



Climate Action Connecting Europe

The European Climate Initiative (EUKI)
of the Federal Environment Ministry

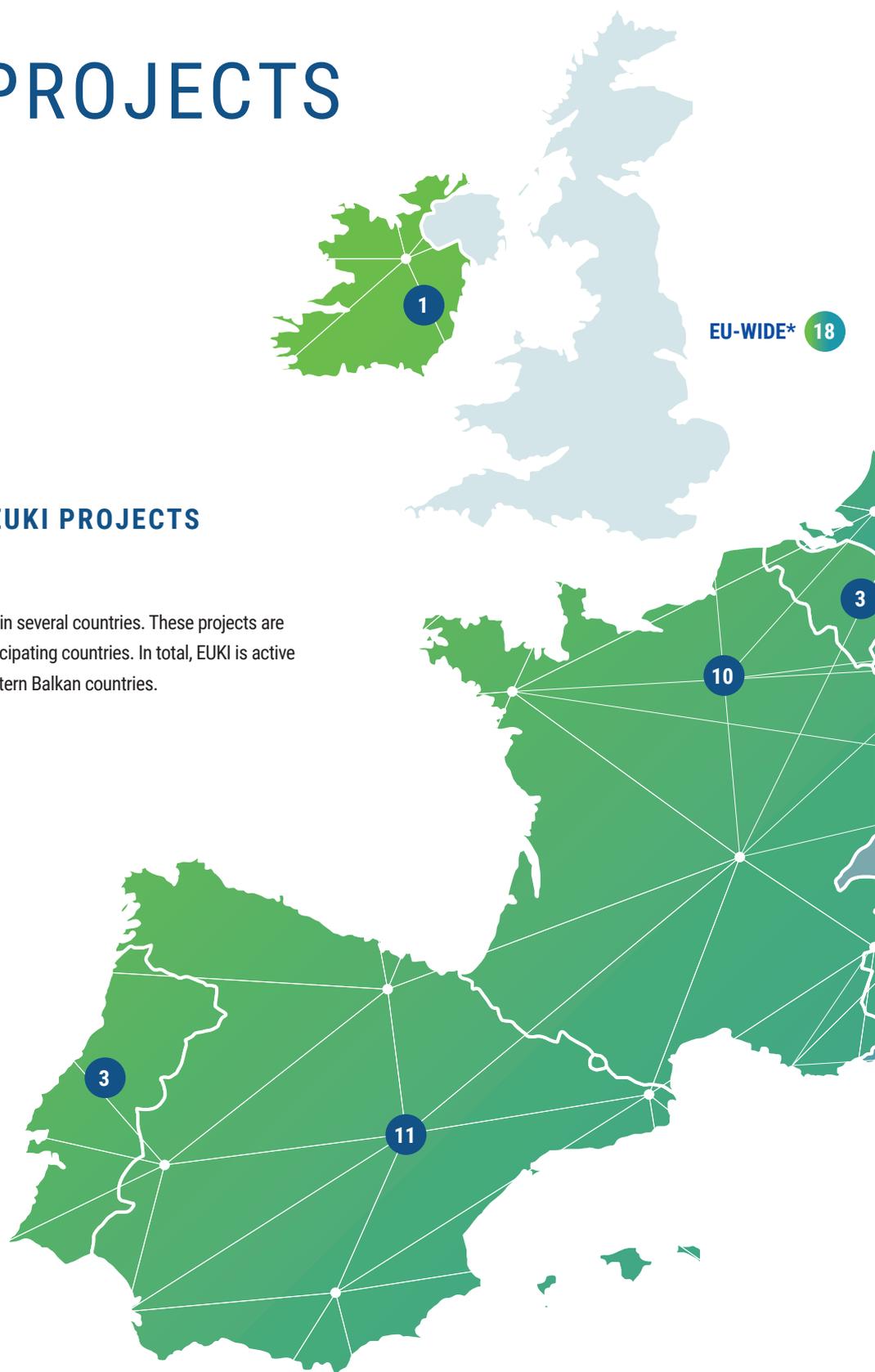


European
Climate Initiative
EUKI

EUKI – PROJECTS

TOTAL NUMBER OF EUKI PROJECTS PER COUNTRY

The majority of EUKI projects operate in several countries. These projects are shown on the map in each of the participating countries. In total, EUKI is active in 25 EU member states and four Western Balkan countries.



● Number of projects in EU member states

● Number of projects in non-EU member states and in EU candidate countries

*Projects address all EU member states and/or EU institutions

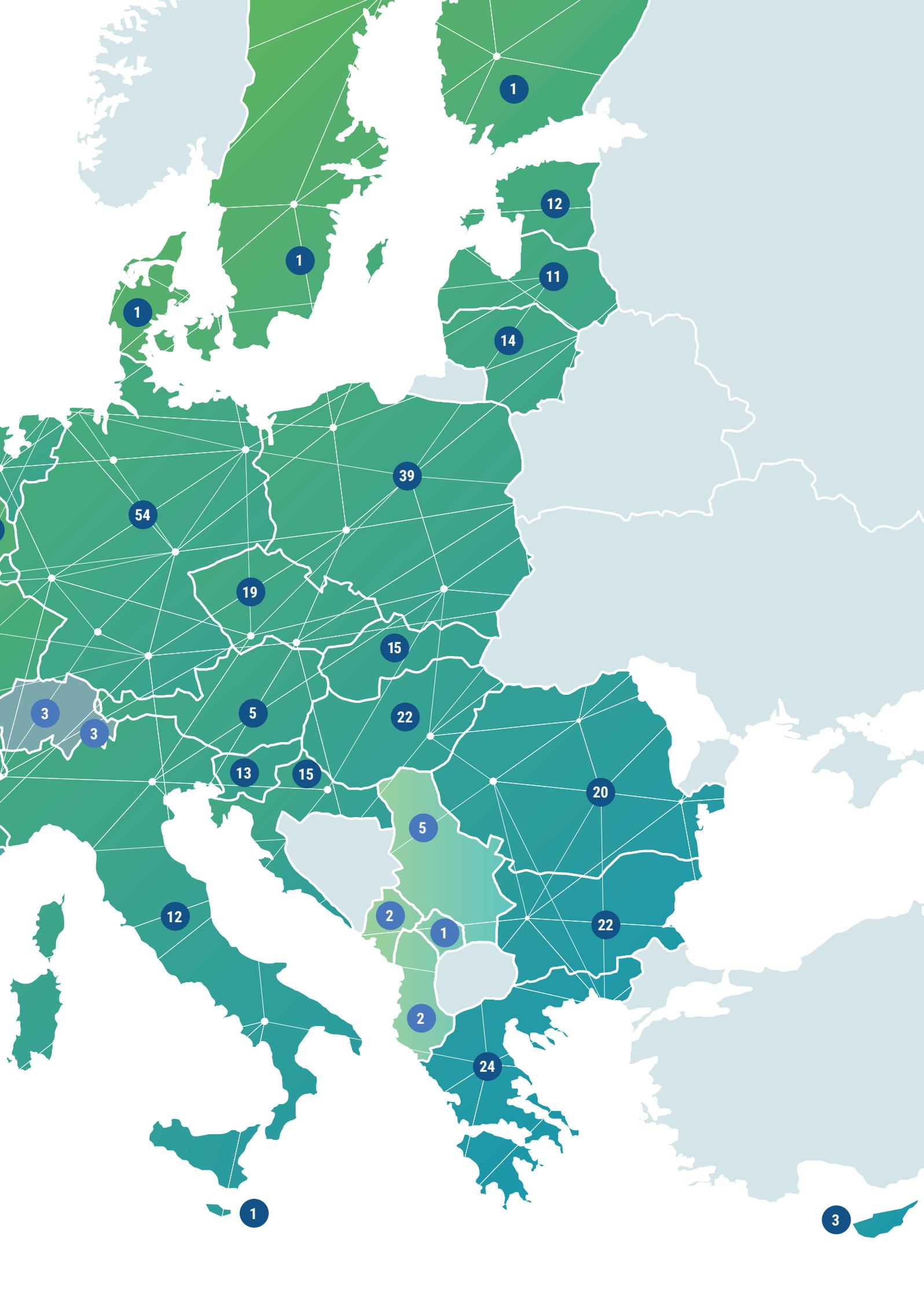




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EUKI CONNECTS EUROPE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

THE EU HAS SET ITSELF AMBITIOUS CLIMATE GOALS. ONLY BY WORKING TOGETHER CAN EUROPE DEVELOP SUCCESSFUL SOLUTIONS TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE.

The EU aims to be climate-neutral by 2050 and the European Green Deal is the EU's roadmap for this joint endeavour. It highlights Europe's stance: rather than being a burden, climate action offers an opportunity for economic development and social responsibility. Indeed, climate initiatives can also create jobs in new sectors, reduce electricity and heating costs in the long term, improve air quality in cities and have an overall positive impact on health and the environment. In order to leverage these opportunities and work together to bring about effective change across national borders, the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) funds climate action projects, striving to develop solutions to the global climate crisis.

Successful climate action requires a joint effort, involving politicians, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the education and science sectors, industry and its

workforce, and citizens throughout Europe. After all, climate action is not something that can be prescribed by government legislation. It requires a commitment by each and every individual. Climate actors must be driven by conviction and behaviour change to protect the environment not just in shopping habits and transport choices, for example, but in investment decisions too.



The fact that people have the same goals – namely to support climate action and get a handle on the negative impacts of the climate crisis – and wish to work together above and beyond country and project boundaries to achieve these goals, is testament to the true strength of the European vision.

STEFAN BUNDSCHERER,
Director of the European Climate Initiative Financing Programme



STEFAN BUNDSCHERER,
Director of the European Climate Initiative Financing Programme



I see the great strides we have made in the climate action sector, not just in discussions with local initiatives but also in cooperation measures with colleagues from other EU member states. Gone are the days when Europeans believed climate ambition was split into an Eastern and Western European camp. Climate action has clearly become a joint project for all EU states. Of course, difficult discussions lie ahead but there is now agreement on the necessity of climate ambition.

DR. SILKE KARCHER, Head of Division IK II 5 EU Climate and Energy Policy, European Climate Initiative, Carbon Markets, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



DR. SILKE KARCHER
Head of Division,
Federal Environment Ministry

From the beginning, EUKI has set out to combine European integration with climate action and to build networks of those offering climate solutions at the local level.

