

www.interregeurope.eu/zeroco2

An interregional cooperation project for improving low-carbon economy policies

Project Partners

European Institute for Innovation (DE)

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (EL)

Thermopolis Ltd. (FI)

A.VI.TE.M - Agency For Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories (FR)

Molise Region (IT)

Municipality of Kaunas District (LT)

Local Councils' Association (MT)

University of Malta (MT)

Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (SI)













Promotion of near zero CO2 emission buildings due to energy use

ACTION PLAN

Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (Lead partner) –
Energy Act - Regulation on Energy Performance of
Buildings









TABLE OF CONTENT

1.	. INTRODUCTION	4
2.	. NATIONAL ANALYSIS	6
	2.1 Presentation of the country with map	6
	2.2 Renewable energy sources in Slovenia	7
	2.3 Use of energy	8
	2.4 Use of renewable sources in building	9
	2.5 CO2 emissions	9
	2.6 Potential of using RES in Slovenia	9
	2.7 Policies already promoting use of RES and EE:	. 10
3.	. MARKET NEEDS REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS	14
	3.1 Current Funding Opportunities	. 14
	3.2 Policy Background	. 16
4.	POLICY CONTEXT	. 18
	4.1 ACTION 1	. 18
	4.2 ACTION 2	. 19
	4.3 ACTION 3	. 21
	4.4 ACTION 4	. 22
5.	ENDORSEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS	. 25





1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the project is to improve regional energy policies with regard to environmental sustainability and mitigation of climate change risk, with a special focus on greening the building sector through enhancement of various eco-friendly energy sources and technologies, stressing its importance as an incubator for new markets in the field of energy, technologies, services and business models.

The project represents and implements NEAR ZERO CO2 EMISSION BUILDINGS DUE TO ENERGY USE in policies addressed at the same level as had been done for NEAR ZERO ENERGY BUILDINGS, which means that the buildings do not produce CO2 emissions due their use. EU, national and regional policies do not define near zero CO2 buildings due to energy use.

Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje

LEA Spodnje Podravje is the lead partner of the ZEROCO2 project. In the project, LEA Spodnje Podravje envisage to improve the existing energy policy on national level by creating an action plan for promotion of Zero CO2 emission buildings due to energy use.

Slovenia is located at the crossroads of main European cultural and trade routes. It is bordered by Italy to the west, Austria to the north, Hungary to the northeast, Croatia to the south and southeast, and the Adriatic Sea to the southwest. It covers 20,273 square kilometres and has a population of 2.06 million.

The production of energy from non-renewable sources such as oil, coal, natural gas and uranium still dominates in Slovenia. The energy production from non-renewable sources represents three-quarters of the final energy consumption in Slovenia. Most of the energy is produced in nuclear power plants and thermal power plants. Renewable energy sources in Slovenia in 2015 accounted for 23 % of final energy consumption. That's only 2 % away from the Slovenian goal for the year 2020.





The structure of the use of RES in Slovenia is currently dominated by the use of wood biomass and hydropower, which in 2010 together accounted for nearly 90 % of the total use of RES. Currently the renewable energy sources contribute a smaller share of solar, wind and geothermal energy, which are still relatively untapped.





Development Fund

2. NATIONAL ANALYSIS

2.1 Presentation of the country with map

Slovenia is located at the crossroads of main European cultural and trade routes. It is bordered by Italy to the west, Austria to the north, Hungary to the northeast, Croatia to the south and southeast, and the Adriatic Sea to the southwest. It covers 20,273 square kilometres and has a population of 2.06 million.







Country	Slovenia	
Area	20.273 km ²	
Population		
- Number	2.064.188	
- Density	101,8 (no./km2)	

2.2 Renewable energy sources in Slovenia

Renewable energy sources (RES) include all sources of energy, which are extracted from permanent natural processes, such as solar radiation, wind, water flow in rivers, photosynthesis, natural thermal currents, and sea currents.

The production of energy from non-renewable sources such as oil, coal, natural gas and uranium still dominates in Slovenia. The energy production from non-renewable sources represents three-quarters of the final energy consumption in Slovenia. Most of the energy is produced in nuclear power plants and thermal power plants. Renewable energy sources in Slovenia in 2015 accounted for 23 % of final energy consumption. That's only 2 % from the Slovenian goal for the year 2020.

