



CLEEN project ends: joint activities continue!

Three years of activities have led to the creation of a network of experienced public organizations involved in local energy policies, with a focus on energy efficiency. The organizations active within the CLEEN project will, however, continue to work together by launching the first public assessment in Eastern Europe regarding action plans for the sustainable energy development of cities.

October 14-16, saw the last official joint meeting of the CLEEN network, taking place in Moldova. Representatives of 20 non-governmental organizations from Armenia, Germany, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine met up to discuss the results of their local and national activities in the field of energy efficiency the past three years and share their success stories and achievements.

Information campaigns are one of the key elements of CLEEN. The Armenian NGO Ayrudzi run out a very successful campaign on the potential of decentralized renewable energy with public participation, which was also the starting point of their cooperation with the municipality of Basen.

NGO and municipality will establish jointly the first energy cooperative in Armenia producing energy with photovoltaik (solar energy), providing citizens with this locally produced energy and enabling the public to become members of an energy cooperative and participate in the success of the cooperative.

The past years CLEEN offered various trainings and webinars evaluating the potential of cooperatives for renewable and decentralized energy production and supply in all CLEEN countries with this democratic business model. Also in Georgia the partners already established three energy cooperatives.

As part of the CLEEN Project, participants also developed action plans for sustainable energy development in 3 cities; Kutaisi and Akhaltsikhe in Georgia and Uzhgorod in Ukraine. Signed MoUs with 3 local authorities lead to regular cooperation between CSOs and local governments and via energy efficient measures benefitted the local population.

The network meeting gave the CLEEN participants the chance to affirm their own energy efficient communities throughout the four countries and their wishes to continue the network after project ending. The next steps agreed are to sign a Memorandum of Understanding and develop a statute document, showing the procedure of integrating new members into the network. We will establish guidelines for a common understanding of how the network should work in the future.

Sustainable Energy development in Cities

During the meeting in Moldova activists discussed the direction of future work and launched a campaign to analyze action plans for sustainable energy development in cities. This document, defining the energy future of cities in the region, will help, both quantitatively and qualitatively, to save money from local budgets, create new jobs, reduce carbon emissions and improve the city's microclimate, while also considering the wishes of its residents.

"The idea to create a network of young organizations that promote energy efficiency ideas at the local level and, in cooperation with authorities, implement them, was born in the CLEEN project (Energy Efficiency: coalition on the ground). Within this project, for three years, we trained these organizations on how to use energy efficiently in cities, how to analyze local budgets, how to cooperate with the authorities in matters of energy saving, acquainted them with the best energy practices and instruments used in other countries," comments Ilya Eremenko, coordinator of the CLEEN project in Ukraine.

"We are very pleased that after completion of the project, participants will continue to work together and share their experiences. Unity, support and common priorities in energy consumption and climate conservation are needed now more than ever."

The activists of the network are open to cooperation in the work on energy and climate issues. After this internal networking meeting, they also participate in the CAN EECA* conference to discuss joint action.

CLEEN: Making local grassroots organisations stronger by working on energy efficiency



CLEEN (Civil society Local Energy Efficient Network) is a 3-year EU-funded project aiming to build a partnership of civil society organizations (CSOs), as well as to strengthen CSO's capacities in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The project focuses on energy efficiency and cost savings, and increased accountability of local and national authorities on this issue. WECF coordinates this project and provides technical expertise. The project is funded by the European Union, Auswärtiges Amt, GLS Bank and the RAJA foundation.

** The SEAP is a key document in the field of energy in those cities that are participants in the initiative of the Agreement of Measures. The plan outlines the commitments undertaken by the signatory of the Agreement on the reduction of energy consumption and mitigation of climate change. Also, it is planned what actions are planned and how they will be implemented.*

** CAN EECA - Climatic network of the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The network was created to develop common positions and coordinate the work of environmental organizations before and during the UN international climate negotiations. 41 NGOs are members of the CAN EECA network.*

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