

HUNGARY

Implementing cooperation projects

Location

Rákóczi falva

Programming period

2007 - 2013

Axis / Priority

Axis 4 – LEADER

Measure

M421 – Transnational and
inter-territorial cooperation

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 126 303

EAFRD 99 418

National/Regional 24 854

Private 2 031

Project duration

2014 – 2015

Project promoter

LAG (KTZVE) - Lead Partner

Contact

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Website

www.ktzve.hu/kozossegi_na_pelem.htm

An innovative interterritorial cooperation project brought together Local Action Groups and other social partners to demonstrate and promote the use of solar energy by local communities.

Summary

Two Local Action Groups in the Northern Great Plain in Hungary decided to cooperate in order to promote the use of solar energy in the local communities and take advantage of the large number of sunny hours per year in the region. Other project partners included a social cooperative and an environmental foundation promoting environmental friendly energy solutions.



Several solar panel systems were installed in communal buildings along with equipment which would allow to continuously monitor their performance. Mobile solar systems were also manufactured for testing and demonstrating the benefits of solar energy use. All of the systems serve as demonstration sites for citizens and local businesses. An extensive communication campaign through events, media and publications was organised to inform the local communities.

Results

Two technicians were hired and received training to provide free consultation services on solar energy projects the covered area for up to 2 years.

The solar panel systems installed helped reduce energy costs and indirectly save several local jobs, or made it possible to rent out public offices and rooms to NGOs under more favourable conditions.

The installed systems on Szajol's community house and Kétpó's municipal building can supply a whole year's electricity consumption of these buildings.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ An unexpected but very positive decision by the local authorities was that the money saved thanks to the project will be spent on financing and raising the quality level of the community programmes and would not be used for other operating expenses.
- ❑ In the near future, the partners are planning to continue the project, they would like to put more emphasis on young generation's environmental awareness-raising activities.

Context

The project area is located at the Northern Great Plain region of Hungary. A characteristic of the area is that the number of sunny hours per year varies between 1 900 and 2 100, which is very high compared to the national average. The area is also the driest part of Hungary, with an average annual rainfall slightly above 490 mm. Considering the high number of sunny hours and cloudless seasons, there was great potential to implement a project for utilising solar energy at community level.

Three different settlements namely the communities Jászapáti, Szajol and Kétpó, decided to participate in this innovative project. The project would be carried out by the two Local Action Groups that cover the area, the LAG Közép–Tisza–Zagyva (KTZVE) which is also the lead partner, and the LAG Nagykunságért (NKVE). Other project partners include the social cooperative 'Út és Élet' and an environmental foundation, (KÖZÖLD), which is a charity promoting environmental friendly energy solutions.

Objectives

The objective of the project was to raise awareness about the importance of renewable energy and especially solar energy, in the participating communities.

The project aimed to generate more renewable energy development projects at local level on energy production and cost-saving systems.

Indirectly the project aimed to preserve jobs by saving costs from energy bills through increasing environmental awareness in local governments, public institutions and businesses.

Activities

As lead partner the LAG 'KTZVE', was responsible for the overall coordination of the project, publicity and marketing activities. At the launch of the project, the LAG organised a team building for the collaborators to get acquainted and to ensure cooperation among each other. As part of the communication strategy they developed a brochure to disseminate the knowledge and good examples. Radio and printed media campaigns were organised in order to advertise and promote the project activities and events. The second LAG, NKVE prepared open days for residents and local entrepreneurs. At the end of the project, the LAG held a final event where the results and experience of the project were shared in detail with the press.

The KÖZÖLD foundation coordinated the installation of a number of solar panel systems. A system of 5 kW was installed on the roof of a Multiple Service Centre which now serves as a demonstration site for local businesses. Another solar panel system (5kW) was set up at the townhall in Kétpó. Five mobile units of 1kW each were manufactured and are now available to be borrowed for trials by institutions or businesses. Two solar panel systems of total 5.25kW were installed on the site of Social Cooperative. The LAG NKVE also had installed a solar system of 5kW which helps reduce the electricity costs of its offices. Each unit was equipped with a special measuring and transmitting instruments in order to monitor the performance of the solar systems. The measurements are accessible and on the spot. Moreover, a section devoted to the project (<http://kozold.hu/napelem>) was created on the website of the foundation.

KÖZÖLD foundation organised a drawing competition on solar energy and provided training to dedicated employees who would lead the community solar initiative. They received theoretical training about the operation of the systems, project planning, financing opportunities, and community communication. The training was provided by an electrical engineer (2 months) and an economist (1 month). KÖZÖLD organised roadshows in the participating municipalities to demonstrate how solar panel systems work, the advantages they offer from daily use and issues related to the return of such investments. The roadshows were linked to public events and aimed at promoting community solar panels, recruiting collaborators, and generating new community solar projects.



Main Results

Two technicians were hired and trained during the project in installing solar panel systems. The KÖZÖLD Foundation has undertaken that activity after the project ended thus the two professionals trained, will provide free consultation services on solar energy projects in the covered area for up to 2 years.

The solar panel system installed at the townhall in Kétpó, helped reduce the energy costs of the office and thanks to this development indirectly several local jobs could be saved.

The system installed on the roof of the Multiple Service Centre decreased its operating costs, and thus the centre could rent out their offices and rooms to NGOs under more favourable conditions.

Key lessons

An unexpected but very positive decision by local authorities was that the money saved thanks to the project will be spent on financing and raising the quality level of the community programmes.

In the near future, the partners are planning to continue the project. They would like to put more emphasis on young generation's environmental awareness-raising activities.



Additional sources of information

<http://kozold.hu/napelem/>

www.facebook.com/kozoseginapelem/?fref=ts