The structure of the use of RES in Slovenia is currently dominated by the use of wood biomass and hydropower, which in 2010 together accounted for nearly 90 % of the total use of RES. Currently the renewable energy sources contribute a smaller share of solar, wind and geothermal energy, which are still relatively untapped.

In Slovenia, the potential of solar energy is fairly steady and relatively high. On an annual basis, the difference between the most and least sunny areas is only 15%. The average annual value for Slovenia is 1100 kWh of incident solar energy per m². Total installed capacity of solar power plants in Slovenia is 257,6 MW.

In 2013, the first wind power plant in Slovenia was installed with 2.3 MW power of the turbine. In the future, larger wind plants are planned.

In Slovenia, geothermal energy is used in water parks and spas. The use of geothermal heat pumps with a capacity of mostly less than 40 KW is in a substantial increase,





Development Fund

especially in private houses and in a small number of commercial buildings and public institutions. In Slovenia, it is not to expect the production of electricity from geothermal energy until 2020.

The Slovenian power system includes 19 large hydropower plants (with a rated output of 10 MW). Their annual share of electricity production is about 30 percent. The potential is estimated on the production of more than 9.100 GWh of electricity per year. Currently Slovenia exploits 47 % of the whole hydropower potential.

Slovenia is a land of forests; they cover 58.4% of our homeland. The forest area of Slovenia is at the third place in the European Union, after Sweden and Finland.

Wood is an important source of energy especially in rural parts of Slovenia, as almost 30% of apartments are heated with wood. Unfortunately, the main features of the current use are following: Outdated technology of preparation and use, poor efficiency of the combustion plants, inadequate emission values and uncompetitive prices of energy produced.

2.3 Use of energy

Energy source	Country GWh	Building sector GWh	Residential GWh	Non-residential GWh
RES	7.489,72	6.346,67	5.955,00	391,67
Heating oil	25.379,17	3.583,06	2.236,39	1.346,67
Natural gas	5.691,39	1.630,28	1.299,72	330,56
Coal	550,56	/	/	/
Electricity	12.310,83	6.463,61	3.125,00	3.338,61
Heat	2.109,17	1.541,11	1.000,83	540,67
Non- Renewable industrial waste	395,28	/	/	/
Total	53.926,11	19.564,72	13.616,94	5.947,78





Development Fund

2.4 Use of renewable sources in building

RES	Region/country %	Building sector %	Residential* %	Non-residential* %
Wind Power				
Wood biomass	6.065,28	5.137,29	4.821,90	315,39
Hydro power	2.388,30	/	/	/
Solar energy	115,56	97,88	91,87	6,01
Geothermal energy	770,00	652,19	612,15	40,04
Other (Biofuel, biogas)	539,17	/	/	/
Total	9.878,31	5.887,36	5.525,92	361,44

2.5 CO₂ emissions

	CO2 Emission in ton/year		
Source	Building sector	Residential*	Non- residential*
Heating oil	542.752	466.437	76.315
Natural gas	326.147	260.046	66.101
Coal	1.870	1.870	/
Liquefied Petroleum Gas	111.283	68.595	42.688
Electricity	3.425.920	1.656.250	1.769.670
District heat	508.631	330.312	178.319
Total	4.916.603	2.783.510	2.133.093

2.6 Potential of using RES in Slovenia

The use of RES for heating has currently the greatest potential in Slovenia. Wood biomass has the greatest potential, both in the segment of district heating, as well in the segment of individual heating. In good insulated buildings, the use of heat pumps has also a good potential.

In electricity production, Slovenia has the greatest potential to exploit hydropower.





Solar power:

Today we are exploiting 3 % of the estimated solar energy potential.

Hydropower:

The whole Hydropower potential in Slovenia is estimated on 9.145 GWh/a.
 Slovenia currently exploits 47 % of the estimated potential.

Wind power:

• The estimated potential is at 330 MW – 480 MW of installed wind power turbines.

Biomass:

• The wood biomass potential is estimated at 6.420 GWh and the agricultural biomass potential at 1.683 GWh.

2.7 Policies already promoting use of RES and EE:

NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN 2014–2020

In this National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2014–2020, Slovenia sets its national target to improve energy efficiency by 20 % by 2020, in line with the requirements set out in Directive 2012/27/EU (Energy Efficiency Directive). This target states that primary energy consumption will not exceed 7.125 million toe in 2020, meaning that it may not exceed the 2012 figure by more than 2 %.

