OUTPUT O.T2.1

Transnational concept for setting up/ enhancing Energy Units within PA in CEurope (En4PA)

Version 1
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Summary description of the key features of the tool (developed and/or implemented)

Municipalities play different roles in the context of energy management: energy consumer, energy producer and supplier, regulator and investor in the local energy sector, motivator - a source of motivation for more efficient energy generation and consumption, for protection of the environment.
All these roles require a unique energy management approach by the Municipalities.
Energy Unit (EU) role is very complex and involves expertise in many fields like energy, environment, finance, and communication. It involves work on technical and non-technical issues as well as collaboration with various stakeholders.
Primary goals of energy management are:

- to decrease energy use and costs in public operations and in the municipality (region),
- to increase renewable energy use in public operations and in the municipality (region),
- to reduce the environmental impact of the municipality/region due to energy-related activities (especially GHG emissions).

There are two basic options for implementation of energy management within administrative structures:

1. Energy Unit as a part of public administration, what we called „Energy Unit“ .
2. Energy Unit acting as an external consultant, in our case Energy Agencies.

Both options have their pros and cons and should be selected based on the identification of administration needs and available capacity.

The staff of Energy Unit should have competences in the following areas:

- technical knowledge of energy systems (electricity, HVAC, renewable energy sources) - energy engineering,
- urban engineering,
- environmental engineering,
- general management,
- project management,
- financial analysis and management,
- policy development,
- communication and public relations,
- IT systems.

This is just a recommended set of skills and one person can combine two or more skills. In general in smaller municipalities where the EU teams are smaller, single staff covers more areas of expertise and in larger municipalities with bigger EU there are more specialized staff. Also local circumstances are important - e.g. if there is much potential for RES in the municipality it is much more convenient to employ a person specialized in energy systems and/or financial incentives for RES.

NUTS region(s) where the tool has been developed and/or implemented (relevant NUTS level)

ITH5, Emilia Romagna
PL61, Kujawsko-Pomorskie
AT22, Steiermark
HR03, Jadranska Hrvatska
PL12, Mazowieckie
SI02, Zahodna Slovenija
HU32, Eszac-Alfold

Expected impact and benefits of the tool for the concerned territories and target groups

The concept is meant to provide instructions on how to set up the Energy Unit/Team in Central Europe area, not only addressing how to set up new units, but also strengthening the existing ones.
The document, starting from the local experience of all the partners, collects the synthesis of the best practices implemented in each region and the main difficulties encountered. It therefore provides a complete picture on how to implement / implement the Energy Units and some solutions to overcome barriers that could hinder the path. This work has allowed the partners and the stakeholders involved to understand and discuss the issues concerning the Energy Unit in particular regarding the composition, the costs to be incurred, the skills to be involved and the working methods. A very interesting activity was also the comparison between public administrations and energy agencies that can provide a great support to municipalities for the strengthening of the Energy Unit's skills. The document also gives advice on how to continue work in the future and strengthen the Energy units.

Sustainability of the tool and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

The study identified key principles that can help other public administrations to carry out the work and activities of the Energy Unit

1. Provide support for funding acquisition - existing EUs should be able to access information about available relevant funding sources for investment and non-investment projects as well as obtain support in grant requests preparation.
2. Improve energy data management capabilities - including implementation of energy monitoring solutions with relevant training (see Box 3. for example of good practice identified through CitiEnGov project).
3. Improve communication and engagement of external stakeholders - to increase outreach and improve cooperation, EUs need to know new techniques of community engagement - increase competences in energy management.
4. Increasing political engagement - EUs should be assisted with tools and competencies involving political decision-makers in the process of energy management to increase the level of ambition- energy manager of the Unit can play an important role, with his/her ability to influence
5. Increase knowledge transfer between EUs in Central Europe - possibly by creating Energy Unit platform in the future.

All activities intended to strengthen existing EUs could be carried out in the form of training and pilot projects as well as continuous networking between EUs in Central Europe.

Lessons learned from the development/implementation process of the tool and added value of transnational cooperation

The possibility of cooperating on a transnational scale is a great added value for the implementation of energy units. For each partner it was very important to understand how other subjects had already faced and solved certain problems and above all share the different experiences to work together with the increase of the skills of the energy units.

