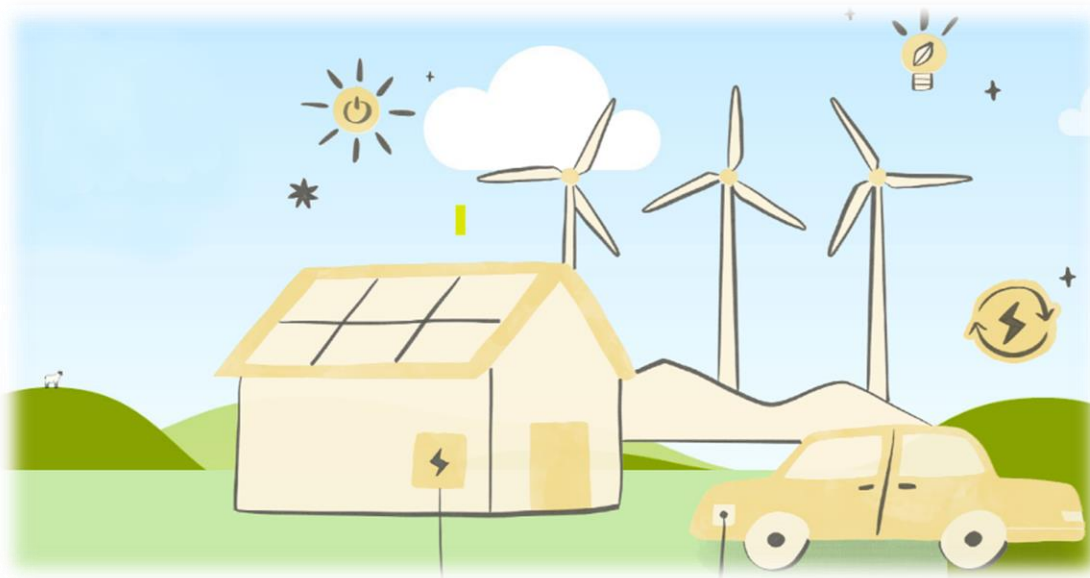


E-NEWSLETTER

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CeProSARD is dedicated to creating partnerships and supporting project initiatives aimed at raising citizens' awareness of the importance of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources. Through training, campaigns, and direct collaboration with local communities, non-governmental organizations, the business community, and citizens, we strive to encourage positive changes in the way citizens perceive and use energy.

Energy cooperatives are particularly significant in this process— a new form of collaboration that enables collective investment in green technologies and promotes independent production of clean energy. By actively involving citizens, energy cooperatives not only reduce energy costs but also strengthen the local economy.

In collaboration with local government units, the CeProSARD team enhances these initiatives through joint activities that support green development. Together, we create projects that contribute to a sustainable energy system and a healthier environment for all.

Every step toward energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources is a step toward a better future. Together, we can create sustainable communities, lower costs, and a cleaner environment.

“Choosing renewable energy is choosing a sustainable future!”

GREEN ENERGY PROJECT

Encouraging social entrepreneurship through the establishment of pilot energy cooperatives in the cross-border region

GREEN HEATING PROJECT

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

RECONOMY PROJECT

Energy efficiency in construction and renovation in the Western Balkans

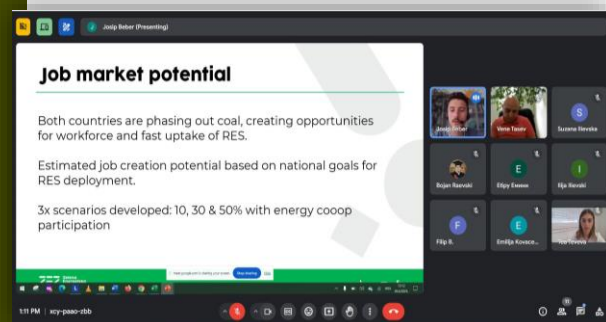
Green Energy Project

Encouraging social entrepreneurship through the establishment of pilot energy cooperatives in the cross-border region

During the period from July to September of this year, the project team worked on finalizing most of the project activities, which end in October this year.

