driven climate and energy actions. Special emphasis was placed on empowering municipalities to access funding, develop strong technical documentation, and engage stakeholders at multiple levels of governance, including youth, seniors, and low-income groups, to ensure a fair energy transition.

**1. Training: Warsaw, Poland, 14.4.2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training on collecting data, Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs.

The introductory training gathered 31 representatives from the Regional Authority, focusing on the CEESEU-DIGIT framework and the region's ECAP needs. Participants were trained on developing regional ECAPs, collecting baseline data, and integrating ECAPs with NCEPs and regional obligations. The biggest topic was the challenge of aligning ECAPs with national and regional strategies, especially given the current non-binding status of the NECP. The group appreciated being part of international cooperation but recognized the need to fulfil specific requirements for ECAP approval.

**2. Training: Online, 12.9.2023**

**Topics covered:** Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

In a meeting with 3 representatives from Piastów City, participants explored subsidy application procedures and financing options for green investments. Discussions highlighted the temporary blocking of some funds, the availability of open-call programs, and financing instruments like ELENA for technical documentation, providing a clearer understanding of navigating the funding landscape.

**3. Training: Warsaw, 12.9.2023**

**Topics covered:** Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

Twelve representatives from Serock City joined this session focused on subsidy applications. The training reinforced understanding of funding eligibility criteria and stressed the importance of aligning projects with available financial programs amid fluctuating funding availability.

4. **Training: Warsaw, 25.10.2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training public sector actors on best practices, Educate private sector on just transition, Advocacy Strategy Training, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

Fifteen members of the Regional Energy Team participated in this comprehensive training covering energy poverty, air quality, energy communities, and financing tools such as ELENA and regional clean air programs. The session introduced the upcoming Regional Energy Poverty Analysis and discussed the complexity of energy poverty indicators and the need for collaborative solutions involving municipalities and civil society.

5. **Training: Warsaw, 8.11.2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs.

In a follow-up session attended by 15 participants, the Regional Energy Poverty Analysis was presented in detail. The training discussed the difficulties of identifying vulnerable households and emphasized that energy poverty requires diverse and tailored approaches for effective mitigation.

6. **Training: Online, 9.11.2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs, Advocacy Strategy Training, Training on collecting data.

One participant attended this session focused on the climate-related part of ECAP+, necessary data inputs, and the planning of future webinars and trainings. The importance of including the agricultural sector in climate strategies was underlined.

7. **Training: Warsaw, 22.11.2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training on collecting data, Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs.

Three participants engaged in discussions on the vision of ECAP+, data collection, and planning for the energy transition in municipalities, strengthening alignment on key objectives.

8. **Training: Online, 12.12.2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

An online event with 193 attendees from across the region covered the CEESEU-DIGIT project, ECAP+, just transition, social inclusion, energy poverty, energy efficiency, and financing instruments like ELENA and EUCEF. Participants acknowledged limited current financing but expressed optimism about future opportunities to support ongoing energy transition efforts.

**9. Training: Dębe Wielkie, 22.12.2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training public sector actors on best practices.

Five local government representatives were introduced to the ECAP+ framework and the CEESEU-DIGIT project. Discussions focused on the role of energy communities and local initiatives in accelerating the clean energy transition through distributed generation and multi-level cooperation.

**10. Training: Warsaw, 22.11.2023**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training - workshops with vulnerable groups.

A workshop with 4 youth participants addressed social inclusion, energy poverty, and just transition. The importance of engaging youth via social media channels like Instagram and TikTok was emphasized. Participants expressed a strong desire to influence the energy transition process and called for greater deployment of climate-neutral technologies to secure a sustainable future.

**11. Training: Online, 30.01.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training public sector actors on best practices, Advocacy Strategy Training, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

Twenty participants attended this session focused on the CEESEU-DIGIT project and ECAP+. The training covered key aspects of the just energy transition, social inclusion, energy poverty, energy efficiency, and financial tools such as ELENA, EUCF, and regional programs. Several municipalities new to the topic learned about available subsidies and how to prepare technical documentation for energy investments.

