

CEESEU-DIGIT

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

REPORT on work groups meetings

D2.3 Key stakeholders engaged

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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 deliverable presents a summary of the expert working group meetings conducted in six pilot regions as part of the CEESEU-DIGIT project. The overarching objective of the project is to support public authorities in Central and Eastern Europe in the development of Regional Energy and Climate Action Plans (ECAPs) that align with national and EU-level climate goals, while promoting a just and inclusive transition.

The purpose of this deliverable is to document and analyse the process and outcomes of the expert group meetings organised in each region. These meetings formed a core element of the support structure for regional stakeholders, facilitating informed and participatory development of their respective ECAPs. Through structured dialogue, collaborative planning, and exchange of expertise, the workgroups helped ensure that the plans address region-specific energy and climate challenges and include integrated responses across mitigation, adaptation, and social dimensions.

The relevance of this deliverable lies in its ability to provide insight into how cross-sectoral cooperation and expert engagement contribute to quality and consistency in climate action planning. It also highlights the practical approaches and challenges encountered in the early stages of ECAP development, offering valuable lessons for replication in other European regions.

Methodology

To support the development of the ECAPs in the six pilot regions, each project partner established an expert group composed primarily of in-house professionals with experience in energy planning, environmental policy, public administration, and stakeholder engagement. These groups operated as technical and advisory bodies tasked with steering the planning process in close cooperation with regional and local stakeholders.

Each partner organised at least three working meetings over the course of the project, typically involving both internal coordination sessions and broader stakeholder consultations. The meetings focused on key elements required for ECAP development, such as:

- Collecting and analysing energy and climate-related data at local and regional levels;
- Identifying priority areas and drafting proposed mitigation and adaptation measures;
- Developing specific sections of the ECAPs, including chapters on energy poverty, just transition, financing, cybersecurity, and stakeholder engagement;
- Aligning regional strategies with national energy and climate policy frameworks;
- Facilitating collaboration with municipalities, utility providers, academic institutions, and civil society organisations.

These meetings followed a structured yet flexible format that enabled region-specific approaches while maintaining a coherent methodological framework across countries. The discussions were often complemented by expert presentations, capacity-building activities, and interactive exchanges on local experiences with climate planning. Meeting outcomes were documented and integrated into the drafting process of the ECAPs, ensuring continuity and responsiveness throughout the planning cycle.

List of 6 expert groups

The table below presents an overview of the six expert groups established in each pilot region. These groups played a key role in guiding the development of regional ECAPs, facilitating collaboration across institutional levels, and ensuring the inclusion of technical expertise and stakeholder perspectives throughout the planning process.

Country	Region	Name of the experts	Organisation
Estonia	Ida-Viru	Hardi Murula	IVOL
		Mihkel Laan	Cumulus Consulting OÜ
		Marten Saareots	TREA
		Elis Vollmer	UTARTU
		Antti Roose	TREA
		Kalle Virkus	TREA
Latvia	Vidzeme	Anda Briede	Vidzeme Planning region
		Maija Rieksta	Vidzeme Planning region
		Laura Dzelzkalēja	Vidzeme Planning region
		Baiba Šelkovska	Vidzeme Planning region
		Guna Kalniņa	Vidzeme Planning region
		Ieva Kalniņa	Vidzeme Planning region
		Ilze Zviedre	Vidzeme Planning region
Poland	Mazovia	Ewa Królikowska	MAE
		Ewa Szulc	MAE
		Bartosz Witkowski	MAE
		Grzegorz Markowski	external expert
Czech Republic	Broumov	Jiří Jeřábek	ENVIROS
		Pavel Skalník	ENVIROS
		Pavel Sitný	ENVIROS
		Josef Pikálek	ENVIROS
		Róbert Máček	ENVIROS
		Veronika Hajná	ENVIROS
		Andrea Kadidlová	ENVIROS
		Jiří Spitz	ENVIROS
		Lukáš Chytrý	ENVIROS
Slovenia	Podravje	Roman Kekec	LEASP
		Dalibor Šoštarič	LEASP
		Henrik Glatz	LEASP
		Irena Ostroško	LEASP
Croatia	Medjimurje	Alen Višnjić	MNEA
		Danijela Vrtarić	MNEA
		Nina Jurinić	MNEA

Summary of Workgroup meetings in pilot regions

Across the six pilot regions of the CEESEU-DIGIT project—Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Croatia—expert workgroup meetings were held to support the inclusive development of regional Energy and Climate Action Plans (ECAPs). While each region tailored its engagement to local contexts and capacities, all followed a structured approach involving expert consultation, stakeholder dialogue, and iterative planning. The meetings served multiple purposes: to assess regional energy and climate baselines, identify priority sectors and actions, align regional strategies with national and EU policy goals, and strengthen governance frameworks through stakeholder input.

In Estonia, the expert group met regularly to discuss the changing situation, especially in relation to the just transition fund access and prioritisation of the activities in relation to the renovation of old soviet-style buildings as supportive funding became available for the local citizens, but their interest was low. The expert group had crucial role in providing support to the local governments in engaging their citizens and increasing the use of available funds for improving energy efficiency. The expert group also advised UTARTU for their outreach activities to vulnerable groups, especially the youth (for example when organising digi-green hackathon and mini-hackathon to the school children). The expert group members also published opinion pieces in local and national media to increase awareness of energy and climate planning and energy efficiency.

In Latvia, the Vidzeme region hosted in-person and internal meetings that addressed both the projected local impacts of climate change and practical GHG mitigation strategies. The region focused on integrating agriculture, forestry, and energy efficiency of the residential sector while also enhancing public understanding and stakeholder involvement.

Poland's Mazovia region prioritized the institutional aspects of planning. Meetings emphasized data quality, sectoral integration (notably agriculture and transport), and alignment with national frameworks like the NECP and with the Covenant of Mayors. Capacity building for local municipalities was an important theme.

In the Czech Republic, meetings concentrated on discussing measures and actions for the action plan. Expert-led discussions led to the prioritization of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in public buildings. The feasibility of each proposed measure was critically assessed, ensuring technical and financial realism.

Slovenia pursued a multi-strand approach: bilateral consultations with municipalities, engagement through the energy council of the regional Chamber of Commerce, and a stakeholder workshop that catalysed inter-municipal cooperation on solar PV projects. The meetings helped identify regional funding opportunities and consolidate local ownership of the ECAP.

Croatia's Medjimurje County combined capacity building with policy design. Workshops addressed the challenges of data collection and inter-municipal coordination, while also promoting just transition principles and private sector involvement. The sessions underscored the importance of streamlined data systems, inclusive planning, and long-term institutional support.

The approach of expert groups in the pilot regions illustrates how structured expert engagement can transform technical planning into a participatory, context-sensitive, and strategic process. Common themes across countries included the need for better data infrastructures, financing mechanisms, capacity development, and integration of marginalized communities. Together, these meetings laid a strong foundation for regional ECAPs that are ambitious, achievable, and socially inclusive.

