



**Project:**  
**Creating appropriate operational conditions for renewable energy  
communities in the Danube Region**

# **REPORT from the international online workshop on the professional topics of the NRGCOM project**

To the activities 1. Periods of the project

Budapest/Bratislava, online 15 January 2024

Presents: PP12 National Energy Cluster NEK

Slovak republic

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On January 15, 2024, PP12 – NEK actively participated in the international online workshop, organized by the leader of the STRIA Hungary project, where all the registered partners of the project from NRGCOM partner countries met at the same time in a relatively dynamic work program with the content listed later in the text.

After the initial working block, when the project management explained the system and rules of cooperation as well as the upcoming tasks to be completed within the 1st period of the project, the individual PP partners proceeded to their short presentations, where they presented their organization, the activity they are engaged in and ideas for further cooperation.

At the end, another method of communication and division of tasks was agreed upon, as well as the preparation of a joint international workshop with the physical presence of partners in Budapest on March 12-14, 2024.

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## Meeting Agenda

### **PROGRAM**

1. Entry in virtual “lobby”
2. Welcome and Opening Speech of the Lead Partner (LP) Greetings, brief introduction, technical details of the kick-off conference and opening speech

Zoltán Haász, Managing Director of the South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency – The Lead Partner organisation Réka Zulauf, Lead of the Project Management Team Nóra Horváth, Junior Project Manager

3. Introduction of the Project Partners (5 minutes/ PP)

### **Section 1 – Discussion of the Organisational Structure**

4. Update on the status of the Grant Agreement with the JS, a very brief overview of the project implementation, discussion of the internal PM structure, partner access to JEMS and the scheduling of partner meetings (LP)
5. Setting of the internal communication structure and selection of the project communication and quality managers (LP)

*Break*

## Section 2 – The Action Plan

6. Discussion of the most important tasks for Period 1, the SO leaders and the deadlines (LP)
7. Selection of the date of the opening event in Budapest, determination of the deadlines for the tasks which are currently relevant (LP)
8. Final remarks and Q&A section (LP)

In the following table, we briefly select from our presentation on PP12 – NEK at this workshop:

### Selected information of NEK on partner position and share in the project:

<p><b>1. We are introducing:</b></p> <p>The National Energetical Cluster NEK is an important cluster organization and in the field of energy and ecology in Slovakia with a long-standing partnership of important state institutions such as the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization and the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency.</p> <p>The cluster currently has more than 40 members from the ranks of the largest Slovak energetical industry, construction and engineering companies, research institutes and universities, but also dynamic small and medium entrepreneurs. Cluster organisation provides employment for more than 8 thousands people within its network and its gross product is valued at more than 350 million euros.</p>
<p><b>2. The main idea of the cluster is:</b></p> <p><b>Energy, ecology and economy</b>, those 3 words are clearly describing cluster activities.</p> <p><b>3 x E – program</b> are today understood as connected containers, because without the production of modern energy sources, modern stable energies, it is not possible to ensure the successful and competitive operation of the economy, it is the lifeblood of national production and it must be the result of ecologically harmless (to a minimum extent) and the environmental environment of non-burdensome activity, while simultaneously increasing the economic efficiency of production and distribution of all energy sources.</p> <p>The NEK cluster is a founding and leading member and organizer of the newly <b>formed National Platform of Energy and Environmental Clusters and Associations of Slovakia</b>, founded in 2023 in Banská Bystrica with the signatories of eight industrial clusters and associations on this spectrum of scope, which forms strong regional players in the 3 x E policy and as well as builds in the regions of Slovakia's energy community and local Centers for the development of education and research.</p>
<p><b>3. Over the past period,</b></p> <p>NEK as a leader or partner has implemented several serious and large-scale projects from EU and Slovak funds in the domestic and international environment with a focus on energy, human resources development and research and development in the field of renewable energy, building energetical communities, modern revitalization, reclamation and recirculation tools of industry and also networking of enterprises and institutions.</p> <p>NEK is the author of several important professional conferences with significant participation of the educated audience, such as Eco &amp; Energy Innovation and the ENERGOFUTURA conference, NEK is also an organizer of workshops with partners in Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Austria</p>
<p><b>4. Current status and approach to the NRGCOM project:</b></p> <p>Slovakia is currently transitioning from central energy supply systems to modern local systems with an adequate share of renewable energy in the energy mix.</p>

The concept of energy communities is to be built in a network of regional industrial energy environmental clusters and associations.

The goal is to create a connected system of energy communities with local disposition of RES while minimizing carbon footprint emissions.

Part of the effort is also taking on a new approach to the design and construction of buildings and technical infrastructure.

The problem is a significant need to change people's attitudes and knowledge about sustainability and reducing the energy intensity and consumption of industry, housing and transport systems.

#### **5. NEK will actively participate**

in a wide range of activities within the project and contribute to the advancement of energy communities as well as to the development of sustainable energy practices in Slovakia by leveraging their connections and experience.

In addition, NEK will lead the evaluation of different business models of renewable energy communities (A 1.2) and will be in charge of delivering a catalog of the five best operating models of energy communities (D 1.2.1). This analysis will help identify viable strategies for effective implementation and operation of energy communities.

Through workshops, conferences and publication activities, NEK will plan and facilitate better implementation of RES. By connecting with target users, it will raise awareness and promote the adoption of sustainable energy practices and popularize the REC concept, as well as increase the motivation of stakeholders in the regions to join energy communities.

#### **6. NEK will be responsible for delivering**

a software solution for RECs (D 3.3.1) and will provide guidance to PPs that can increase their effectiveness. This software will then be pilot tested as a technological solution in already functioning RECs in 4 countries. One of these pilot tests will take place with the contribution of NEK in Slovakia.

In addition, they will also contribute to the development of a mentoring scheme for newly established ECs, to an evaluation of EC best practices, as well as to a summary document.

Members of the management and work team on the project actively participated in the workshop on behalf of PP12-NEK: Tomáš Novotný, Ivan Kubek, Simona Novotná, Róbert Kati, Katarína Koporová.

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Kontakt/Contact:: [www.nek.sk](http://www.nek.sk), [info@nek.sk](mailto:info@nek.sk), [projekty.nek@gmail.com](mailto:projekty.nek@gmail.com), tel.: +421 910 961 141