**12. Training: Czernice Borowe Municipality, 31.01.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

Eight local representatives attended this in-person session, which introduced the ECAP+ framework and the broader CEESEU-DIGIT project. The discussion focused on energy efficiency, available financial instruments, and developing proper technical documentation to access funding.

**13. Training: Warsaw, 5.2.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training on collecting data, Training public sector actors on best practices, Advocacy Strategy Training, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

A one-on-one session introduced the ECAP+ concept and emphasized the importance of data collection and alignment with existing SECAPs. The training covered action planning, financing, and policy advocacy within the CEESEU-DIGIT framework.

**14. Training: Siedlce Municipality, 12.02.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training public sector actors on best practices, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies, Training on collecting data.

Eight municipal representatives explored energy efficiency and poverty, technical documentation, and funding instruments. The training stressed the inclusion of vulnerable groups and highlighted financial programs supporting the just energy transition.

**15. Training: Warsaw, 19.02.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs, Training on collecting data.

Two participants attended this focused session on data requirements for ECAP+ and collaboration with regional authorities. Emphasis was placed on harmonizing municipal plans with national climate strategies.

**16. Training: Warsaw, 20.2.2024**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training - workshops with vulnerable groups. Seventeen elderly and socially vulnerable individuals joined this workshop, which addressed energy-saving behaviours, efficiency investments in multi-apartment buildings, and related subsidies. Participants expressed frustration over building managers' resistance to making improvements, and many did not see a personal role in behaviour change.

**17. Training: Warsaw, 5.3.2024**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training - workshops with vulnerable groups. This workshop for 31 participants explored energy efficiency in multi-apartment buildings and the distinction between tenants in single-family and multi-apartment housing. Many were unaware of existing subsidies and noted that heating bill reductions were constrained by building-level decisions.

**18. Training: Online, 6.3.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training on collecting data, Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs, Training public sector actors on best practices, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

This high-attendance session (125 participants) covered climate action planning, the Ministry's adaptation initiatives, urban adaptation plans, and financing opportunities for blue-green infrastructure. The Municipality of Chorzele shared insights into its climate activities.

**19. Training: Warsaw, 7.3.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training on collecting data, Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs, Advocacy Strategy Training.

A consultation with two municipal representatives focused on ECAP+

preparation. Discussions emphasized strategy alignment and data-driven planning to strengthen climate action frameworks.

**20. Training: Chorzele Municipality, 11.3.2024**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training - workshops with vulnerable groups. 43 participants explored energy efficiency measures, behavioural improvements, and available financing for building renovations. The workshop aimed to raise awareness and engagement among residents of multi-apartment buildings.

**21. Training: Serock, 17.4.2024**

**Topics covered:** Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies, Training public sector actors on best practices, educate private sector on just transition.

6 participants joined this training to discuss best practices in energy planning, technical documentation, and fostering private sector involvement in the just transition process.

**22. Training: Warsaw, 22.4.2024**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training - workshops with vulnerable groups. 12 socially vulnerable residents took part in this workshop on improving energy use in multi-apartment buildings. Financing opportunities and simple behavioural changes were presented to increase awareness and action at the community level.



**23. Training: Online, 11.6.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training public sector actors on best practices, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

With 111 participants, this training addressed climate adaptation in agriculture, water retention, and funding sources such as NFOŚiGW and EU funds. The session

linked national policies with opportunities for municipalities to act on climate and water issues.

**24. Training: Online, 9.7.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training public sector actors on best practices, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

This specialized session for 144 participants focused on energy communities, agrophotovoltaics, and biogas. Numerous practical questions arose about subsidies, insurance, infrastructure, and legal aspects. Participants appreciated the examples of functioning cooperatives and energy projects in rural areas.

**25. Training: Online, 16.9.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training public sector actors on best practices, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies, Training on collecting data

A session with 101 participants focused on EU urban climate initiatives and financing options, including the Polish-Swiss Urban Development Program, URBACT, and the European Urban Initiative. The training emphasized how municipalities can access funding for mitigation and adaptation.

**26. Training: Konstancin Jeziorna, 6.11.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Educate private sector on just transition.

This in-person training with 27 participants, including local businesses, covered energy transition technologies, energy audits, and best practices. The workshop promoted collaboration between municipalities and the private sector in pursuing a just energy transition.

The Mazovia Region's training activities successfully enhanced stakeholder capacity for inclusive, strategic, and data-informed climate and energy planning. The wide-ranging participation — from regional authorities to vulnerable community members — reflects a growing awareness of and commitment to climate action at all societal levels. Participants gained essential knowledge in ECAP+ development, financial instruments, and policy alignment, while also exploring innovative solutions such as energy communities, agrophotovoltaics, and blue-green infrastructure.

Despite persistent challenges such as fluctuating funding availability and the complexity of energy poverty, the trainings demonstrated strong momentum toward collaborative problem-solving and multi-stakeholder engagement. Moving forward, continued technical support and knowledge sharing will be critical to sustaining the positive impact of these efforts, ensuring that Mazovia's municipalities are well-equipped to meet EU climate targets and lead a just, locally driven energy transition.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

In the Czech Republic, training activities took place primarily in the Broumovsko region, focusing on building capacity among public sector employees, local elected officials, private sector stakeholders, and civil society to effectively develop and implement ECAPs. The sessions emphasized practical knowledge on data collection, integrating ECAPs with national climate and energy plans (NCEPs), and accessing funding opportunities for green energy projects. Over the course of 7 training sessions, a total of 63 participants engaged actively in various topics related to climate action planning and financing in the region.

### 1. **Training: Broumov, 5.4.2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training on collecting data.

This workshop engaged 8 participants from the Strategic Council for the development of Broumovsko region. The session focused on how ECAPs can support regional development, strategies for involving different societal groups in the ECAP creation process, and key elements required in ECAPs. Additionally, practical guidance was provided on how to collect and manage relevant climate and energy data to support effective planning.



2. **Training: Police nad Metují, townhall, 31.5.2023**

**Topics covered:** Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies, Training public sector actors on best practices, Training on ECAPs.

With 12 municipal representatives attending, this workshop introduced available funding sources for green energy projects and provided insights on how municipalities can successfully apply for these subsidies. The latter part of the training delved into ECAP content and requirements, helping participants understand the document's structure and objectives.

3. **Training: Broumov, monastery, 31.5.2023**

**Topics covered:** Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies, Educate private sector on just transition, Training on ECAPs.

This session gathered 8 local business representatives, focusing on how businesses can actively contribute to ECAP development. The training explored the formation of a local business working group to facilitate green initiatives and presented funding opportunities for businesses. Practical application tips and discussions about navigating green financing were a key feature.

4. **Training: Broumov, 9.1.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training on integrating ECAPs with NCEPs, Advocacy Strategy Training.

Four participants from the Local Action Group and regional Strategy Council attended this training aimed at aligning local ECAP goals with regional and national priorities. The session also covered effective methods for gathering municipal feedback and ensuring it influences higher-level decision-making processes.

5. **Training: Broumov, 15.2.2024**

**Topics covered:** Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies, Training on ECAPs.

This session with 12 municipal representatives focused on planning renewable energy, especially photovoltaics, within local ECAPs. Practical guidance on project development and financing applications was provided to support the implementation of solar energy solutions.



#### 6. **Training: Broumov, 15.2.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training public sector actors on best practices, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

Nine participants explored how local businesses can contribute to the regional ECAP and just transition goals. The training emphasized the business case for photovoltaics and practical advice on applying for subsidies to support green investments.

#### 7. **Training: Broumov, 15.1.2025**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs, Training public sector actors on best practices.

