



Climate Action at Smolyan Municipality

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Smolyan Municipality at a glance

- ❖ Situated in Rhodope Mountains, Bulgaria;
- ❖ 854 square meters over 60 % of which are coniferous woods;
- ❖ 86 settlements with 41452 inhabitants in total
- ❖ Beautiful mountain relief with lots of forests and rivers;
- ❖ Transitional continental climate with Mediterranean influence;
- ❖ Suitable for tourism and renewable energies;
- ❖ Main industries: machine building and cable production; garment manufacturing; dairy; wood processing; forestry; mountain tourism and skiing.



Smolyan Municipality and Sustainability

- ❖ Political commitment: signatory of CoM, SEAP approved and being monitored;
- ❖ Sustainable energy actions in public buildings, street lighting, RES utilization; Active involvement of citizens is recognized as a priority for achieving climate targets;
- ❖ Smolyan Municipality engage actions for energy efficiency in private dwellings: by the end of 2016 altogether thirty three privately owned multifamily residential buildings should be refurbished resulting in significant energy savings and improved comfort.

Role of Smolyan Municipality:

- ✓ Supported citizens at every stage of project execution;
- ✓ Refurbished with own funds of the buildings' surroundings (pavements, green zones, children playgrounds, etc.);
- ✓ Reduced significantly the property tax for the dwelling owners for a period of 5 years;
- ✓ Promoted and disseminated the results among citizens.



Main Challenges

Organizational:

- ❖ Lack of administrative capacity to tackle sustainable energy projects;
- ❖ Lack of collaboration with other municipalities.

Financial:

- ❖ ESCO market underdeveloped;
- ❖ Projects too small to gain critical mass for favourable financing terms;



Activities to overcome barriers

- ❖ Take active part in H2020 CITYinvest project for application of innovative financing models in European regions;
- ❖ Subscribed for the initiative of One-Stop-Shop creation in Rhodope Region, Bulgaria;
- ❖ Persuaded five neighbouring municipalities to join (Banite, Chepelare, Devin, Nedelino, Zlatograd);
- ❖ PDA proposal submitted for H2020 15 Sept. call



The solution: creation of One-Stop-Shop

- ❖ Act as a central procurement agency on behalf of subscribed municipalities by:
- ❖ Provide project bundling in pipe-lines to increase size and get better financial terms;
- ❖ Search for suitable financiers matching the specific project requirements, negotiate with them and secure best possible terms;
- ❖ Ensure launching tenders for public procurement of building and street lighting refurbishment works;
- ❖ Monitor project results.



Benefits

- ❖ Remove administrative barriers by dedicating staff to perform activities for sustainable energy investments;
- ❖ Build local capacity for sustainable energy project development and implementation (technical and economic feasibility, financial planning);
- ❖ Enhance collaboration among municipalities of Rhodope Region;
- ❖ Apply the principles of Green Public Procurement in order to make the best choice of environmentally friendly, energy efficient and cost effective products and services.



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Thank you for your attention!



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