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cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

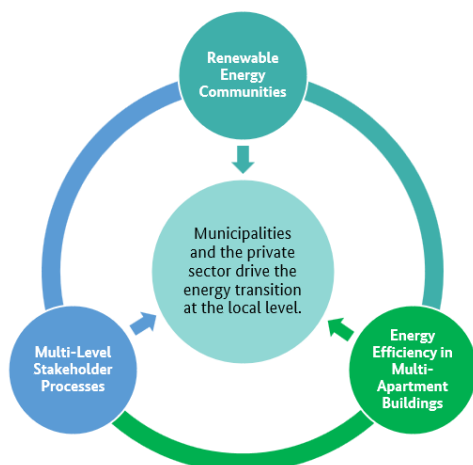# Community Action for Energy Transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The challenge

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the primary source of energy mainly comes from lignite, a type of coal. This method of energy production releases a significant amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. This approach also results in other harmful emissions that impact both the climate and public health, leading to poor air quality in urban areas. Despite the country's potential for utilising renewable energy sources, like wind and solar power, they only accounted for around 2 percent of the electricity supply in 2020.

While Bosnia and Herzegovina has made progress in aligning its policies with the European Union, particularly in terms of enhancing energy efficiency and adopting renewable energy sources, the actual implementation of these measures has not lived up to expectations. Investments from local governments and the private sector in decentralised production of renewable energy and energy efficiency of buildings have been minimal up to this point.

Name	Community Action for Energy Transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MoFTER)
Implementing partners	Energy ministries, spatial planning ministries, and environmental protection funds of both the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska, municipalities and cities, associations of cities and municipalities, chambers of commerce, homeowner associations, constructions companies & others
Duration	2023 – 2026
Project value	3 million euros

Goal

Municipalities and the private sector are assuming their role as a driving force in the implementation of an energy transition at the local level.

Renewable
Energy
Communities

Municipalities and the private sector drive the energy transition at the local level.

Multi-Level
Stakeholder
Processes

Energy
Efficiency in
Multi-Apartment
Buildings

Our approach

The project supports municipalities and the private sector in actively implementing energy transition measures at the local level. To this end, the project works with public, private sector and civil society organisations (such as local governments, construction companies and homeowners' associations) in the energy and construction sector and provides them with specific advice. The project is divided into three components:

1. **Promotion of energy-efficient renovation of multi-apartment buildings through the development and provision of the necessary instruments at the municipal level**

The project focuses on developing climate, environment and resource friendly renovation concepts for selected investment projects for the energy-efficient renovation of multi-apartment buildings. In this context, the project aims to develop financing models for the integration of low-income homeowners such as single women in renovation projects.

Left to right:

A woman smiles in front of her newly renovated, energy-efficient home. An apartment building with newly insulated windows.

Moreover, architects, planners, homeowners' associations, and local authorities are advised on and supported in the energy-efficient renovation of multi-apartment buildings. Finally, partner organisations such as universities or municipal associations, are advised on knowledge management and the design of informative events on energy-efficient renovation.

2. Promoting the establishment of energy communities by breaking down existing barriers and sharing experiences

A thorough analysis of the barriers to the establishment of renewable energy communities (RECs) and to the implementation of renewable energy projects within these communities is to be undertaken. Following this, the project will focus on devising recommendations for overcoming the identified obstacles.

The project provides technical and legal advice to partner municipalities and private-sector investors on the establishment, organisation, financing, and implementation of RECs. Moreover, universities and municipal associations, are advised on knowledge management and designing informative events about RECs.

3. Collecting data from private building renovation projects and using them by public actors for their strategy development

The project provides expert advice to the multi-level governance processes, facilitating the design, collection, analysis, further processing, and use of technical, economic, social, and gender-specific data from renovations of private residential buildings. Additionally, it conducts gender-specific analyses of the residents in the model buildings.

At the same time, it advises and trains the staff of local authorities on data collection and use of data for municipal energy planning and reporting as well as for the design of specific support programmes for women. Finally, a concept for adapting and using existing data systems from housing renovation projects is to be developed.

Results

Some of the results the project intends to achieve are, as follows:

- Results of a demonstration programme for the energy-efficient renovation of multi-apartment buildings, carried out together with local authorities and national universities, are documented.

- Municipalities as well as private investors are enabled to jointly develop renewable energy community projects.

- Public actors know the possibilities of collecting and using energy-relevant data from private building renovation projects for their strategy development and reporting.

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The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the Project focuses on in its implementation are: