



ACTIVITY 1.3

EVALUATION OF REVISED ENERGY PLANNING PROCESS AT TOWN OF PRELOG - FINAL

DELIVERABLE 1.3.1.
Final evaluation

Version 1
09 2020



Introduction

ENES-CE project is designed to involve citizens at the very beginning of the planning process. This was done through a series of workshops and tools, through which the existing energy plans were revised and one of measure will be implemented.

The WP1's main objective is to involve citizens in revising local energy plans and define new objectives, strategies and energy and climate actions through a bottom down approach and quadruple helix, involving also the research centers, energy agencies, energy private providers, BROs in the final approval of the revised action plans. Local stakeholder engagement took place through a series of 3 workshops that were target A) citizens and B) industry representatives. The workshops will be used to stimulate the debate about the current energy plans and to use the tools developed in TWP2.

- In first workshop started topic about new energy plans, citizens and industry representatives were introduced with ENES CE project and with existing Sustainable Energy and Action Plan (SECAP) of the Town of Prelog. It was agreed to redefined existing action plan, and adding a new measures/projects.
- Energy production and consumption analysis in the Town of Prelog were the topics of second workshop. It were presented identified measures that could have decrease GHG emissions. Local stakeholder gave their input on identified measures and pointed out the most relevant ones to be implemented in the Town of Prelog.
- Final SECAP was presented on third workshop. SECAP has 18 mitigation measures of which three most important are considered. Local stakeholders gave their comments on the document and shown willingness to participate in the implementation of the identified measures.

The purpose of the final evaluation of the energy plan revision process is to rate of the citizen engagement, the impact what the process have been made and provide recommendations to improve public involvement in general at community and regional energy planning.

The evaluation combines quantitative and qualitative methods as well.



1. General evaluation of the revision process

In this part please evaluate the whole revision process with the help of closed-ended and open-ended questions.

1.1 Summary

1. Please, rate on a five-point scale how you have managed to achieve the objectives set out in energy plan revision process so far.

	1 - Very badly	2	3	4	5 - Very well	DK/NA
Energy plan revision process objectives	1	2	3	4	5	9

2. Please, rate on a 10-point scale where do you stand in the current energy plan revision process, where '1' means we have just started and '10' means we have fully completed, you can

	1 - Very badly	2	3	4	5 - Very well	DK/NA
Energy plan revision process status	1	2	3	4	5	9

3. Please summarize the energy plan revision process' current status with recommendations to other municipalities. (Some major topics of the revision process: number and type of workshops, estimation of reached citizens and other stakeholders, positive and negative experiences, major obstacles, biggest results and best practices)

The Town of Prelog is a small town with 7.600 inhabitants. Most of the citizens know each other or are related so they also know the town administration very well. This was a mitigating factor when it came to reaching citizens and encouraging them to join the revision process. Furthermore, Prelog has several main points in the town where citizens meet (fair yard, churchyard, town center and lake area) which makes communication and announcements fairly easy to distribute. Finally, citizens are fairly active on social networks and Town of Prelog also has their Facebook page where they publish news and



notices. Three workshops have thus been organized and implemented. First was well visited as it was organized during other major town event - Economy Forum. The second one has been organized during the Covid-19 crisis so the attendance was a bit poorer. At the third workshop, new revised plan was presented - Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP). Interested citizens and SMEs could have seen changes in energy consumption from 2011 to 2019 which are referent years in SEAP/SECAP. At each workshop, stakeholders as well as town administration were included in discussion. Finally, at the third workshop it was decided to establish citizen energy group in Town of Prelog.

4. Please describe what was/were the biggest challenge/s during the revision process so far?

Main obstacle was pandemic of Covid-19 which slowed down whole revision process. A lot of stakeholders which needed to be included were working from home. Some of citizens couldn't come to the workshops because of the pandemic. Finally, some of citizens often think that it is a waste of time to join discussion since their opinion will not be taken into account so they avoid participating.

**5. Please describe what have you done in order to tackle the previously mentioned problems?
What kind of support do you need to tackle these?**

It has been proven, that the best option is personally informing citizens which could be interested to participate. Dates of workshops and the place of workshop were adapted to epidemic conditions. It is important to stress out to citizens the purpose of the project, and seek their opinions and ideas so they feel included.



