

OUTPUT FACT SHEET

Tools

Version FINAL

Project index number and acronym	CE1449
Lead partner	Municipality of Forlì
Output number and title	OT.1.2 Involvement of citizens and industry stakeholders in the definition of local energy plans
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	PP6 Energiaklub
Project website	https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/ENES-CE.html
Delivery date	31.05.2021

Summary description of the key features of the tool (developed and/or implemented) and of its transnational added value

The main objective was to involve citizens in revising local energy plans and define new objectives, strategies and energy and climate actions through a bottom-up approach, also to involve the research centers, energy agencies, energy private providers, business representative organizations in the final approval of the revised action plans. The deep involvement was realized in each implementing country (CR, DE, HU, IT, PL, SLO) via 3 workshops each of them supported with a focused tool. The developed tools (three guidelines) intend to support rational and sustainable decision-making of public authorities and address citizen engagement as a cornerstone for sustainability of the local energy actions. First tool includes co-design and facilitation methods guiding public officials to learn how to engage citizens in a bottom-up dialogue and co-creation of energy plans. Following this, a tool for developing community energy investments (from the legal, technical, and business standpoint) was developed. And finally, guidance for communication and motivation strategies for engaging citizens was also produced. The tools were tested and refined through the workshops with the aim to revise local energy plans and through pilot projects implemented/under implementation and are [published](#) as a manual. The toolbox consists of: a) Support to citizens-based energy planning - “bottom-up” energy strategy development including co-design workshop methods and visualization exercises that can be used to facilitate the exchange of ideas between citizens and public officials and allow citizens to have a stronger voice in shaping their local energy strategy; b) Community energy investment guidelines - step by step approach for community investments, but also participatory business models for citizen energy projects (with evaluation tool); c) Communication strategies - for both the local citizen energy groups and public officials, which can be used to gain wider public acceptance of energy strategies but also of the newly formed citizen energy enterprises. The workshops used to stimulate the debate about the current energy plans with the use of the tools. The tools were used during the energy plan revision processes in each pilot country. Partners with more experiences of the three field of supporting tools put major efforts to develop the tools from which other partners and stakeholders for outside of the partnership could gain significant benefits.

NUTS region(s) where the tool has been developed and/or implemented (relevant NUTS level)

The following NUTS regions have been developed and implemented the tools: ITH58 (Forlì-Cesena), HR046 (Međimurska županija), SI023 (Goriška), HU101 (Budapest), DE21J (Pfaffenhofen a. d. Ilm), PL314 (Lubelski)

Expected impact and benefits of the tool for the concerned territories and target groups

The general public and more specifically the local citizens were directly involved in the design and development phase. They were involved to work together on local energy planning through the workshops and continuous involvement to create energy cooperatives. All the citizens involved had an active role in the following phases regarding the use of the tools and pilot actions implementation. Through the 3 workshops and communication activities, citizens and industry stakeholders were involved in energy planning. The tools were useful during the energy plan revision process. Tool1 proved highly useful because it allowed reaching various groups of stakeholders. Establishing cooperation between residents, entrepreneurs, the commune office, and other entities allowed for a substantive discussion on the further implementation of the project. Tool1 was useful in generating new ideas on how to approach a wider range of important stakeholders and involve citizens. The methods described in Tool1 were used to engage the stakeholders during the workshops, reach a wider public, and it was used in the meeting organization. Tool1 was designed for in-person meetings so during the online events only restricted elements to be used. Tool2 is a simplistic tool to get a first impression of PV projects and give a possibility to evaluate projects regarding “soft” facts and compare it to others. This shows how the project is evaluated by others, considering eg. involving citizens. Tool2 can be used by persons with more knowledge and expertise in energy planning so it will not be appropriate for general users and public. The wider public with no technical knowledge will need assistance from experts when using this tool. Tool3 is a very transparent tool of communication methods. Tool3 gave an insight into communication methods for presenting goals and results of energy planning to the public. It can be useful for stakeholders which implement different kinds of projects. Tool3 used for reaching the goals of the communication strategy for presenting the newly revised energy plans for the municipalities.

Sustainability of the tool and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

The toolbox contains protocols and guidelines for engaging citizens. The citizens involved are mainly representatives of organizations, associations, informal energy groups: all involved in energy efficiency promotional activities and already active people in the field of energy efficiency. In addition, also other stakeholders could be involved ensuring sustainability: The business representatives, energy agencies and energy providers. The partners could struggle for the involvement of new stakeholders and normal citizens that normally are not already active in this field. The toolbox was disseminated to external partners during the local events and it's relevant to transfer to other cities interested in ensuring long-lasting effects of the intervention and the possibility to transfer this methodology also to other countries and regions.

Participating partners are committed to continue the citizens involvement activities (e.g. workshops and other communication activities) and the implementation of citizens' based actions even after the project end, eg:

- Municipality of Koper will actively cooperate with the newly established cooperative, as it wants the cooperative to come to life. The municipality will assist cooperative in organizing further events, acquiring cooperatives, promotion on the municipal website and social networks.
- in Town of Prelog the activities will be sustained through further cooperation between the local authority and newly established citizen energy group - Citizen Green Energy Club Prelog and all other interested stakeholders. The established citizen energy group will in future work on supporting the idea of sustainable energy development and strongly promote the interests of citizens and encourage their involvement in the further development of energy and climate policies of Town Prelog
- „Niemce Energy Cluster” will continue communication activities in order to raise ecological awareness and encourage citizens to undertake joint investments to reduce emissions. The Cluster will organize meetings with residents promoting green behavior and possibilities of joining the Cluster, as well as possibility to cooperate in planning the financing and implementing RES projects. The Plan for consultation and advisory system in the field of possible investments in the use of renewable energy and EE developed sets a system of consultations that can cover:
 - Meetings once a year for more stakeholders.
 - Meetings once a month as part of meetings with stakeholders individually.

To ensure transferability and wider use of the tested bottom-up citizens involvement approach, the following measures have been taken:

- practical and easy to understand tools tested by pilots were developed where it was possible,
- tools are shared and disseminated via internet and events both locally and internationally (eg.: „Best practice examples of bottom-up energy planning process in Central Europe within ENES-CE project” on 25.02.2021.)

A few concrete examples:

- the creation of „Niemce Energy Cluster” can have a significant effect also on bordering communes of the Niemce Commune. The educational action undertaken by the Energy Cluster may serve as a good practice and similar activities can be promoted in bordering

communes. The Cluster has an open formula, in this way joint projects in RES are also possible with bordering communes.

- Town Prelog will give the full support from now on to the established citizen energy group in carrying out activities and events to raise public awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, and will include interested stakeholders in the adoption of energy action plan.

Local energy plans and especially SECAPs are obliged to be monitored regularly, so the experiences and created structures, procedures will enable that monitoring processes are so interactive, inclusive and open like the revision in the frame of ENES-CE project was.

The energy agencies/expert partners will support pilot cities and even other municipalities in the future as well to better focus their developments towards energy and climate activities and motivate them to foster bottom-up ways of planning.

References to relevant deliverables and web-links

If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

The output is connected to the deliverable D.T2.2. and implemented tools for improving local and regional energy performance through the workshops and communication activities, citizens and industry stakeholders were involved in energy planning.

Deliverables related to the involvement of citizens in revising local energy plans:

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/WPT-1.html>