In recent years, the initiative has strived to connect climate actors at the national, municipal, civil society, economic and education policy level, thereby ensuring that their efforts to stress the importance of climate action and the opportunities it presents, find a wider audience, including at the local level.

News has spread that this strategy is successful. In March 2019, Chancellor Angela Merkel presented EUKI in a video podcast, underlining the degree to which it supports the EU's climate goals. Chancellor Merkel also spoke about the importance of the role played by EUKI, stating that climate action can only be addressed together, across the EU as a whole, and that suitable measures must be developed at this level too. The number of exciting project outlines submitted via the EUKI online platform in response to calls for project ideas has increased exponentially since the launch

of EUKI: from a modest enough 65 in 2017, to 85 in 2018 and 114 in 2019. In 2020, an astonishing 171 applications were made. After submission, the outlines are viewed and assessed on the basis of previously published criteria. Applicants with promising project ideas are then asked to develop and submit a full project proposal. Between 2017 and 2020, 93 projects were funded on this basis. In a separate procedure, the German Federal Environment Ministry (BMU) also funds projects and grants that support specific priorities stipulated by the Federal Government or bilateral agreements with partner countries. 35 such projects were funded between 2017 and 2020.

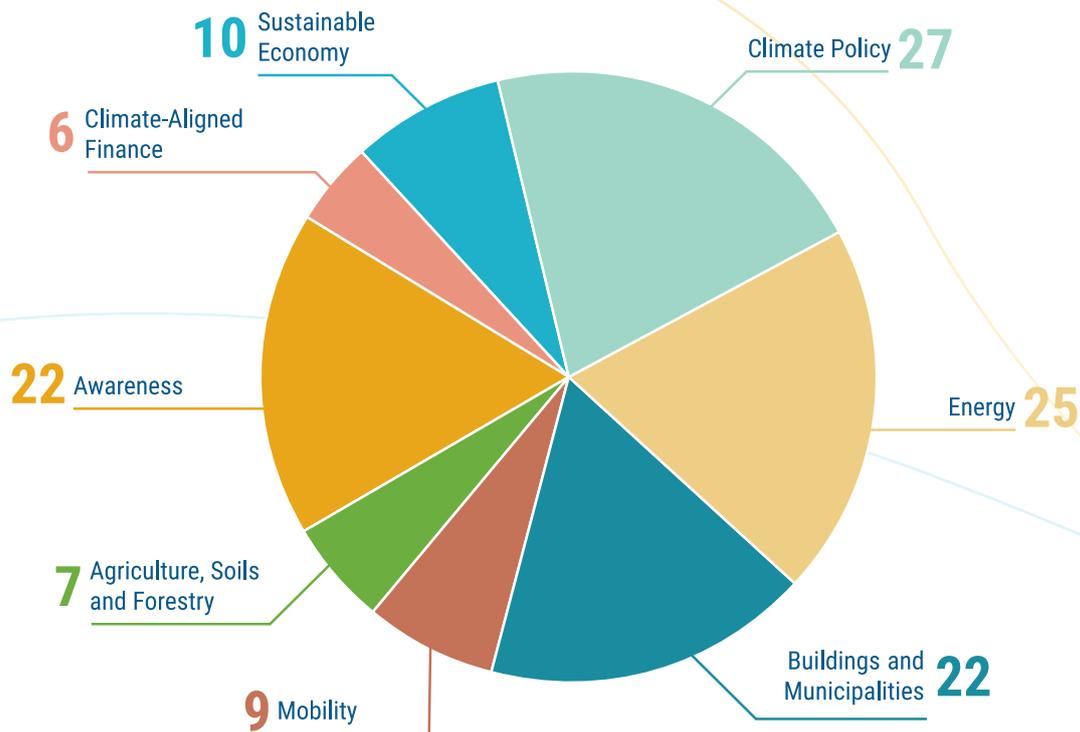
EUKI usually publishes its call for project ideas once a year. The EUKI Secretariat is responsible for organising this initiative.
European Climate Initiative (EUKI) – Financing Programme
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EUKI projects are broken down into the following eight core areas: Climate Policy; Energy; Buildings and Municipalities; Mobility; Agriculture, Soils and Forestry; Awareness; Climate-Aligned Finance; and Sustainable Economy.

THE EIGHT CORE AREAS AND THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS FUNDED



Overall number of all EUKI projects 2017 – 2020: 128

» The issues are as diverse as Europeans themselves and range from climate action in schools in Athens and electromobility in Poland, to energy-saving teams among trainees in Romania.

STEFAN BUNDSCHERER, Director of the European Climate Initiative Financing Programme

In the first two years of the initiative (2017 and 2018), EUKI launched 64 projects. In 2019 and 2020, another 64 were funded, some of which followed on from particularly promising projects in the previous years. The projects work on specific, transboundary solutions for climate change mitigation, at both the local and regional level. All parties involved form the broad, joint basis for supporting European climate policy.

EUKI focuses on countries in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe and on the Baltic states with a view to leveraging the potential they offer for climate action and supporting the commitment of the local population. Around 190 municipalities participate in EUKI activities throughout Europe. During the reporting period, teams from 240 institutions in 30 countries worked on climate projects such as EnPover, which assists municipalities in Germany, Poland and Hungary in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions produced by private households. It also implements energy-saving measures to enable low-income households to pay for their energy needs.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EUKI

EUKI WORKS ON CREATING AWARENESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN EU COUNTRIES AND EXPANDING THE KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION.

EUKI aims to step up European cooperation in the area of climate action, thereby strengthening European integration. By exchanging knowledge about the causes and effects of climate change, people throughout Europe can develop an awareness of the challenges to be overcome and find innovative solutions to the most pressing issues. What impact does economic activity and our lifestyle have on global warming? What opportunities do we have to counteract rising temperatures caused by human activity? Which technical, social or economic approaches and ideas have already proven effective and can be applied to other areas?

Every day, we see how lessons learned and good practices are exchanged via EUKI. From one project to another, one country to the next. In Germany's Ruhr region, for example, the experience gained using an energy-efficient urban district planning approach in a former working-class area proved positive. The Polish municipality of Sztum used this approach to launch its own programme, which has in turn inspired its German partner municipality of Ritterhude to take action too.

SARAH HEFT, Federal Environment Ministry

What does this mean in concrete terms? As part of EUKI's BEACON project, for example, municipalities that have forged close ties in a twinning initiative exchange information on successful approaches to energy-efficient urban district planning. In addition to the diverse project activities that drive this 'mutual learning' approach, EUKI has also set up a cross-project network known as the EUKI Community. Through their projects, staff at all levels of governmental and non-governmental organisations participate in climate action measures, exchanging information on the methods they use, and the lessons learned. The EUKI Community not only ensures that ideas successfully tested in one part of Europe are applied in others, it also strengthens cohesion among climate policy actors throughout Europe, across national borders.

EUKI connects European NGOs that work on climate action in a unique way. A wonderful community has emerged, and many personal contacts have been forged. The community members are equal partners, learning from and with each other.

ULRIKE LEIS, Deputy Director of the European Climate Initiative Financing Programme

www.euki.de/en

 [@EUKI_Climate](https://twitter.com/EUKI_Climate)

 [@EUKIClimate](https://www.facebook.com/EUKIClimate)

THE EUKI ACADEMY

Through its Academy, EUKI also assists participating organisations by offering various further training measures and organising forums to step up technical dialogue. The Academy offers a wide range of online and live events about specialist topics and project implementation methodologies. These measures are supported by information and networking measures on EUKI's website and social media channels.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE RIGHT SKILLS ARE REQUIRED IF CLIMATE ACTION MEASURES ARE TO BE SUCCESSFUL. EUKI SUPPORTS ITS COMMUNITY THROUGH A BROAD TRAINING PROGRAMME.

A project can only make a sustainable contribution to climate action if it is professionally planned and implemented. The EUKI Academy aims to boost the effectiveness of project implementation and strengthen the institutional capacities of implementing organisations. To this end, it offers further training in project planning and management, public relations and financial and contract management. For example, participants learn how to effectively collaborate virtually during the coronavirus pandemic and use social media to raise the profile of their projects. They also acquire the legal, financial and technical competences that are essential for ensuring tax revenue transparency.

» We established a European climate academy because sound technical, methodological and commercial skills are required if ideas are to blossom into specific initiatives.

BENJAMIN STRUSS, EUKI Academy

The annual highlight of the Academy's networking activities is the EUKI Networking Conference. Representatives of all projects convene here to exchange information on good practices. At this two-day event, the projects themselves stage a majority of the workshops for each other in order to share knowledge and experience. The exchange of lessons learned is supplemented by brief presentations by government representatives and academics, which provide a basis for further discussion. EUKI continued its networking activities throughout the pandemic in 2020, replacing the conference – which had to be cancelled at short notice – with a variety of remote measures. Individual technical sessions on the European Green Deal, for example, were run as online seminars. Inter-project networking was supported by 'lunch lotteries', where small, randomly selected groups of climate actors met virtually during their lunch break to provide an update on their projects and the key activities. These encounters helped forge new relationships and sowed the seeds for new project ideas to help progress climate action in Europe.

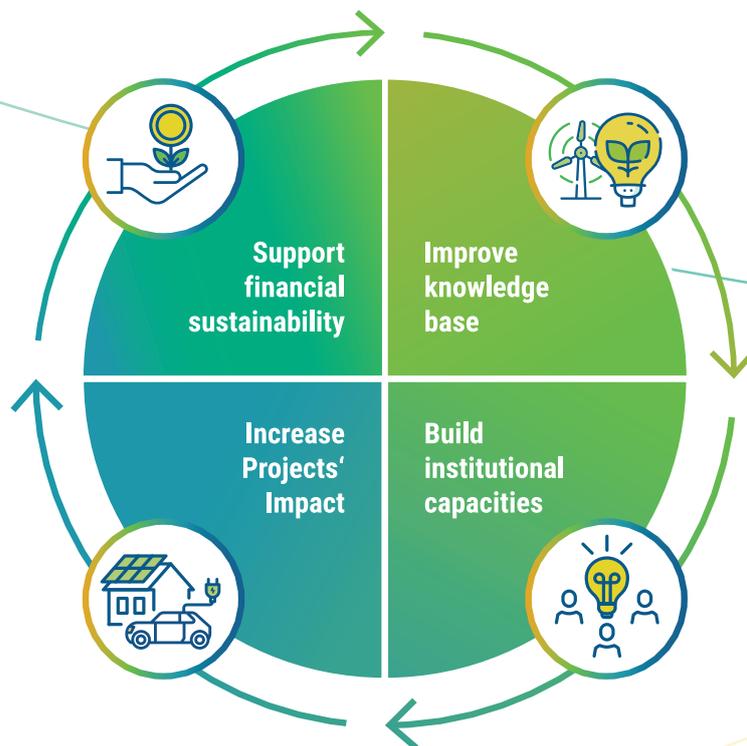
» Over the past four years we have provided further training for climate actors from throughout Europe, upskilling them and their institutions – some of which are very small – to access additional funding. Without EUKI, they would not be able to acquire this expertise.

