



SYNOPSIS REPORT

on

**Activity A.T.2.1 Creation of a network of
“Renewable energy community ambassadors”**

Prepared by: PP12 – National Energy Cluster NEK, Slovak
Republic

**In the framework of the NRGCOM – Creating appropriate
operational conditions for renewable energy communities
in the Danube Region project**

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1. Project specific objective

NRGCOM aims to disseminate a positive perception of REC initiatives, encourage the society to take similar actions and thereby cut dependence on fossil fuels. Creating a network of 'REC ambassadors' will facilitate the consortium's operation, give more credibility to the project's mission and ensure wide reach to the target audience to spread the concept of RECs. The goal is to address the widest possible audience in a rational and targeted way. PPs will develop a motivational programme to raise awareness of the benefits of switching to renewables and belonging to sustainable communities. The method will address different groups: A2.3 will increase motivation and test the general public's willingness, while A2.4 will assess and increase the engagement of municipalities and economic actors via professional trainings. The extent of behavioural change will be measured and based on the results (nr. of new initiatives), PPs will develop an awareness raising toolkit to be used freely.

2. Communication

Objective

To reach a wide audience, trigger the widest possible public enthusiasm to create RECs, promote the project activities and capitalise the results, PPs will create a 'REC ambassadors' network, develop a motivational scheme and launch transnational awareness raising campaigns targeting the general public and the key actors: A3.2 campaign will consist of social media campaigns, public events, educational videos and online seminars to share knowledge on renewable solutions and practises on the efficient use and storage of renewable energy. Professional trainings under A3.3 will be held for the main stakeholders to increase their engagement in REC creation and remove their concerns. Based on the success of the campaigns, a toolkit (O2.3) will be compiled of the final motivational method, videos, infographics, guidelines and online educational materials on energy efficiency and RECs, and made transferable in order to ensure the widest possible uptake and the rapid transition to renewable.

3. Goal and tasks of PP12 - NEK

Working closely with the Activity leader, IMRO, we have started preparing the Slovak tasks related to Activity A.T.2.1 in very beginning of the implementation of the project.

As we have a lot of experiences from the past, we provided initial assistance to the Activity leader, organised trainings and prepared this report to provide insight into the preparatory processes.

The goal of this activity is to ensure a professionally founded group of experts and ambassadors - spreaders and builders of the idea of energy communities in the conditions of the Slovak Republic.

The National Energy Cluster NEK has approached dozens of companies, institutions and experts with whom it has been cooperating for many years as one of the leaders in environmental science in the industry, participates in projects and consults with them on the given issue.

Three work internal tasks were set, namely:

Internal Task 1:

Selection of potential organizations as ambassadors for EC based on RES in domestic conditions, considering their business and professional activities

Internal Task 2:

Selection of important experts and presenters, authors of professional publications and consultants in the field of energy in industry for EC based on RES in domestic conditions

Internal task 3:

Studying the content of individual tasks of the NRGCOM project by individual periods and determining the competences and share of individual experts in the processing of the relevant documentation agenda.

In the period of the 1st period, two trainings took place on March 4, 2024 and then on June 14, 2024 with the program:

The training on March 4, 2024 took place according to the following work program:

1. Opening, introduction of participants
2. Acquaintance of participants with the goals, content of the NRGCOM project and tasks for PP-12 NEK within the activity
3. Distribution of work tasks A.T.1.1 to A.T.1.5 for the following period
4. Information on upcoming national workshops on individual project topics managed by NEK
5. Explanation of the input processing methodology and the method of communication between experts/ambassadors and project management.

The training on June 14, 2024 took place according to the following work program:

1. Opening, evaluation of the cooperation of the participants so far
2. Acquaintance of the participants with the content of the project in the next stage of NRGCOM and tasks for PP-12 NEK within the activity
3. Distribution of work tasks A.T.1.3 to A.T.1.5 and A.T.2.2 and A.T.2.5 for the following period
4. Information on the final written documents being prepared for Slovakia on individual topics of the project managed by NEK.