Long-Term Strategy for Mobilising Investments in the ENERGY RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS

The existing building stock is the sector providing the greatest potential for achieving energy savings, as buildings account for just over one third of all energy consumed. Buildings are also key to achieving the target of an 80–95 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Energy Efficiency Directive therefore lays down that Member States should establish a long-term strategy for mobilising investments in the renovation of the national building stock in order to increase the rate of building renovation. The strategic objective of this document is to achieve carbon-neutral energy use in buildings by 2050. This will be achieved by making considerable





improvements in energy performance and by increasing the use of renewable energy sources in buildings. This will, in turn, significantly reduce emissions of other harmful substances into the atmosphere. A further objective is for Slovenia to become recognised for its activities in the field of sustainable construction.

Action plan for nearly zero-energy buildings

Action plan for the nearly zero-energy buildings include the objectives, programs, and measures for achieving these objectives, as well as human and financial resources to implement these programs and measures. In this plan, the government sets up policies and measures to boost the energy efficiency of existing buildings into nearly zero energy.

• NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN 2010-2020 (NREAP)

The objective of the NREAP is to assess and determine the necessary quantitative values of energy consumption from RES by individual sector (heating and cooling, electricity and transport) and to propose measures to facilitate consumption of the desired quantity of energy from RES in future years.

Rules on efficient use of energy in buildings

This policy sets out the technical requirements that must be met for efficient use of energy in buildings in the area of thermal insulation, heating, cooling, ventilation, hot water preparation and lighting in buildings, providing their own renewable energy sources for technical systems in the building and the methodology for calculating the energy performance of buildings in accordance with Directive 2010/31/EU.

Rules on the methodology for the production and content of the energy audit

This policy sets out the methodology for producing, minimum requirements and the mandatory contents of an energy audit of buildings, processes and transport end-customers.





Rules on the ventilation and cooling of buildings

This policy specifies the technical requirements for ventilation and air conditioning of buildings and technical requirements for mechanical ventilation systems, if they are installed in the building.

Rules on the methodology of producing and issuing the energy performance certification of buildings

This Regulation lays down detailed contents and format of energy performance certificates of buildings and methodologies of the producing and issuing energy performance certificates and data content, method of keeping the register of energy performance certificates and the method of registration of the energy certificates in the register. It also provides more detailed content, format, methodologies and deadlines for the control of issued energy performance certificates. This Regulation also defines the types of buildings that are subject to the obligation of installing the energy performance certificates on a visible place, in accordance with Article 11 of the Directive 2010/31 / EU.

• OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU COHESION POLICY IN THE PERIOD 2014-2020

Operational Programme for the implementation of European cohesion policy for the period 2014 -2020 (SI OP 2014-2020) in priority Axis 4, addresses reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and improvement of air quality, especially in the cities, as well as on other areas facing poor quality of air. The problem of CO2 increasing due to transport is pointed out. The priority tasks of policy is financing of energy renovation of buildings, especially public buildings. To the better air quality contributes also the smart grids.

ECO Fund

Eco Fund's main purpose is to promote development in the field of environmental protection. It is the only specialised institution in Slovenia that provides financial supports for environmental projects. The financial assistance is offered mainly through soft loans from revolving funds and since the year 2008 through grants. In comparison with commercial banks, Eco Fund's principal advantages in the market for







environmental financing are that it provides soft loans at lower interest rates than prevailing commercial market rates and it is able to lend for significantly longer periods than commercial banks. Recent evaluations of the effective interest rates of Eco Fund's loans on the one hand, and those of commercial banks, on the other, have shown that a total of 15 % of the cost of an investments can be saved when opting for Eco Fund's loan.





3. MARKET NEEDS REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

3.1 Current Funding Opportunities

The main funding opportunities were identified as the Cohesion Funds and the Slovenia Eco Fund. However there are some other funding opportunities as identified in the appendix which have been less frequently used in this region.

The EEA and Norway grants, which have been available in recent years, have now closed. It is not known whether they will reopen

The Investment Plan for Europe (the Juncker Plan) targets SMEs and is unlikely to support projects addressing public buildings.

