




The project: "Initiative to enhance public dialogue
on the sustainable use of energy"



REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE
USE OF ENERGY IN BORDERING AREAS OF KORÇA,
POGRADEČ IN ALBANIA AND BITOLA, KICHEVO IN MACEDONIA



FINANCED BY
EUROPEAN UNION

IMPLEMENTED BY



ACADEMY
OF POLITICAL
STUDIES



CENTRE FOR
RESEARCH AND
POLICY MAKING

Title:

Regional Platform for Action for the sustainable use of energy in bordering areas of Korça,
Pogradec in Albania and Bitola, Kichevo in Macedonia

Authors:

Zlatko Simonovski
Elena Trajkovska
Erind Kraja

Editor:

Erjon Tase

Publisher:

Academy of Political Studies (APS)

Rr. Donika Kastrioti, Qendra Kotoni,
Kati 4, Tiranë, Shqipëri
Tel/fax: 00 355 4 2272173
Tel: 00 355 4 4504788
E-mail : info@asp.al
Web: www.asp.al

Center for Research and Polity Making (CRPM)

Rr. Cico Popovik 6-2/9, Shkup, Maqedoni
Tel: 0038923109-932;
Fax: 0038923073-890
E-mail: crpm@crpm.org.mk
Web: www.crpm.org.mk

Design:

WebPhotoPro

Year: 2015

Note: This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of APS and CRPM and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

Front page pictures: The signature of Memorandum of Understanding between the municipalities of Korça, Pogradec, Bitola, Kichevo and the implementing organizations - Korça, 12 February 2015

Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Methodology.....	4
3. Joint vision and objectives	5
4. The situation and challenges in Albania.....	6
4.1 The findings in the region of Korça and Pogradec	6
4.2 Potential projects and actions	6
5. The situation and challenges in Macedonia	7
5.1 The findings in Bitola and Kichevo	8
5.2 Potential projects and actions in Bitola	8
5.3. Potential projects and actions in Kichevo	10
6. The situation at regional level	11
6.1 The findings at regional level	12
6.2 Regional Platform for Action	12
7. Matrix of regional action plan	13
8. Annex - Memorandum of Understanding	15

1. Introduction

The joint Regional Platform for Action for the sustainable use of energy in bordering areas of Korça, Pogradec in Albania and Bitola, Kichevo in Macedonia, serves as a guide for local authorities and stakeholders to draw up concrete plans of intervention in relation to the measures of energy efficiency at local level. Through the transformation of the national policies to actions at local level, might be increased the willingness and encouragement of all local stakeholders to continue the dialogue and have local ownership of this action.

The preparation of the document was a result of a long process of consultations and surveys, analysis of prominent experts contracted by the project, meetings and workshops among stakeholders in the regions and both countries, thus ensuring a clear image of the situation and the objectives to support the vision for the sustainable use of energy in the region. In this context the two implementing organisations (APS and CRPM) express their thanks to the experts, local actors in the four municipalities and municipal representatives who contributed within their inputs and evaluations of specific proposals and the commitment to take forward the implementation of the regional action plan.

The project “Initiative to enhance public dialogue on sustainable use of energy” funded by IPA program for cross-border cooperation, aims at strengthening cooperation between local government structures in Albania and Macedonia and the creation of premises required for setting up a common platform Regional Action, able to be implemented by other regions. The experience gained thanks to this program, serve to promote cross-border cooperation in other areas such as gender equality, minority rights etc.

2. Methodology

The preparation of the Regional Platform for Action followed these steps:

- Collection of proposals of objectives from stakeholders involved in the program;
- Identify issues for achieving the objectives;
- Develop a list of actions to be taken;
- Provide a draft action plan for energy efficiency and support for the finalization of the platform.

The chronology of the development of the document followed the phases of strategic planning as recommended in the experience of other specialists suggested by other international organizations.

With the aim to have a better implementation and targeting specifically the needs of the regions, APS and CRPM carried out two surveys in the period (January – March 2014) in the regions covered by the project. Thanks to this process two Need Assessments documents¹ were prepared, ensuring a real view of the energy consumption in the regions, impediments for the investments tempo and presence of plans and strategies energy inflow and outflow.