Through some of the project activities, we aim to establish a positive pilot example for the rational and ethical use of the planet's resources, especially solar energy, as an example with the least environmental impact and the smallest contribution to carbon dioxide emissions and climate change. In this regard, the introduction of cooperatives is one of the most successful ways to decentralize energy and democratize the energy sector.

In June, the consultants from Zelena Energetska Zadruga, Croatia, presented the strategic documents developed as part of the project activity "Analysis with recommendations to the municipalities in establishment of RES-based energy cooperatives and their role in development of social entrepreneurship" to representatives from the Municipality of Medvedja and Butel Municipality, along with the project team. three strategic documents were presented - Analysis of present situation and policy framework for establishment of energy cooperatives in the cross-border region, the needs of labour and energy market in the region; Municipal recommendations on energy cooperative rollout and Analysis of a Questionnaire Survey. The aim and purpose of these documents is to serve as a roadmap and direction in the creation of future documents - strategies and action plans of the Municipalities in the relevant sectors. The documents were developed from January to April this year in several phases - initially with an analysis of significant strategic documents from both countries, followed by the creation and distribution of a targeted questionnaire to relevant bodies in both states.



One of the project activities involves setting up a pilot project for small investments in equipment for energy production based on renewable energy sources and the reconstruction of public buildings with measures to improve energy efficiency as demonstration units in the cross-border region. In Medvedja Municipality, during the summer months, we worked on improving energy efficiency by replacing old doors and windows with new ones, as well as installing photovoltaic panels with a capacity of 4 kWp in the elementary school "Partizanski Dom".



At the beginning of September, a Tailor-made training for the potential members and employees of energy cooperatives on “How to start: Building initiative and the role of energy cooperatives in the cross-border region” – description: Energy cooperative national and European directives, strategies, policies and frameworks and networking. Through the training, participants had the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of the importance of energy cooperatives and their role in sustainable development and the energy transition of the cross-border region. Following the training, a discussion and exchange of opinions were held among all participants, aiming to strengthen joint initiatives for the development of energy cooperatives in the cross-border region. This is the first of two planned training sessions intended for employees and potential members of newly formed energy cooperatives in the cross-border region.



In the final phase of the project, the registration process for two newly established energy cooperatives in Butel and Medveda municipalities is underway, which will enable the employment of four young unemployed people in the cross-border region.

The project is co-funded by the European Union, represented by the Ministry of Finance of Republic of Serbia, Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes – CFCU.

Green Heating Project

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

Advancing Energy Efficiency and Sustainability - Development of the Energy Efficiency Program (EEP) 2025–2027

In collaboration with the Municipality of Radovich, CeProSARD is leading the implementation of several critical initiatives aimed at advancing energy efficiency, promoting renewable energy, and contributing to decarbonization efforts at the local level. One of the key activities currently being developed is the Energy Efficiency Program (EEP) 2025–2027, which will provide a comprehensive strategy for improving energy usage and reducing environmental impact across the municipality. EEP is a foundational document designed to help the Municipality of Radovich identify and implement key energy-saving measures over the next three years. This program, mandated by law for local authorities, provides clear guidance on how the municipal administration will approach energy efficiency improvements from 2025 to 2027.

The EEP includes strategies for reducing energy consumption in public buildings, improving the energy performance of municipal infrastructure, and promoting the use of renewable energy sources.

Through the EEP, Radovich will contribute to national decarbonization targets and help reduce the municipality's carbon footprint. By implementing energy-efficient measures, the municipality aims to lower energy costs, increase energy security, and create a more sustainable and resilient community for future generations.

A key focus of our activities is the promotion of renewable energy as a means to reduce the municipality's dependence on fossil fuels. By harnessing energy from renewable sources such as photovoltaic panels, the Municipality of Radovich is working towards achieving energy independence and mitigating the environmental impact of its energy consumption. CeProSARD is actively supporting the municipality in identifying and implementing the most appropriate renewable energy solutions. These efforts include the expansion of photovoltaic panel installations on public buildings, the exploration of other energy potential, and the use of them for heating. By integrating renewables into its energy strategy, Radovich is positioning itself as a leader in green energy development within North Macedonia.