The final session engaged 10 local government representatives in practical training on implementing ECAP projects and submitting grant applications. Best practices in project management and stakeholder engagement were also shared.

The Czech Republic's training sessions in the Broumovsko region successfully built knowledge and capacity among a diverse group of stakeholders, including public officials, business representatives, and civil society actors. The focus on practical tools—such as data collection, subsidy application, and integrating ECAPs with national plans—helped participants better understand their roles in supporting climate and energy goals. The workshops fostered regional collaboration and laid a solid foundation for continued implementation of ECAPs aligned with local needs and broader policy frameworks.

## SLOVENIA

In Slovenia, training activities were held in the Podravje region with a focus on equipping public sector employees, local elected officials, private sector stakeholders, and civil

society with knowledge on ECAPs, participatory governance, adaptation planning, and financing opportunities. Across 8 training sessions, a total of 213 participants were involved. The trainings addressed topics such as ECAP development, data collection, best practices for the public sector, integration of ECAPs with NCEPs, and raising awareness among vulnerable groups, particularly children, about energy transition and energy poverty.

### 1. **Training: Municipality Ormož, 8.9.2023**

**Topics covered:** Training on ECAPs.

14 participants, mainly energy experts, attended a focused session on ECAP development, where the basics of ECAPs and their role in regional climate and energy planning were presented. The training enhanced the capacity of national and regional energy experts to actively contribute to the process.



### 2. **Training: Ptuj, 14.3.2024**

**Topics covered:** Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies

15 public sector employees participated in this workshop that provided detailed guidance on how to successfully apply for subsidies, particularly for renewable energy sources (RES) and energy efficiency projects.

### 3. **Training: Ptuj, 6.6.2024**

**Topics covered:** Training public sector actors on best practices, Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies.

At this event, held alongside the official opening of the new One-stop-shop for RES office in Ptuj, 15 participants learned about available funding options for RES investments, including calls and deadlines. Good practices related to renewable

energy and energy storage solutions implemented in the region were also shared.

4. **Training: Ptuj, 8.5.2024**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training – workshops with vulnerable groups. This awareness-raising event targeted primary school children (101 participants), combining theoretical presentations with practical learning through games and experiments. The workshop aimed to educate children on the importance of energy transition, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and climate change, fostering early awareness and energy-saving habits.

5. **Training: Municipality Gorišnica, 13.10.2023 and 7.6.2024**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training – workshops with vulnerable groups. Over two sessions, 32 primary school children were engaged in similar awareness activities designed to teach the benefits of local renewable energy production, energy efficiency, and climate change issues through interactive methods.

6. **Training: Municipality Kidričevo, 19.11.2024**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training – workshops with vulnerable groups. This workshop, attended by 12 participants, focused on energy poverty and financial incentives available for vulnerable households, particularly regarding energy renovations of multi-apartment buildings. Practical tips on reducing energy bills through small measures were also presented.

7. **Training: Ptuj, 26.11.2024**

**Topics covered:** Local stakeholder training – workshops with vulnerable groups. Eight participants joined a workshop on energy poverty, emphasizing financial support mechanisms for vulnerable groups and practical advice on energy-saving renovations.

8. **Training: Ptuj, 7.3.2025**

**Topics covered:** Train local public sector advisors on applying for subsidies. Sixteen participants attended a training session during the National Consortium of Energy Agencies (KLEAS) meeting, where officials from Borzen presented detailed information about new and ongoing open calls for RES projects, enhancing the advisors' capacity to support local applicants.

The training activities in the Podravje region successfully enhanced the knowledge and skills of a wide variety of stakeholders across public sector, private sector, and civil society. The mix of technical trainings on ECAP development and subsidy application, combined with awareness-raising workshops for vulnerable groups such as children and energy poor, ensured a holistic approach to supporting the energy transition. The integration of participatory governance and adaptation planning topics further

strengthened local capacities to implement effective, socially inclusive, and sustainable climate and energy policies in line with national and EU frameworks.