¹ “Needs Assessment of energy use in the regions of Pogradec and Korça”, APS, Albania, April 2014 http://www.asp.al/pdf/broshura_asesment_needs.pdf / “Analysing Conditions and Needs to Improve Energy Efficiency in the Municipalities of Bitola and Kichevo”, CRPM, Macedonia, 2015 http://www.asp.al/pdf/vnatresen_del_ANG.pdf

The meetings and workshops with local stakeholders helped in absorbing opinions on the proposals collected through a process of “Brainstorming” which are synthesized in this platform. The local actors already identified in each region have analyzed the regional proposal and has adapted with suggestions for possible changes or adjustments under the guidance of the experts. At the end of a long process of consultations and suggestions of local actors, this document was submitted officially to the four municipalities - Korça, Pogradec, Bitola and Kichevo - in order to include it in the future plans of regional development between regions themselves and in a joint development perspective.

The meeting within the framework of the regional conference held in Korça in February 2015 and the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding confirmed the commitment of local authorities from the four regions under the project to continue the cooperation based on recommendations adopted at the Regional Platform for Action.

3. Joint vision and objectives

Within the development of Local Platform and joint meetings between the two organizations and local partners, the following findings regarding the drafting of the Regional Platform were assessed:

Legal Framework:

Regional Platform is designed in accordance with the law of the Republic of Albania No. 8652, dated 31.7.2000, “On the organization and functioning of local government”, and Macedonian local government law (OG29 / 2002), which are intended to ensure a better governance at the level, closest to citizens and promote effective community participation in local governance.

Vision:

All the actors in both countries should work together to increase the efficient use of energy in accordance with national and international acts

Purpose:

- Ensure good governance, closer to citizens through the recognition of the existence of identities and values of the communities, respecting the rights and freedoms of citizens enshrined in the Constitution or other laws, promoting effective community participation in local government, etc.
- Encourage dialogue between all stakeholders public decision-making, local government units in the region, stakeholders and civil society for sustainable use of energy in bordering region

Objectives:

- Good governance, based on standards of transparency and public interests;
- Promote effective community participation in local governance;
- Sustainable development of social and economic development by creating equal opportunities for prosperity and free enterprise citizens.

4. The situation and challenges in Albania

Albania has prepared the National Strategy of Energy (2003) and updated it in 2009. The law on Energy Efficiency (EE) adopted in 2005 with the aim to establish the necessary legal framework to promote and improve the efficiency of energy utilization, was suspended one year later (a new draft law is under preparation). It followed with the preparation of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) 2012-2018, which is in the initial phase of implementation of national EE policy.

The EE Roadmap on 10 March 2011 indicate the obligation of the public sector to take measures to improve energy efficiency at national, regional and/or local level, thus implying that local governments should integrate Energy Efficiency into the municipal development plans as one of the key components of the local development agenda. CSOs should also be part of the process and awareness raising is required to set the whole process in motion for little is being done. Since 2002 the Albanian municipalities should approve the license for new constructions (especially in the public buildings) only if the constructors will use the standard for EE (thermal insulation, central heating systems etc). Unfortunately, for various reasons these standards continue to be not respected even on the public investments.

4.1 The findings in the region of Korça and Pogradec

- Lack of information at all levels in terms of energy efficiency;
- Lack of funds for investments in relation to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Sources;
- Lack of implementation of the Energy Building Code in the regions;
- Lack of appropriate legal procedures for procurement of efficient equipment on the public sector;
- Lack of companies that provide improved efficiency of energy services;
- Need for coordination and understanding between local actors to increase efficiency measures at local level;
- Need to develop and implement Local Platform for Action;

4.2 Potential projects and actions

The situation and general awareness on the energy use is the same in both regions of Korça and Pogradec. Based on the analysis of the conditions, some potential actions to be locally undertaken in both regions are proposed:

Objective 1: Increase the knowledge and skills of local authorities and municipal structures regarding the implementation of the obligations of the Law on Energy Efficiency and National Efficiency Plan.