LIST of ANNEXES:

- I. Estonia
- II. Latvia
- III. Poland
- IV. Czech Republic
- V. Slovenia
- VI. Croatia



**Central and Eastern Europe Sustainable Energy Union's
Design and Implementation of Regional Government
Initiatives for a Just Energy Transition**

CEESEU-DIGIT

**WP2: Increase the capacity of public
and private stakeholders to undertake
Just Transitions**

Workgroup meetings – Report

Region: Ida-Virumaa, Estonia

Responsible partner: UTARTU/TREA

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 1

Title	Meeting with Ida-Viru municipalities
Date	31.01.2023
Location	Jõhvi, Estonia
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	Marten Saareots, TREA, Annti Roose, TREA Elis Vollmer, UTARTU Maie Kiisel, UTARTU Len Milich, UTARTU
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Rein Luuse, Jõhvi municipality Svetlana Jürgens, Jõhvi municipality Olga Babluk, Narva-Jõesuu city government Arno Pailles, Lüganuse municipality Meelis Kuusk, IVOL Alfred Alt, IVOL Meelis Luus, Toila municipality Eve East, Toila municipality

Agenda

UTARTU introduced the DIGIT project and how it links to the existing Ida-Viru ECAP. We highlighted the opportunities for updating the existing ECAP. This was followed by discussion.

Content

Meeting with representatives of municipalities. Introducing practices and discussing their needs and interests with missing topics from the existing ECAP, like energy poverty and energy security. This was followed by a discussion about the needs of the municipalities in ECAP planning and implementation.

Conclusions

Based on the discussions we agreed to meet with each municipality 1on1 to devise more detailed action plans. We also agreed on trainings about energy efficiency as this is the most pertinent topic as the fundings have just become available and local citizen interest is low.

Photos



2. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 2

Title	Consultation together with ECRural project
Date	03.10.24
Location	Alutaguse municipality

Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	Annti Roose, TREA Marten Saareots, TREA
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Two Alutaguse municipality staff members and the mayor.

Agenda

Improving local ECAP with energy communities support mechanisms

Content

Seminar done in cooperation with EC4Rural project focused on local energy planning and renewable energy and energy communities. We discussed the role of local climate plans and other development documents in energy transition, how to effectively monitor, implement, and update them, as well as how local governments can promote small-scale energy solutions in the interest of the community.

Conclusions

Alutaguse municipality will continue to plan for an energy community development in collaboration with local SMEs.

Photos



3. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 3

Title	Consultation on ECAP+ integration
Date	20.05.2024
Location	Narva
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	Martin Kikas, TREA Antti Roose, TREA Mait Sepp, UTARTU Reigo Lehtla, Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities Elis Vollmer, UTARTU
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Vladimir Tužilkin, Toila municipality Dmitri Dmitriev, Lüganuse municipality Olga Vasiljeva, Lüganuse municipality Jelena Molodtsova, Narva city government Galina Siniorg, Narva city government, Meelis Kuusk, IVOL Hardi Murula, IVOL Erki Suutre, TalTech Virumaa kolledž

Agenda

I and climate quiz (A.Roose, TREA), What is plan of the state, what is plan of local governments (R.Lehtla, Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities), How to adapt (M.Sepp, UTARTU), What are challenges of local government - how to step forward with energy- and climate plan, E&C - the mandate, management, structure, content, skills, data, costs (M. Saareoks, A.Roose, M.Kikas, TREA)

Content

I and climate quiz (A.Roose, TREA), What is plan of the state, what is plan of local governments (R.Lehtla, Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities), How to adapt (M.Sepp, UTARTU), What are challenges of local government - how to step forward with energy- and climate plan, E&C - the mandate, management, structure, content, skills, data, costs (M. Saareoks, A.Roose, M.Kikas, TREA)

Conclusions

We agreed on further consultation to address the climate adaptation topics in their plan and implementation of climate adaptation measures.



**Central and Eastern Europe Sustainable Energy Union's
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CEESEU-DIGIT

**WP2: Increase the capacity of public
and private stakeholders to undertake
Just Transitions**

Workgroup event - Report

Region: Vidzeme, Latvia

Responsible partner: VPR

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 1

Title	Development of a sustainable energy and climate action plan for the Vidzeme planning region. Discussion and thoughtful solutions for overcoming common climate and energy challenges in the Vidzeme region
Date	29.05.2024.
Location	Cēsis, Latvia
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anda Briede, Vidzeme Planning region 2. Maija Rieksta, Vidzeme Planning region 3. Laura Dzelzkalēja, Vidzeme Planning region 4. Baiba Šelkovska, Vidzeme Planning region 5. Guna Kalniņa – Priede, Vidzeme Planning region 6. Ieva Kalniņa, Vidzeme Planning region 7. Ilze Zviedre, Vidzeme Planning region 8. Toms Bricis, Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agnese Vinogradova, AS "Conexus Baltic grid" 2. Andris Jaunpetrovičs, Smiltene municipality 3. Dace Melgalve, Gauja National Park tourism cluster 4. Dace Ozola, Latvian Peat Association 5. Einārs Mednis, Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia 6. Elīna Lāce, Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia 7. Emīls Kārlis Ziediņš, Gulbene municipality 8. Inese Bērziņa, Valmiera municipality 9. Inta Ādamsone, Cēsis municipality 10. Jānis Barinskis, Gulbene municipality 11. Kristīne Āboliņa, Cēsis municipality 12. Laura Ķeniņa, Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava" 13. Lelde Celmiņa, Madona municipality 14. Līga Zvirbule, Valmiera municipality 15. Mārtiņš Žogots, AS "Conexus Baltic Grid" 16. Oskars Krišāns, Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava" 17. Vilmārs Katkovskis, Latvia's State Forests 18. Ziedonis Tomsons, Limbaži municipality

Agenda

Discussion points of the meeting, programme of the event:

1. Development of the Vidzeme Energy and Climate Plan – why? Where are we now and where do we want to be?
2. Climate change in Latvia so far and in the future
3. Risk mapping and defining measures to mitigate them
4. Challenges and solutions for cross-sectoral cooperation to overcome climate risks

Content

Objective of the event:

The main objective of the discussion held on May 29 in Cēsis was to identify how climate change will impact the Vidzeme region and Latvia in the coming years and how various sectors can adapt. The event contributed to the development of Vidzeme's Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan by facilitating cross-sector dialogue, identifying key risks, and brainstorming potential adaptation and mitigation measures.

Main discussion points:

- Climate projections for Latvia: Meteorologist Toms Bricis outlined expected trends such as warmer winters, more frequent heatwaves, uneven precipitation, stronger summer storms, and the decline in wind speeds.
- Sector-specific impacts: Discussion groups evaluated how climate risks would affect sectors like agriculture, energy, health, and urban planning.
- Importance of cross-sector cooperation: Emphasis was placed on involving local and national authorities, research institutions, civil society, and both public and private sectors in planning and implementation.
- Long-term planning needs: Participants stressed the necessity of preparing for climate neutrality by 2030 through updated regional and national plans.
- Public awareness and involvement: Raising citizen awareness and participation in planning processes was discussed as key to building climate resilience.