1.2 Goals

6. Were the energy planning revision process' objectives realistic, given the time and budget allocated to the project? Please, rate on a five-point scale.

	1 - Not realistic at all	2	3	4	5 - Realistic	DK/NA
Realisticity of objectives	1	2	3	4	5	9

7. Please elaborate your answer!

An external expert has been engaged to develop the revision of SEAP and prepare a SECAP for the Town of Prelog. Enough time and resources (data, information, personal efforts) have been given to the chosen expert. The budget has been structured in a way it would satisfy the amount of work that had to be put in the process. Process has been prolonged because of Covid 19 crisis, and it is expected that implementation of measures will also be delayed.

8. Were energy planning revision process' goals clear? Please, rate on a five-point scale.

	1 - Not clarity at all	2	3	4	5 - Totally clear	DK/NA
Clarity of goals	1	2	3	4	5	9

9. Please elaborate your answer!

Since the Covenant of Mayors has developed guidelines and methodology how to revise SEAP into SECAP, in this regard there were no unknown variables with regard to the process itself. Energy planning revision process goals are clear and chosen expert had no problem with it.



1.3 Problems and improvements of the SECAP implementation

10. Which of the following problems do you consider is relevant during the energy plan implementation? Please rate on a five-point scale.

	1 - Not problem at all	2	3	4	5 - It's a very big problem	DK/NA
1. Lack of municipal financial resources	1	2	3	4	5	9
2. Lack of residential financial resources	1	2	3	4	5	9
3. Lack of entrepreneurial financial resources	1	2	3	4	5	9
4. Lack of human resources at the municipality (the office staff is overloaded with work)	1	2	3	4	5	9
5. Lack of technical expertise at the municipality (there is none specialized in these topics)	1	2	3	4	5	9
6. Lack of political will (e.g. factious city council)	1	2	3	4	5	9
7. Public disinterest	1	2	3	4	5	9
8. Entrepreneurial disinterest	1	2	3	4	5	9
9. Weakness of civil cooperation (few NGOs)	1	2	3	4	5	9
10. Inadequate communication between the responsible persons in charge	1	2	3	4	5	9
11. Lack of data, or unreliability of data	1	2	3	4	5	9
12. No resources for continuous monitoring	1	2	3	4	5	9
13. Insufficient details for concrete actions	1	2	3	4	5	9

11. What other problems did you encounter during the energy plan implementation until the current state of the energy plan revision process? Please describe, if you had any.

Lack of available financing and co-financing options on regional and national level. Most of the municipalities in our region are rather small with limited budget. This is why they often withdraw from any significant investments if they cannot find support from higher governance level.



12. Which of the following problems have been tackled so far by the energy plan revision process so far? Please rate on a five-point scale if relevant.

	1 - Not tackled at all	2	3	4	5 - Tackled	DK/NA
1. Lack of municipal financial resources	1	2	3	4	5	9
2. Lack of residential financial resources	1	2	3	4	5	9
3. Lack of entrepreneurial financial resources	1	2	3	4	5	9
4. Lack of human resources (the office staff is overloaded with work)	1	2	3	4	5	9
5. Lack of experts (there is none specialized in these topics)	1	2	3	4	5	9
6. Lack of political will (e.g. factious city council)	1	2	3	4	5	9
7. Public disinterest	1	2	3	4	5	9
8. Entrepreneurial disinterest	1	2	3	4	5	9
9. Weakness of civil cooperation (few NGOs)	1	2	3	4	5	9
10. Inadequate communication between the responsible persons in charge	1	2	3	4	5	9
11. Lack of data, or unreliability of data	1	2	3	4	5	9
12. No resources for continuous monitoring	1	2	3	4	5	9
13. Insufficient details for concrete actions	1	2	3	4	5	9



13. Which of the following problems are intended to be tackled in the rest of the energy plan revision process? Please rate on a five-point scale if relevant.

