

RE-SEEties is a two-year long project to address the problem of inefficient resource use in cities. The project is supported by the European Union and the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme, with the participation of eight South East European municipalities and several professional institution partners. The goal is to help municipalities develop integrated waste-and-energy solutions, in order to create resource efficient urban communities.

The South East Europe Programme aims to develop transnational partnerships on matters of strategic importance, in order to improve the territorial, economic and social integration process and to contribute to cohesion, stability and competitiveness of the region. In addition, the SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme actively seeks the full participation of non-Member States in the programme area benefitting from the external Pre-Accession Assistance and the European Neighbourhood Policy funding. The programme area is located at the South Eastern edge of the Union, where several accession candidate countries and potential candidate countries as well as third countries engaged in the EU partnership framework are concentrated, thus going far beyond the external borders of the EU. More on the programme: www.southeast-europe.net

RE-SEEties project has been launched

After the kick-off event in December 2012, the RE-SEEties project was introduced to the public in February, 2013 at the Launching Conference organised in Budapest. Increasing environmental consciousness is of utmost importance in local communities where real changes can be achieved with grassroots initiatives.



Attila Ughy (mayor of the Municipality of Budapest District 18) and István Hunyadi (vice-mayor of the Municipality of Budapest District 18)

Resource efficiency is a top priority in the South-Eastern Europe policy making agenda. The excessive energy consumption, the uncontrolled waste production, the lack of coordination measures and consumer awareness force us to search for solutions for using the available resources more efficiently than before. "The RE-SEEties project wants to facilitate the change of consumer habits and help communities to find practical solutions and tools for developing sustainable energy and waste management strategies." - said Attila Ughy, mayor of the Municipality of Budapest District 18 at the conference organized for the launching of the project. "For local governments it is a principle to research, measure and know their competences, to take stock of the problems

and options, and find partners, because this is the only way to determine the right methodologies for environmental and energy policies" - added the mayor.

Communities have a special role in stimulating the efficiency of the resources both locally and regionally. The RE-SEEties project helps the actors of the local governments to use the resources more economically. The project specifically tackles two major elements linked to resource efficiency - energy and waste, in an integrated manner. This would enable to reveal the challenges of energy consumption and waste treating and to stop the current tendencies. RE-SEEties is a project with the long-term vision of turning South East European cities into more resource efficient urban communities.

What problem does RE-SEEties address?

Europe is facing problems of excessive energy consumption and uncontrolled waste production, and these trends are expected to increase in the future. In South East Europe (SEE), these problems are manifested also through resource inefficiency as well as lack of coordination and awareness regarding how to use resources more consciously.

There is an urgent need to address these challenges, which requires more innovative approaches on the part of governments and citizens alike.

What is the RE-SEEties solution?

INTEGRATING WASTE AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS. To address the above challenges, the RE-SEEties project specifically focuses on the two major elements linked to resource efficiency – energy and waste – in an integrated manner. The purpose of this is to shed light on challenges related to excess energy consumption and waste production, and also to highlight opportunities, such as the benefits of awareness raising for energy saving, and waste valorization.

FOCUS ON CITY LEADERSHIP. In order to achieve these goals of resource efficiency, it is clear that city leaderships have a major role to play in influencing and incentivizing changed behaviours at local and regional levels. Therefore, municipal actors are the core focus of the RE-SEEties project. Eight SEE cities and regions were selected to design and implement these new resource efficiency strategies. These cities and regions were selected due to their existing policy- and decision-making competencies, and are supported by a consortium of professional institutions having expertise and dissemination power in the field.

The main objective is to improve the integrated policy-making and strategic planning competences of SEE municipalities in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energy and waste valorisation. The purpose is to change consumption patterns and support changing demands with innovative solutions, tools and incentives.

This will be achieved through the following sub-objectives:

- FORECAST– analysis of current and future energy use and waste production at municipality level, to develop the baseline data for strategic planning.
- TECHNOLOGY – application of sustainable energy and waste technologies in the urban context, to determine strengths, weaknesses, and potential synergies between waste and energy measures for creation of a roadmap/priority list.
- CHANGING BEHAVIOUR – addressing various target groups related to resource efficiency, offering solutions and alternatives for waste and energy.
- POLICY – development of innovative policy-making tools, practices and incentives for resource efficiency target groups.
- SYNTHESIS – synthesis of project findings in the form of an integrated toolkit for SEE municipalities, building on existing sustainability strategies and tools, to help them become resource efficient urban communities.
- ENDORSEMENT – ensuring wider uptake of project results in SEE and EU, and endorsement at all policy-making levels.

Upcoming events

Transnational expert workshop and stakeholder platform manager training in Potenza (Italy), May 2013.

Transnational expert workshop in Skopje (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), July 2013.

For the exact dates and venues of the events please take a look at the Calendar-section of our website!

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More info on the project: www.re-seeties.eu

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