- 1.1 Short-term goal: Creation of a local coordinating structure (ad-hoc) toward the implementation of the obligations of the Law on Energy Efficiency and National Efficiency Plan;
- 1.2 Short-term goal: Preparation and approval of the mid-term Local Plan on Energy Efficiency;
- 1.3 Short-term goal: Preparation of draft proposal applications for potential Energy Efficiency investment in the regions.

Objective 2: Creates incentives and facilitates the private investments on the Energy Efficiency sector.

- 2.1 Short-term goal: Creation of incentives for owners of buildings that undergo reconstruction in order to ensure a good thermal insulation or solar panels water heating systems;
- 2.2 Short-term goal: Establishment of a local structure for collecting opportunities of possible investment in terms of efficient energy use in the region;
- 2.3 Short-term goal: Take measures to enable the voluntary audit or certification of buildings (Energy Star).

Objective 3: Increase knowledge and understanding between the public in general on the usefulness of energy efficiency opportunities;

- 3.1 Short-term goal: Creation of an informative office offering information on the Energy Efficiency measures and profits;
- 3.2 Short-term goal: Organisation of local energy fairs or energy week, with the aim to bridge the companies, financial banks and the public interested for investment opportunities;
- 3.3 Short-term goal: Organisation of lectures and open classes at high schools in the regions with experts and municipal officials regarding the sustainable use of energy;
- 3.4 Short-term goal: Media advertisement campaigns and distribution of brochures and informative leaflet regarding the efficient use of energy;

5. The situation and challenges in Macedonia

The Energy Development Strategy for the Republic of Macedonia from 2008 to 2020 with a vision 2030 thoroughly and systematically elaborates the possible solutions and suggests scenarios to modernize the overall energy system in the country, improve the energy efficiency, as well as the RES utilisation. The achievement of the goals set in the strategies is continuously monitored and managed through action plans. The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2018, was adopted in April 2011.

In addition, the law on energy is the legal document that serves as a basis of the legisla-

tion regulating measures and legal responsibilities to achieve the above mentioned goals. The most important elements of this document that refer to energy efficiency policy regulations are the regulations for compulsory energy control and certification of energy features of the objects. The legislation not only regulates this topic, but also predicts commitments and obligations to the local stakeholders. This approach also stimulates enhanced engagement by all relevant parties and their constant awareness and inclusion into the efforts for rational energy use.

In terms of legislation, Macedonia follows the EU efforts and goals regarding the rational use and consumption of energy. However, a big problem is the frequent changes of local legislation, especially with the last changes of the Law on Energy regarding the object certification, representing a step back in the commitment of the process of enhancing citizens' awareness of the importance of energetic features of their homes, and the overall state commitments for rational energy use.

5.1 The findings in Bitola and Kichevo

- Lack of funds for investments and renewals as major reasons for the situation regarding energy efficiency;
- Low awareness about the existence of "green loans" but nevertheless, the situation does not allow their application;
- Low level of information of citizens regarding energy efficiency measures and concepts;
- The need to have a Local Platform (Kichevo) adopted a new Local Platform (Bitola);
- Need to coordinate the organization of a broad campaign awareness of citizens about energy efficiency measures ranging from themselves in their daily life;
- The need for coordinated lobbying at the central actors to increase efficient measures at local level;
- Lack of training at the local level for all local institutions, schools, universities, regional directories;
- Limited professional capacity to lobby designed to target programs that environmental issues for NGOs;
- Lack of staff dealing with energy efficiency to companies and knowledge to reduce energy costs - although no information among these groups, it is necessary to be assisted as expertise, with financial support.

5.2 Potential projects and actions in Bitola

Objective 1: Increase the knowledge and skills of municipal officials and employees aiming broader and more comprehensive implementation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy sources in Bitola

- 1.1 Short-term goal: set up a special team / municipal sector on energy efficiency;
- 1.2 Short-term objective: Increased number of employees working in the team / department on EE municipality;
- 1.3 Short-term goal: Increased knowledge of all municipal officials on energy efficiency measures that can be implemented to work, but at home as well;
- 1.4 Short-term goal: Opening an office to inform citizens, companies and other stakeholders on clean energy issues, the environment, etc;
- 1.5 Short-term goal: The municipality is part of a network of local level, but also networked with stakeholders from central level, abroad and other municipalities to share knowledge and experience in the financing and implementation of EE and RES;
- 1.6 Short-term goal: Schools are familiar with what measures of EE that can implement, which do not cost much money in their daily work;
- 1.7 Short-term goal: Prepare brochures specially designed for each category of stakeholders on implementation of energy efficiency measures and sustainable use of energy, (citizens, companies, civil society organizations and the media).

