

ACADEMY OF POLITICAL STUDIES

OPEN REGIONAL FUND FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE - ENERGY EFFICIENCY PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Final narrative report - ALBANIA
25 March – 10 December 2013

Prepared by: Erjon Tase, Task manager for Albania

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Location: Tirana

Introduction

The initiative for establishing a public dialogue on the sustainable use of energy in South East Europe was launched by the members of the network of schools for political studies in South East Europe, under auspices of the Council of Europe, with the support of German International Cooperation and its Open Regional Fund for Energy Efficiency (GIZ-ORF-EE) and Višegrad International Fund.

Since 2011 the Academy of Political Studies, is an implementation partner of the regional project The key goal of the initiative in Albania is to establish and maintain the public dialogue between Parliament, Government, the business sector, media and civic society about the sustainable use of energy with a primary accent on energy efficiency.

The specific objective of the first phase (2011-2012) was to lobby with relevant policy makers and facilitate and inclusive public discussion on the new energy efficiency legislations one the most important tools for the implementation of the objectives set by Albania in this sector. The APS organised a series of meetings with different stakeholders including Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Productive Activities, Trade and Environment Mr. Jemin Gjani and representatives of the Ministry of Economy in order to create the grounds for a public discussion on the matter.

The objective of second phase (under this contract) was to raise the awareness of local authorities on the importance of energy efficiency and assist them in developing training and education on the new legislations, promotion of measures of diversification of utilisation of energy and creation of incentives to support energy-efficiency- friendly businesses.

During this periode, a two-day seminar for journalists, one national seminar for future leaders, part of the Albanian School of Political Studies programme and three roundtables with stakeholders and experts were organised in Tirana, Fier and Gjirokaster.

The **general awareness** on the Energy Efficiency topic on a wider range of public was ensured through different approaches. Albania has a different history from the region on civil constructions and energy consumption. As regards, there is a lack of awareness on the public in general about the energy efficiency topic. This terrain creates a weakness on the responsibility of the decisionmakers about the energy legislation and rule of law in



this field. So, there is a need to raise the general awareness to ensure the adequate pressure for the central and local institutions.

The APS managed the realization of an informative publication on Energy Efficiency measures. This publication was printed in 5.000 copies and distributed during the activities in the regions. The same awareness raising material was transformed also in a roll-up format, 10 of which were printed and used as part of the promotional tools of the moving exhibition structure that was temporarily installed in the main squares of three cities during the roundtables event.

Meanwhile, a short movie on energy efficiency was realized. The documentary presents the best practices on the EE and RES topic in Albania. This movie was broadcasted in the national public television TVSH and also in “Scan TV”, focused on the economical issues. All the activities received broad national and local media coverage.

Implementation of the action plan

Activity 1: Participation in the second international conference in Zagreb – 13 May 2013

The Academy of Political Studies cooperated in representing Albania in the 2nd International Conference on the 13 of May 2013 in Zagreb, Croatia under the title "Successful approaches for a new Energy Future in South East Europe". Following the experience from the first regional conference in Belgrade, the APS selected and ensured the participation in this important event of 10 prominent representant from the Albanian Parliament, public institutions, local authorities, civil society and media. The stakeholders which took part at this event will be involved in the ongoing activities planned during this year.

The most important Albanian weekly economic magazine, called “Monitor”, organized a special summary of articles dedicated to the event in Zagreb and also two interviews with the executive director of APS, Mr. Erjon Tase and the country manager for the Open Regional Fund for South East Europe-Energy Efficiency (ORF-EE), Mr. Aheron Hizmo. (The scanned copy of the articles can be found in this report)

The electoral campaign in Albania for the next election of 23 of June, was one of the obstacles incurred during the organization of the group, especially for the members of parliament.

Outcome 1: Participation in the conference ensured. Awareness about stakeholders raised and their engagement in the follow up activities strengthened.

Activity 2: Seminar and study visit for journalist, 29-30 May 2013

A two-day seminar for journalists, covering economic issues in Albanian media, was organized on 29-30 May 2013, in Durres. The aim of the seminar was to provide the participants with substantial knowledge on the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy topic, in order to help them better understand Albania's challenges in the path towards the 20:20: 20 objectives. Three experts introduced the journalists on the actual legislative situation and its implementation on these sector. Their presentations created the ground for discussions between participants and served as a possibility for their personal awareness but at the same moment as a special tool for further transmit this information to the public in general.

In the second day of the seminar, the journalists visited a farm in Marikaj village, near Durres, where the energy efficiency measures are applied in practice. The journalist welcomed this special opportunity and their impressions were very positive.

The next day, the first title of the daily economic newspaper, called "Ekonomia", was dedicated to the Energy Efficiency topic and with a special focus to the Public Dialogue Initiative activity in Albania and in the region.

Outcome 2: The journalist knowledge about the EE and RE topics increased. Support within the media for ongoing activities acquired.