## CROATIA

Training activities in Croatia were conducted in the Medjimurje County, focusing on educating public sector employees, local elected officials, private sector stakeholders, and civil society on ECAP development, data collection, just transition, energy poverty, and financing opportunities. Across 13 training sessions, a total of 164 trainees participated. The trainings emphasized the importance of a just and inclusive energy transition, raising awareness of vulnerable groups, and strengthening local capacities to implement climate and energy policies aligned with national and European frameworks.

### 1. Training: Online, 12 June 2023

**Topics covered:** Best practices in SECAP development, data collection.

This introductory online workshop, attended by 24 participants, targeted local and regional public sector actors involved in preparing and implementing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs). The session focused on the phases of SECAP development, particularly the data collection stage, and showcased best practice examples from the climate change mitigation and adaptation field. Emphasis was placed on empowering local and regional governments and institutions to take proactive leadership roles in combating climate change at the community level. Participants were encouraged to mobilize resources, engage stakeholders, and implement sustainability initiatives within their jurisdictions. The training also stressed the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing across regions and countries. Networks such as CEESEN and the Climate Alliance were presented as platforms to facilitate the exchange of expertise, thus maximizing the impact of local climate actions.

The training successfully fostered leadership and collaborative spirit among participants, encouraging them to take ownership of climate action and join broader networks for mutual learning.

### 2. Training: Bana Josipa Jelačića 22B, Čakovec, 30 June 2023

**Topics covered:** Application for subsidies and funding opportunities, best practices.

With 26 participants in attendance, this session aimed to equip local public sector advisors and stakeholders with practical knowledge on securing financing for climate and energy projects. Participants were introduced to current open calls by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, a primary funding source for local climate initiatives. The calls included financing for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, climate change adaptation measures

from SECAPs to enhance urban resilience, and waste removal projects. Detailed eligibility criteria and application procedures were discussed. A highlight was a panel discussion where experienced practitioners shared insights into the SECAP planning and implementation process, addressing common challenges such as regulatory hurdles and inter-institutional coordination.

The panel discussion was particularly valuable, offering participants concrete perspectives on overcoming challenges in SECAP development and project financing, thus enhancing practical understanding.



### 3. Training: Bana Josipa Jelačića 22E, Čakovec, 4 April 2024

**Topics covered:** Just transition principles and regional planning.

This regional launch event presented the CEESEU-DIGIT project with a focus on the just transition concept, its evolution, definition, and integration into regional and local planning. The event was organized in synergy with the Regio1st project and drew 19. Participants were also engaged in group discussions to identify existing regional strategies, effective methods to apply just transition and Energy Efficiency First (EE1st) principles in planning, and obstacles faced during implementation. Key challenges identified included insufficient financial resources, political interference, and navigating the EU principle of Do No Significant Harm (DNSH). Participants demonstrated good familiarity with

regional strategic documents but emphasized that financial, political, and regulatory barriers hinder the practical application of just transition principles. There is a need for clearer guidelines and stronger institutional support.

#### **4. Training: Bana Josipa Jelačića 22, Čakovec, 6 July 2023**

**Topics covered:** Workshop and focus group meeting with vulnerable groups representatives on just transition.

This targeted workshop brought together 8 participants—primarily professionals working with minorities, the elderly, and low-income groups—to explore how just transition principles can be applied inclusively. Discussions were centred on the social groups often overlooked in energy transitions, their specific challenges, and available support measures. Participants brainstormed ideas for additional measures to support these groups, which would feed into the ongoing ECAP+ development.

Just transition remains an emerging concept in the region; stakeholders expressed a strong need for further training and clearer definitions to fully grasp its implications and practical application. Obstacles identified mirrored previous sessions: funding limitations, political influence, and the complexity of the DNSH principle.