	1 - Not tackled at all	2	3	4	5 - Tackled	DK/NA
1. Lack of municipal financial resources	1	2	3	4	5	9
2. Lack of residential financial resources	1	2	3	4	5	9
3. Lack of entrepreneurial financial resources	1	2	3	4	5	9
4. Lack of human resources (the office staff is overloaded with work)	1	2	3	4	5	9
5. Lack of experts (there is none specialized in these topics)	1	2	3	4	5	9
6. Lack of political will (e.g. factious city council)	1	2	3	4	5	9
7. Public disinterest	1	2	3	4	5	9
8. Entrepreneurial disinterest	1	2	3	4	5	9
9. Weakness of civil cooperation (few NGOs)	1	2	3	4	5	9
10. Inadequate communication between the responsible persons in charge	1	2	3	4	5	9
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2. Stakeholders, participants and new involvement techniques

In this part please evaluate the stakeholder and participant involvement process.

2.1 Involvement

14. Please rate (on a five-point scale) how deep could you involve the following stakeholder groups in the energy plan revision process? Please rate on a five-point scale.

	1 - Couldn't involve at all	2	3	4	5 - Involved very intensely	DK/NA
Local public authority	1	2	3	4	5	9
Regional public authority	1	2	3	4	5	9
Sectoral agency	1	2	3	4	5	9
Infrastructure and (public) service provider	1	2	3	4	5	9
Interest groups including NGOs	1	2	3	4	5	9
Higher education and research	1	2	3	4	5	9
Business support organisation	1	2	3	4	5	9
General public	1	2	3	4	5	9

15. What was the main barrier of the deeper involvement of the following stakeholders? (regarding the stakeholder groups rated 1/2/3/4 in the previous question)

	Main barrier
Local public authority	
Regional public authority	No interest in participating at local planning processes
Sectoral agency	
Infrastructure and (public) service provider	Limited participation due to the Covid-19 pandemic
Interest groups including NGOs	Most of the NGOs are not acquainted with energy planning processes so they avoid such themes
Higher education and research	There is no higher education or research centers in the area of Town of Prelog or nearby
Business support organisation	Business sector doesn't see its' interest in energy planning process
General public	General public mainly isn't introduced to energy planning process



16. What additional stakeholders could you involve in the revision process and ENES-CE project? Please describe.

We tried to involve SMEs and industry sector since they are the main leading power of economic growth in the Town of Prelog which also has a great influence on energy consumption and whole energy sector. They have a great interest to improve energy efficiency in their buildings and production processes. Also, they are keen to start using renewable energy sources in their companies and some have already started the investments in this direction (PV plants).

17. Which have been the main issues so far where local people could provide extra knowledge and experience to the municipality to improve local energy and climate plans? Please describe.

It is important to acknowledge experience of citizens in preparing and implementing their own energy refurbishment or RES projects. The local authority and energy experts have wide theoretical knowledge, but the citizens, SMEs and real sector are the ones that are most involved in practical implementation. The difficulties they encounter in the field give an important insight on the way the planning process should be performed.

18. In your opinion which were the three most motivating factors to engage citizens during the revision process and why? Please describe the reasons in the 3 relevant cells.

	Why the selected one was the most motivating?	Why the selected one was the second most motivating?	Why the selected one was the third most motivating?
1. To increase employment / decrease unemployment			
2. To save energy in order to use less of the non-renewable energy sources			
3. Smaller energy bills, decreasing the regular monthly expenses		Most of the citizens currently spend over 10% of their monthly income on energy bills. Although most of our county is gasified, and the price of gas in Croatia is rather	



		low when compared to other EU countries, citizens still work on improving their living standards through decrease of their bills	
4. To decrease greenhouse gas emissions for the mitigation of direct effects of climate change (e.g. heatwaves, extremities, extreme weather etc.)			
5. To decrease the indirect negative effects of climate change (e.g. damages in buildings, food/energy price increase etc.)			
6. To decrease air pollution			
7. Decentralisation of energy consumption, independence from the central grid(s)			
8. Pressure/needs of the public/local citizens			
9. Political expectations/ following higher level decision-makers			
10. Expected financial benefits e.g. conditioned EU-funds	Citizens primary want to decrease their energy bills, so they investment in RES and energy efficient devices. Because of lack of financial resources it is necessary to have co-funding from regional, national or EU level.		
11. More livable settlement, increasing welfare			It is important for the citizens to have a living environment that is friendly, livable and safe. In this way the area is more attractive to investors which increases economic growth, opens more work places



			and raises overall social conditions.
12. Other, namely:			

19. What other motivating factors came up during the revision process for the success of the SECAP? Please describe, if you encountered any.