LYSANN STURZEBECKER, Federal Environment Ministry

In 2020, national networking events were also organised for the first time in selected EUKI priority countries. All EUKI implementing organisations from the respective countries convened here. It was evident that networking between the environmental NGOs in some countries needed to be developed further. The technical and methodological dialogue at these events was regarded as valuable and gave rise to ideas for closer collaboration going forward. EUKI also uses its website and social media (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) to update the community and other interested parties on project progress and other activities throughout Europe.

The sustainable success of many climate projects depends, among other things, on the degree to which they can secure long-term funding. The EU has a well-developed support landscape that can be accessed by both governmental and non-governmental organisations. Within its community, EUKI promotes the development of the expertise required to successfully implement EU-funded large-scale projects with the goal to establish long-term climate actors at the local level in Europe. In this way, EUKI builds a bridge to other EU funding programmes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EUKI ACADEMY



Through EUKI, we want to link up dialogue within Europe with climate initiatives and support grassroots initiatives that open up easily accessible climate action measures. These initiatives are frequently small scale and lack the resources required to be able to spend days working on applications that are required for large projects. We can achieve a great deal here.

DR. SILKE KARCHER, Head of Division, Federal Environment Ministry



SUCCESS STORIES

CLIMATE-NEUTRAL ISLAND OF KRK

For many years now, the Croatian island of Krk has primarily used coal-fired and hydropower plants to generate electricity, despite the region having optimal conditions for solar energy, which could be used to generate power in a more climate-friendly manner. Since the project started in early 2019, the project partners – the environmental NGO Eko Kvarner, the Krk municipality and the European Asbestos Risk Association (EARA) – have trained 22 citizens to become certified solar technicians, who have installed 63 photovoltaic systems on roofs of private houses. These systems now produce 1,300 MWh of electricity per annum. And this figure is set to increase, giving rise to the next big task – the creation of a smart electricity grid that can handle several small energy producers. A positive side effect of the installation of solar systems has resulted from the involvement of EARA, which has assisted in the removal of asbestos from roofs. Inhabitants have so far been able to dispose of 100 kg of the toxic material.

CLIMATE ACTION NEEDS COMMUNICATION

Public support is vital to the success of climate policy. The Accelerating the Energy Transformation of Central and Eastern Europe project has therefore run large-scale PR campaigns to place the issue on the agenda of local decision-makers. Activities were supported

by the most influential media companies in the seven Central and Eastern European countries involved. In just two-and-a-half years – from 2017 to the end of 2019 – the number of articles on energy transformation rose from a handful to more than 900 a month. One particular success chalked up by the project was the interviews it organised during the COP24 Conference in Katowice for journalists in Poland's coal mining region. Media coverage of the interviews played a key role in focusing public debate on social equity being crucial to the successful phase-out of fossil fuels.

FORUM OF MAYORS

The Forum of Mayors provides a platform for mayors from 58 municipalities in Polish, Bulgarian, Greek and German coal-mining regions who now wish to undertake structural changes. The Forum was established as part of the EUKI project Just Transition Eastern and Southern Europe and was launched by WWF Germany. In 2019, the Forum addressed – for the second time – the difficulties, opportunities and implementation options posed by socially just structural change in European coal-mining regions. The mayors in these regions face the challenge of having to restructure their cities in the post-coal era, seeking solutions in the areas of sport and culture, for example. At one of the meetings, the German Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze underlined the importance of cooperation at local, regional, national and European level.



CLIMATE SCHOOLS

The reach of the Fridays For Future movement has shown the degree to which young people now value climate action. In the Climate Schools Be.At project, this dynamic was further developed into concrete learning packages for schools. Between 2017 and 2020, the project trained 240 teachers from 72 primary and secondary schools in Athens, resulting in a climate action plan that the city can now use in all of its schools. At each of the participating schools, trainers and pupils worked on developing learning materials and educational guidelines that can be used to develop local and simple climate solutions. All of the project results were published on a website that other pupils can use as an online toolkit for their own climate activities.

PALUDICULTURE IN THE BALTIC STATES

Märgalaviļjelus, Paludikultūru, Pelkininkystē and paludiculture are the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and English terms for a practice that plays a huge role in climate change mitigation in Europe. Paludiculture is the low-emission use of wet peatlands – i.e. land that is not artificially drained – for agricultural and forestry purposes. Between 2017 and 2020, the project disseminated this practice in Baltic countries. For each of the countries involved, it has published a brochure and completed a feasibility study that resulted in locations

for pilot projects being identified throughout the region. 177 people from administrations, NGOs and scientific institutions participated in eight networking events. Publication of three position papers and of a legal synthesis report has also contributed to each of the Baltic countries now officially recognising paludiculture as a means of reducing greenhouse gases.

REDUCTION OF EMISSIONS IN THE BUILDINGS AND TRANSPORT SECTORS

The buildings and transport sectors both particularly struggle to reduce the harmful emissions that contribute to climate change throughout Europe. Some EU countries have already developed effective approaches to reduce emissions. These approaches need to be adapted to local, economic and social conditions if they are to be successfully applied in Central and Eastern European countries. The CEE Climate Policy Frontier project implemented this process of comparison and adaptation from 2018 to 2020. At five events in three countries, examples from the field were presented and discussed together with more than 100 representatives from public administration, research institutions, civil society and the private sector from six Central and Eastern European countries. The project also published four studies that describe successful models and evaluate their transferability to other countries.



CLIMATE POLICY

At the end of 2019, the European Union decided to become climate-neutral by 2050, i.e. to strike a balance between greenhouse gas emissions and the extraction of CO₂ from the atmosphere, for example by trees. In 2020, the EU also raised the intermediate target for 2030: at least 55 percent of greenhouse gas emissions are to be reduced compared to 1990. These are ambitious goals! Everyone has to contribute and help achieve this transformation across borders and sectors, from the national level via the regions to the municipalities and civil society. This is precisely where the EUKI projects on climate policy come into play: they bring together people from politics, science and civil society. Some projects build networks so their members may directly interact with each other, while others provide information on good practices. In any case, EUKI shows that civil society actors in the EU member states are highly committed to advancing climate action.





THINK2030 CONFERENCE

Duration: March 2020 – December 2020

Implementer and Partner(s): Ecologic Institute gGmbH | Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) | TMG Research gGmbH | IDDRI | SEI

Countries: EU-wide

The virtual THINK2030 conference addressed people in the fields of politics, research, science and business as well as members of civil society. It brought together climate action and environmental think tanks from all over Europe to discuss climate change as well as options and solutions in the EU member states. The key recommendations laid out in the THINK2030 policy papers and the results of the Green Deal survey have been summarised in the “30x30 Actions for a Sustainable Europe.”

IMPETUS TO THE DEBATE ON THE EU LONG-TERM STRATEGY A CLEAN PLANET FOR ALL

Duration: June 2019 – February 2020

Implementer and Partner(s): Germanwatch e.V.

Countries: EU-wide

Even though climate change and its consequences are omnipresent topics in the German public discourse, people are less familiar with the European Commission’s proposed solutions. The project raised awareness of the EU long-term strategy (EU LTS) “A Clean Planet for All”, thus pushing the public debate. It put special focus on the German EU Presidency, the Paris Agreement and the role the EU plays in climate action. The project also prompted business actors to address scenarios laid out by the European Commission.

CACTUS – CONSOLIDATING AMBITIOUS CLIMATE TARGETS WITH END-USE SUFFICIENCY

Duration: July 2020 – March 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): négaWatt | REKK Foundation | Lithuanian Energy Institute (LEI) | Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI

Countries: Hungary, Lithuania

Using as little energy as efficiently as possible and above all from renewable energy sources is part of an effective decarbonisation strategy. The CACTUS project focuses on technical dialogue and capacity building to sensitise experts and policy-makers to energy sufficiency and its integration into climate action and energy strategies in Central and Eastern Europe. The participants in Hungary and Lithuania assess the results in terms of their applicability in local energy transition processes in the transport and building sectors and provide them to decision-makers.



EU CLIMATE ACTION DIALOGUE

Duration: October 2020 – December 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Ecologic Institute gGmbH | WiseEuropa | SEI Tallinn | AMO – Association for International Affairs | GlobalFocus Center | Energy Policy Group (EPG) | Jožef Stefan Institute

Countries: Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Romania, Slovenia

The project contributes two formats to the EU's goal to become climate-neutral by 2050: "Future of Europe" brings together leading think tanks from eight EU member states. They monitor national debates on climate action and promote dialogue on climate policy between national and European actors. "Climate Recon 2050" links experts from several national government institutions and develops formats for capacity building and knowledge exchange.

IMPROVED SUSTAINABILITY CORPORATE DISCLOSURE POLICIES

Duration: October 2019 – September 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): Frank Bold Society | Frank Bold Society Poland

Countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain

The criteria for sustainable investment must be transparent to foster a climate-neutral economy. To this end, transparent and comparable sustainability reports by companies are of particular importance. The project analyses the needs of the private sector in the context of the CSR Directive 2014/95/EU and formulates recommendations at national and EU levels to align future sustainability reporting to such needs and to promote sustainable investments.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR AMBITIOUS LONG-TERM STRATEGIES

Duration: November 2019 – December 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

Countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia

Interview: Kasia Ugryn, Network Development Coordinator, Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

PROJECT INTERVIEW

Your project intends to improve the quality of long-term strategies (LTS). What is included in these strategies and what are their goals?

The EU wants to be climate-neutral by 2050. This European long-term climate goal needs to be translated into national long-term strategies that define how the respective country will reduce its GHG emissions. This includes measures to reduce certain industries' emissions, but also ideas on how to encourage citizens to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

The project emphasises the role of civil society organisations in developing LTS. How does your project support them?

