

BULGARIA

Implementing Local Development Strategies

Location

Isperih

Programming period

2007 - 2013

Axis / Priority

Axis 4 – LEADER

Measure

M312 - Support for business creation and development

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 26 035

EAFRD 14 580

National / Regional 3 645

Private 7 810

Project duration

2015 – 2016

Project promoter

PIM-Isperih Ltd

Contact

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A micro-enterprise received EAFRD support to purchase the equipment for producing renewable energy and achieve significantly reduced operational costs and level of energy autonomy.

Summary

A Local Action Group in one of the poorest regions in Europe, Isperih, Bulgaria, helped a local entrepreneur to solve his problems of frequent power cuts, which hampered the daily activities of his micro-enterprise in waste recycling. As part of this project the beneficiary purchased and installed a photovoltaic roof system of 6kWp and a wind turbine of 1kWp, controllers, invertors, and 24 batteries.



Main results

- the microenterprise reduced its electricity bill by 75%;
- energy autonomy was achieved and the uninterrupted operation of the business is now secured;
- two work places were created.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ Such an investment requires to select the right provider who will provide a guaranty for the system of sufficient duration, and will undertake to offer training and advice to the operators of the system.

Context

LAG Isperih is operates in the second poorest region in EU – the South Eastern region of Bulgaria. The beneficiary micro-enterprise “PIM-Isperih” Ltd is located in the industrial zone of the rural town of Isperih, with about 8 500 inhabitants.

The firm purchases and sorts various wastes for recycling including paper, metals, plastics and decommissioned internal combustion vehicles. The daily operation of the business requires uninterrupted supply electricity to power the weight measurement scales, the mechanical arm with an electromagnet “head” sorting the wastes and also for video surveillance and lightning of the premises. The greatest consumption of electricity is by the mechanical arm, which pulls out the metals from the waste heaps and helps the sorting process.

However, the industrial zone suffers from frequent power cuts and this forced the owner and manager of “PIM-Isperih” to seek solutions for attaining greater energy autonomy.

Objectives

The project sought to ensure the normal and uninterrupted operation of the business by ensuring a more stable and autonomous supply of electricity, while reducing its energy costs.

Activities

This LAG project is relatively simple, but still required significant preparation to be implemented according to the measure financing rules which included the identification of 3 suppliers of the necessary equipment, selection of the best offer, purchasing and installation.

The renewable energy production equipment installed included 20 solar panels producing up to 6kWp of total

power, a wind turbine of 1kWp, controllers, invertors, and 24 batteries.

After the installation it was necessary to test the equipment and also hire and train the operators, who would to work and upkeep the new energy system.

Results

1. the microenterprise reduced its electricity bill by 75%,
2. energy autonomy was achieved as the system allows the company’s activity to continue its operation unaffected by power cuts.
3. two work places were created for operators in the waste processing

Additionally, the products and the results from the project were promoted to other local micro-firms who visited and learned on-the sport about the project activities, results and general LAG support experience.

Lessons

It is crucial to select the right supplier of renewable energy production systems, who is willing to extend post-project guarantee with sufficient duration, as well as advice and training to the operators of the system.

“EU financing is the best way to revive a small business in our corner of the world. If this opportunity to participate in LAG Isperih strategy was not available, I would not be able to implemented the investments. LAG support under the RDP was the decisive factor for this project. This is the first project for a small scale pV roof system and wind turbine to be realized in favour of a microenterprise in the entire region (note: district level).”

Beneficiary