



CITYnvest in Rhodope pilot region of Bulgaria

Lessons learnt and Ways Ahead

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Why Rhodope Region

- ❖ High potential for EE (buildings and street lighting); significant RES potential (biomass, solar, hydro, geothermal);
- ❖ Local sustainable policies prioritize energy efficiency and RES applications (biomass boilers, solar PV on roofs, biomass fuelled DH); five Rhodope municipalities signatories of CoM;
- ❖ Previous experience for EE and RES implementation;
- ❖ Significant potential for future actions.

Local NGO, Association of Rhodope Municipalities (ARM), supporting sustainability action and CITYinvest



Main Challenges

Organizational:

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

Financial:

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



Solution: One-Stop-Shop Creation based on GRE-Liege Model

- ❖ 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;
- ❖ Stimulate local economy and jobs creation;
- ❖ 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.



Practical steps: Rhodope CITYinvest Action plan

- Collect data and identify potential projects;
- Calculate potential savings and investment needed;
- Investigate local TPF/ESCO market;
- Assess different operation models and present to local policy makers - General Assembly of ARM;
- Present the concept of One-Stop-Shop and get feedback; spot the most promising ones;
- Define operational model for the programme and get approval by local policy makers;
- Obtain letters of commitment for establishing One-Stop-Shop (PDU) by most promising municipalities (Smolyan Municipality);
- Write the application for funding.



Role of Smolyan Municipality (1)

- ❖ One of the biggest in size in the Region;
- ❖ Political commitment: signatory of CoM, SEAP approved and being monitored;
- ❖ Experienced in sustainable energy actions in public buildings, street lighting, RES utilization;
- ❖ Significant potential for future actions;
- ❖ Leading role in ARM and among Rhodope municipalities.



Role of Smolyan Municipality (2)

- ❖ 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 for Rhodope One-Stop-Shop submitted for H2020 15 Sept. call



Critical Factors for Success

- ❖ Knowledge of local situation;
- ❖ Presence of local political commitment to sustainability;
- ❖ Local support crucial (ARM and Smolyan Municipality);
- ❖ Find the most active and influential municipality and get it on board (it will attract others);
- ❖ Undertake the work for One-Stop-Shop establishment (which is huge!)
- ❖ Keep in constant touch, answer all questions, provide continuous support.

Thank you for your attention!



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