Challenges and/or objections raised:

- Low public perception of climate urgency in Latvia: Anda Briede pointed out that only 45% of Latvian citizens have made lifestyle changes due to environmental concerns—well below the EU average of 67%. This was attributed to the relatively limited direct experience of severe climate impacts in Latvia.
- Urgency of emissions reduction: While adaptation is critical, experts like Einārs Mednis warned that without effective greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures, adaptation needs and risks will only continue to grow.
- Uneven precipitation patterns: These present complex challenges for infrastructure and water management, calling for systemic upgrades.

Conclusions

Proposals during discussions included:

- Promoting drought-resistant crops and improving soil moisture retention in agriculture;
- Enhancing drainage systems and urban green spaces to mitigate flood risks;
- Planning for increased summer energy demand due to building cooling needs;
- Constructing and modernizing infrastructure to withstand climate extremes.

The event concluded with a commitment to incorporate the outcomes into Vidzeme's upcoming regional plan, with a follow-up session scheduled for July 3 to further develop these ideas.

Photos

Include here photos (if any) of the event – AS LONG AS YOU MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE COMPLIANT WITH THE GDPR directive in using and publishing these.

Photos by Vidzeme Planning region:





2. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 2

Title	Development of a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan for the Vidzeme Planning Region Discussion and thoughtful solutions for overcoming common climate and energy challenges in the Vidzeme region
Date	03.07.2024.
Location	Cēsis, Latvia
Participant	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anda Briede, Vidzeme Planning region 2. Baiba Šelkovska, Vidzeme Planning region 3. Dace Pastva, Vidzeme Planning region 4. Eva Meijere, Vidzeme Planning region 5. Ieva Kalniņa, Vidzeme Planning region 6. Jānis Ikaunieks, Riga Energy Agency 7. Laura Dzelzkalēja, Vidzeme Planning region 8. Maija Rieksta, Vidzeme Planning region 9. Māra Reča, Riga Energy Agency 10. Mārtiņš Zelders, University of Latvia
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Artūrs Putniņš, Latvia's State Forests 2. Emīls Kārlis Ziediņš, Gulbene municipality 3. Iveta Umule, Limbaži municipality 4. Jānis Barinskis, Gulbene municipality 5. Kristīne Kursīte Ģērmane, SIA „LODE“ 6. Līga Zvirbule, Valmiera municipality 7. Gints Kukainis, SIA „ZAAO“ 8. Vadims Skrastiņš, SIA „LODE“ 9. Vilmārs Katkovskis, Latvia's State Forests 10. Ziedonis Tomsons, Limbaži municipality

Agenda

Discussion points of the meeting, programme of the event:

- Objectives of the National Energy and Climate Plan and the current situation in Vidzeme
- Climate planning challenges, trends, examples, solutions
- GHG reduction potential in Vidzeme
- Sectoral potential and solutions for reducing GHG emissions

Content

Objective of the event:

The main objective of the discussion held in early July in Cēsis was to contribute to the development of the Vidzeme Region Energy and Climate Action Plan 2030, with a specific focus on identifying actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across various sectors. The event aimed to gather insights and proposals from stakeholders to shape effective, region-specific climate and energy policy measures.

Main discussion points:

- Participants explored GHG reduction opportunities in sectors such as:
 - ✓ Households: Promotion of energy efficiency in residential buildings and support through local advisory centers (e.g., Vidzeme EnergoGids).
 - ✓ Forestry: Use of forest resources and residues for energy, emphasizing modern wood processing and the importance of forestry education and professional prestige.
 - ✓ Agriculture: Encouragement of precision farming and organic agriculture.
 - ✓ Waste management and industry: Production of biogas from organic waste as a sustainable solution.
 - ✓ Transport: Promotion of renewable energy use in public transportation. Urban environment: Use of biochar in arable land, tree planting, smart technologies for energy savings, and expansion of natural green areas in residential zones.
- The event included a presentation by Jānis Ikaunieks, Director of the Riga Energy Agency, who shared Riga's ambition to become a climate-neutral smart city by 2030, highlighting the importance of rational energy use, renewable energy, circular economy, energy security, and emission reduction.

Challenges and/or objections raised:

- Public awareness and administrative burden: Some participants noted that applying for EU funding for building renovations can be complicated for residents, despite the potential for energy savings.
- Financing uncertainty: Available funding tends to be cyclical, making long-term planning difficult.
- Need for centralized support: A suggestion emerged to develop "one-stop" support agencies to guide residents through renovation and energy efficiency processes.
- Implementation gaps: While ideas and technologies are available, a key challenge is mainstreaming their use and ensuring that infrastructure, knowledge, and investment match the ambition.

The insights gathered will feed into the final version of the regional action plan, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year and shared with municipalities and stakeholders for feedback.

Conclusions

The insights gathered have been incorporated into the final version of the regional action plan, which has been completed and shared with municipalities and stakeholders.

Photos

Photos by Vidzeme Planning region:



3. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 3 (group of events)

Title	Internal working sessions/ meetings for a Development of a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan for the Vidzeme Planning Region
Date	Monthly or frequent meetings in period March 2023 – November 2024
Location	Cēsis, Latvia, Zoom, MS Teams
Participant	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anda Briede, Vidzeme Planning region 2. Baiba Šelkovska, Vidzeme Planning region 3. Dace Pastva, Vidzeme Planning region 4. Eva Meijere, Vidzeme Planning region 5. Ieva Kalniņa, Vidzeme Planning region 6. Laura Dzelzkalēja, Vidzeme Planning region 7. Maija Rieksta, Vidzeme Planning region 8. Laila Gercāne, Vidzeme Planning region
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	n/a

Agenda

Discussion points of the meeting, programme of the event:

- During meetings the status of development of ECAP was discussed.
- Needed information/data from municipalities were identified.

Content

During meetings the monthly status of development of ECAP was discussed.

Needed information/data from municipalities were identified.

Alignment with regional development documents were analysed

Updates from development of NECP were identified.

Received feedback from municipalities, Climate and energy ministry were analysed.

Conclusions

These meetings were crucial for development of ECAP, as they steered the process.



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CEESEU-DIGIT

**WP2: Increase the capacity of public
and private stakeholders to undertake
Just Transitions**

Workgroup event - Report

Region: Mazovia, Poland

Responsible partner: MAE

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 1

Title	Meeting with the Regional Authority Representatives on CEESEU-DIGIT, ECAP
Date	14/04/2023
Location	Warsaw, Poland
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	Ewa Szulc – MAE Żaneta Latarowska – MAE Marek Pszonka -MAE Bartosz Dubiński - MAE
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Marcin Podgóński – RA Magdalena Śladowska - RA

Agenda

Main points of discussion:

- Introduction to the CEESEU-DIGIT framework and project objectives,
- Presentation of the concept and structure of the ECAP,
- Training on collecting baseline data for ECAP preparation,
- Discussion on aligning the ECAP with national (NECP) and regional strategies,
- Integration with Covenant of Mayors goals.