Objective 2: Increased knowledge and understanding between people of Bitola on the usefulness of energy efficiency opportunities offered as energy savings, lower energy bills, cleaner environment and so on. and the usefulness of the increased use of renewable energy in Bitola

- 2.1 Short-term goal: The young population 7-25 years knows that means on energy efficiency, and how they can save energy without having to cost a lot;
- 2.2 Short-term goal: The elderly population / pensioners (over 62 years) know what is energy poverty, with as little resources can improve the energy performance of their homes, as well as where to find resources to implement energy efficiency measures in their homes, and how much money you save monthly with implemented measures EE (such as solar panels etc.);
- 2.3 Short-term goal: The rest of the population is aware that measures of EE and RES can be implemented in their homes, how each measure save monthly and annually, where they easily can obtain funds for these measures, etc.;
- 2.4 Short-term goal: Residents of the municipality are in constant communication with the municipality on topics about EE and RES, and use the Office for Energy Efficiency which is available for information, sharing tips, etc.

Objective 3: Civil society organizations and the media from the Municipality of Bitola are familiar with the terms energy efficiency, sustainable use of energy, renewable energy, energy poverty etc. and actively work through projects, training and related activities to improve the situation with energy efficiency and sustainable energy use in the municipality

- 3.1 Short-term objective: Civil society organizations (local ones) are familiar with the topics EE, RES, and networked with organizations from national level country and beyond, especially Albania and Greece in order to work together on the

above mentioned topics;

- 3.2 Short-term goal: Civil society organizations working on projects for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources together with the municipality;;

Short-term objective 3.3: Civil society organizations working individually with residents of the municipality on sharing knowledge about EE and RES;

- 3.4 Short-term goal: Media are trained to report on topics in the field of energy, particularly energy efficiency, sustainable use of energy etc.;
- 3.5 Short-term goal: media regularly, at least once a week, publish articles related to the energy that except as informativini, and educational.

Objective 4: Companies from the municipality of Bitola are familiar with energy efficiency measures that can be implemented, they have employees who care about energy management in the company, they know where to turn for assistance in implementing energy efficiency measures and saving energy, and are in constant communication and cooperation with the municipality about easier implementation of the above activities;

- 4.1 Short-term goal: Companies know that any measures for energy efficiency energy saving can be implemented with small amount of money;
- 4.2 Short-term goal: Companies know where they can turn for help in implementing energy efficiency measures;
- 4.3 Short-term goal: Companies employ people just for energy management and planning to invest savings from the implementation of energy efficiency measures;
- 4.4 Short-term goal: Companies cooperate with the municipality, they use the Office for energy efficiency for gathering information, but also to share their experiences.

5.3. Potential projects and actions in Kichevo

1. Preparation of Municipal program on energy efficiency with a focus on measures to support the heating and energy efficiency measures for citizens;
2. Restructuring of municipal employees to form Department for Energy Efficiency;
3. Annual meetings with colleagues from both Albanian municipalities and Bitola for preparation of project applications;
4. Open day for the citizens of the municipality - Day on Energy Efficiency;
5. Consideration the possibility of joining the Convention of Mayors;
6. Discussion to improve heating in the municipality (gasification, central heating or heating with pellets) supplying efficient heating stoves and insulation improvements. Talks with government to obtain support for public-private partnership;

7. Considering the option for single subsidies for the poorest citizens in the form of direct investments in energy efficiency - buying pellets, efficient stoves for heating, changing windows, improving insulation;
8. Fair for energy efficiency for the private sector;
9. Networking with larger organizations in Macedonia and abroad which work in the field of improving internal capacities, better access to resources and greater influence on public policy;
10. Lecture on energy efficiency in the municipal high school in Kichevo;
11. Preparation of research reports in the area of energy efficiency with a focus on the implications of these measures;
12. Self-education and monitoring the research reports of major foreign media outlets on energy efficiency