#### **5. Training: Ruđera Boškovića 2, Čakovec, 30 November 2023**

**Topics covered:** ECAP+ development and implementation.

This workshop attended by 16 participants, presented the ECAP+ framework to mayors and municipal leaders, emphasizing their critical role as implementers of the plan. Participants learned about the structure of the ECAP+ document, its innovative status as the first energy and climate planning document at the regional level in Medžimurje county, and the inclusion of both private and public sectors. The training also highlighted benefits such as comprehensive insights into county-level energy consumption, concrete measures for local governments, and financing mechanisms for energy and climate projects. The event reinforced the importance of involving local governments throughout all stages—from development to implementation—to ensure ownership and effectiveness. Participants appreciated the ECAP+ as a valuable tool for informed decision-making and coordinated climate action.

#### **6. Training: Ruđera Boškovića 2, Čakovec, 15 January 2024**

**Topics covered:** ECAP+ detailed development, financing, and good practices.

Building on the initial overview, this session attended by 8 participants provided a deep dive into the full ECAP+ development process, focusing on financial instruments for mitigation and adaptation, and showcasing successful projects. Clear roles and responsibilities for all involved actors were agreed upon. MENEA committed to ongoing support, particularly coordinating the complex energy data collection process involving multiple institutions responsible for various

consumption and emissions data. Participants agreed on the necessity of continued consultations and educational activities to navigate the data collection and development phases effectively. Energy data gathering was identified as the most resource-intensive task.

**7. Training: Bana Josipa Jelačića 22 N, Čakovec, 30 January 2024**

**Topics covered:** ECAPs and integration with NECP.

Participants were introduced to Croatia's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and the importance of harmonizing it with the regional ECAP+ measures. The session underscored multilevel governance and dialogue as vital for building consensus among local, regional, and national stakeholders. At the time, the NECP was still in draft form, awaiting national consultation and European Commission evaluation. The workshop highlighted the ongoing evolution of Croatia's climate policy framework and the need for alignment between regional and national plans to ensure coherence and effective implementation. In the training involved were 11 participants.

**8. Training: Ruđera Boškovića 2, Čakovec, 18 March 2024**

**Topics covered:** Data collection for baseline emissions inventory (BEI) and vulnerability assessment (RVA).

This hands-on session trained 10 participants on the data collection processes needed for the Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) and Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA). MENEAs experts detailed the types of data required (energy consumption, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, etc.) and explained their significance in the SECAP process. Plans for coordinating data collection with multiple relevant institutions were established.

The workshop laid the foundation for systematic, collaborative data gathering critical to the accurate development of the ECAP+. MENEAs coordinating role was deemed essential for efficient progress. (10 participants)

**9. Training: Ruđera Boškovića 2, Čakovec, 29 April 2024**

**Topics covered:** ECAP+ presentation and implementation.

Focused again on the ECAP+ document, this session reiterated its strategic importance and practical advantages for local governments. It provides a detailed overview of the county's energy situation, concrete local measures, financing mechanisms, and key thematic areas such as energy security, poverty, and climate change. Also, the workshop included the overview of the regional data needed for calculating total energy consumption in including the relevant organisations where this data can be found.

The session reinforced the central role of local governments as implementers and their need for continuous involvement in all phases of ECAP+ development and application. 8 participants attended this session.

#### **10. Training: Ruđera Boškovića 2, Čakovec, 19 June 2024**

**Topics covered:** ECAP+ training, finances.

A general training session on ECAPs with 25 participants, this workshop was focusing on consolidating the knowledge of local and regional governments about the planning process, implementation challenges, and stakeholder engagement strategies. In addition, the goal of the training was also to remind representatives of local governments to submit relevant data on energy consumption and the number of buildings they own, which are required for relevant calculations within the ECAP+ document. During the event, the participants were also acquainted with Urban Development Fund, a new national lending program for financing long-term investments of local and regional governments, companies, institutions, agencies and other legal entities owned by them or owned by the Republic of Croatia. This funding mechanism is structured as a combination of loans from the Croatian Bank for reconstruction and development and grants from the European Regional Development Fund.