The Energy provider, Borzen will finance renewable energy installations through provision of Feed In Tariffs (FITs). This is a renewal of a programme which was delivered up until September 2017. They will finance small scale projects promoting new renewable energy installations. The FIT's are negotiated on an individual tender basis. They are not stable, not fixed, and not known in advance. They are likely to reflect the price of technology decreasing.

The Cohesion Funds had previously offered grants covering 85% of costs, leaving the project promoter to just find 15% of costs. In order to make the fund more widely available a new intervention rate has been introduced where the fund provides smaller direct grants. For new renovation projects, the financing is achieved through a PPP model, intended to be funded through 40% Cohesion Fund, 9% public, and 51% private entity. The problems are that the municipalities don't want to have private capital in the management of buildings; the bigger energy consumers have already innovated; the private period is too long, and there are only two ESCO's in Slovenia – the market is too small. This may lead to difficulties in how to spend the cohesion fund money. And because buildings tend to be small, critical mass is difficult to achieve. This has led to linking of projects or creating larger scale projects through targeting several buildings at once.





There is a view that the switch from 85% to 40% has not been successful. Although in principle, it makes the money go further, success is limited because the expected ESCO money has not developed, payback periods tend to be long and the public sector appears to be uncomfortable with private money. The consequence is that the projects cannot find the 51% private funding, the public sector cannot afford to fund the projects at a grant rate of 40%, so the available funding is not being used. This funding is not competitive, it is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. But without the demand, the money is not being drawn down. This demonstrates a policy failure, the unintended consequence of the change in intervention grant funding structure.

The Eco Fund is helpful but also has difficulties. The administration processes for an application are long, time consuming and difficult. The Eco fund however, is a key source for individual buildings, but many people don't apply because the process is so hard. This suggests that Eco Fund is probably under spent. It is principally designed for the private residential sector. It only provides loans for the public sector and with an intervention rate of only 20% - a lot of paperwork is required to get a mere 20%. However, the fund could do with more promotion to help increase interest.

There currently appears to be a lack of opportunity to fund or to stimulate activity in innovations in energy efficiency. At a time when technology is changing and advances are being made in issues such as energy storage, insulation and renewable energy, there appears to be little encouragement for the public sector in Slovenia to use grant funding to try new technologies or to help develop innovative solutions.

There was also little recognition of the need or benefit to fund behavioural change. While buildings may become more energy efficient through installing measures such as PIR switches to turn off unused lights, this possibly overlooks the need for the building users to become more energy conscious and to be educated in the actions they can take as building users to reduce energy. In other countries, substantial savings have been made after training staff to lower thermostats, improve the balance between open windows and radiators on, through wearing more draught appropriate clothing and through appliance management such as boiling half full kettles. Such





educational measures do not seem to have been deployed to any great level in Slovenia, or have not been developed with the aid of grant funding.

There appears to have been successful use of grant funds to improve energy efficiency of schools and nurseries, but it is not clear whether other public buildings such as hospitals, museums, libraries, council offices and sports centres have received similar attention. There may be opportunities to develop a sector specific programme targeting e.g. all museums in the region.

3.2 Policy Background

On the basis of national as well as the EU legislation, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Long-Term Strategy for Mobilising Investments in the Energy Renovation of Buildings on 29th October 2015.

The expected result in the public sector is the renovation of 1.8 million m2 of floor area in public buildings (including the mandatory annual renovation of 3% of public buildings owned by the admin sector), the renovation of 1.3 million m2 of floor area in public buildings in the wider public sector in the period 2014–2023.

For the purposes of the renovation, the strategy also includes an overview of the national building stock and the system of measures and criteria for the promotion and implementation of acceptable ways to approach the renovation of different building types.

Due to the provisions of the EU acquis which oblige Member States to the annual renovation of a certain percentage of public buildings, a particular emphasis has been given to the buildings owned by the admin and wider public sectors.

The public building energy renovation project will be implemented on the basis of an energy performance contracting model. Energy performance contracting allows the investment of energy service company's private funds in the renovation. For the energy renovation of public buildings, €115 million in grants and €50 million in repayable cohesion funds will be provided in the period 2016–2023. The cohesion funds will be







combined with financial investments from dedicated funds and programmes of international financial institutions in grants and repayable funds.





