The goals of the project "Local Initiatives for a Sustainable Ukraine" (LINK Ukraine) are to strengthen local capacities for diversifying sources and options for a resource-efficient economy, and to bring together policy makers, businesses and civil society at the local level to enable positive change in Ukraine. The project promotes good governance, energy efficiency and EU integration processes. It comprises three work packages: Local Energy Security Planning (LESP); Civil Society Support; and Education for Sustainable Development (Citizens Pack).

The LINK project aims to:
● integrate environmental and energy security issues into local development planning processes;
● build the capacities of local authorities and identify investment opportunities for prioritised environmental, energy efficiency and energy recovery projects;
● develop mechanisms for the sustainable use and management of natural resources, including energy security;
● foster civic involvement and transparency in governmental decision making;
● support, educate and strengthen local civil society organisations as key stakeholders in any drive for a more accountable and legitimate government, greater social cohesion and democracy, and more inclusive and effective policy making; and
● educate a variety of stakeholders (such as families, young people, CSOs and schoolteachers) about the sustainable use and management of natural resources, including energy security, with the help of an interactive multimedia toolkit tailor-made for Ukrainian citizens.

The REC is implementing the LINK project in five partner municipalities in Ukraine: Ivano-Frankivsk, Berdychiv, Lubny, Cherkasy and Poltava.

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The LINK Ukraine project is financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment and implemented by the Regional Environmental Center (REC).
THE LOCAL ENERGY SECURITY ACTION PLANNING PROCESS

ACTIVITIES AND STEPS

1. Defining scale and scope
   - Initial planning team, coached by local coordinator, performs the initial assessment and collects and systemises data to define the spatial scale and substantive topics.

2. Setting up local planning team
   - Initial planning team, in consultation with local coordinator, performs the stakeholder analysis.

3. Assessing current status of energy security
   - Planning team, supported by external experts, carries out the public opinion assessment, interprets results, combines them with expert opinion, and identifies key issues.

4. Analysing and prioritising problems
   - Working groups analyse problems listed in the assessment report to determine root causes.

5. Designing an action plan
   - Planning team discusses and decides on definition of LES vision at planning team meeting facilitated by local coordinator.

6. Implementing the action plan
   - Planning team, facilitated by local coordinator, develops a framework action plan.

7. Monitoring and evaluation
   - Planning team develops an evaluation plan.

WHAT IS ENERGY SECURITY?

The definition of “energy security” has many dimensions (physical, economic, social, environmental, short term and long term). The “four A’s” of energy security are: availability (geological), accessibility (geopolitical), affordability (economic) and acceptability (environmental and social).
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