Content

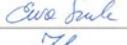
The initial meeting served as an important orientation session for representatives of the Mazovia Regional Authority, introducing them to the goals and processes of the CEESEU-DIGIT project. Discussions focused on the strategic importance of aligning the regional ECAP with Poland's NECP (which is still not formally adopted), as well as with existing regional strategies and the Covenant of Mayors framework.

MAE experts presented methodologies for baseline data collection and offered guidance on how the ECAP could serve both as a technical planning document and a strategic tool for securing alignment with national energy goals.

Conclusions

The Regional Authority emphasized the necessity of ensuring strategic consistency between the ECAP and other planning instruments. They welcomed participation in CEESEU-DIGIT as a means to strengthen Mazovia's role in transnational cooperation and energy planning across CEE countries.

Photos

CEESEU-DIGIT			
14/04/2023			
Warszawa, Polska			
L.P.	Imię i Nazwisko	Instytucja	Podpis
1	MAGDALENA WIŚNIEWSKA	UMWIM W WIE	
2	Małgorzata Podgórski	UMWIM w Warszawie	
3	EWA SZULC	MAE	
4	Zofia Katarzyna	MAE	
5	Wojciech Dębski	MAE	
6	Julian Dębski	MAE	
7			
8			



CEESEU-DIGIT has received funding from the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) under grant agreement No 101077297



Informacje informujemy, że administratorem danych osobowych jest Mazowiecka Agencja Energetyczna Sp. z o.o., dane kontaktowe: Mazowiecka Agencja Energetyczna Sp. z o.o. ul. Nowogrodzka 31 lok. 330, 00-511 Warszawa, tel. (022) 290 29 42, e-mail: adm@mae.com.pl. Administrator ma do dyspozycji espace informacji, z którym można skontaktować się pod adresem e-mail: od@mae.com.pl. Wszelkie informacje dotyczące przetwarzania danych osobowych znajduje się pod linkiem: <http://www.mae.com.pl/odp>.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 2

Title	Meeting with the Regional Authority Representatives on CEESEU-DIGIT, ECAP
Date	09/11/2023
Location	Warsaw, Poland
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	Ewa Szulc - MAE
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Magdalena Wiśniewska – Regional Authority

Agenda

Main points of discussion:

- Discussion on the climate-focused sections of the ECAP
- Identification of data gaps and input needs
- Planning of a future webinar/training for municipalities on energy transition financing and planning

Content

CEESEU-DIGIT project, ECAP characteristics, financing for Energy Transition

The focus of this meeting was the climate adaptation and mitigation dimensions of the ECAP. Particular attention was given to the need for robust data and strategic clarity in this component. Discussions also included the development of capacity-building activities for municipalities in the region – CEESEU DIGIT training programme, with an emphasis on just transition, project financing, and multi-level governance.

Conclusions

It was agreed that the ECAP should more strongly emphasize the link between climate action and agriculture—a key economic sector in the region.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 3

Title	Meeting with the Regional Authority Representatives on CEESEU-DIGIT, ECAP
Date	22/11/2023
Location	Warsaw, Poland
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	Ewa Szulc – MAE Żaneta Latarowska - MAE
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Magdalena Wiśniewska – Regional Authority

Agenda

Main points of discussion:

- Discussion on the vision and long-term goals of the ECAP+
- Review of necessary data and climate planning priorities
- Preparation for local trainings

Content

This session built on the previous meetings, aiming to define a shared vision for the ECAP+. A key part of the discussion focused on long-term transformation targets, the inclusion of sectoral priorities (such as transport and agriculture), and ways to ensure coherence with other planning processes.

Conclusions

A common understanding of the ECAP+ vision was reached, focusing on climate resilience, social inclusion, and pragmatic energy planning.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 5

Title	Meeting with the Regional Authority Representatives on CEESEU-DIGIT, ECAP
Date	19.02.2024
Location	Warsaw, Poland
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	Ewa Szulc - MAE
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Magdalena Wiśniewska - RA Michał Banak - RA

Agenda

Main points of discussion:

- data collection needed for the ECAP+ and the cooperation with the RA

Content

This session focused exclusively on the methodologies for data collection required for drafting the ECAP+, with emphasis on sectoral data, emission baselines, and project inventories. The event also reinforced cooperation channels between the MAE and the Regional Authority to ensure smooth exchange of information.

Conclusions

The Training was about the data collection needed for the ECAP+ and the cooperation with the RA

A shared framework for data collection was adopted, ensuring that ECAP+ development remains evidence-based and tailored to regional priorities.

Photos

Spotkanie			
19/02/2024			
Warszawa, Polska			
L.P.	Imię i Nazwisko	organizacja	Podpis
1	Magdalena Wiśniewska	UNiW w Warszawie	Wiśniewska
2	Michał Banak	UNiW	Banak
3			
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6			
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8			



CEESEU-DIGIT has received funding from the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) under grant agreement No 101077297



Uwaga! Informacja o ochronie danych osobowych jest Narodową Agencją Energetyczną i z a.e. danych korzysta. Małopolska Agencja Energetyczna Sp. z o.o. ul. Nowogrodzka 31 lok. 330, 30-511 Warszawa, tel. (22) 290 29 42, email: info@mae.com.pl. Administrator wyznaczył Inspektora ochrony danych, z którym można skontaktować się pod adresem e-mail: od@mae.com.pl. Więcej informacji dotyczących przetwarzania danych osobowych znajdzie się pod linkiem: <https://www.mae.com.pl/odc>

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 6

Title	Meeting with the Regional Authority Representatives on CEESEU-DIGIT, ECAP
Date	07.03.2024
Location	Warsaw, Poland
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	Ewa Szulc - MAE
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Magdalena Wiśniewska - RA Michał Banak - RA

Agenda

Main points of discussion:

- consultation and training on ECAP+ creation

Content

This event served as a consultation and working session to review the draft version of the ECAP+, identify gaps, and plan additional training activities to support regional implementation and stakeholder involvement.

Conclusions

The Regional Authority acknowledged progress made in the ECAP+ development. Future actions will focus on refining implementation pathways, with continued expert support.

Photos

L.P.	Imię i Nazwisko	organizacja	Podpis
1	Michał Banak	UMJ M	Banak
2	Magdalena Wiśniewska	UNW M W Wiśniewska	Wiśniewska
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8			

CEESEU-DIGIT has received funding from the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) under grant agreement No 101077297

CEESEN

Uzyskuję informację, że administratorem danych osobowych jest Mazowiecka Agencja Energetyczna Sp. z o.o. dane kontaktowe: Mazowiecka Agencja Energetyczna Sp. z o.o. ul. Nowogrodzka 31 lok. 330, 00-531 Warszawa, NIP 723 290 29 42, email: biuro@mazee.com.pl. Administrator wymagał inspektora danych, z którym można skontaktować się pod adresem e-mail: od@mazee.com.pl. Więcej informacji dotyczących przetwarzania danych osobowych znajduje się pod linkiem: <https://www.mazee.com.pl/rodo>.