We help to communicate the view of civil society on national long-term strategies to various national decision-makers as well as to the European Commission. There has been a lot of interest in the civil society perspective, as it helps decision-makers to work together in making the strategies more ambitious. Furthermore, our project regularly organises discussion events and workshops where politicians, representatives from civil society organisations and academics come together and exchange their views on national long-term strategies and on how to best move forward. Together with climate experts and NGO representatives, we at the Climate Action Network (CAN) have also developed an assessment method that allows a structured analysis and comparison of the strategies produced in the individual member states.

From your experience in the project: what needs to happen to reach ambitious long-term climate goals?

We need to strengthen and increase the dialogue and exchange between political actors and broader civil society as well as youth movements. The more we talk with these different groups, the more we understand how to develop a strategy for long-term climate goals that have the support of the entire society.



KASIA UGRYN
Network Development Coordinator,
Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

» We need to strengthen and expand dialogue and exchange between politics and civil society groups, including youth movements.





ENERGY

If the EU is to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, it has to drastically reduce its energy consumption and swiftly expand renewable energies. Sector coupling and flexibilisation, i.e. an energy use that links electricity, heat, mobility and industrial processes with one another, are increasingly coming into focus to adapt the energy system to future challenges.

EUKI addresses several areas with its projects. Among other things, it supports projects that contribute to the development of strategies for a coal phase-out and structural change by offering dialogue formats and concepts. EUKI projects promote energy efficiency measures in various sectors and offer guidance to end consumers investing in renewable energy systems. EUKI promotes exchange between think tanks and institutes to facilitate the electrification of transport. EUKI projects link actors in the energy sector, they communicate the benefits and challenges of energy transition and provide practical examples to illustrate how renewable energies and energy efficiency can contribute to the environment, climate and health.





BIO SCREEN CEE

Duration: September 2020 – August 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Energy Agency of Plovdiv (EAP) | WWF Hungary | WWF Danube-Carpathian Program Bulgaria | WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme Romania | REKK Foundation

Countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

In many Central and Eastern European regions coal still is the primary source for heat and power generation. As a result of the coal phase-out, many residents turn to raw firewood as heating material. This has serious implications for the forests in these regions. The project collects data on energy use in the participating countries. Criteria and recommendations for the sustainable use of biomass are developed on the basis of the data obtained.

JUST TRANSITION LAB

Duration: October 2020 – September 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Polish Green Network | Lusatian Perspectives e.V. | Let's Change Konin Association | Ecologic Institute gGmbH

Countries: Germany, Poland

It is important to structure the energy transition process in coal-mining regions in a participatory and inclusive manner. The project sets up citizens' forums in Polish and German municipalities so participants may jointly develop solutions to suit the specific needs of their communities. Furthermore, there are regular workshops for local politicians, entrepreneurs, miners, NGOs and members of civil society.

RENALDO – RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Duration: October 2020 – January 2023

Implementer and Partner(s): Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Stiftung 100 Prozent erneuerbar | Activus Foundation | KPODR

Countries: Poland

This project supports the expansion of renewable energies by piloting renewable energy cooperatives in rural areas, and it promotes better regulatory frameworks to proliferate such cooperatives. To this end, the project team prepares a guide for establishing and operating energy cooperatives which includes experience gained in other EUKI projects. A total of six energy cooperatives will be set up in Podlaskie and Kujawsko-Pomorskie and are to demonstrate to the general public that the use of renewable energies is not only feasible locally but is also beneficial to society, the economy and the climate. The project is mainly funded by the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP, now Technical Support Instrument, TSI) of the EU Commission and co-financed by EUKI.



LOW-CARBON INVESTMENT IN BUDAPEST

Duration: November 2020 – January 2023

Implementer and Partner(s): Municipality of Budapest | Óbuda University | Hungarian Solar Energy Association | Agora Energiewende

Countries: Germany, Hungary

Hungary offers great potential for the use of solar energy. Its share in the energy mix can be significantly increased: in the capital Budapest, the share of renewables amounts to just four percent of the electricity supply. To remedy this imbalance, the project examines what legal, technical and financial obstacles are currently preventing the expansion of an urban solar grid. Moreover, workshops and consultations are offered to citizens and businesses looking for information on the possibility of installing solar systems.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY NETWORK

Duration: September 2020 – November 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Czech Technical University in Prague | The Association of Energy Service Providers (APES) | OTH Amberg-Weiden – Technical University of Applied Sciences

Countries: Czech Republic, Germany

The project builds a German-Czech network of experts to share their expertise on energy conservation and climate policy measures with consultants in the energy sector. The project is focused on energy performance contracting and a network-approach that has proven successful in Germany. This business model enables energy efficiency and cost savings in public buildings, thus making a significant contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.





ENERGY TRANSFORMATION DEBATE IN CEE

Duration: February 2020 – July 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): CEE Bankwatch Network | Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. | E3G – Third Generation Environmentalism

Countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia

Interview: Alexandru Mustăță, Just Transition Coordinator, Bankwatch, Romania

PROJECT INTERVIEW

What is it you do in your project?

We are trying to integrate the concept of energy transformation into the context of Central and Eastern European realities. First of all, this means acknowledging that both the political and public narrative on energy transformation is different in the Central and Eastern European region than it is in Western European countries. Something you hear quite often is “it is too expensive for us”, or, “how can you speak about smart grids when we have thousands of people living in energy poverty in Bulgaria, in Romania, in Hungary?” To positions like this, we respond that the answer lies precisely in energy transformation: in that way you increase efficiency, thus making energy cheaper and reducing energy poverty.

We try to show both citizens and politicians that energy transformation is something that is within reach and affordable – even more affordable than keeping state-aided and outdated technologies, such as coal, artificially alive. We highlight the positive aspects of energy transformation and emphasise that energy transformation can be a gradual change that leaves no one behind and makes society better – not only in terms of climate but also in terms of jobs and standard of living.

You mention that in your focus countries, many people see energy transformation as a problem, rather than an opportunity. This is also happening in other European regions – what can the EUKI Community learn from you?

The most important thing is to meet and talk in person with the people who are directly affected by the coal phase-out, and to include those in the conversation who are traditionally not part of the decision-making processes led by national capitals and Brussels. For example, we organised a conference together with the coal trade unions in Bulgaria. Of course, ours is not an easy relationship, and certainly, there are tensions between us. But the only way to find solutions is together with the people living in these regions – and they have every right to be afraid of this transition, considering that this region has experienced many unfortunate transitions throughout the past decades. However, we do need to find common ground with them, no matter how small it may be. We are happy to see that slowly but surely acceptance is increasing, and dialogue is becoming easier.



ALEXANDRU MUSTĂȚĂ
Just Transition Coordinator, Bankwatch

» We are trying to make it clear that the energy transition is possible and affordable - and it is even cheaper than keeping outdated technologies, such as coal, artificially alive with state funding.



ALLEVIATING ENERGY POVERTY IN ROMANIA

Duration: November 2019 – April 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca | adelphi research gGmbH | Municipality of Cluj-Napoca

Countries: Romania

Energy poverty is a major challenge in the Romanian region of Cluj-Napoca. The project supported the development of a strategy to mitigate energy poverty in that region. The project team collected data on the correlation between energy poverty and energy consumption and provided such data to local decision-makers. They thus have a proper basis for their decisions on measures to mitigate energy poverty.

CLIMATE ACTION ZLATIBOR

Duration: October 2020 – January 2023

Implementer and Partner(s): Regional Energy Agency North | RDA Zlatibor

Countries: Croatia, Serbia

To implement energy transition and climate action in practice, it is essential to provide the necessary capacities at a local level. The project establishes a competence centre in the Serbian administrative district of Zlatibor to transfer knowledge on climate change to public sector employees. The project thus lays the basis for the development of a regional climate strategy. The regional Croatian energy authority REA Sjever assists the project in setting up the centre and offers advice based on its own practical experience.





ECOISM – ENERGY COMMUNITIES ON GREEK ISLANDS

Duration: October 2019 – March 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): Network of Sustainable Greek Islands (DAFNI) | National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) | nexus Institute

Countries: Greece

On many Greek islands power is mainly supplied by diesel generators. As these generators contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, a transition to renewable energy is urgently needed. Energy communities can organise their energy transition locally in a citizen-oriented manner. ECOISM promoted the establishment and management of energy communities on the Greek islands. The project paid particular attention to involving citizens in the planning and decision-making processes.

EMPOWERCLIMATE

Duration: July 2020 – June 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): PORSENNA o.p.s. | Association of Local Energy Managers (SEMMO) | IKEM - Institute for Climate Protection, Energy and Mobility | CITENERGO

Countries: Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia

Efficient energy management in municipal buildings greatly reduces greenhouse gas emissions. EmpowerClimate supports six municipalities in Slovakia and the Czech Republic in developing and implementing energy management systems. The project expects each of the participating municipalities to be able to reduce its energy consumption by five percent in the next few years.

COORDINATION CAPACITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Duration: October 2019 – March 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Friends of the Earth – CEPA | ENERGIACLUB

Countries: Slovakia

Implementing a sustainable regional energy policy can only be successful if it is supported by both local politics and civil society. Pilot Sustainable Energy Centres (SECs) were established in several structurally disadvantaged regions in Slovakia to serve as coordination forums. These forums provide further training to local politicians and educators and offer study trips. In addition, the general public is informed about sustainable energy options through exhibitions and lectures.



BUILDINGS AND MUNICIPALITIES

Buildings are responsible for 40 percent of energy consumption and 36 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union. Thus, there is huge potential for reducing emissions, thereby making a significant contribution to achieving the 2030 climate target. Both the European Green Deal and the European Recovery Plan call for the pace and quality of energy-saving retrofits to increase in order to significantly reduce the environmentally harmful emissions of the existing building stock. Cities and municipalities are increasingly becoming hubs of new ideas and new techniques to mitigate climate change. EUKI brings together municipalities and cities working on future solutions in various fields such as energy management, vegetation on roofs or solar energy systems.





MITIGATING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN HERITAGE BUILDINGS

Duration: September 2020 – September 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Sendzimir Foundation | Croatia Green Building Council (CGBC)

Countries: Croatia, Poland

A large number of old buildings in Europe have very low energy efficiency standards. The project provides representatives of cities, architects and engineers from Croatia and Poland with the necessary knowledge for a deep energy retrofit of historic buildings. This is the basis for a sustainable and energy-efficient transformation of historic city districts. The aim is to build an interdisciplinary network of energy efficiency experts in the long term.