4. POLICY CONTEXT

The Action Plan aims to impact:	□ □ ⊠ Iment	Investment for Growth and Jobs programme European Territorial Cooperation programme Other regional development policy		
Name of the policy instrument addressed: Regulation on Energy Performance of Buildings				

4.1 ACTION 1

Background

During the project, partners have determined that in Slovenia and Spodnje Podravje region, energy efficiency in public buildings is happening, but not fast enough. The market needs more dynamic and better aligned public funding policies and measures, which incentivize and help to gain access to private sector funding. There is a natural tendency to rely on the private sector energy companies as the source for funding, since this relates to the provision of their product and service. However, equally naturally, there is a reluctance of the energy supply companies to support measures that will lead to reductions in usage of their product, and hence a reduction of income as a consequence of an added cost in terms of investment. But this may be a short-sighted view. In the long term, these measures are required by EU regulation, and these targets are not going to change. Failure to meet them will result in punitive charges, which will impact adversely on the energy companies. They are well advised to cooperate in these measures.

Action

Change the focus of the preferred applications as part of the Governance of the policy by means of a change in the policy terms. This will be revised to target grant support into measures that give the greatest savings in relation to the support. It will change the focus of the applications. Strict professional supervision of works financed by public support will be required, as will more emphasis on quality energy management (monitoring and correct setting of device parameters) and maintenance





(regular servicing of devices, changing filters, etc) of buildings even after completion of the renovation. This will be achieved by more consistent implementation of existing regulations, supervision over implementation and regular improvement (eg the Public Sector Energy Regulation). This will be achieved by improved Governance within the management of the policy, and by improved means of measuring the impact of the policy through direct supervision. It is proposed to improve the training of those responsible for the maintenance of the Regulation on Energy Performance of Buildings as part of this Action.

Players involved

LEASP – LP of the project, will monitor the implementation of the action

Ministry for Infrastructure – is responsible for the policy instruments addressed. They
will stimulate the integration of the proposed action

Funding Bodies – Cohesion fund. Subsides for EE measures and investments in
RES

Timeframe

Years 2018 - 2020

Costs

There will be no significant development costs for the design and development of this change in Governance, which will be undertaken during the project lifetime of ZEROCO2.

4.2 ACTION 2

Background

There is a problem that is recognised (trough the research for market need and policy report in Phase 1) throughout the sectors concerned with the Policy Instrument in this Action Plan, that the administrative burden of dealing with the energy improvements required in public buildings is too heavy. There is a considerable amount of paperwork, and bureaucracy, which is difficult, takes time, and delays action from happening. This is a real barrier to designing and developing improvement





programmes, as it is judged to be difficult and sometimes impossible to secure the public or private sectors' support for committing resource to the application process.

Action

This Action will set up an Advisory Group whose purpose will be to target the reduction of administrative barriers in the application for grants by changing the regulations, for example, starting with the inclusion of quality and real criteria in granting grants. The Advisory Group will also make an objective to encourage higher subsidies, and the easier preparation of documentation especially in terms of requiring less documentation. This will lead to the faster and more efficient allocation of funds, and the improved governance of the policy. The Advisory Group will declare its purpose to make more effective use of public grant funding mechanisms for the encouragement of energy efficiency in public buildings, and will work closely with the owners of public buildings to understand where the greatest impact might be felt.

Players involved

Ministry of Infrastructure is responsible for the policy instruments addressed. They will stimulate the integration of the proposed action

Consortium of energy agencies – they will set up advisory groups (LEASP – LP of ZEROCO2 is a member of consortium)

Timeframe

This Action will be set up during the lifetime (monitoring phase) of the ZEROCO2 project, and then will be ongoing after the conclusion of the project.

Costs

No costs are required for this action.





4.3 ACTION 3

Background

There is a lack of education and awareness of the importance and relevance of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in public buildings. The impact of energy and its effect on emissions, raising the levels of CO2 in the atmosphere in consequence, is one of the problems that everyone knows exist, but it is not applied to the challenges or problems of running a public sector estate of buildings. With the research made for regional policy report it came clear, that when talking about energy renovation, public sector doesn't take an integrated approach. With only implementing energy efficiency measures (partly) without changing the source of energy (from fossil fuels to RES) building reduce it's CO2 emissions only in a small share. When implementing both: energy efficiency and RES energy measures the levels of CO2 could drastically decrease and the annual energy savings will increase.