6. The situation at regional level

Albania and Macedonia are two countries on their way towards the European Union. The accession requires the adoption of the EU acquis in all aspects of social and economical affairs, including energy and environment – the latter known under the acronym 20:20:20 targets referring to 20% of improvements in energy efficiency, 20% of energy consumption to come from renewable energy source and to achieve reduction of CO₂ emissions which is at least 20% below the 1990 level.

While both countries are making good progress towards transposing the acquis into their national legislation and policy, there is slower progress in actual implementation of policies adopted. The lack of implementation of public policies is one of the key weaknesses on the path to prosperity. In addition, there is lack of awareness on Energy Efficiency and Environment issues and motivation and willingness to put it into action.

The legislation and national strategies in Albanian and Macedonia define the long-term development of the energy sector in order to enable the consumer secure supply of energy. Meanwhile, the decentralization process covers wide spectrum of obligations, rights and commitments for the local governments in the field of fiscal policy, urbanism, construction, education, etc., hence there is no reason why this group should not include obligations regarding rational energy use. Namely, the mayors and the municipality servants best know the terrain, the conditions, situation and available resources of a given local self-government unit and can be made operational in improving the energy performances. This approach also stimulates enhanced engagement by all relevant local actors and their constant awareness and inclusion into the efforts for rational energy use.

6.1 The findings at regional level

Regarding the sustainable use of energy the two bordering areas face similar problems and challenges:

- Lack of information at all levels in terms of energy efficiency;
- Lack of funds for investments in relation to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Sources;
- Coordination needed with public bodies on fostering the process of implementing energy efficiency measures at the local level;
- Need for infrastructure interventions in terms of central heating systems;
- Need to organize a good basis accurate data about energy efficiency, use, and storage consumption;
- Need for an extensive public awareness campaign for all strata of the population in connection with the implementation of energy efficiency measures;
- Potential for a wider regional cooperation between the two countries to exchange best practices and legislation level to conduct interventions at the local level;

6.2 Regional Platform for Action

The cooperation and exchanging of best experiences between the four regions shall increase their professional and financial opportunities toward the implementation of energy policies and the potential regional economic development. The action plans to surpass the reasons and challenges defined previously in the text are organised in tables of Matrix in order to have a clearer view of the individual tasks and obligations that the parties should take individually.

7. Matrix of regional action plan

Measures/Activities	Expected results	Indicators	Deadline	Implementer	Budget	
					Amount	Possible Source
GOAL 1: To establish a special joint municipal team for energy efficiency;						
-Decision to establish Special Joint Municipal Team on energy efficiency comprehending municipalities of Bitola, Pogradec, Korça and Kichevo -Establishing focal point (office) in Bitola	The team should function as a special unit in the frames of the cross regional collaboration	Team members Number of initiatives to improve regional energy portfolio	2015	Municipality of Bitola, Municipality of Pogradec, Municipality of Korça and Municipality of Kichevo	0 EUR	In the frames of the existing municipal expenditures;
GOAL 2: Increasing the number of joint projects regarding energy efficiency, renewables, sustainable use of energy & climate change mitigation						
-Specific responsibilities to monitor international and national calls on projects related to these topics (especially the SJMT);	- Strengthen energy portfolio (both regional and local) -Implemented EE measures in the municipalities - Prompt and active implementation of the national legislation and EU directives;	- Number of implemented projects in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources	2015	Municipality of Bitola, Municipality of Pogradec, Municipality of Korça and Municipality of Kichevo	0 EUR	In the frames of the existing municipal expenditures;
GOAL 3: Effective communication mechanism;						
- Establishing joint @-platform for communication, exchange of ideas, views and stands on current challenges and best practices	Prompt and effective joint communication and exchange of practices and experiences	- Number of meetings, shares and communication protocols;	2015	Municipality of Bitola, Municipality of Pogradec, Municipality of Korça and Municipality of Kichevo	100 EUR (Telecommunication costs)	EU IPA calls, GIZ ORF EE; own share;
GOAL 4: Effective communication mechanism (2);						
- Promoting open days of the municipalities and implementing over visits among all municipalities (joint meeting among EE sectors)	Prompt and effective joint communication and exchange of practices and experiences	- Number of meetings, shares and communication protocols;	2015	Municipality of Bitola, Municipality of Pogradec, Municipality of Korça and Municipality of Kichevo	500 EUR (Travel)	Own share;
GOAL 5: Effective communication mechanism;						

REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF ENERGY

Measures/Activities	Expected results	Indicators	Deadline	Implementer	Budget	
					Amount	Possible Source
- Delivering trainings for the rest of the municipal staff by the servants in charge for EE;	Increased awareness among the all staff in the municipalities for EE;	- Number of trainings;	2015	Municipality of Bitola, Municipality of Po-gradec, Municipality of Korça and Municipality of Kichevo;	500 EUR Extra hon-orarium for the EE servants)	EU IPA calls, own share; GIZ ORF EE;
GOAL 7: Joint visits to regional EE fairs;						
- SJMT visits to regional Fairs on EE (especially in regards to heating and cooling systems)	Awareness and knowledge about effective heating/cooling systems for schools and kindergartens;	- Number of visits; implemented measures;	2015 - 2017	Municipality of Bitola, Municipality of Po-gradec, Municipality of Korça and Municipality of Kichevo	2000 EUR (travel, accommodation, tickets)	GIZ ORF EE; own share; private sponsors;
GOAL 8: Joint meetings with central officials and stakeholders;						
- SJMT lobbying and soft pressuring over central officials for awareness and higher transfers regarding EE investments;	Prompt and effective sharing of ideas and lobbying for higher transfers;	- Number of meetings and amount of transfers;	2015 - 2018	Municipality of Bitola, Municipality of Po-gradec, Municipality of Korça and Municipality of Kichevo	200 EUR (travel to capitals)	Own share;
GOAL 9: Effective communication with private sector for fostering PPP (public – private partnership);						
- Establishing joint platform for communication with the private sector on acquainting and presenting possible investment opportunities for PPT;	Fostering the number of PPT and investments on EE and renewables in the municipalities;	- Number of meetings, shares and PPT contracts;	2015 - 2018	Municipality of Bitola, Municipality of Po-gradec, Municipality of Korça and Municipality of Kichevo	1000 EUR (visits, meetings)	EU IPA calls, GIZ ORF EE; own share;

8. Annex - Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding

Towards the implementation of the project:

“Initiative to enhance public dialogue on the sustainable use of energy”

in context of the IPA Cross-Border Programme Republic of Macedonia- Republic of Albania, 2007-2013 financed by the European Union

Between

the local institutions:

Municipality of Korca

St.28 Nentori, Korçë Albania

Municipality of Pogradec

Bulv. “Reshit Çollaku, Pogradec, Albania

Municipality of Bitola

Bulv. 1 May, No 61, Bitola, Macedonia

Municipality of Kicevo

St. Boris Kidrič, no 1, Macedonia

And

the two implementing organisations:

Academy of Political Studies

Rr.Donika Kastrioti, Nr.3, Tirana, Albania

Centre for Research and Policy Making

Blvd. AVNOJ.114-1/5,1000 Skopje, Macedonia

The named organisations are hereinafter referred to as, “the Parties”.

Preamble on the signing organisations

The project ‘Initiative to enhance public dialogue on the sustainable use of energy’ aims to increase cooperation between the municipalities of Albania and Macedonia, thus, contributes to improving the implementation of already planned targets in regards to sustainable use of energy as well as speed up the progress of the region to full membership in the European Union. The project aims to create the ground and conditions for effective use of energy at local level through increased understanding and cooperation among local government units, business community, public and other relevant stakeholders in bordering

areas of Korca, Pogradec, (Albania) and Bitola, Kicevo (Macedonia).

The program is financed by European Union under the IPA Cross-Border Programme Republic of Macedonia- Republic of Albania, 2007-2013, and implemented by Academy of Political Studies (APS) from Albania and the Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), from Macedonia.