ESCT 2020 – 9TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND TOWNS

Duration: August 2020 – December 2020

Implementer and Partner(s): City of Mannheim | ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Countries: Germany

In 2020 the 9th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns took place in Mannheim and simultaneously virtually. It brought together regions, municipalities, cities and people that are committed to and working in these areas. The conference provided a platform for participants to jointly define what a climate-neutral city should be like and develop appropriate measures to achieve that goal. The key question was how society can be transformed towards climate neutrality in a socially acceptable and economically viable manner.

CLIMARCHINET – CLIMATE ARCHITECTS NETWORK

Duration: November 2020 – April 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Passive House Institute Slovakia | Passive House Centre

Countries: Czech Republic, Slovakia

Designing sustainable buildings plays an important role in mitigating climate change. The project brings together architects and investors from Slovakia and the Czech Republic through various dialogue and education formats to inform about and raise awareness of sustainability in the building sector. Its goal is to overcome barriers in implementing sustainable ways of construction.

CLI-MA – FROM HOUSING MANAGER TO CLIMATE MANAGER

Duration: October 2020 – March 2023

Implementer and Partner(s): Energy Conservation Foundation | Riga Technical University (RTU IESE) | Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (IWO) e.V.

Countries: Germany, Latvia, Poland

Insufficiently insulated apartment buildings cause more greenhouse gas emissions. To meet the requirements of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), European municipalities have to refurbish many buildings. In this context, the project offers property managers in Poland and Latvia training on energy efficiency and measures to mitigate climate change. Furthermore, it assists them in independently applying for any national or EU refurbishment funding that might be available.



ENPOVER – ALLEVIATING ENERGY POVERTY IN MUNICIPALITIES

Duration: October 2019 – June 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): Association of Municipalities Polish Network "Energie Cités" (PNEC) | Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. | ENERGIACLUB

Countries: Germany, Hungary, Poland

As the energy consumed by private households contributes to the EU's greenhouse gas emissions, households need to switch to climate-friendly energy. However, this may lead to rising energy costs and cause private households in many parts of Europe to be affected by energy poverty. EnPover supports municipalities in meeting this challenge by offering various educational and dialogue formats as well as support programmes tailored to their needs. Among other things, the project demonstrates and implements cost-effective energy conservation measures and thus makes an important contribution to the overriding climate goals of Poland, Hungary and Germany.

MUNICIPALITIES FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Duration: November 2020 – October 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Kekava County local government | Municipality of Bordesholm | Municipality of Gostyn

Countries: Germany, Latvia, Poland

Energy efficiency requires concrete action on the ground. For example, municipalities can set an example by renovating municipal buildings, thus making the benefits of such measures visible. The project links three municipalities, one each in Poland, Germany and Latvia, that wish to promote energy efficiency in their local communities and raise awareness of this issue among their citizens. The towns jointly develop energy management plans and assess the energy efficiency of public educational institutions. Energy-efficient technologies are tested and students' awareness of the topic is raised in a school competition. Once the most successful measures have been determined, participants provide their knowledge to other municipalities.





MUNICIPAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE FINANCING

Duration: October 2019 – March 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect | Fraunhofer Society for the Advancement of Applied Research e.V. | National Trust Ecofund Bulgaria (NTEF)

Countries: Bulgaria, Germany

Interview: Dragomir Tzanev, Executive Director Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect

PROJECT INTERVIEW

What is your project's goal, and what exactly are you doing to achieve it?

We want Bulgarian municipalities to become active in the fight against climate change. To this end, we develop energy data collection tools for these municipalities. This is a direct response to a common problem: many municipalities do not have the capacity to collect and manage data on municipal buildings' energy consumption.

Importantly, EnEffect's experts for energy audits develop these tools, which are then tested in the field by municipal energy experts. Their feedback on the tools and their user-friendliness, as well as suggestions for improvement, then go into further development. It is a participatory process that makes sure to include those who will actually be working with the tools.

Your project is entitled **Municipal Energy Management for Sustainable Climate Financing**. What has energy management to do with financing?

Many municipalities are not able to provide any data on their energy consumption. This lack of data makes it difficult to attract private financing for public projects, as investors do not perceive municipalities as trusted partners. With our project, we aim to bridge this gap in order to convince private investors that it makes sense to invest in municipal projects.

What can other projects in the buildings and municipalities sector learn from you?

Small municipalities especially tend to think that they are too small for big energy projects. But that is not true. When you manage your data well, when you know what is happening in every single building, in every single piece of infrastructure – you are in a position to dream big and aim for more ambitious climate goals



DRAGOMIR TZANEV
Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect

» Small municipalities in particular tend to believe that they are too small for large energy projects. That is not true.



EDINA - IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN REVITALISATION

Duration: October 2020 – September 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): IRMiR – Instytut Rozwoju Miast i Regionów | Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (IWO) e.V. | Energy Conservation Foundation

Countries: Poland

Municipalities greatly contribute to climate action by ensuring climate-friendly urban modernisation processes. In cooperation with municipalities, property owners and managers of public buildings in Poland, the project wants to ensure that climate change mitigation measures are sufficiently embedded into the revitalisation programmes of municipalities. The necessary knowledge is transferred through training and exchange formats and shared with municipalities beyond Poland.

CONGREGATE – BUILDING RENOVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

Duration: November 2020 – March 2023

Implementer and Partner(s): Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect | University of Zagreb, Faculty of Civil Engineering | Pro-nZEB | Center for the Study of Democracy

Countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Romania

The project promotes the participation of citizens in climate efficiency measures. One focus is on building modernisation programmes and the question of how current renovation programmes impact residents' energy and financial savings. The results inform the development of new renovation programmes. The project also supports the establishment of renewable energy cooperatives to generate sustainable and inexpensive power for municipalities.

SOLAR ADRIA

Duration: October 2020 – September 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (EIHP) | University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty | The Nature Conservancy in Europe | EnvPro

Countries: Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia

The national climate strategies of Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro provide for the use of solar technology. However, limited expertise and the lack of investment guidelines hinder development in many places. To close this gap, Solar Adria brings together transnational experts, decision-makers and citizens through educational and dialogue formats. The project documents pilot solar system projects in two municipalities and makes the results and templates available to other municipalities in the Adriatic region.

GREEN RURAL DEAL

Duration: October 2020 – December 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy | Germanwatch e.V. | Regional Association of Local Governments of Western Macedonia | Balkan Green Foundation | RES Foundation

Countries: Germany, Greece, Kosovo, Serbia

Energy transition poses different challenges to rural regions than to cities. The project supports municipalities in rural areas in creating visions for a climate-neutral economy. Citizens develop project ideas and exchange ideas with other participating municipalities. The results are then presented to politicians to raise awareness of the special needs of rural regions.



SMART CLIMATE CITIES

Duration: October 2019 – February 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): adelphi research gGmbH

Countries: Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania

Interview: Benno Keppner, Project Manager, global development agenda, the Green Economy and sustainability strategies, adelphi research gGmbH

PROJECT INTERVIEW

Smart Climate Cities – connecting Smart Cities and climate action – what exactly does this mean?

Smart Climate Cities is a concept for cities of the future, where cities use digital technology to support the socioecological transformation that is needed to make cities climate-neutral by 2050. Smart concepts were developed for the governance of cities as well as for infrastructures such as the mobility and energy sectors, aligning the process of formulating smart solutions with urban climate action.

What was your goal, and how did you aim to achieve it?

We wanted more municipalities to implement smart, climate-friendly solutions. To achieve this, we facilitated exchange between Baltic and German municipalities. The initial idea was to meet in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Germany. Due to COVID-19, we changed the format and hosted a series of web seminars instead. These seminars had different formats – from interactive workshops with virtual break-out groups to presentations by scientists and city representatives. We already held nine web seminars with over 28 speakers and 167 participants as well as a final seminar in which we focused on policy recommendations. We documented the discussions and cases presented in the online seminars and made them available on our website, so cities can access material that supports them in becoming Smart Climate Cities.

What can other climate actors learn from you?

One lesson we learned is that it is important to anchor climate action in central Smart City documents and include concrete climate-related objectives that define targets and timelines. A climate check should always be conducted when designing smart solutions – that is, asking whether the smart solution actually addresses the city's central climate problems. Something we have also experienced throughout the project was how important it is to always integrate different perspectives from different people – to always have room for finding out about communities and the differences between them. This is immensely important, otherwise you will not get a real exchange. We really want to continue this facilitating role in the future, and possibly even broaden our focus to, for example, exploring the potential of digital technologies in times of a pandemic.



BENNO KEPPNER,
adelphi research gGmbH

It's important to always include the different perspectives of different people – to take the time to learn about the communities and the differences that exist between them.



MOBILITY

The transport sector is responsible for almost a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union, about three quarters of which are caused by road transport. The need for action is evident. Whilst CO₂ emissions in the EU have been reduced in all other sectors compared to 1990 – in the building sector, for example – they have actually increased in the transport sector. Citizens would particularly benefit from a reduction in air and noise pollution. Transformation in the European transport sector is urgently needed for the EU to be climate-neutral by 2050. EUKI therefore supports actors who are committed to sustainable mobility. They include civil society organisations aiming at a just transition of the transport sector, research organisations focusing on the electrification of road transport, and cities and municipalities participating in EUKI mobility projects to promote cycling.





EUROPE ON RAIL

Duration: August 2020 – February 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): Germanwatch e.V. | Institute of Civil Affairs Foundation (INSPRO) | France Nature Environnement (FNE) | eco-union | ECODES - Ecology and Development Foundation | Transport & Environment (T&E)

Countries: France, Germany, Poland, Spain

The project reinforced how important cross-border rail transport is in EU transport policy. It drafted five policy papers on cross-border rail transport and organised three workshops for policy makers, railway companies and civil society, among other measures. The project also carried out opinion polls in Poland, France, Germany and Spain to determine the demand for international rail connections.

ALPE-ADRIA CLEAN TRANSPORT ALLIANCE

Duration: October 2020 – February 2023

Implementer and Partner(s): SDEWES Centre | University of Montenegro | Regional Development Centre Koper | Energy Agency Styria

Countries: Austria, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia

Electromobility plays a significant role in energy transformation. The project develops concrete measures to be implemented to achieve climate-friendly transport systems in the participating countries. 120 stakeholders and decision-makers come together at a total of twelve events. They jointly develop a package of measures to decarbonise the transport sector, which is adapted to the circumstances prevailing in the project countries.