Action

Adopt best practice for information and education relating to user behaviours from a high performing partner region, such as South Ostrobothnia in Finland, where performance in relation to insulation investment, local grid management, heating systems and public education are exemplary (integrated approach), and the consequent energy performance standards of public buildings are very high indeed. A programme will be designed and developed for a partnership project to implement a new educational programme designed to achieve these standards that will fit EU targets and objectives, and will be eligible for EU funding. This will be submitted in appropriate applications to appropriate funding bodies to achieve implementation of the action resulting from ZEROCO2, and will be adopted under the Regulation on Energy Performance of Buildings.

Players involved

LEASP – LP of the project

Municipal authority of Ptuj – administrator of public buildings and possible investor for new EE measures, grid management and heating systems. LEASP (with the support





of Ministry) will guide them in the preparation of the investment project in order to receive proper funding

Energy company – they will be involved in public-private funding (will be educated about the benefits)

Energy Agencies – transfer the knowledge to their regions in Slovenia Education authority and local schools – will support capacity building

Timeframe

This will be developed during the lifetime of ZEROCO2 (2018) and managed thereafter when the project is completed.

Costs

0,2 to 0,4 mil. EUR

Funding sources:

EU Funding: different EU Programmes like ERASMUS +, Horizon 2020, Interreg programmes (it depends on the topic that are covered in the programme and open calls).

4.4 ACTION 4

Background

The Slovenian Government has set criteria and targets for installing renewable energy and for reducing CO2 emissions. There is a view that it is difficult to meet these targets without additional funding, however, a concerted initiative that encourages investment due to the relatively short payback periods could be encouraged. This would link with education, use case studies for motivation, work with banks and identify annual cost savings and CO2 reductions.

Action

The action will be to modify the Regulation on Energy Performance of Buildings so that it mandates investment against short payback periods, and incentivises banks and private investors to make the investment available on short term loans. This will





be supported by use case studies and education driven by the public sector, undertaking a programme of communication and collaboration with the financial sector.

Players involved

Regional Authority – the investors in EE and RES in public building

Banks – they will make available financial tools for investing in EE and RES, with short paybacks

Public sector building managers – will share they knowledge about the current situation of the building (will suggest measures that have to be implemented in buildings)

Timeframe

Will start within 2019

Costs

No costs are required for this action. Investor will provide their own financing (with support of banks) depends of their capacity.







Project: ZEROCO2

Partner organisation: Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): -

Country: Slovenia

NUTS2 region:

Contact person: Tea O. Potocnik

email address: info@lea-ptuj.si phone number: +386 (0)5 997 4658

Date: 2.4.2018

Signature: ___

Stamp of the organisation:

LEA Spodnje Podravje

Lobelne esergetska agentum Spedaje Podnivje, Plu Local Ecergy Agency Spedaje Podravje, Pluj





5. FNDORSEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS

From the start of the project the policy responsible body – Ministry of Infrastructure, directorate for energy, was notified about ZEROCO2 project and its purpose. During the first meeting the representatives of the Directorate didn't see a benefit in creation of ZEROCO2 building. But with the creation of a case study - Transformation of a building to near zero emission building, clear benefits of this kind of buildings were seen. On one hand this building will have positive effect on the environment (less energy consumed and decrease of CO2 emissions) and on the other hand, they will save money as they will become energy self-sufficient.

After participating at the meeting and study visit in Crete, representatives of Ministry (directorate for energy) were informed about the situation in other participating regions, their good practices and the measures they are implementing in order to decrease CO2 emissions and energy consumption. This was the breaking point as after this event they shown a great interest for the project development and outcomes (action plan).

The action plan was shared with the Ministry and the actions were discussed with representatives during the International conference in Ptuj. As some actions could be accepted from their side under conditions, some are not possible in this program period (before the end of 2020), but could be after 2021. The actions that could be integrated are action 2 and action 3. But this two will need a direct involvement of the Consortium of energy agencies as energy experts.

As currently there are many energy calls for public buildings open (calls published by Ministry for Infrastructure for different EE and RES measures), Local Energy agency Spodnje Podravje advise possible public authorities to propose for integrated measures (energy efficiency and renewable energy combine and not only one measure) and supports this authorities with the preparation of documentation. Other Energy agencies were encouraged to take the same approach, and it is foreseen that several proposals will be eligible for funding. So, we can with confidence say that the actions proposed within ZEROCO2 project are and will be implemented in Slovenia, even if not integrated into the policy instrument addressed.