Empowering Radovich through Sustainable Energy - The Role of ELRAD Energy-Radovich

In the pursuit of a greener future and sustainable energy independence, CeProSARD in partnership with the Municipality of Radovich, is leading the charge with the Green Heat project. At the core of this initiative is ELRAD Energy-Radovich, a pioneering company designed to revolutionize the way energy is produced and consumed in our community. Fully owned by the Municipality of Radovich, ELRAD Energy-Radovich was created to manage and oversee the production of electricity, with a special focus on renewable energy sources. This startup is a "Whole Ownership Unit," meaning that the municipality will directly benefit from all the profits, privileges, and advantages it generates. Our activities are centred on the development and implementation of a district heating service that is powered by renewable energy.

This innovative, small-grid heating system aims to provide residents with cleaner, more efficient energy while reducing the community's reliance on non-renewable energy sources. We are determined to create a model of energy independence that not only supports the local economy but also prioritizes environmental sustainability and social well-being. At the heart of our current efforts is the creation of a novel business model that aligns with the unique role of ELRAD Energy-Radovich as a municipal energy provider. Our team, in collaboration with the Municipality of Radovich, is working tirelessly to develop a comprehensive business plan that incorporates different strategies. The business model will also reflect the company's status as a municipal asset, meaning all profits and benefits will flow back into the local economy, furthering Radovich's goal of sustainable local development.

RECONOMY PROJECT

Energy efficiency in construction and renovation in the Western Balkans



In the premises of the House of Europe, Sarajevo, the promotional event was held with the aim of strengthening the Green Building Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the idea of networking national green building councils in the Western Balkans region. There were more than 60 participants who wanted to introduce changes in the market towards green building practices. The event was opened by representatives of the RECONOMY program and the "Energy efficiency in construction and renovation" project from CeProSARD. It was pointed out that the construction sector is one of the main sectors that must make changes in the direction of its digitization and establish new practices that will bring green regulations for construction and reduce energy consumption.

On September 10, 2024, the first partnership agreement was signed between the "Energy Efficiency in Construction and Renovation" project within the RECONOMY program, and the Macedonian Association for Solar Energy - Solar Macedonia.

The purpose of the agreement is to contribute to the implementation of the RECONOMY program, in order to bring sustainable, inclusive and green economic growth; and generate additional income and employment opportunities for youth, women and the most vulnerable groups.

On September 12, 2024, we signed the second contract with Knauf as part of the project "Energy efficiency in construction and renovation in the Western Balkans" within the RECONOMY program, which aims to:

- ❖ Improving access to the labour market for youth, women, and other disadvantaged groups by developing their skills through training in energy efficient design and sustainable building practices.
- ❖ Conductive hands-on learning environment for continuous education, enabling industry professionals and blue-collar workers to acquire the expertise needed to meet modern construction standards.



By establishing a Regional Training Center, the objective is to deliver Inclusive Skills development by training for energy efficient design and sustainable building practices tailored to different learning needs and levels of access.

The signing of the third contract was carried out on September 18, 2024, with the Chamber of Certified Architects and Certified Engineers of Macedonia, to:

- Empowering women, youth, and disadvantaged groups in Green Construction with providing tailored training and resources that specifically address their need and equipping them with the skills required to participate in and benefit from the growing green construction sector;
- Promoting inclusive career advancement for women, youth, and disadvantaged groups to advance their careers by gaining specialized skills in energy-efficient construction, thereby improving their employability and access to better job opportunities within the construction industry.



- Increasing accessibility to high quality professional development through the inclusive platform that removes barriers to learning, providing professionals from all backgrounds, including those in remote or underserved areas, with the ability to engage in high-quality training at their convenience.
- Strengthening collaboration and inclusivity among Engineering Chambers in the Western Balkans regions with knowledge-sharing and collaboration tools.

By utilizing the web e-learning platform as an inclusive and centralized resource hub, comprehensive and inclusive resources will be offered, ensuring that professionals from all backgrounds have equal access to training modules, industry updates, certification processes, and digital registries of materials and equipment relevant to green construction. This targeted approach is designed to empower female professionals and youth, expanding their employment and income opportunities in the energy efficient construction and renovation.