JUST TRANSITION IN THE CAR INDUSTRY

Duration: September 2020 – June 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): adelphi research gGmbH | ZOE. Institute for future-fit economies | Masaryk University | Institute for Political Ecology | ideas into energy gGmbH | Centre for Economic and Region Studies (CERS) | Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI)

Countries: Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia

Sustainable structural transformation in the automotive industry is urgently needed to meet the European climate goals. However, climate change mitigation and jobs must not be played off against each other. To this end, the project organises various dialogue and workshop formats for stakeholders to exchange ideas across national borders and develop a strategy for a bottom-up, just transition process. The participants' ideas are then presented to decision-makers at national and EU levels.



INT-E-GRID: POWERING ELECTROMOBILITY IN POLAND AND GERMANY

Duration: October 2019 – May 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): Forum Energii | Agora Energiewende | Fundacja Promocji Pojazdów Elektrycznych

Countries: Germany, Poland

Interview: Dr. Joanna Maćkowiak-Pandera, President of Forum Energii



DR. JOANNA MAĆKOWIAK-PANDERA
Forum Energii

Poland and Germany have a lot in common. Large amounts of coal are still used in both countries - so we are jointly pursuing the goal of decarbonisation.

PROJECT INTERVIEW

What is Int-E-Grid about?

We want to limit emissions from transport and believe that electromobility is the most promising way to achieve this. But there are still many challenges to overcome, especially when it comes to the question of how to integrate electromobility into the power system. Int-E-Grid creates a space where Polish and German experts come together and develop solutions. For example, we held a large virtual meeting with 38 participants in June 2020, which resulted in five analysis papers. This enables participants to make much-needed recommendations to national and local politicians, helping them to ensure that grids are prepared and will be able to handle the predicted increase in electromobility.

How do cities need to prepare their electric grids for electromobility?

For example, there are currently very few charging stations in Polish and German cities. This means many people can only charge their cars at home, in the evenings. But this time of day is already a time of peak electrical consumption, especially in winter when people need to heat their homes. This is inefficient. If charging cars is added to this, cities would need to build new power plants to cover such a combined peak. That is something we want to avoid. We need to build charging infrastructure where needed so that people can charge their cars during the day - at their workplace or in city centres while shopping.

Why is a German-Polish partnership an especially suitable format for the project?

Poland and Germany have a lot in common. The amount of coal used in both countries is still large, so we have the common goal of decarbonisation. It is obvious that something big like the transition to electromobility will create challenges – and Germany and Poland are in a great position to tackle them together.



CYCLURBAN+: MOBILITY CHANGE, NOT CLIMATE CHANGE

Duration: October 2019 – December 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): Baltic Environmental Forum Germany e.V. | Cyklokoalícia | Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation | ideas into energy gGmbH

Countries: Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia

Cyclurban+ renders urban transport more sustainable by making cycling more attractive. The project supports municipalities in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Estonia in their efforts to enhance their legislation, make their respective funding programmes more transparent and facilitate access to funding. Local decision-makers can thus more easily set up a modern cycling infrastructure.

In 2020/21, Cyclurban+ launched a cargo bike pilot project in Brno, Bratislava and Tartu by providing citizens with cargo bikes free of charge. They are a novelty in these cities, and the participants are the first ones to use them in the streets. The project hopes that businesses and private individuals will find cargo bikes to be a viable alternative to cars. Moreover, politicians are thus to be made aware of the fact that cycling is not just a leisure activity but contributes to a more climate-friendly transport system.

CLOSING GAPS IN THE PASSENGER TRANSPORT POLICY FRAMEWORK

Duration: November 2020 – February 2023

Implementer and Partner(s): Climate Analytics gGmbH | WiseEuropa | Clean Air Action Group | Centre for Sustainable Development | Asociația 2Celsius

Countries: Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania

Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Romania each have national policy frameworks for passenger transport in place. However, the existing potential for reducing emissions is not fully exploited. The project develops recommendations for adapting the existing measures in a manner that will fully utilise their emission reduction potential. To this end, the project compiles data sets on the drivers of emissions in passenger transport. Based on the data, it assesses how effective the measures to reduce emissions and increase CO₂-neutral mobility are and how their effectiveness can be increased. These analyses involve decision-makers at national, regional and local levels and draw on experience gained in other countries.



AGRICULTURE, SOILS & FORESTRY

Agriculture accounts for ten percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union. It not only contributes to climate change, but it is also affected by the consequences of climate change. As soils and forests are important carbon reservoirs, they are inextricably linked to agriculture and forestry. When soils are drained for agricultural use, enormous amounts of greenhouse gases may be released. The EU's new Farm to Fork strategy is part of the European Green Deal and aims to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally friendly. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) also plays a crucial role in shaping the EU's climate policy. EUKI's projects in the areas of agriculture, soils and forestry bring together key stakeholders to facilitate knowledge exchange and to support the implementation of promising approaches to mitigating climate change.



COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLIMATE PROTECTION IN THE EU

Duration: June 2020 – December 2020

Implementer and Partner(s): Germanwatch e.V

Countries: EU-wide

The EU has set rules in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to be observed by its member states and can thus initiate emissions reduction in this sector. The project team examined the European Commission's proposals for the future of the CAP in terms of their climate policy implications, highlighting identified measures for increased climate protection. In addition, it organised a virtual conference on the CAP's contribution to the European Green Deal and initiated dialogue formats for participating institutions and civil society groups.

BIOGAS INITIATIVE FOR AGRICULTURE

Duration: September 2020 – August 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Bavarian State Research Center for Agriculture (LfL) | University of Novi Sad - Faculty of Technical Sciences

Countries: Germany, Serbia

Small and medium-sized livestock farms produce the majority of manure generated in Serbia. However, the current national policy is geared solely towards larger farms to implement biogas technologies. The project promotes the use of biogas plants by smaller farms and provides a multitude of information to politicians, investors and farmers. This helps increase acceptance and promotes the wider use of this technology and reduces the carbon footprint of animal husbandry.

EDAPHIC-BLOOM DANUBE – GREENHOUSE GAS MITIGATION IN THE DANUBE DELTA

Duration: November 2020 – January 2023

Implementer and Partner(s): DDNI | Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences | General Secretariat of the Romanian Government - Department of Sustainable Development | Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests | Municipality of Tulcea | Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Department of Wetland Ecology | ICPA Bucharest | Steinbeis Innovation gGmbH | URBAN-INCERC

Countries: Romania

The project focuses on two areas: protecting and restoring wetland in the Danube Delta in Romania and increasing energy efficiency in the building sector. Guidelines for monitoring emissions, a master plan for reducing emissions, an online platform and various dialogue formats are jointly developed with local politicians and disseminated to a wider audience.

FORESTS FOR FUTURE

Duration: November 2020 – February 2023

Implementer and Partner(s): Slovenia Forest Service | University of Ljubljana

Countries: Slovenia

Sustainable forest management plays a key role in climate action. Slovenian forestry is state-of-the-art but does not yet tap its full potential to reduce the national carbon footprint. Forests for Future develops models for forests to store more CO₂. Based on these models, the project formulates recommendations for ministries and organises further training courses for forestry staff. The participants ensure that the methods are disseminated via various channels throughout Europe.



AWARENESS

EUKI and its projects ensure that information on climate change is disseminated to the wider public. People of all ages, and in particular children and adolescents, are encouraged to actively participate in climate action. They become multipliers and propagate commitment to climate action within their families and beyond. For example, EUKI projects work with schoolchildren wanting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their social environment, and they support educational institutions and teachers by offering them training so they can integrate climate-related issues into their curricula. Other approaches are focused on training young adults so they can expand their career opportunities in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Other projects enable European journalists to network with and report from other EU member states in order to improve the mutual understanding of country-specific approaches and challenges.





CLIMATE AND ENERGY FELLOWSHIPS FOR JOURNALISTS IN EUROPE

Duration: September 2020 – January 2023

Implementer and Partner(s): IJP – International Journalists' Programmes

Countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia

The project expands its pan-European network of journalists reporting on climate action and energy policy. Two-month fellowships enable journalists from Germany and Eastern Europe to work at a press office in a partner country for several weeks. While there, they network with colleagues in the region and work on their own projects. The frequency of transnational reporting on these topics is thus increased, which in turn leads to a better understanding of the successful approaches to and the challenges of mitigating climate change in Europe. The participants keep in touch via an alumni network after completing their stay abroad.

CHILDREN STAND UP!

Duration: November 2020 – October 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Save the Children Italia | Save the Children Albania | Istituto Oikos Onlus

Countries: Albania, Italy

How to lead a sustainable, climate-friendly lifestyle is usually not part of school curricula. The project therefore raises awareness of climate change issues among students and promotes their active participation in decision-making processes at school and at the local level. Concrete pilot projects serving as models for other countries as well as permanent environmental committees in cities and municipalities ensure that the initiative is sustainable.

SUSTAINAWARE

Duration: July 2020 – December 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): Institute for Health and Environment | Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia

Countries: Hungary, Slovenia

The project encourages young people in Slovenia and Hungary to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle and thus contribute to mitigating climate change. The project develops an Ecological Footprint Calculator adjusted to Slovenian reality to raise awareness of climate change and sustainable habits. Actors from the National Youth Council, the University of Ljubljana and the Slovenian Ministry of Environment also share knowledge in web seminars, at a summer school and a sustainability summit. Committed adolescents and youth-oriented NGOs learn how they can help mitigate climate change at training events.

EUCENA – EUROPEAN CITIZEN ENERGY ACADEMY

Duration: October 2020 – September 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): RREScoop.eu | Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) | Milieukontakt Albania | Bündnis Bürgerenergie e.V.

Countries: Albania, Germany, Greece

EUCENA promotes the development and implementation of citizen energy projects in Central and South-Eastern Europe. The project organises workshops and two international summer schools in Germany, Albania and Greece. These formats serve to transfer knowledge between project partners: while citizen energy is already an established concept in Central Europe, it is still in its infancy in South-Eastern European countries. The project stands for an inclusive approach and involves people from all walks of life in climate action.



CLIKIS NETWORK

Duration: September 2020 – December 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): IZT – Institute for Future Studies and Technology Assessment GmbH | RED FORK | Estonian Green Movement NGO/Friends of the Earth Estonia

Countries: Croatia, Estonia

Food production and processing account for about 30 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable food production, energy-saving technologies and avoiding food waste significantly reduce the collective carbon footprint. In workshops, training courses and conferences, CLIKIS transfers knowledge on climate-efficient school catering to headteachers, school kitchen staff and municipal representatives in Croatia and Estonia to reduce the carbon footprints of the participating school kitchens. The project builds on an approach that has proven successful in Germany.

