

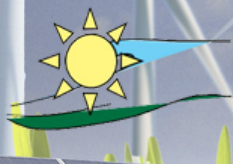
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# NEWSLETTER 41



CeProSARD





Dear colleagues, collaborators, and readers,

In recent months, the team at CeProSARD has focused on implementing ongoing projects and creating new ones to support the Green Transition. This transformation is essential for addressing climate change, preserving natural resources, and ensuring long-term economic and environmental stability.

Key areas of our work included:

**Energy Transition:** Projects such as "Green Heat" and "Green Energy" aim to shift municipal capacities from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources (solar, geothermal, biomass).

**Green Buildings and Infrastructure:** The "The "Energy-Efficient Construction and Renovation in the Western Balkans" project, through the formation of Green Councils, promotes energy-efficient construction and infrastructure projects using sustainable materials and green technologies.

New project applications that the CeProSARD team has been working on, incorporating aspects of the Green Transition, focus on:

**Agriculture and Land Use:** Emphasizing sustainable agricultural practices, ecosystem protection, and biodiversity promotion.

**Social Equality:** Aiming to reduce energy poverty, support vulnerable communities, create green jobs, and ensure fair access to the benefits of the green economy.

The Green Transition requires collaboration among governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals to create a sustainable future for all.

Stay with us and follow our humble steps and efforts to address climate change, preserve natural resources, and ensure long-term economic and environmental stability through our social media links.

We invite you to read the latest issue of our E-newsletter and join us in creating new, exciting, and impactful activities for sustainable development.



## Project Green Heat

### introduction of efficient customer-oriented (small grid district) heating service based on renewable energy sources

During the past three months of implementation, the team members of the Green Heat project from CeProSARD and Municipality of Radovich were primarily engaged in the launch of the key activity of this project for establishment of the new highly energy efficient heating system in the five selected public buildings located in the central city area of Radovich. The international tender according to the **"work-turnkey" principle for procurement and installation of heat pumps in one kindergarten, a primary school, secondary school, administrative building of the local self-government and the sports hall**, was published in line with the specific rules for such procurements, on the online version of the 'Supplement to the Official Journal' of the EU, dedicated to European public procurement. It was open in the period from April 5 to June 7, 2024.

As part of the procedure on 05.13.2024, a mandatory visit to the locations in Radovich was organized for the interested potential tenderers. A public opening of received tenders for provision of works for installation of highly efficient alternative system for central heating (heat pumps) in the primary school "Krste Petkov Misirkov", municipal highschool "Kosta Susinov", the clone "Cvetovi" of the municipal kindergarten "Aco Karamanov", the municipal administrative building and the sports hall "25 May" was organized on June 14, 2024. The event in Radovich was attended by the authorized persons of the tenderers.

In the past period, the project team also intensively worked on the preparatory activities for development of **business model for the newly established dedicated energy management company "ELRAD Energy-Radowish"**, which will be responsible for monitoring the use of energy; development of an Energy Efficiency Program of the municipality for the period 2024 - 2026, as well as for promotion of the adopted innovative heating model through active engagement and mobilization of the local communities, stakeholders and residents.

More information about the project is available at the following link:

[https://www.ceprosard.org.mk/MK/oi\\_p8.aspx](https://www.ceprosard.org.mk/MK/oi_p8.aspx)

The duration of the project is 40 months. The implementation started on January 15, 2022.

The project is co-financed by the European Union.



## Project Green Energy

### Fostering social entrepreneurship by establishing pilot energy cooperatives in the cross-border region

During the period from April to June this year, the project team actively worked on several activities focused on finalizing strategic documentation for the needs of the partner municipalities—Municipality of Butel and Municipality of Medvedja.

In collaboration with the engaged consultants and relevant sectors in the Municipality of Medvedja, the **Municipal Plan for Investments in Renewable Energy Sources and Measures for Improving Energy Efficiency** was finalized. Throughout this period, in cooperation with experts from the Green Energy Cooperative (ZEZ) in Croatia, we worked on creating and implementing a targeted questionnaire — The Impact of Energy Cooperatives on Labor Market Development and the Growth of Renewable Energy Sources.