**Central and Eastern Europe Sustainable Energy Union's
Design and Implementation of Regional Government
Initiatives for a Just Energy Transition**

CEESEU-DIGIT

**WP2: Increase the capacity of public
and private stakeholders to undertake
Just Transitions**

Workgroup event – Report

Region: Broumov, Czech Republic

Responsible partner: ENVIROS

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 1

Title	Business club Broumov meeting
Date	15.2.2024
Location	Broumov
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	ENVIROS
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Business club Broumov region (Podnikatelský klub Broumovska) Strategic council of Broumov region (Strategická rada regionu Broumovsko).

Agenda

The topic was the presentation of renewable energy projects proposed within the ECAP framework. These were primarily photovoltaic power plants.

Content

Differences between various photovoltaic systems were discussed, including the suitability of installed capacity for each installation in relation to project economics and technical challenges.

Conclusions

Based on the discussion, projects were selected to be included in the action plan. It was determined that not every project is feasible under the given circumstances.

Photos



2. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 2

Title	Business club Broumov meeting
Date	22.11.2024
Location	Broumov
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	ENVIROS
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Dobrovolný svazek obcí Broumovska, Strategická rada regionu Broumovsko, Město Broumov, Město Meziměstí, Město Teplice nad Metují, Město Police nad Metují

Agenda

The topic was the presentation of proposed measures for municipal and city buildings in the region.

Content

A general presentation of the proposed measures, including the technical and energy-related aspects of the solutions, as well as their economic parameters. The discussion also covered the suitability of certain measures, such as insulating old buildings.

Conclusions

Based on the discussion, projects were selected to be included in the action plan.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 3

Title	Business club Broumov meeting
Date	24.1.2025
Location	Město Meziměstí
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	ENVIROS
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Město Meziměstí

Agenda

The topic was the presentation of proposed measures specific for Meziměstí town.

Content

A general presentation of the proposed measures, including the technical and energy-related aspects of the solutions, as well as their economic parameters. Discussion on the availability of data during the development of proposed measures.

Conclusions

Based on the discussion, projects were selected to be included in the action plan.



**Central and Eastern Europe Sustainable Energy Union's
Design and Implementation of Regional Government
Initiatives for a Just Energy Transition**

CEESEU-DIGIT

**WP2: Increase the capacity of public
and private stakeholders to undertake
Just Transitions**

Workgroup event - Report

Region: Podravje, Slovenia

Responsible partner: LEA Spodnje Podravje.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 1

Title	Meeting of the Regional energy council of the Styrian Chamber of Commerce.
Date	16.2.2024
Location	Styrian Chamber of Commerce, Maribor
Participants	
Advisory experts	Roman Kekec, LEASP
Stakeholders attended the meeting	Ljubo Germič, Energetika Maribor Milan Novak, Zavod PPC Tezno Alan Perc, Energija Plus Filip Kokalj, Univerza v Mariboru Primož Tračl, Emerson d.o.o. Nina Kovač, ŠGZ

Agenda

The primary discussion of the meeting:

- the new Energy Act
- the renewal of the NECP of Slovenia

Content

LEASP, as a member of the Regional Energy Council, attended the February 2024 council meeting, where members reviewed and discussed the new Energy Act and the draft NECP. The council went through the comments and input submitted by the Chamber to the responsible ministry.

During the session, LEASP also initiated an informal consultation with regional energy companies, collecting valuable input, perspectives, and ideas relevant for the development of the regional Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP). This proved to be a vital opportunity to engage the private sector and strengthen their involvement in shaping regional climate policy.

Conclusions

Representatives of regional energy companies expressed a strong interest in being more regularly involved in the preparation of both regional and local energy and climate plans—especially in the early stages of action planning. They noted that key measures are sometimes introduced without their input, even when these measures directly impact their operations.

Photos

Dogodek: Redna seja Regijskega svet za energetsko področje Kraj in Datum: MARIBOR, 16. 3. 2024				 ŠTAJERSKA GOSPODARSKA ZBORNIČA		
				Privilitev zbiranja in uporabe osebnih podatkov (ime, priimek, elektronski naslov) PROSIMO ODKLJUKAJTE		
Št.	IME IN PRIIMEK	ORGANIZACIJA	PODPIŠ	Za namen organizacije dogodka in posredovanje informacij o poteku dogodka.	Za nadaljnje obveščanje in sodelovanje – prejemanje info o aktivnostih in dogodkih ŠGZ.	Za objavo fotografij/posnetkov z namenom promocije oz. poročanja o dogodku.
1.	ROMAN KEREC	LEA STOJNJE DORNAVA		DA	DA	DA
2.	Bojan ŠEGMŠ	Energetika mb		DA	DA	DA
3.	Bojan Novak	Zavod PPC Trenčín		DA	DA	DA
4.	Alan Perč	Energija plus		DA	DA	DA
5.	Frigo Kokalj	Univerza v Mariboru		DA	DA	DA
6.	Primož Tratč	Eaerson d.o.o.		DA	DA	DA
7.	NINA KONČIČ	SGZ		DA	DA	DA
8.						
9.						
10.						

Skladno z novo "Uredbo o varstvu osebnih podatkov" Vas prosimo, da z označbo (kliknjico ali krnčem) v okvirčku ob podpisu dovolite zbiranje vaših osebnih podatkov.

S podpisom na seznamu udeležencev jamčim za točnost osebnih podatkov. **Seznamu udeležencev ne bomo posredovali nikomur.**

Vaše podatke bomo skladno z veljavno zakonodajo skrbno varovali. Hranili jih bomo tako dolgo, dokler bo to potrebno za izpolnitve namena zbiranja. Vaši podatki ne bomo posredovali v tretje državo ali mednarodno organizacijo. Vašo privilitev za obdelavo osebnih podatkov lahko kadarkoli umaknete, vendar to ne bo vplivalo na zakonitost obdelave podatkov, ki se je na podlagi privilitev izvajala do preklica. O tem nas obvestite na elektronski naslov info@stajerskagz.si. V kolikor ne želite privoliti v uporabo vaših osebnih podatkov, vam to ni potrebno, vendar vam v tem primeru ne bomo mogli izdati potrdila o udeležbi, ki bo omogočalo vašo identifikacijo. Od ŠGZ lahko kadarkoli zahtevate dostop do vaših osebnih podatkov, popravek, izbris ali omejitve obdelave. Prav tako lahko kadarkoli ugovarjate obdelavi osebnih podatkov ali uveljavljate pravico do prenosljivosti vaših osebnih podatkov. O tem nas obvestite na elektronski naslov info@stajerskagz.si.