CLIMATE HEROES

Duration: October 2020 – September 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): WWF Danube-Carpathian Program Bulgaria | WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme Romania | WWF Adria-Serbia | United Nations Association of Bulgaria | Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation

Countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania, Serbia

A sustainable lifestyle and civic action greatly contribute to reducing the effects of climate change. The project offers training programmes to encourage young people in Central and Eastern Europe to participate in climate action. These programmes show young people how they can actively get involved in sustainability issues, not only at a local level but also globally. The goal is to train a total of 120 climate advocates in four countries to become climate leaders who will in turn launch initiatives themselves.

TOGETHER FOR SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL

Duration: October 2020 – December 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): The Lithuanian Children and Youth Centre | RCE Oldenburger Münsterland e.V. | CARDET

Countries: Cyprus, Germany, Lithuania

The project encourages young people to get involved in climate action – right away at school. For example, practical guidelines on how to integrate sustainability issues into the curriculum are jointly developed by students and teachers in Lithuania. Moreover, students from Lithuania, Cyprus and Germany discuss current sustainability issues and develop solutions at an international meeting. The participants then disseminate their knowledge and ideas to their peers to inspire other young people to get involved in climate action as well.

REFE – REDUCING THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT THROUGH ECO-AWARENESS

Duration: November 2020 – December 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): The Viennese Children's Theatre in Romania | School for life | University of Bucharest | Foundation EuroEd/EuroEd Secondary School | EcoLogic

Countries: Romania

REFE develops eight teaching tools for the Romanian school system to raise awareness of sustainability issues among young people. These include teaching materials, a theatre script and a tool to measure the ecological footprint, among others. The project supports young people in leading a more sustainable lifestyle by offering concrete options. The project materials will be available in several languages throughout Europe.



LIVING STREETS

Duration: November 2019 – December 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): Energy Cities

Countries: Croatia, Greece, Portugal

Interview: Kinga Kovacs, Project Management and Coordination at Energy Cities

PROJECT INTERVIEW

What is the Living Streets project about?

The Living Street is a concept developed in a citizen co-creation workshop in Ghent and is being implemented by the project in Croatia, Greece, and Portugal. A street or a square is closed off to motorised traffic for two months. During these two months, the street's residents but also shop owners, school-children – everybody! – are invited to co-create the street they have always dreamt of. We like to say that we are making the city of tomorrow visible today. In concrete terms this means we work together with NGOs, citizen associations and local authorities in Croatia, Greece and Portugal, and help them implement Living Streets.

What are your goals?

We want to find out how we can organise our daily lives without using our cars as much as we do today. We find solutions by bringing people together and letting them co-create their ideal public space. In doing so, we focus a lot on the power of 'what if': What if our streets were covered with grass? What if I could have breakfast with my neighbours in the street? What if the noise of cars was replaced with the laughter of children?

Why is citizen participation so important for climate projects?

If authorities simply impose climate action it is not going to work, because the acceptance of top-down measures tends to be minimal. You need to give people the chance to get engaged and have a sense of ownership of the public realm. Our project gives citizens the chance to experiment with public space and to experience for themselves the measures they helped co-create and implement. Yes, sometimes participants realise that their initial vision for their street does not work – but then they can adapt it and experiment with other designs. If you include citizens in the planning process in this way, climate action can come from within society rather than from above. Because when the people own the action, and not the authorities who impose it, climate action can truly have the support of citizens.



KINGA KOVACS,
Energy Cities

» If climate protection measures are imposed from the outside, they don't work. You have to give people the opportunity to get involved.





CLIMATE-ALIGNED FINANCE

By launching the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan, the European Union has given new political impetus to rendering private and financial sector investments more focused on meeting the EU's energy and climate targets by 2030. The plan aims to provide both financial institutions and private investors with appropriate tools to identify sustainable investment opportunities.

This is where the EUKI projects come into play: they carry out baseline studies, draw up needs analyses and develop plans for investment opportunities in the technologies and solutions needed. They advise political decision-makers on how the financial framework can be better adapted to climate goals, sensitise financial advisors to the sustainability goals of their clients and make information on sustainability-related investments more accessible to the public.





TOWARDS A CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EU: FUNDING AND INCENTIVES FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Duration: October 2020 – May 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): European Environmental Bureau (EEB) | Clean Air Action Group | Economic Policy Institute (EPI) | Centre for Transport and Energy (CDE) | Green Liberty | Polish Green Network | Focus Eco Center | Umanotera | CEPTA | CEEWeb

Countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

The project aims to put the goal of climate neutrality at the centre of the EU's fiscal policy discussions. To this end, position papers are drafted, monthly meetings are held, and the public's awareness of climate-friendly investments is raised by targeted communication, to name but a few. The project also focuses on the EU partnership agreements with Central and Eastern European countries stipulating the terms for the European Structural and Investment Funds to be applied. The project supports the countries in structuring such funds in accordance with the climate goals of the EU.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Duration: October 2020 – September 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): 2^o Investing Initiative | WWF Greece | Czech Consumer Association

Countries: Czech Republic, Greece

Promoting climate-friendly financial products complements national climate strategies with an important aspect. Retail investors show growing interest in sustainable investments. To facilitate their access to such investments, the project focuses on two areas. On the one hand it provides investors with knowledge and methods on how they can effectively communicate their sustainability demands, on the other it sensitises investment advisors to meeting their clients' demands.



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Climate action pays off for companies in economic terms, too, not just for the sake of the climate itself. For example, companies can save costs through efficient energy management and strengthen their competitiveness while also improving their corporate image. Moreover, fostering research in future technologies to mitigate climate change as well as the development and testing of those technologies helps European companies become global technology leaders in growing markets. EUKI projects sensitise companies – from hotels to automotive suppliers – to the possibilities and opportunities presented by sustainable economic activity. By developing and providing useful tools and enhancing the qualifications of staff, they ensure that the partners involved also benefit from the projects in the long term. At the same time, they act as multipliers by implementing good practices and encouraging others to follow suit.





CLIMAHOST II – ALPINE CLIMATE ACTION COMPETITION IN THE HOTEL AND CATERING INDUSTRY

Duration: October 2020 – December 2022

Implementer and Partner(s): adelphi research gGmbH

Countries: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland

ClimaHost II awards hospitality businesses in the Alpine region for implementing outstanding measures to mitigate climate change at their premises and in operational processes. Rewarding such measures is an incentive for other tourist businesses to implement suitable projects themselves. Apart from preparing and organising the competition, the project team issues certificates proving the effectiveness of the award-winning measures, publishes the competition results in a brochure and presents the winning project in various media in the Alpine region.

GTL – GREEN TEC LABS

Duration: November 2020 – February 2023

Implementer and Partner(s): FIAP e.V. | PEDAL

Consulting | German-Hellenic Chamber of Industry and Commerce | City Council of Cadiz | AICIA

Countries: Greece, Slovakia, Spain

Green technologies have the potential to revitalise regional economic structures and offer new prospects. Green Tec Labs assists young, tech-savvy people in actively bringing about change. The project supports sustainable business start-ups and project ideas in the Greek regions of Athens and Crete, in Andalusia in Spain and in Nitra in Slovakia. This support includes further training in technological innovations and business management processes, help with funding applications and the opportunity to exchange good practices, among other things.

ALPINE TOURISM AFTER THE CORONA CRISIS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Duration: September 2020 – September 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): CIPRA – International Commission for the Protection of the Alps | AidA – Alliance in the Alps | ASdJ – Alpine Town of the Year Association

Countries: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland

The project contributes to making tourism in the Alpine region more climate-friendly after the coronavirus pandemic. To this end, it prepares a catalogue of criteria, based on which it will assess the planned promotional measures and economic stimulus programmes in terms of their economic, environmental and social sustainability. It also fosters the exchange of knowledge and experience among project partners and representatives of the tourism industry through discussion formats, online seminars and workshops.



HOTELS4CLIMATE

Duration: October 2019 – August 2021

Implementer and Partner(s): OEB | adelphi research gGmbH | Institute of the Greek Tourism Confederation (INSETE)

Countries: Cyprus, Greece

Interview: Anthi Charalambous, Director Energy & Environment at Cyprus Federation of Employers & Industrialists (OEB)



ANTHI CHARALAMBOUS
Cyprus Federation of Employers & Industrialists (OEB)

» We hope to contribute to hotels everywhere successively becoming zero-emission hotels.

PROJECT INTERVIEW

Hotels4Climate aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the hotel industry in Cyprus and Greece.

How do you go about this?

There is a lack of data in this field, so as a first step we developed a questionnaire and visited 40 hotels – 20 in Cyprus and 20 in Greece. We spent two days with chief engineers looking at everything emission-related: energy consumption, type of fuel used, transport, rooms, the spa, waste management. We then organised a two-day study tour to Germany for people working in the industry, visiting hotels that serve as best practices. We are also currently working on a virtual hotel where anyone can access individual areas of the hotel to understand how emissions can be further reduced and what specific measures can be implemented in each area.

What are you aiming for – beyond the duration and regional scope of the project?

As we say, we act locally and think globally: the material that we produce, such as the virtual hotel, or training material on circular economy and greenhouse gas reduction in hotels, is not specifically targeted at Greek or Cypriot hotels. It is available online and can be accessed by anybody. Our hope is that we will contribute to turning hotels everywhere into zero-emission hotels – one by one. After all, there are many countries like Greece and Cyprus where the hotel industry is a major contributor to GDP but also to national greenhouse gas emissions. If every hotel succeeds in reducing its emissions, it will constitute a big step towards reaching the EU's climate targets.

How have you dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020?

We managed to continue with our project despite all the restrictions caused by the pandemic – and we even took the pandemic as a starting point for something new and productive. Currently, we are working on a report called “Green restart of the hotel industry post-COVID-19”. With this, we want to contribute to the European debate on how to support the economy during the pandemic – without neglecting the important work towards reaching our climate goals.



EUKI COMMUNITY

A list of all organisations that have been and are active in the EUKI Community is available on the EUKI website. This contact list is constantly updated and serves as a European climate business directory. Should you be looking for a partner organisation with which you would like to jointly develop a project in a certain country, or if you are looking for contact persons with expertise in a certain subject area, it is worth having a look at the EUKI contact list online.

The contacts are listed by country, so you may see right away which organisations are involved in climate action in your country.

The overview also lists the thematic areas which the organisations are involved in according to their respective websites. Links to the profile(s) of the projects that individual organisations work on are provided under "EUKI project".



The contact list is regularly updated and is available online via this QR code.

