

## RES heating plan in Rhodope Region to 2030

Rhodope Region [Bulgaria]

### Context

The programme RES H/C SPREAD aims at developing renewable energies in heating and cooling through regional pilot schemes and strategic actions in six European regions. The six regions (located in Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Latvia and Spain) represent the main climatic zones of the European Union, with a prevalence of the Mediterranean countries. The planning exercise aims to establish harmonized and standard benchmarks to enable regional authorities to set their targets and policies.

The project aims to provide general methodological and procedural guidance to assist regional authorities in mapping the demand and potential supply of their territory (cost-benefit analysis) for renewable energy in order to meet energy efficiency requirements.

In each region, National Governance Committees will be formed to support the implementation of the plans and to help reach consensus on proposed policies among regional authorities, key stakeholders and citizens' representatives.

The plans will then be developed according to the regional demand for heating and cooling, in accordance with the requirements of the EED (Energy Efficiency Directive). The aim is to optimize the use of residual heat sources and to develop air conditioning networks in areas where the demand for heat and cold is insufficient.

The plans will be aligned with the objectives of local SEAP and will be consistent with national strategies and policies to serve as pilot cases for the dissemination of this planning exercise in the regions and, where deemed appropriate, at the national level.

### Description and Main Objectives

The main goal is effective utilization of biomass potential in municipalities, members of Association of Rhodope Municipalities, 21 in total. The association has established an energy efficiency council with energy experts from different municipalities. The board will be responsible for the monitoring and implementation of the plan for renewable heating and cooling. It is part of regional energy planning, which supports the authorities in taking appropriate measures for the sustainable use of local energy resources.

The action plan was endorsed by the Smolyan District Sustainable Energy Development Council and the Kardzhali District Energy Efficiency Council. It will be applied in other municipalities, which are not members of the Association of Rhodope Municipalities.



## Implementation Strategy

The implementation of this plan was inspired by the work of the Black Sea Energy Research Center, which had set up seven renewable energy Action Plans in previous years. The plan was developed in collaboration with local energy companies and the national biomass association, which had already participated in other projects on the use of biomass in the same region. Communication will be carried out through information campaigns and meetings.

### The targets

- Members of the Association of the Rhodopes Municipalities;
- The residential sector;
- Citizens of municipalities.

### Goals

- Develop a sustainable and local use of renewable energies;
- Develop a renewable heating and cooling market at national, regional and local level;
- Create a network of energy advisors to inform local population about the energy retrofit (energy information point network);
- Enable the establishment of a local and regional energy strategy and reduce energy consumption (strategy of refurbishment of public buildings);
- Replace the old heating system with new, more efficient biomass boilers.

### Steps

- Data collection on energy consumption in the residential and municipal sectors;
- Determine the potential of renewable energies;
- Create map with data to better visualize priority action areas;
- Perform a cost/benefit analysis and determine financial needs;
- Establish methods of identification and implementation.

## Time Frame

Start date: May 2016 – End date: 2030

## Budget

The budget is 11,140,000€, funded through municipal budget, OP "Regions in growth", OP "Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy", Horizon 2020, JASPERS, National programme for EE in multifamily buildings, EE and Renewable Sources Fund, public- private partnerships.

## Contacts & Links

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