V kolikor menite, da se vaši osebni podatki shranjujejo ali kako drugače obdelujejo v nasprotju z veljavnimi predpisi, ki urejajo varstvo osebnih podatkov, imate pravico vložiti pritožbo pri Informacijskem pooblaščencu RS.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 2

Title	Self-sufficient communities
Date	14.3.2024
Location	Ptuj
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	Dalibor Šoštarič, LEASP Henrik Glatz, LEASP Brigita Godec Bezjak, LEASP
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Natalija Kovše, Municipality Dornava, Andrej Trunk, Municipality Ptuj, Luka Recek, Energija Plus d.o.o., Mitja Šegula, Energija Plus d.o.o., Andrej Bezjak, Municipality Markovci, Eva Jazbec, Municipality Žetale, Meta Majnik Krajnc, Municipality Trnovska vas,

	Matjaž Novak, Municipality Hajdina, Matjaž Kopše, Municipality Makole, Jelka Zidarič Trstenjak, Municipality Središče ob Dravi, Milena Debeljak, Municipality Ormož, Danica Bratuša, Municipality Zavrč, Evelin Makoter Jabločnik, Municipality Zavrč, Elena Zupanc, Municipality Ptuj, Sebastjan Jakolič, Municipality Ptuj
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Agenda

Discussion points of the meeting, programme of the event

- Presentation of the possible fundings of energy projects for municipalities
- Presentation of the call for investment in community PV installations for municipalities
- discussion around possible energy projects

Content

LEASP hosted a regional workshop bringing together representatives of multiple municipalities from the Podravje region. The event aimed to enhance knowledge about available funding for local energy projects and provide practical training on accessing national and EU-level support.

Special emphasis was given to a public funding call targeting community photovoltaic (PV) installations on public buildings. Due to scale and eligibility requirements, small municipalities were encouraged to form consortia for joint applications. The workshop therefore served both as a training session and as a platform for municipalities to discuss potential partnerships and shared initiatives. The knowledge and insight gathered during the workshop fed directly into the development of the regional ECAP.

Conclusions

While bilateral meetings allow for a focused understanding of individual municipal needs, joint events like this provide a broader regional perspective. The workshop helped shift the mindset from isolated municipal planning to inter-municipal cooperation, showing how even relatively small projects—like PV installations—can have regional significance when approached collectively.

Photos



3. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 3

Title	Bilateral meetings with the municipalities of Spodnje Podravje
Date	2024
Location	Municipalities in Spodnje Podravje
Participants	
Advisory experts	Dalibor Šoštarič, LEASP
Stakeholders attended the meeting	<p>Meetings with municipalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17.1.2024, Municipality Makole 7.2.2024, Municipality Žetale 21.5.2024, Municipality Hajdina 22.5.2024, Municipality Dornava 27.5.2024, Municipality Videm 31.5.2024, Municipality Miklavž pri Ormožu 19.6.2024, Municipality Sveti Tomaž 24.6.2024, Municipality Ptuj 26.6.2024, Municipality Središče ob Dravi 26.6.2024, Municipality Kidričevo 27.6.2024, Municipality Zavrč 28.6.2024, Municipality Juršinci 28.6.2024, Municipality Majšperk 21.7.2024, Municipality Destrnik

	4.7.2024, Municipality Cirkulane 8.7.2024, Municipality Makole
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Agenda

Agenda:

- Discussion on potential local RES measures and actions

Content

The goal of these bilateral meetings was to gather specific data and insights from local authorities regarding planned and potential renewable energy projects. LEASP worked directly with municipal officials to assess project pipelines, evaluate energy potentials, and align local priorities with the regional planning framework.

One of the key technical outcomes was the identification of potential for PV installations on municipal buildings, which helped shape the energy supply section of the ECAP.

Conclusions

The bilateral consultations provided a detailed understanding of the local renewable energy potential, which is now being integrated into the regional action plan. The meetings ensured that the ECAP would be grounded in concrete, location-specific opportunities and aligned with municipal development priorities.



**Central and Eastern Europe Sustainable Energy Union's
Design and Implementation of Regional Government
Initiatives for a Just Energy Transition**

CEESEU-DIGIT

**WP2: Increase the capacity of public
and private stakeholders to undertake
Just Transitions**

Workgroup event - Report

Region: Medjimurje County, Croatia

Responsible partner: Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 1

Title	Educational workshop on the topic of financing and implementation of energy and climate plans at the local and regional level, as well as the integration of the just transition concept into the process of energy and climate planning at the regional level
Date	30/06/2023
Location	Bana Josipa Jelačića 22, 40000 Čakovec
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	<u>Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd.</u> : Alen Višnjić, Nina Jurinić, Karla Novak, Danijela Vrtarić, Katarina Drk Hutinec, Krista Kerovec <u>Medjimurje County</u> : Melita Jambrošić, Dejan Zrna
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	<u>Town of Čakovec</u> : Roman Petrović <u>Town of Prelog</u> : Miroslav Hržić, Igor Slaviček <u>Municipality Sveti Juraj na Bregu</u> : Andelko Nagrajsalović, Kristijan Matoša <u>Municipality Gornji Mihaljevec</u> : Goran Lovrec <u>Municipality of Nedelišće</u> : Ninoslav Bistrović, Nikola Novak <u>Public institution REDEA</u> : Barbara Srnec Bujanić, Maša Tomašić <u>Municipality of Orehovica</u> : Dijana Novak <u>Town of Mursko Središće</u> : Mateja Novak, Dolores Vrtarić <u>Cultural center "Rudar"</u> : Zoran Turk <u>Municipality of Belica</u> : Zvonimir Taradi <u>Municipality of Pribislavec</u> : Hrvoje Goričanec <u>Municipality of Vratišinec</u> : Magdalena Šoltić, Dijana Leko

Agenda

1. Welcome speech
2. Introduction to CEESEU and CEESEU-DIGIT projects
3. Implementation and funding mechanisms of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in the frame of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans
4. Presentation of ongoing tenders of Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund
5. Integration process of just transition principle into regional energy and climate planning process
6. Panel discussion - Experience and challenges in the process of development and implementation of SECAPs and other planning documents in the field of energy and climate change

Content

The main purpose of this workshop was to ensure capacity building and awareness raising of relevant regional and local stakeholders in the topics related to energy and

climate planning, funding mechanisms for mitigation and adaptation measures defined within SECAPs and other local and regional energy and climate planning documents (including ECAPs) and just transition concept and how it can be integrated within the local and regional planning process.

In addition to that, the participants were acquainted with current Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund open calls and tenders available for local and regional governments which are considered as one of the main financial resources for implementing energy and climate related projects among local and regional governments. The presentation included detailed elaboration of three calls: call for financing the establishment of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, call for financing the implementation of climate change adaptation measures defined within SECAPs for the purpose of strengthening the resilience of urban environments and call for financing the removal of waste dumped into the environment. For each call, the participants were provided with the main conditions of the call and the key steps in the process of applying relevant proposals for the same.