A.T.2.1: Creation of a network of Renewable energy community ambassadors

To raise awareness of the society, promote expansion of RECs and improve their operational and technological conditions, PPs will create a network of 'Renewable energy community ambassadors', consisting of members (internal or invited experts) from various fields, selected by each PP. Members of the network will be recruited and selected by the PPs to share first-hand experience. Given that the ambassadors will join the network on a voluntary basis, only committed professionals will become members, thus helping the maintenance of the network in the long term. The ambassadors will serve as advocates and influencers and they will be trained on renewable energy technologies, operational models and communication strategies. Each PP will appoint a mentor from their organisation to coordinate the activities of the ambassador(s) of their country. A professional training material (online webinars and presentations) will be prepared by IMRO, based on which the selected ambassadors will be trained by the mentors. An online platform will also be created by IMRO to share experiences and professional materials both at national and international level. The platform will be maintained after the project implementation, on which the members will continue to share information. The ambassadors will increase competencies about energy-consciousness, explain the concept of RECs and encourage the public to launch or join such initiatives to accelerate the adoption of sustainable energy practices via national promotion and dissemination events. They will appear in online videos and press briefings to report on their successes and they will share their experiences in national public forums, workshops and trainings (A.2.3, A2.4). Ambassadors will take part in study tours as well, to gain first-hand information of RECs and to participate in the dissemination activities of other PPs. The transnational network will continue its work following the project completion: the PPs' designated mentors will undertake to maintain the flow of information between the ambassadors via the online platform and on a yearly webinar organised by IRMO for the members of the network.

4. Deliverables

D2.1.1 'Renewable energy community ambassadors' network

The network will consist of ambassadors appointed and invited by each PP IMRO will be responsible for training and the management. The ambassadors will play an important role in dissemination and capitalisation activities, using their native languages to address the general public in their countries.

5. Specific result and contribution to the task for PP12-NEK Slovakia

On March 4, 2024, under the organizational support of the National Energy Cluster NEK, an introductory training and joint exchange of knowledge and experience took place at the headquarters of the organization, in which, in addition to the invited experts and ambassadors of the NRGCOM project, the mentor of the project for Slovakia, Prof. Peter Tauš, PhD. and other business and cooperating partners and interested parties in the field of activities of creating and building EC energy communities and energy communities (EC).

The convening of the training was preceded by a written address and invitation to cooperation to 15 potential participants and their closest associates, who also confirmed their interest and took part in this meeting. A group of experts was created and registered in the Google sharing system as part of the NRGCOM project, and this group is currently gradually expanding and deepening.

WORK LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS NRGCOM – MENTOR + EXPERTS/AMBASSADORS

P. č.:	Meno/Name:	Organizácia/Organisation	Pozícia/Pozition	Zameranie/Focus	AJ
	Peter Tauš	TUKE Košice - FBERG	Mentor, Profesor	Energy and Environmental Technology and Knowledge	yes