A partnership agreement was also signed in Sarajevo within the framework of the RECONOMY program, on September 17, 2024, with Melisa Gazdić, representative of the Green Building Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The purpose of the contract is mutual support, on the one hand, the spread of green construction through the work of GBC, on the other hand the implementation of the RECONOMY program, aiming at bringing sustainable, inclusive and green economic growth; generate additional income and employment opportunities for the youth, women and most disadvantaged groups.



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.

COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS SECTOR

During the past period, CeProSARD actively cooperated with civil society organizations, local self-government and the business sector, creating strong and sustainable partnerships. Together we created new project ideas and initiatives for the realization of the Green Agenda, through the joint implementation of new projects in the field of natural resource protection, energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy sources.

The cooperation was aimed at increasing public awareness, education and creating new employment opportunities through the application of energy efficient practices and modern construction standards. We also worked on creating mechanisms for financing green projects, in partnership with financial institutions and private investors. These initiatives not only boost economic activity, but also encourage the sustainable transition of our communities.

Improving the knowledge and skills of the CeProSARD team



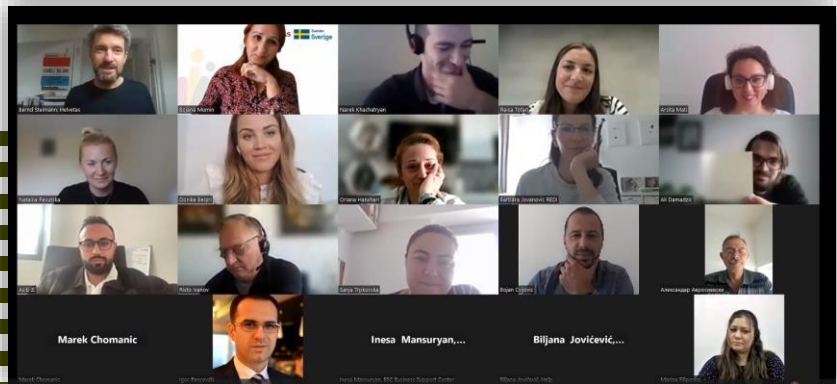
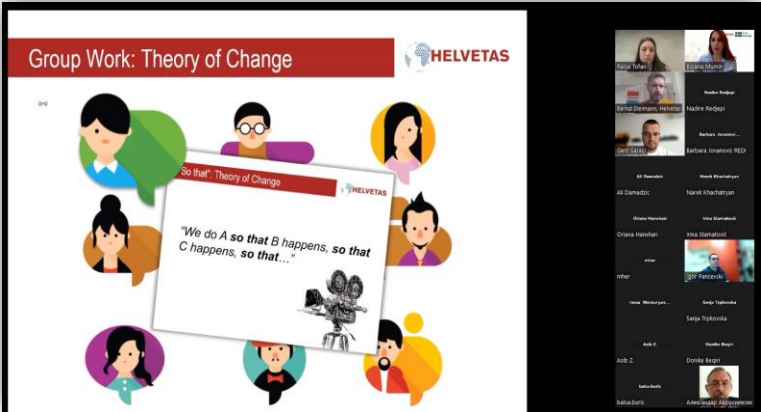
Enhancing the knowledge and skills of the CeProSARD team is a key aspect of achieving our goals in the areas of energy efficiency and sustainable development. Through regular training, seminars, and workshops, our members are familiarized with the latest trends, innovations, and methodologies, enabling them to provide quality services and support for our projects and partnerships.

Promoting continuous learning not only increases the team's efficiency but also fosters creativity and innovation in addressing the challenges we face. By improving our knowledge and skills, we strengthen our capacity to collaborate with local communities and partners, creating more sustainable and successful initiatives.

Our goal is to become a leading example in promoting sustainable practices and energy efficiency, and thus continuous training and development of the team will remain our priority.

Our team implementing the “Energy efficiency in construction and renovation in the Western Balkans” project upgraded their CPD at the webinar “Advocate for change” - RECONOMY 2024 Advocacy Workshop. The workshop was held once per week in a period of one month.

The CeProSARD team took active participation in solving real problems and situations on the market.



CeProSARD

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