Promote the Sustainable Use of Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency in Rural Regions

RURES sets to exploit the potential of renewable energies (RES) and energy efficiency (EE) in rural regions as they have a great potential for reaching energy autonomy.

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Project summary

The RURES project started in July 2017, partners from six European countries (Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia, Czech Republic) joined their forces to improve energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy sources (RES) in rural areas. The implementation of the project – including 1,77 million Euros ERDF contribution - is coming to an end soon, it going to be finished in June of 2020. In course of the project, Local Support Groups (LSG) were established in each region, where local actors and institutions from the field of energy efficiency were invited to be part of the discussion on current project activities and energy efficiency measures. The partners collected best practices of alternative financing models for renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures, and a handbook was prepared as well. In addition, feasibility studies were prepared in order to draw attention to the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy system related measures by alternative financial resources. The studies presented the best practices of partner countries, as well as the achievable return, economic added value and benefits by energy efficiency tools.

Investments

The partners implemented pilot investments related to energy efficiency in Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, funded by the project.

- Germany: As result of the pilot investment, a new ventilation system with heat recovery has been installed in a sports center in the City of Leisnig. It used to be heated with a gas heating system before. The pilot investment consisted of a ventilation system with a heat exchanger for reducing the energy losses between the warm interior air and cold exterior air during the ventilation process.
- Poland: As part of the RURES project, an intelligent water metering (IWM) has been implemented in Pałecznica Municipality. Thanks to the project efforts, replacement of zone water meters, purchase of software for remote reading and analyzing of data, appropriate devices for storing information and data analysis could be purchased and installed.
- Slovenia: The Solar "E-Tree" has been installed on the property / land owned by Municipality of Puconci (near Elementary School Puconci), consisting of three main components: solar tree with four photovoltaic panels; solar bench with USB ports to charge electronic devices as well as smart, shaded bench with six photovoltaic panels, LED lighting, sitting and resting surfaces.
- Hungary: An „energy-yard" has been established in the yard of the former school building in Lentiszombathely, where a solar collector, a solar cell system, a vertical wind generator were installed for educational and demonstration purposes, as well as a mini power plant operating with used vegetable oil.
- Croatia: several solutions for energy efficiency and renewable energy systems have been applied within a pilot investment called „Energy efficient administrative building in Čakovec". A solar collector system for hot water and heating support, an indoor lighting system based on LED technology and a smart metering system for all energy sources have been installed. The replacement of inefficient kitchen appliances with new ones of A+++ energy class was also done.

Value Calculator

As an innovative tool, an online calculator was developed, which is available on the internet for individuals, businesses and public institutions free of charge. The calculator deals with the use of various energy sources (biomass, geothermal energy, photovoltaic energy and heat pumps). After answering a set of questions users can get information on the use of the selected one including its social and economic benefits.
Link: http://decisiontree.eu/

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RURES is a project financed under the Interreg Central Europe programme that sets to exploit the potential of renewable energies (RES) and energy efficiency (EE) in rural regions as they have a great potential for reaching energy autonomy. Within RURES local support group composed of all relevant actors will be established acting as a regional energy network for implementing energy efficiency plans. Best-practices of alternative financing models for EE/RES measures will be researched and become the basis for new feasibility studies on how to implement energy efficiency plans. The calculator tool (for municipal taxes and other incomes) will highlight the importance of a community-oriented regional development and further underline the benefits and added value generated by exploiting EE/RES.

Internet: http://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/RURES.html

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/rurescentral/