References to relevant deliverables and web-links
If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

- The tool references to deliverables D.T2.1.1, D.T2.1.2, D.T2.1.3, D.T2.1.4

Pictures

Box 1. Good practice example - energy agency GOLEA

GORIŠKA LOCAL ENERGY AGENCY (Agency GOLEA) has been established in 2006 within the frame of Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. In 2016 GOLEA celebrated a decade of successful operation. GOLEA offers its business partners a comprehensive and qualitative support in actions for increasing the energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources as well as in the implementation of awareness campaigns within Primorska region municipalities. GOLEA currently works with 21 municipalities in the region.

Goals

The mission of the GOLEA Agency is the acceleration of adoption of practices and technologies with a view to achieving regional energy self-sufficiency. The cooperation will be further strengthened with local administration through networking, joint generation of the EU and national projects, and planning of reasonable and necessary investments in RES and EE.

Main target groups

- Public and private individual and institutional energy users
- City decision makers and city hall departments involved in energy issues
- External energy providers

In 2009, GOLEA completed the three-year period of co-financing by the European Commission. From 2010 onwards it is financed exclusively on a basis of revenues from the management of EU projects, implementation of energy management tasks (the activities are defined for each municipality within contract) and other services on the market for other public and private contracting authorities. In the year 2018, the agency had 15 employees that are experts within different fields: mechanical engineer, electrical engineer, construction engineer, ecologist, economist, etc. Since the municipalities do not have adequate staff, with whom they could carry out various tasks on their own, the local energy agency offers them appropriate technical support. It is important to continuously educate staff to acquire relevant knowledge. An example of such education is EUREM, education in the field of public procurement, education in tecnial field, etc.

Through cooperation that was established with local and national institutions in the energy field GOLEA is significantly contributing to the development of energy self-sufficiency strategies. The Energy Agency of Primorska municipalities has developed into an indispensable institution within its environment.

Source: GOLEA

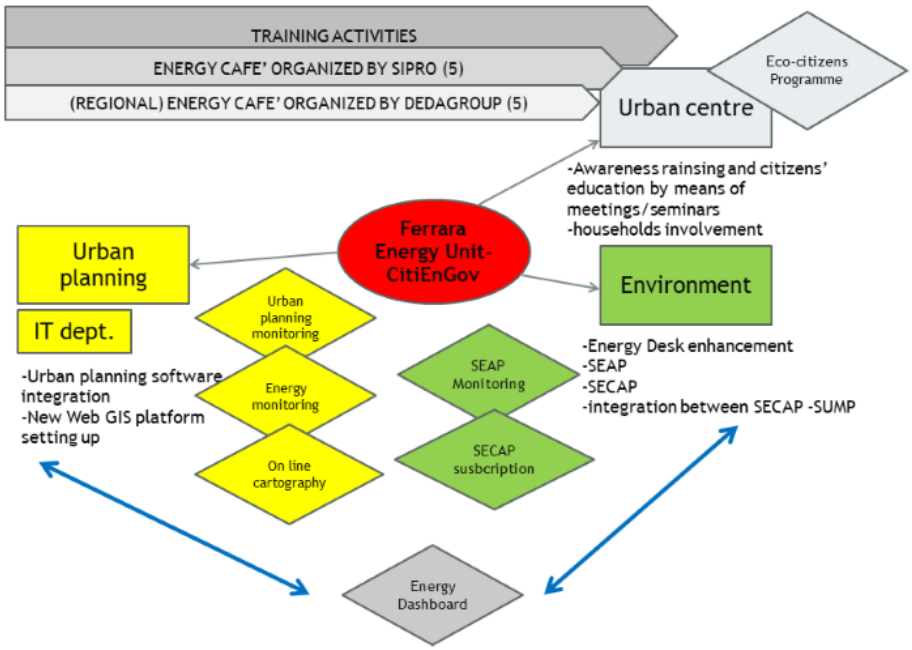

Figure 1. Examplary diagram of Energy Unit as a central and key service supporting all the other departments. ***Source: City of Ferrara***