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 CITYnvest 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!