The questionnaire serves as an opportunity to explore the current situation and discover the opinions on the subject in North Macedonia and Serbia and to gather the community's opinions, contributing to the development of the energy sector in a more inclusive and participatory manner that offers additional opportunities at both the individual and local levels.

Meanwhile, fieldwork is ongoing to conduct **energy audits** on six targeted facilities in both countries. These documents will help identify areas for improvement in energy consumption, potentially leading to cost savings, ensuring compliance with current legal regulations, and planning facility upgrades to achieve environmental benefits that contribute to reducing CO2 emissions.

To establish energy cooperatives in both countries, the project team has initiated collaboration with lawyers who will oversee the entire **process of establishment of the energy cooperative**. The energy cooperatives will create **employment opportunities for four young unemployed individuals** in the cross-border region.

The project duration is 16 months, starting on June 16, 2023.  
The project is co-financed by the European Union.





## Project Energy efficient construction and renovation in the Western Balkans

During the past months, CeProSARD, implementing the RECONOMY program, prepared a series of **information sessions** aimed at discussing the establishment of Green Building Councils throughout the countries of the Western Balkans, starting with Kosovo, and then the Republic of N. Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. These sessions mark a significant step towards sustainable development in our region.

**The Green Building Council** is an organization that promotes sustainability in the construction industry. These Councils work to influence policy, educate professionals and implement green building standards that lead to more environmentally responsible and resource efficient structures. The establishment of these councils is more than a mere determination to protect the environment; it is a key move towards healthier and more sustainable living spaces. Through education and advocacy, Green Building Councils help reduce environmental footprints, spur economic growth and create healthier environments for future generations.

As part of the RECONOMY program, in cooperation with CeProSARD, we gathered key stakeholders in the fields of energy efficiency, construction and renovation, non-governmental organizations, public institutions and educational institutions, and discussed the benefits of joining this council and how we can shape a sustainable future for the Western Balkans, at **several promotional events**.

The event in Pristina, which took place on 30th April 2024, brought together all key stakeholders to discuss the benefits of the establishment of the Green Building Council and its sustainability in Kosovo.

On May 23rd, 2024, the Chamber of Certified Architects and Certified Engineers held the first information event on the establishment of the Green Building Council of the Republic of N. Macedonia, as part of the network of national Councils for green construction in the region of the Western Balkans.

On May 31st, we completed an informative and productive meeting aimed at establishing a Green Building Council in Albania, also part of the network of national Green Building Councils in the Western Balkans region.

June 28th was the day we held a promotional event for the Green Building Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, in the presence of a large number of companies and individuals.



RECONOMY is a regional inclusive and green economic development program of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in partnership with CeProSARD and others in the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkan regions.

The project has a duration of 41 months, from 01.08.2023 – 31.12.2026.



## Collaboration with institutions and CSOs

In June 2024, at the invitation of the "Friedrich Ebert" Foundation, we attended the fourth **regional Socio-Environmental Forum** in Skopje. The forum aimed to bring together progressive decision makers, trade union representatives, youth leaders and NGOs from the Western Balkans to discuss the opportunities and needs for a socially just transition while supporting sustainable economic development. A key focus was placed on ending dependence on fossil fuels, which is particularly urgent in this region. CSO CeProSARD stands for a fair energy transition to renewable energy sources and emphasizes the importance of involving citizens in this process, from end consumers to buyers.

At the Forum, the participants highlighted the opportunities for membership in energy cooperatives. The event provided a valuable networking opportunity with CSO Green Energy Cooperative from Croatia. Their representative, part of #SEF, at the forum, highlighted the key role of energy cooperatives in overcoming energy poverty, saving energy and investing in new energy sources.



## CeProSARD awarded a Certificate of Sustainability in accordance with the Global Sustainable Development Goals



CeProSARD received a Certificate for Sustainability in accordance with the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The event was held as part of the final event of the project "Encouraging sustainable practices in the new digital era" implemented by the Center for Climate Change. In its daily operations, CeProSARD continuously applies sustainable practices that directly contribute to the reduction of negative impacts on the environment.

On today's Earth Day, CeProSARD participated with its representative in the final event of the project "Encouraging sustainable practices in the new digital era" implemented by the Center for Climate Change, at which the "Roadmap for sustainable practices for civil society" was presented. Caring for the environment and preserving the Planet begins with each individual and therefore requires action by each of us.