Also, the participants were more acquainted with the just transition concept and its main principles with special focus on its benefits for different target groups (citizens, entrepreneurs, Member States), while the presentation also elaborated the main steps that should be taken for it to be integrated into regional energy and climate planning, including possible milestones for its integration. Some of the milestones addressed include: unavailability of data on energy consumption at the local and regional level, insufficient funds in local and regional budgets, lack of knowledge and professional staff within the local and regional governments, lack of stakeholder interest, poor communication across all governmental levels.

After the presentations, in order to ensure interactive session, a panel discussion with relevant experts was held which ensured that the participants gained relevant information based on real experiences regarding the development and implementation of SECAPs and ECAPs, which will undoubtedly influence their motivation to continue engaging in the similar events and firsthand understanding of why SECAPs/ECAPs are important for their cities and municipalities and the benefits they bring in a long run. Through the panel, the panelists shared their experience with SECAP development and implementation with special focus on main challenges they faced during both processes.

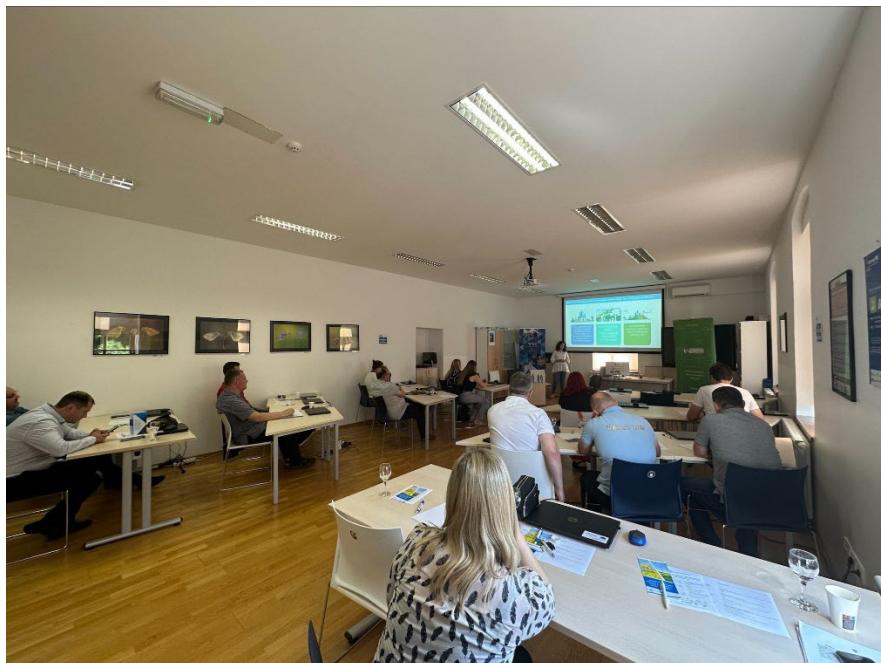
Conclusions

The main conclusions made during the workshop include the following:

- in the implementation of relevant energy and climate projects, it is necessary to rely on various funding opportunities, which is particularly challenging for local governments, as they often lack sufficient resources (both financial and human) to initiate and carry out such projects
- just transition concept is considered to be relatively new on national agenda so with this workshop the participants had the opportunity to get more information about what the concept represents and how it affects the operation of entire energy sector and creation of relevant policies for its integration at different governmental levels
- sharing experiences of local governments that are actively involved in energy and climate planning processes is extremely important for addressing potential challenges in the future and propose effective solutions for those who are not sufficiently skilled
- the key challenges in integrating the just transition concept at local and regional planning include the following:

- lack of awareness and understanding,
- limited institutional capacity and lack of human, technical and organizational resources,
- insufficient funding to support social measures in the long run,
- engaging vulnerable groups, workers, unions, and marginalized communities meaningfully in the planning process can be complex and time-consuming,
- disconnection between national strategies and local action plans can lead to gaps in implementation or misaligned priorities,
- lack of local-level data on employment, energy poverty, or social vulnerability hinders targeted planning, political, institutional, or community resistance—especially in regions heavily reliant on fossil fuel industries—can obstruct efforts toward just transition,
- just transition requires long-term vision, but many local plans are shaped by short-term political or funding cycles, etc.

Photos





2. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 2

Title	Meeting with the representatives of regional stakeholders for the purpose of regional energy and climate action plan development (ECAP+ document)
Date	15/12/2023
Location	Bana Josipa Jelačića 22, 40000 Čakovec
Participants	
Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	<u>Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd.</u> : Alen Višnjić, Danijela Vrtarić, Nina Jurinić <u>Medjimurje County</u> : Darko Radanović
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	<u>SAEPTUM Ltd.</u> : Željka Hrs Borković <u>Medjimurje University of applied sciences in Čakovec</u> : Željko Knok <u>Public institution REDEA</u> : Sandra Polanec Marinović <u>Town of Čakovec</u> : Roman Petrović <u>Town of Prelog</u> : Miroslav Hržić

	<u>Technology Innovation Centre Medimurje: Ivan Plačko</u> <u>HEP – Distribution System Operator Ltd.: Davor Sokač, Mladen Hren</u>
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Agenda

1. Welcome speech
2. ECAP+ development (main chapters, defining responsibilities, engaging stakeholders)
3. Best practices on incentivization of private sector companies in Medjimurje County
4. Discussion

Content

The main purpose of the meeting was to get together with relevant regional stakeholders to discuss further ECAP+ development with special emphasis on its main chapters and defining the individual responsibilities in its development in order to ensure continued collaboration between the relevant stakeholders. During this part a special emphasis was placed on data collection process, and the participants discussed the most relevant data sources for data collection on regional level. Based on the past experience, this process may be very time-consuming, and given that the analysis within the ECAP+ document should be done for the entire county, energy and climate data collection will be challenging. All participants in the meeting noted that they can provide their support in the process and contact relevant institutions to be accommodating when they receive request for relevant data.

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to short training on the best practices that can be used to incentivize private sector companies in Medjimurje County which led to the conclusion that encouraging private sector companies in Medjimurje County (or any other region) to invest in energy requires a combination of regulatory, financial, educational and infrastructural measures.

After the presentation on the best practices to incentivize private sector companies, the discussion was held during which the best practice examples which can be used to incentivize private sector companies were identified. These best practices include the following:

- financial incentives and support (subsidies and grants, favorable loans and guarantees, tax reliefs)
- education and awareness (advisory services, educational workshops and seminars, promotion of best practices)
- building partnerships and clusters (connection relevant companies, local authorities, research institutions, etc. and promotion of public investment)
- regulatory framework and strategy (engagement of private sector in development and implementation of local energy strategies, simplified procedures)
- networking and international cooperation (participation in EU funded projects and building cooperation with other regions for knowledge transfer and gaining experience).