Activity 3: Seminar with ASPS participants on Energy Efficiency

The Academy of Political Studies organized on 20 September 2013 the seminar "Sustainable development, energy and environment" for the new leaders that participate in the programme "Albanian School of Political Studies", managed by the APS under the auspices of the Council of Europe. The keynote speakers were Mr. Ismail Beka from GIZ Albania and Ms. Teuta Thimjo, expert from National Agency of Natural Resources.

The aim of the seminar was to study the connection between energy, environment and sustainable development in a time when environmental and energy efficiency

issues are now high in the political agenda in many countries and their presence in the public discussions in Albania is increasing. The seminar introduced some of the latest approaches and key international mechanisms of environment protection and energy efficiency and analysed the situation in these areas in Albania and the region.

Outcome 3: Ensured durable information on Energy Efficiency topic and access to contact information for 20 future decision makers.

Activity 4: Moving exhibition preparations

With the aim for the general awareness on the Energy Efficiency topic on a wider range of public the APS organized an exhibition structure, which was temporarily installed in the main hall of the three venues of roundtables events. In this frame, APS managed the realization of a 16 pages informative publication on Energy Efficiency measures. This publication was printed in 5.000 copies and distributed to the participants of the roundtables. The same awareness raising material was transformed also in a roll-up format. 10 roll-up in format 85x200 cm were printed and will be used as part of the promotional tools of the moving exhibition in the cities.

(A copy of publication and roll-up model can be found attached to this report)

Outcome 4: The public knowledge about the EE and RE topics increased.

Activity 5 & 6: Two roundtables with local stakeholders and experts

The aim of these roundtables was to bring together all the relevant local stakeholders in Gjirokaster and Fier regions and establish a forum of discussion on what can be done for the implementation of the new Energy Efficiency legislation on local focus.

- The first roundtable took place on 1 November 2013 on Gjirokaster region at the premises of hotel “Çajupi”. About 15 participants from the high level of municipality staff, prefecture, council of the city, local business organizations, local NGO-s and media, were informed about the new law on EE and the measures that this law imposes to the local authorities on their municipal development agenda and daily work.
- The second roundtable was organized on 6 December 2013 in Fier region at the premises of hotel “Fieri”, with the participation of the local

stakeholders of the region (about 12 participants). One the most interesting topic of this roundtable was the presentation for the first time of some finds and results from the Sustainable Energy Action Plan - SEAP for Tirana city.

The general awareness on the Energy Efficiency topic on a wider range of public was ensured through an exhibition structure that was temporarily installed in the entrance of the venues during the roundtables event.

The activities reached maximum involvement of the local authorities as partners in the organisational and managements of the roundtables in Gjirokaster and Fier. Media showed a great interest on the events and several chronicles were organised in local TV and radio stations and national and local newspapers.

Outcome 5 & 6: Increased awareness of all local stakeholders on EE topic. Established a long-term dialogue on the practical implementation of EE law.

Activity 7: National roundtable “Energy legislation - The need for a new start” – Tirana, 11 December 2013

In regards of the 23 June 2013 elections, a new majority and government got in power in Albania. Thanks to the continued contacts of the ASP within the members of Parliament in both political parties, there was not a break of communications and contacts after this change. With the aim to give a new start to the EE legislations and law implementations on this topic, was decided to transform one of the planned regional events, in a national activity entitled "Energy legislation - The need for a new start", in the format of a roundtable gathering all the institutional, parliamentarian and expertise actors, with the aim to give a new start to the energy legislation in light of the new government.

About 35 participants from ministry of Energy and Industry, MPs, experts from NGOs, universities and media, discussed about the EE and RES legislation and situation in Albania. The suggestions about the creation of the National Fund and other details of the draft law, paused since 2012, will serve as the major material for the future parliamentary hearing, planned on Spring 2014.

Outcome 7: Further developed the discussion among different stakeholders around the current state in the area of energy efficiency and obstacles in its implementation.



Other activities – Action visibility

A short movie, about 15 minutes long duration, on energy efficiency was realized. The documentary has the aim to show the best practices on the EE and RES topic in Albania. This movie was used as one of the promotion tools in the moving exhibition in the regions but also will be used as a promotional set in the future activities. As a result of reallocation of funds, the short movie was printed in about 300 DVD copies. This movie was broadcasted in the national public television TVSH and also in “Scan TV”, focused on the economical issues. All the activities received broad national and local media coverage. A part of the printed materials and the DVD's copies will be donated to the info center office recently opened in the premises of the National Agency of Natural Resources, as part of the GIZ contribute to this institution.

Outcome: The public knowledge about the EE and RE topics increased.

Sustainable development of action

MoU signed between APS and the alliance of 41 local environmental NGO-s

In frame of strengthening the national action on the Public Dialogue, the Academy of Political Studies signed a MoU with 'Ecomovement', a network of 41 Albanian NGOs, working together since 2004 on environmental issues. The MoU will ensure the cooperation between the ASP and these local NGOs on increasing the knowledge and experience and also joint actions on energy and environmental issues.