1.	Branislav Bernátek	BRRÁ Bánovská regionálna rozvojová agentúra	REC consultant	Energy and Environmental consultant	yes
2.	František Chovanec	Energetický klaster Prešovského kraja EKPK	manager	Energy communities	yes
3.	Rudolf Pollák, sen.	Ipeľský energetický environmentálny klaster IPEEK	manager	Energy communities	yes
4.	Marián Bakita	Regionálny priemyselný inovačný klaster Rimavská Sobota REPRİK	energy consultant	Energy communities	yes
5.	Ľudmila Bojdová	Trenčiansky energetický environmentálny klaster TEEK	manager	Energy communities	no
6.	Andrzej Lucjan Pycz	Anders Consulting, s.r.o.	manager	Energy and Environmental consultant	yes
7.	Miroslav Majtáz	Energetický environmentálny klaster Trnavského kraja EEEKTTK	REC consultant	Energy communities	yes
8.	Rudolf Pollák, jr.	POLLAK TEAM, s.r.o.	manager	Energy consulting and construction engineering	yes
9.	Rastislav Nedas	FRIG Product, s.r.o.	manager	Energy and Environmental consultant	yes
10.	Gabriel Hrabovský	ZPX, s.r.o	manager	Energy and Environmental consultant	no
11.	Richard Modrák	Klaster energetických komunit Slovenska KEKS	manager	Energy and Environmental consultant	yes
12.	Igor Wzoš	Slovak smart city cluster	REC consultant	Energy and industrial communities	yes
13.	Martin Lokaj	REGION INVEST, a.s.	REC consultant	Energy and Environmental Technology	no
14.	Ivana Majková	NICRAM, s.r.o.	REC consultant	Energy communities	no
15.	František Mlynárčik	ALFA Real, spol. s r.o.	manager	Energy communities	no

On June 14, 2024, under the organizational support of the National Energy Cluster NEK, another ongoing and coordination training and joint exchange of knowledge and experience

took place at the headquarters of the organization, which was attended by invited selected experts and ambassadors of the NRGCOM project, as well as other stakeholders and the project mentor for Slovakia Prof. Peter Tauš, PhD. , but other business and cooperating partners and interested parties in the field of activities of creating and building EC energy communities.

Training to perform the task A.T.2.1. was also part of the organization of the 3rd and 4th combined national workshop of the Slovak Republic for the NRGCOM project within the framework of the tasks of the 1st Period, organized in Košice at the Gloria Palac Hotel. The training program was also attended by an external supplier of expert analytical materials as assigned by NEK - consulting company BIC Consult, s.r.o. from Trenčín.

The participants spent very stimulating work consultations - they mutually evaluated the created professional material and the results of individual experts, and under the management of the project coordinator for the NEK, the synergy of jointly applicable results to be incorporated into tasks A.T.1.3 to A.T.1.5, but also tasks A.T.2.2 and A.T.2.5 was jointly determined .until the next period within the 1st period of the project.

The result of the meeting of the participants at the training on March 4, 2024 was joint discussions and analyzes of options, but also agreements on the necessary information inputs and documents and the distribution of written preparations for the processing of individual tasks in this stage of the implementation of the 1st period of the NRGCOM project.

The result of the meeting of the participants at the training on June 14, 2024 were joint discussions and analyzes of others, as well as agreements on the necessary information inputs and documents and the distribution of written preparations for the processing of individual tasks in this stage of the implementation of the 1st period of the NRGCOM project. At the same time, information was discussed about the need to ensure the VO process for the procurement of external services until the 2-nd period of the project and the processing of the assignment for future supplier organizations.

Dobrou správou na záver pre organizátora NEK je narastajúci počet záujemcov do radov stakeholderov a ambasadorov i záujem externých inštitúcií v rámci procesov verejného obstarávania sa zapojiť aktívne do projektu za partnera PP12 – NEK.

The specific practical outputs from the individual trainings are mainly agreed and accepted documents and tasks for the members of the expert group/ambassadors and stakeholders of the project for Slovakia, namely the following:

1. Survey of national regulations and the legal system of the Slovak Republic from the aspect of energy communities
2. Analysis of business models and stakeholder management in renewable energy communities

3. Mapping good governance techniques and internal operating models to understand the motivations and expectations of energy community members
4. Assessment of possible low-cost investments in infrastructure and development
5. Empowering energy communities: a policy recommendation to remove barriers affecting the creation and/or spread of energy communities in 2024
6. Motivational program, preparation of draft strategy and methodology for raising awareness and involving organizations in energy communities
7. A set of tools and a methodology for their development for raising the awareness of the professional public and members of energy communities

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Kontakt/Contact: www.nek.sk, info@nek.sk, projekty.nek@gmail.com, tel.: +421 910 961 141

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