The four municipalities, in accordance with Albanian law No. 8652, dated 31.7.2000, “On the organization and functioning of local government”, and Macedonian law of local government (OG29/2002), aim to provide a better governance, closer to citizens through the recognition of the existence of different identities and values of community, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of citizens enshrined in the Constitution or other laws, promoting effective community participation in local governance, etc.

The work of two organisation APS and CRPM, part of network of Schools of Political Studies, operating under the auspices of the Council of Europe, is dedicated to contributing to the formation of a new and democratic leadership in transition countries, primarily through training future generations of political, economic, social, and cultural leaders. Each organisation runs its own customized programs tailored to promoting democracy, human rights, and development in their national environments, as well as to bolstering regional cooperation among neighbouring countries in Southeast Europe.

The parties share joint objectives as:

- governance based on standards of transparency and public interests;
- promotion of community participation in local governance;
- sustainable social and economic development while creating equal opportunities for prosperity and free entrepreneurship;

Article 1

Purpose of the Memorandum

The main objective of this memorandum is to facilitate dialogue and cross-border cooperation in the area of energy efficiency. In particular the memorandum regulates cooperation between the Parties on:

- promotion of public dialogue among all stakeholders and civil society for sustainable use of energy in the cross border region;
- participation in activities organized within the Initiative to promote public dialogue on energy efficiency among different actors in the region, in order to discuss the situation and related needs;
- cooperation on drafting and implementation of a Local Action Platform for sustainable use of energy.

Article 2

The Approach of the Initiative

Parties agree to carry out the following concrete steps to implement this collaboration including:

- ASP and CRPM will engage four national experts to draft Local Action Platform for sustainable use of energy in the four regions and also a joint cross border regional Platform for Action; (the period November 2014 - June 2015);
- the suggestions and requirements of the municipalities discussed during the drafting of the Local Platform for Action will be essential part of these platforms; (the period November 2014 - June 2015);
- the Local Platform for Action will be formally submitted to the municipalities; (June 2015)
- the municipalities express the willingness on the implementation of the Local Platform for Action, by including it in the future strategies of the overall development of the area;
- coordination of public awareness campaigns and promotional materials to the general public;

Article 3

Openness of the Parties towards additional partners

The Parties invite all relevant international and national organisations to support the Initiative within their regional and local activities. In particular, partnership with relevant organisations representing the expertise of EU member countries is envisaged by the Initiative. In this context the Initiative can be joined by more relevant international and national organisations.

Article 4

Miscellaneous

This MoU will enter into force on the Parties' signatory date.

This MoU may be amended at any time upon the written consent of all the Parties.

The Parties agree that nothing in this MoU shall be construed as the creation of legally binding obligations between the Parties. Moreover, this MoU does not represent a commitment of funds. Any financial obligations related to the activities stipulated above, if any, will be set forth in separate written agreements, and subject to the availability of funds for such purposes.

With the intent to commit to the successful cooperation referring to the “Initiative to enhance public dialogue on the sustainable use of energy” in context of the IPA Cross-Border Programme Republic of Macedonia - Republic of Albania, 2007-2013, financed by the European Union, we, the representatives of the partner organisations are signing this MoU.

Municipality of Korca

St.28 Nentori, Korçë Albania

Ms. Benila Themeli

Municipality of Pogradec

Bulv. “Reshit Çollaku, Pogradec, Albania

Mr. Dritan Hamzallari

Municipality of Bitola

Bulv. 1 May, No 61, Bitola, Macedonia

Mr. Valentino Janakievski

Municipality of Kicevo

St. Boris Kidriç, no 1, Macedonia

Mr. Tino Aleksov

Academy of Political Studies

Rr.Donika Kastrioti, Nr.3, Tirana, Albania

Mr.Erjon Tase,

Centre for Research and Policy Making

Blvd. AVNOJ.114-1/5, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia

Mr. Zhidas Daskalovski

More information on
the project at
www.energija.asp.al



© 2015 Akademia e Studimeve Politike.
All rights reserved

Foto: Light Studio Agency
Layout: WebPhotoPro