IPA Cross Border Programme Albania – Macedonia on energy efficiency

Thanks to the experience of Schools of Political Studies regional network, the APS and the Macedonian school, “Center for Research and Policy Making” (CRPM), jointly applied in the European Union IPA Cross Border Programme call for application 2013. The project “Initiative to Enhance Public Dialogue on Sustainable Use of Energy” was approved and he started to by implemented on December 2013.

The APS is a lead partner in this project which aims to increase cooperation between the municipalities of Bitola and Kicevo in Macedonia, and Pogradec and Korca in Albania; thus, contributes to improving the implementation of already planned targets and speed up the progress of our country to full membership in the EU.

The project will further strengthen cooperation between Albanian and Macedonian municipalities and will create the premises through the establishment of Local and

Regional Platforms for Action, an example to be replicated in other regions as well. The project is funded by the European Union and the total duration of the action is 18 months.

Next phase – Parliamentary Hearing

The parliamentary elections of 23 June 2013 and the government rotation created a power vacuum from April – October 2013. As regards, the new draft legislation on Energy Efficiency was not part of the parliamentary agenda. In this situation, the planned parliamentary hearing was postponed.

The PDI project manager took continuous communication on this matter with Mr. Eduard Shalsi, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Productive Activities, Trade and Environment and Mr. Gjergj Simaku, head of the Directorate of EE and RES in the Albanian Ministry of Energy, so ensuring their willingness to organise the hearing as soon as the draft will be in their agenda. Mr. Simaku, the person in charge to upgrade the draft law, promised that the finalised draft will be sent entry end of April 2014 for approval in the parliament. This moment, during the discussion in the parliamentary commissions, will be the right moment for the parliamentary hearing.

The narrative report was prepared by
Erjon TASE

Task manager for Albania
Tirana, March 2014

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Media coverage and visibility packet

1. Weekly magazine "Monitor" <http://www.asp.al/pdf/monitor.pdf>
2. Newspaper "Ekonomia" http://www.asp.al/pdf/Gazeta_Ekonomia_per_PDI.pdf
3. National Public Television on Gjirokastra roundtable
<http://asp.al/vidgaleri.php?lang=1#prettyPhoto/4/>
4. "Scan TV" about the national roundtable in Tirana
<http://asp.al/vidgaleri.php?lang=1#prettyPhoto/3/>

Visibility materials

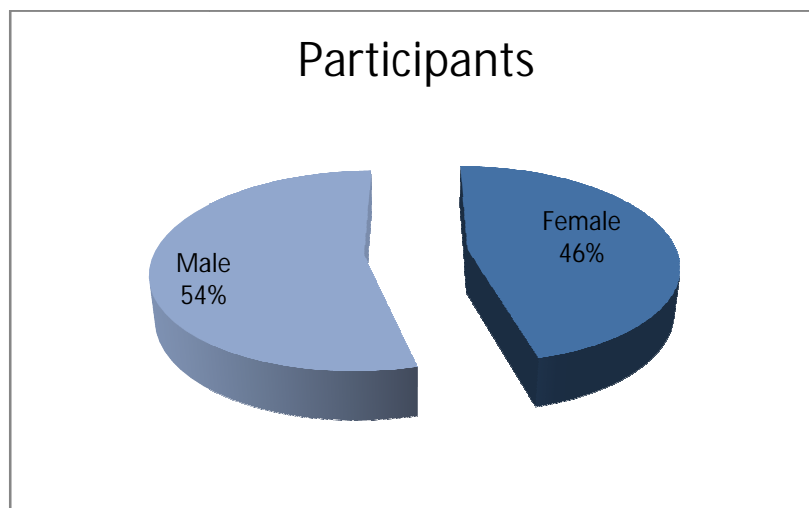
5. Short movie on best examples <http://asp.al/vidgaleri.php?lang=1#prettyPhoto/1/>
6. Informative publication http://www.asp.al/pdf/broshura_energija_web.pdf
7. The moving exhibition (roll-up model)



APPENDIX 2: Attendance and gender distribution

More than 90 decision and opinion makers (politicians on the national and local level, CSO representatives and media representatives) participated and contributed during the activities of the project. The APS sought to observe a balanced representation from political parties, different professional backgrounds as well as encourage participation of women, youth and vulnerable groups. More details about gender distribution:

Activity	Female	Male	Total
Regional conference, Croatia	4	6	10
Roundtable Gjirokaster	5	9	14
Roundtable Fier	5	10	15
National roundtable Tirane	14	15	29
ASPS seminar	11	7	18
Seminar for journalists	6	6	12
Participants	45	53	98



APPENDIX 3: Photos

National roundtable “Energy legislation - The need for a new start” – Tirana, 11 December 2013



The first roundtable took place on 1 November 2013 on Gjirokaster



The Albanian delegation in the regional conference, Zagreb 13 May 2013



The seminar for journalists, Durres, 29-30 May 2013



...and the study visit in an organic farm in Durres, when solar panel and biomass energy are used