#### **11. Training 11: Local stakeholder training – workshops with vulnerable groups, 13 December 2024**

**Topics covered:** Just transition and vulnerable groups, energy poverty.

This session attended by 43 participants was covering energy poverty topic with special focus on the challenges and potential solutions of the problem. The workshop was also an opportunity for CEESEU-DIGIT and CEESEN-BENDER projects presentations to tenants of multi-apartment buildings located in Medjimurje County. The presentation of the mentioned projects was followed by additional discussions with the participants concerning energy poverty and the transition process including the rights of socially vulnerable citizens in connection to accessibility to renewable forms of energy and how they can contribute to active involvement in the creation of regional and local policies related to sustainability and climate change.

#### **12. Training: Local stakeholder training – workshops with vulnerable groups, 19 December 2024**

**Topics covered:** Just transition, marginalized groups, inclusive engagement.

Six participants explored the impacts of energy transition and climate change on marginalized populations. Discussions included regional and national strategies for promoting just transition, aligning with broader networks to enhance

collaboration, and adopting innovative, participatory approaches to ensure all voices are included in sustainable development decision-making.

The session highlighted the need for inclusive approaches and stronger networking to promote equity in the transition process.



### 13. Training: CEESEU-DIGIT closing event in Čakovec, 21 May 2025

**Topics covered:** integrating ECAP with NECPs, advocacy strategies, innovative funding.

Participated by 18 participants (representatives of local and regional governments and other regional stakeholders), this CEESEU-DIGIT closing event in Medjimurje County included the presentation of the approved ECAP+ for Medjimurje County highlighting the main chapters of the document with special emphasis of its content. The presentation of regional ECAP was followed by a brief presentation of Croatian NECP and the measures within especially focusing on local governments who are the key implementors for both, ECAP+ and NECP. The second part of the workshop included the overview of innovative funding mechanisms for climate mitigation and adaptation measures providing the workshop participants with the insights on the new ways in financing energy and climate related projects. The final topic highlighted during the event is referred to

relevant advocacy strategies for vulnerable groups in the process of energy transition.

The training sessions in Medjmurje County significantly enhanced the capacity of public sector employees and other stakeholders to address climate and energy challenges through knowledge of ECAP development, funding mechanisms, and participatory governance. Special attention to just transition and vulnerable groups ensured a socially inclusive approach. The trainings fostered cooperation across all governance levels and built momentum for effective implementation of energy and climate policies aligned with Croatia's national and EU obligations.

## Conclusion

The training activities implemented within the CEESEU-DIGIT project have significantly contributed to strengthening local and regional capacities for the development and implementation of Energy and Climate Action Plans (ECAPs) in six Central and Eastern European countries. By involving a wide spectrum of stakeholders from public officials and local advisors to private sector actors, educators, and vulnerable communities, the project ensured a holistic and inclusive approach to capacity-building.

The diversity of training formats and topics reflected the varying needs and contexts of each participating region. While some regions focused on technical aspects such as data collection and financing mechanisms, others emphasized awareness-raising, just transition, and participatory governance. This flexibility allowed the project to address both structural challenges, such as limited administrative capacity and financial resources and social challenges related to equity and engagement of marginalized groups.

The success of the training programme is evident not only in the high number of participants and sessions but also in the quality of stakeholder engagement and the practical outputs produced, including clearer pathways toward ECAP development, stronger local ownership, and increased awareness of funding opportunities and governance frameworks. In total, 1970 key stakeholders were trained across our six regions. The trainings laid a strong foundation for the continuation of regional energy and climate planning efforts aligned with national and EU goals.

Moving forward, sustained institutional support, continued knowledge exchange, and follow-up training opportunities will be essential to maintain momentum and ensure the effective implementation of ECAPs. The CEESEU-DIGIT project has demonstrated that tailored, well-coordinated capacity-building efforts can empower regions to lead the way in the energy transition and climate resilience, leaving no one behind.