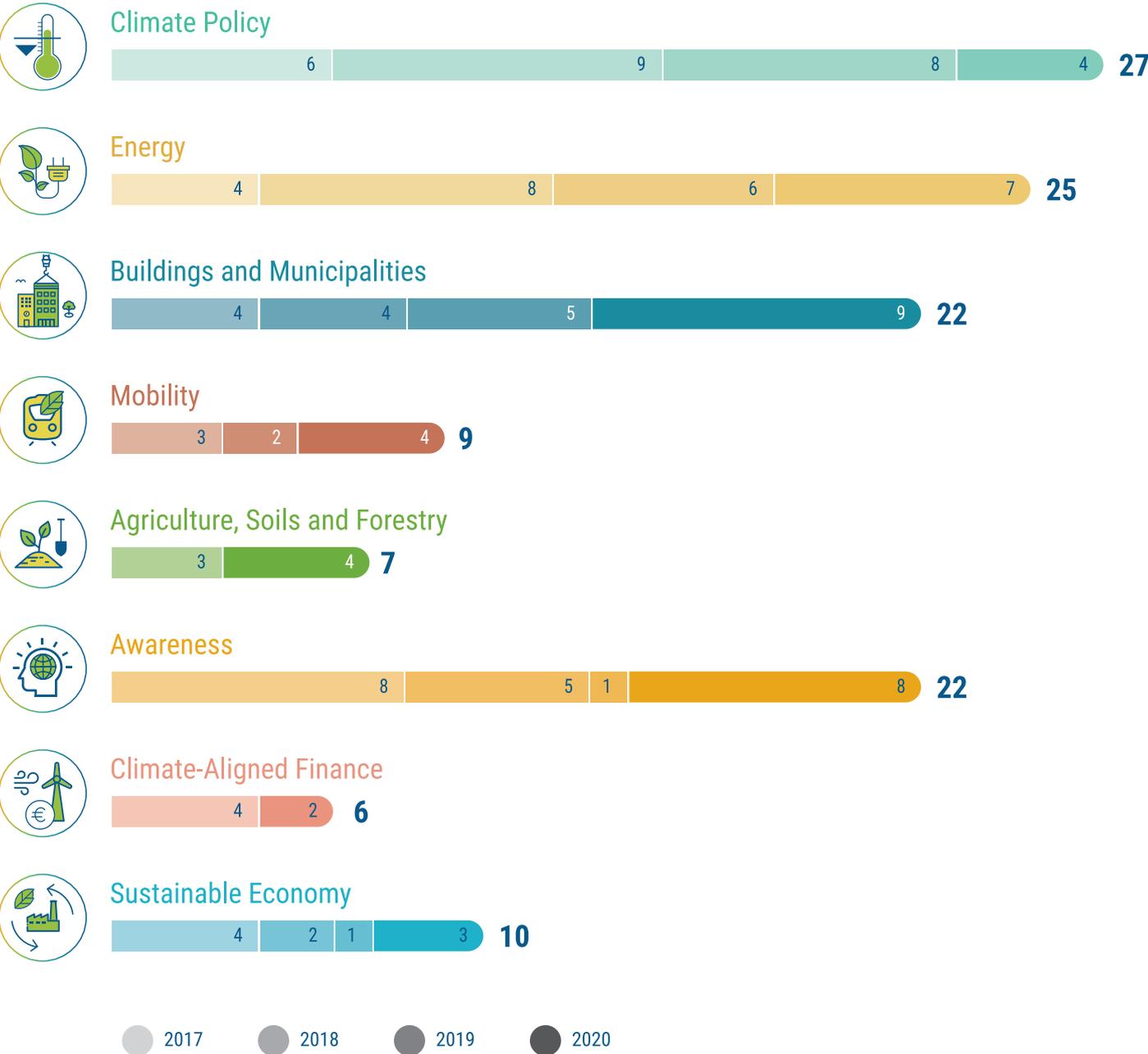
You can also open it in your browser via the following link:
www.euki.de/en/euki-community-list



EUKI Community					
	Organisation	Website	Topic Area	EUKI Projects	Contact
ALBANIA	Milieukontakt Shqipëri Milieukontakt Albania Tirana, NGO	http://www.milieukontakt.org	Energy, Waste, Environmental Law, Sustainable Development	EUCENA - European Citizen Energy Academy	Valbona Mazreku Valbona.mazreku[at]milieukontakt.org
	Energie Agentur Steiermark gGmbH Energy Agency Styria Graz, Non-profit undertaking	http://www.ea-stmk.at	Energy Efficiency, Future-Oriented Energy Systems, Sustainable Building Sector, Energy Certification and Consulting	Alpe-Adria Alliance for Green Transport	Harald Messner harald.messner[at]ea-stmk.at
	Plattform Footprint Vienna, NGO	http://www.footprint.at	Ecological Footprint and Sustainable Lifestyle, Education for Sustainable Development, Footprint Calculators, Sustainable Mobility	REFE - Reducing Ecological Footprints through Eco-Awareness	Eva Dobeiner eva.dobeiner[at]footprint.at
AUSTRIA	Steinbeis Innovation gGmbH Vienna, Non-profit undertaking	https://www.steinbeis.de/html	Information Technology, Knowledge Transfer, Digital Solutions	EDAPHIC BLOOM DANUBE - Greenhouse Gas Mitigation in the Danube Delta	Jürgen Raizner su2080[at]stw.de
	Carbon Market Watch Brussels, NGO	www.carbonmarketwatch.org	Carbon Pricing, Climate Governance, International Transport, Fair Climate Action	Delivering the EU-2030 and long term climate objectives in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, with a specific focus on transport	General email info[at]carbonmarketwatch.org
	Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe Brussels, NGO	www.caneurope.org	Energy & Climate Strategies and Policies, Stakeholder Involvement, Co-benefits of the Energy Transition	Building capacity for multi-stakeholder cooperation on long-term climate planning in Visegrad 4+2 An MFF for the Climate	Kasia Ugryn kasia[at]caneurope.org Wendel Trio Wendel[at]caneurope.org
BELGIUM	EEB - European Environmental Bureau Brussels, NGO	www.eeb.org	Climate Policy, Agricultural Policy, Public Funds, Good Governance	An Unavoidable Step after Paris: Cutting Emission from Farming A Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the Climate Towards a Climate neutral EU: funding and incentives for a transformative European Green Deal	Bérénice Dupeux berenice.dupeux[at]eeb.org Barbara Mariani Barbara.Mariani[at]eeb.org Barbara Mariani Barbara.Mariani[at]eeb.org
	European Roundtable on Climate Change and Sustainable Transition (ECRST) Brussels, Think tank	https://ercst.org/	Climate Change Policies, Sustainable Transition, Energy	Beyond 40 % - Assessing efforts to be Europe's Climate Leaders	General information via contact form
	Health Care Without Harm Europe (HCWH) Brussels, NGO	http://www.noharm-europe.org	Sustainable Healthcare, Climate-smart Healthcare, circular economy	Management of Anaesthetic Gas in European Hospitals to Foster Low-Carbon Healthcare	Mireia Figueras Alsius mireia.figuerasalsius[at]hcwh.org
BELGIUM	REScoop.eu vzw Berchem, Non-profit undertaking	http://www.rescoop.eu	Citizen Energy, Renewable Energies, Energy Efficiency, Energy Policy, Empowerment, Public Interest	EUCENA - European Citizen Energy Academy	Antonia Proka antonia.proka[at]rescoop.eu

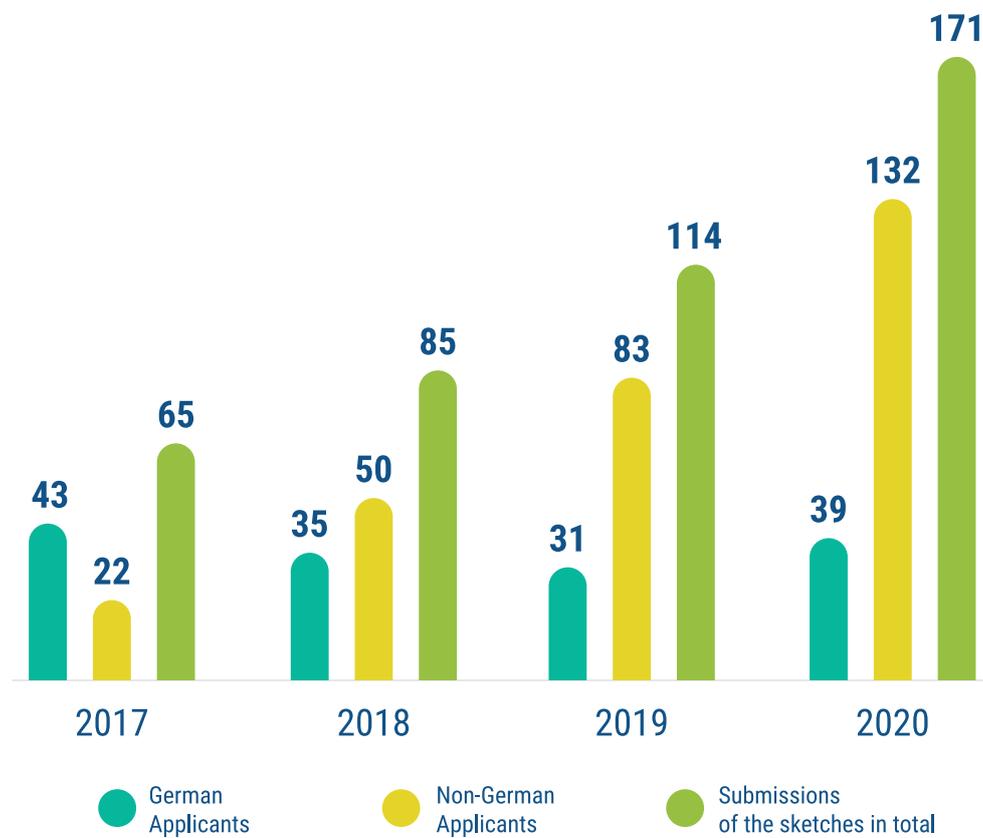
FACTS AND FIGURES

GROWTH OF A TOTAL OF 128 EUKI PROJECTS 2017 – 2020



The EUKI projects work on eight main topics
 The shades of color mark the growth in the number of projects from 2017 to 2020

NUMBER OF SKETCHES SUBMITTED IN THE EUKI PROJECT SELECTION PROCEDURE BY REGION OF ORIGIN



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