Conclusions

Based on the meeting insights it is concluded that regular encounters with the representatives of various stakeholders bring a number of important advantages,

especially in the context of development, implementation and evaluation of relevant local and regional energy action plans. The mentioned advantages include the following: better understanding of needs and priorities (each stakeholder group has different perspective on the problem which can help identify real needs, problems and opportunities), strengthening cooperation and trust (regular communication builds mutual trust and reduces misunderstandings and fosters long-term collaboration), knowledge and idea exchange (different stakeholders bring diverse knowledge, experience, and innovative approaches), more efficient decision making and planning (decisions are reached more quickly because more information and perspectives are analyzed in one place), risk and barrier reduction (this prevents delays and increases the likelihood of successful project implementation), increased legitimacy and project support (projects developed with the participation of multiple stakeholders are perceived as transparent and legitimate) and linking local with regional, national and EU policies (alignment of local activities with national and European strategic goals, which is important for funding and long-term sustainability).

The needs of Medjimurje County in the context of energy and climate planning arise from its geographical location, economic structure, infrastructure, and European and national obligations in the field of climate change. Following that, the participants addressed several key needs which should be emphasized in the regional energy and climate action plan for Medjimurje County:

- encouraging public and private sector to invest more in the RES usage for energy production (geothermal energy, biomass, solar energy),
- further investments in the energy renovation of buildings in both the public and private sectors (with the aim of reducing energy consumption and heating costs) with special focus on multi-apartment buildings and buildings owned by local governments),
- encouraging sustainable mobility and decarbonization of transport (one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases in the region),
- increased activities in the field of climate change (especially in the field of protection against extreme weather conditions, green infrastructure and integration of adaptation measures into spatial planning),
- strengthening capacity for planning and implementation of measures on both regional and local level (there is a need for professional staff in public administration)
- development of relevant planning documents at the local level in the field of climate and energy (a large number of municipalities in the region still do not have SECAP) which is needed to form a clear vision for the balanced development of the entire region.

Photos





3. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT 3

Title	Implementation of the consultative process with CEESEU-DIGIT project stakeholders as part of the development of the Regional Energy and Climate Action Plan for Medjimurje County (ECAP+)
Date	13/12/2024
Location	Bana Josipa Jelačića 22B, 40000 Čakovec
Participants	

Advisory experts (partners and external experts)	Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd.: Danijela Vrtarić, Alen Višnjić, Nina Jurinić Medjimurje County: Melita Jambrošić, Barbara Marciuš
Stakeholders attended the meeting (name, organisation)	Medjimurje University of applied sciences in Čakovec: Tibor Rodiger Town of Čakovec: Ninoslav Šipoš Town of Prelog: Miroslav Hržić Technology Innovation Centre Medimurje: Sana Migles HEP – Distribution System Operator Ltd.: Davor Sokač, Mladen Hren Tourist Board of MŽ: Rudi Grula County Road Administration of Medjimurje County: Slađan Mihoci

Agenda

1. Welcome speech
2. Finalisation of ECAP+ for Medjimurje County
3. Discussion on relevant climate change mitigation and adaptation measures
4. Compliance of ECAP+ with National Energy and Climate Action Plan

Content

The main aim of this event was to discuss the draft version of the Regional energy and climate Action Plan for Medjimurje County (ECAP+), to agree on the proposed climate mitigation and adaptation measures within and to ask for further support in the process of its finalisation and later implementation.

In addition to that, the participants discussed the possibility of aligning ECAP+ for Medjimurje County with NECP which already should have been accepted by EC. Since NECP is still not approved, the harmonization process poses a challenge. Anyhow, when developing the ECAP+ for Medjimurje County, all the guidelines mentioned in the draft version of the NECP submitted to the EC in 2024 were taken into account, while a special emphasis was placed on measures in such a way that the measures in the ECAP+ document contribute in some way to the achievement of measures defined at the national level.

Also, for better long-term results in defining and implementing relevant measures, it is crucial to include local and regional governments, because they know the local context best and recognize the needs of citizens and entrepreneurs in their administrative area. Accordingly, (with the support of relevant experts) they can identify key measures and propose concrete solutions that can accelerate the further development in energy efficiency, RES usage and climate change adaptation. During the meeting in total 24 mitigation and 16 adaptation measures identified within the ECAP+ for Medjimurje County were presented, which followed the conclusion that the proposed measures (if implemented) will largely influence the overall county development which is based on:

- mobilizing investments in existing infrastructure (buildings, transport infrastructure, power and gas networks, etc.),
- increasing the capacity and awareness of citizens, entrepreneurs and public sector institutions/organisations about the importance of further investments in energy efficiency, the use of RES, etc.,

- fostering the engagement of citizens, entrepreneurs and local governments in the energy and climate planning process, which has not yet been achieved to a sufficient extent.

Conclusions

MNEA indicated that the data collection process for energy calculations within the plan, as predicted was rather too long, since more than 30 different institutions covering both public and private sectors in the region were contacted by them and Medjimurje County to provide relevant data. The main problems connected to data collection include the following:

- incomplete, fragmented and outdated data: the relevant data is scattered among different institutions (municipalities, utility companies, energy distributors);
- there is a limited access to relevant data for key stakeholders: public institutions, entrepreneurs and citizens in county area do not have access to relevant information needed for decision-making or have to wait a very long time to get the relevant data;
- lack of localized climate data in county: meteorological and climate data for county area aren't detailed enough so it is difficult to plan adaptation measures.

Based on the identified problems, the participants identified the key solutions which could simplify the overall data collection process:

- establishment of local systems for data collection and processing especially for local governments (usage of centralized digital platforms),
- fostering the mandatory data sharing between institutions through introduction of regulations and/or protocols to standardize data exchange,
- establishing the cooperation with national authorities and Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service,
- ensuring open data and transparency which are addressing the need for public data dissemination in order to help public sector, citizens and businesses to understand the local situation.

In addition to the extended discussion on data collection, an additional discussion was related to the defined (proposed) measures in the ECAP+ document and it was concluded that the defined measures cover all areas where improvements are needed (including buildings, transport, investments in RES and energy efficiency, energy poverty, just transition, adaptation to climate change, etc.). Given the very ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% till 2030, the engagement of as many stakeholders as possible will be required, including citizens, entrepreneurs, local and regional governments, utility companies, project developers, etc. What poses a challenge for the implementation process are the future financing mechanisms, as the implementation of the ECAP+ for Medjimurje County requires additional resources, as the existing municipal budgets are in most cases insufficient, and there is not much detailed information available on the future financial perspective after 2027.

Also, since the risk of natural disasters in the County area is increasingly common through high temperatures, short-term and heavy precipitation with consequent short-term flooding, as well as through droughts and storms much attention should be placed on climate change adaptation as well. Future climate change at the regional level could potentially have major negative impacts, with only a few long-term

positive impacts so more awareness raising and building capacities is needed across all sectors.

Photos