Citizens are aware of the upcoming energy transition, and emissions that they produce using fossil fuels. Most of citizens wants changes in energy usage, but new heating/cooling system requires substantial financial resource and that is main obstacle to greater usage of RES. This region is very rural, many people are working in agriculture and bio production is becoming more and more important to whole society. In order to maintain good quality of their products they need a clean yet infrastructurally developed environment. Future development in green and sustainable manner is very important also for the tourist sector.

2.2 New techniques

20. What new collaborative interfaces have been created or used so far during the workshops and focus groups? Please describe.

We did not use any new interfaces. First workshop has been organized at Economic Forum of the Town of Prelog where a lot of entrepreneurs gather so they were also the target group for engagement. The second workshop has been organized during the Covid-19 pandemic and target group were local decisionmakers so this one was rather interactive. They all stated their opinion on the revision process and measures that will have to be entered in the SECAP as most relevant for the town. At the third workshop, general public has been targeted as most important group since the goal was to present a newly developed SECAP to them. The COVID-19 pandemic was still ongoing at this point so different online tools were used to disseminate and an abstract has been made to ease the understanding of the document for them.

21. What kind of communication channels and methods has been used so far to reach and activate the different stakeholders? Please describe.

Apart from personal contacting, we used different methods of online communication like publications on web pages of Town of Prelog and Međimurje Energy Agency, publication in other local and regional online and printed media, online social media (Facebook page of Town of Prelog), etc. Town of Prelog made list of potential stakeholders and they have been contacted via mail or phone. Local newspaper has published announcement of every workshop. All of the workshops had TV coverages where they presented objectives of ENES-CE project and its activities.



2.3 New tools

22. How useful were the new tools produced in the ENES-CE project during the energy plan revision process? Please rate on a five-point scale if relevant.

	1 - Wasn't useful at all	2	3	4	5 -Very useful	DK/NA
Tool #1 - Co-design workshop methods for engaging participants into local energy planning	1	2	3	4	5	9
Tool #2 - Community energy investment guidelines - technical, business and legal aspects	1	2	3	4	5	9
Tool #3 - Communication methods for local energy plans and creating an atmosphere of acceptance	1	2	3	4	5	9

23. Please elaborate your answer! What were the pros and cons of the tools produced in ENES-CE?

Tool #1 has been most useful in generating new ideas how to approach wider range of important stakeholders and involve citizens. The methods described in the Tool have already been and will be used in future meeting organization. Tool #2 has been developed as a tool which can be used by persons with more knowledge and expertise in energy planning so it will not be appropriate for general users. Wider public with no technical knowledge will need assistance from experts when using this tool. Tool #3 gave an insight in communication methods for presenting goals and results of energy planning to general public. It can be useful for stakeholders which implement different kind of projects.



3. Conclusion

During the revision process of energy plans and involvement of citizens in the whole process, the main obstacles, but also the benefits of involving citizens and respecting their needs and ideas were identified.

In addition to the competent institutions, experts in the field of energy and climate, the citizens of the Town of Prelog are an important part of the implementation of the developed plans. By revising the existing plans where the progress so far can be seen, the Town of Prelog has started adopting a new and more ambitious Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP). Within the interaction process of targeted groups during the three organized workshops, citizens and entrepreneurs presented their views which resulted in the identification of room for improvement and setting priorities in the project implementation.

In the coming period, it is necessary to further encourage and disseminate the results of joint thinking as an invitation to organization of new events and implementation of new projects. The revised SECAP indicates in more detail the possibilities of low-carbon and sustainable development and, consequently, opportunities for the development of new industries in Town of Prelog, so that entrepreneurs can find their interest.

The new budgeting period provides new financial opportunities for the implementation of energy and green related projects, which will solve the main obstacle to the implementation process - lack of financial resources. The newly established association “Zeleni Prelog” will contribute to further involvement of the community in the decision-making process, and the City administration is also aware of the importance of green transition and the will of citizens for active participation.



Annex I - Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan for Town of Prelog