Green Energy Cooperative –
Strategies for participation of citizens
in RES community projects

Vienna, 11.11.2016.
Green Energy Cooperative

Green Energy Cooperative is spinoff from UNDP Croatia office (and started as a spin-off in UNDP project Developing energy cooperatives in Croatia)

Promoting citizens engagement in RES community projects in Croatia and Western Balkans.

Member of European Federation of Energy Cooperatives.

Co-founding member of Croatian Ethical Bank.
Competencies

Development of energy strategies and action plans

Innovative financing models for energy projects

Expert studies, analysis and technical due diligence

Technical and administrative assistance for local energy initiatives

European projects (Horizon2020)
Cross-cutting activities

1. Engaging with communities
   Encouraging citizen participation through community energy

2. Legal framework
   Recommendations for legal frameworks that encourages community power

3. Business models and social innovation
   Developing effective business models for community financed energy projects
WE Engage tool

WE Engage – online tool with social acceptance pathways for investors, developers, local communities & energy coops in RES projects

-> Available in **Croatian language!** :: [http://www.we-engage.eu/hr/](http://www.we-engage.eu/hr/)

To be considered for new RES projects in the region
Citizen engagement

Energy advisors for energy poor households

-> Citizens taking active role in energy transition

Case study: Energy advisors in Koprivnica-Krizevci County

- 15 unemployed people trained for energy advisors
- After education, 13 people are employed by City of Krizevci for 6 months to make home-energy checks in 500 households
- Ready to be replicated and implemented at the national level
- Promotion of no-cost and low-cost energy efficiency measures
Citizen engagement

Roundtables on community energy projects

Promoting renewable energy through DIY workshops and roundtables on community energy for citizens
Sharing good practices

Presentation of citizen engagement activities in Croatia through various events and workshops in Energy Community region.
Recommendations for policy makers (1)

Legal framework

Recommendations for policy makers (2)

Examples..
- Make it mandatory in offering the possibility to citizens to own shares in new RES projects (based on good practice from Denmark and Belgium)
- Transition from current incentive schemes (Feed-in-tariff) toward schemes based on “net-metering”
- Providing a 200 MW quota for subsidizing RES projects which are community owned by citizens or local authority
Barriers to RES

- Administrative barriers
- Technical and technological barriers
- Market barriers
- Financial barriers

Business models
Business models

- Why innovative financing and business models to finance RES?
- Energy cooperatives
- Green energy suppliers
- RES + ESCO
- Crowdfunding for RES
Energy cooperatives project

• Organized 20 seminars across Croatia, developed web site, Manual on setting up energy coops;
• International conference „100% renewable energy on islands” in cooperation with REScoop project;
• As a result in 2013, ten energy coops started in Croatia
• All energy coops are in early stage, and new financing and new business models needed;
• Focus of cooperatives: biomass, PV, electro mobility, biogas, wind, energy efficiency in buildings...
Business models
Alternative financing

Citizenergy — EU funded project, crowdfunding platform for renewable energy projects

Crowdfunding Academy (UNDP Croatia) — boot camp for developing projects and crowdfunding campaigns for renewable energy sources
Green energy suppliers

• Different business models are possible
• Buying and supplying RE at the same time – also through REScoops
• Opportunity for net-billing system
• Planning grid connection
Management board combines ZEF and ZEZ coop managers

Coowned by ZEF and ZEZ
Offers a service for connecting producers and consumers within ZEF and a service with outside electricity market

ZEZ is responsible for day-to-day management with ZEF supervision

Central hub for management of production and consumption of energy within ZEF

Supply as non-profit service (similar to ebank)
Case study: **Energy independent school**
First ever net metering scheme in Croatia for setting up first energy independent school

Indiegogo: 10,000 USD;
total crowdfunding: 32,000 USD
Support from the local County: 45,000 USD
What’s next

Plans:
• Promotion of citizen led RES projects in Energy Community region
• Support on research on legal framework for suitable RES environment
• Application of community approach in developing RES projects in Energy Community region

Funding:
• Most of the activities are performed under EU projects and UNDP support – Funding for more research on community RES projects in Energy Community region is needed
Thank you!

Zoran Kordić
Project Manager
Green Energy Cooperative
zoran.kordic@zez.coop

www.zez.coop