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Co2mmunity Experiences in Latvia - the Case of the Municipality of Mārupe

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The Context

- Riga planning region (PP11) – a regional authority that represents the interests of 30 local municipalities, communicates with national ministries and agencies and disseminates good development practices or solutions in the region.
- In cooperation with the local municipality of Mārupe (sub-urban municipality with total population of *circa* 20,000) PP11 have established and provided guidance to a citizen-driven RENCOP, including implementation of a certain community energy pilot project associated with RENCOP activities.
- Given that the *community energy (CE)* approach is not well-known and used in practice in Latvia, the challenge was and still is to develop Mārupe renewable community energy project as a role model by making use of project infrastructure and other partners' experiences.
- A number of important stakeholders are either informed about about project activities in Latvia or directly involved in the implementation.



Current Legal and Institutional Framework

- At present there is no specific regulatory framework for energy cooperatives; an appropriate legal frame to set up a RENCOP is being developed by the Ministry of Economics.
- Our approach implies a trilateral “test and learn” cooperation between local residents, municipality and external consultants. In the long run, it will be the residents who assume most of the financial, technical and project implementation risks. Municipality / consultants will provide guidance and expertise.
- Experiences are being documented and will be included in the RENCOP roadmap and used as an important tool in our communication with national policy-makers.



Residents

Energy service company, energy consultants, municipality

Current Activities Implemented as Part of the Pilot Project in Mārupe

- Citizen - driven RENCOP was established in 2018, two pilot project sites selected, RENCOP stakeholders approached/ involved.
- A series of public RENCOP meetings and workshops have been held in Mārupe since then.
- Research study on technical, financial and legal potentials for the implementation of community energy projects in Latvia (3 types of projects, 3 development scenarios).
- Research study on existing situation in Mārupe municipality (detailed analysis of local energy energy sources, use of renewable energy, efficiency indicators).



Current Activities Implemented as Part of RENCOP pilot Project in Mārupe (continued)

- Two community energy pilot projects in Mārupe, including technical solution, one in a multi-storey residential building, the other involves five families in semi-detached houses.
- Both pilot project imply installation of rooftop solar collectors and / or solar panels in cooperation with local residents.
- Data monitoring and real-time imaging of the performance indicators on the website of the municipality.
- Short film on RE / CE energy / climate change mitigation projects in the BSR to popularize RE/CE approach and demonstrate the benefits that can be gained from the use of RE.
- *The Mārupe story* or the description of experiences and feedback /recommendations to the national policy makers.



Outlook – Taking Co2mmunity Outputs to New Horizons

- A series of new activities already identified
- Strengthening co-operation with Co2mmunity partners from Schleswig-Holstein.
- Strengthening co-operation with national energy policy makers – the Ministry of Economics and the Ministry of Env Protection and Reg Devt
- Disseminate Co2mmunity experiences among other municipalities.
- Engage in new international cooperation project as the new EU funds programming period starts.
- And why not doing it again, this time as part of *Energize Co2mmunity*?



Contact

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