



Donor:
Royal Norwegian Ministry
of Climate and Environment
Beneficiary country: Ukraine
Partner municipalities:
Berdychiv | Cherkasy |
Ivano-Frankivsk | Lubny | Poltava
Overall project value:
EUR 2,603,700
Project duration:
April 14, 2015 – March 31, 2018

Local Initiatives for a Sustainable Ukraine

The LINK project is being implemented by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) in order to strengthen local capacities for diversifying energy sources and identifying options for a resource-efficient economy; and to bring together policy makers, businesses and civil society at local level to enable positive change in Ukraine.

The project promotes good governance, energy efficiency and the EU integration process. It is implemented through three work packages: Local Energy Security Planning (LESP LINK); Civil Society Support (CSO LINK); and Education for Sustainable Development (Citizens Pack LINK).

Key aims

- Integrating environmental and energy security issues into local development planning processes.
- Building the capacities of local authorities and identifying investment opportunities for prioritised environmental, energy efficiency and energy recovery projects.
- Developing mechanisms for the sustainable use and management of natural resources, including energy security.
- Fostering civic involvement and transparency in governmental decision making.
- Supporting, educating and strengthening local civil society organisations as key stakeholders in the drive for more accountable and legitimate government, greater social cohesion and democracy, and more inclusive and effective policy making.
- Educating a variety of stakeholders (e.g. 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.

Expected results

- Local policies that correspond to the needs of the communities, and improved environmental governance, sustainability planning and natural resources management in Ukraine.
- Strengthened capacities of local governing structures that put sustainable development and energy security high on their agenda.
- More participatory decision making, involving stakeholders and civil society.
- Greater environmental knowledge and awareness.



Activities carried out by the Local Energy Security Planning work package

Creating the institutional set-up

- Signing of a memorandum of understanding between the REC and participating municipalities that establishes the basis for cooperation.
- Forming an energy work group (EWG) at local level comprising representatives of local authorities dealing with energy issues and addressing cross-cutting areas that have implications for the energy system (transport, urban planning, waste management and water management), as well as representatives of civil society, businesses and academia.

Assessing capacity development needs

- Assessing the needs of local authorities and all members of the EWG in terms of capacity building in the fields of energy security and local planning.

Building capacities

- Capacitating the EWG for sustainable policy development on energy-related environmental issues; and tailoring capacity building to address the needs identified in the assessment phase.
- Training representatives of the EWG to perform energy audits using the Long-Range Energy Alternatives Planning System software.
- Enabling members of the EWG to develop concrete project proposals using the developed LESP document.
- Training members of the EWG to identify sources of funding and apply for funds.
- Supporting municipalities to turn actions identified in the LESP document into concrete projects, including a definition of activities, timeframe, budget and implementing institutions/actors.

Performing the analysis: The energy audit

- Guiding municipalities to carry out an energy audit with a focus on energy demand and energy supply using data on energy use in a selected sector. The municipalities will use the Long-Range Energy Alternatives Planning System software, a widely used modelling tool for energy policy analysis and climate change mitigation assessment developed by the Stockholm Environment Institute.

Developing local energy security action plans

- Supporting municipalities to use the REC's methodology to develop LESP documents through a participatory process that includes carrying out a public opinion poll among up to 3 percent of the population in each of the partner municipalities, and, using the results of the energy audit, tailoring the LESP and testing the scenarios. The developed LESP documents will be adopted by the municipalities.
- Supporting the EWG to carry out an assessment of energy-related issues, select priority issues, define problems and goals, set targets, and compile a set of actions.

Implementing the pilot project

- Supporting the implementation of one selected action from the LESP in each community.

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).