

EEW4 External Event Report

Title of the event: ***The energy crisis, changing narratives for energy efficiency and the myth of financial decentralization***

Date & location: 7th July on Zoom and in Gabrovo (BG) – hybrid format

Organiser(s): Energy Cities in cooperation with EcoEnergy and EnEffect

Summary of the event Co-organised with EcoEnergy and EnEffect of Bulgaria, this hybrid event was involving mayors and political representatives from local authorities including Sofia, Burgas and Gabrovo as well as the National Association of Municipalities in Bulgaria to discuss challenges of the energy crisis and related changes in narratives and actions needed.

Objective & main programme point Objective of the session was to highlight the role of municipalities in tackling energy and climate challenges; sharing local challenges related to the energy crisis and local infrastructure financing as well as exchange on potential local responses and accompanying narratives. Participating mayors and deputy mayors, incl. mayor of hosting Gabrovo and deputy mayor of Sofia were also calling on the national government for action to unblock EU funds; decentralising EU subsidies and support municipal efforts to successfully handle the energy crisis.

Conclusions Municipalities are key to the implementation of sustainable energy and climate policies. However, to implement these policies successfully and to gain trust of citizens and local businesses, they need clear policy signals at the national level, a functioning regulatory framework and access to financing instruments, including through the long-delayed financial decentralisation reform. Municipalities suffer from centralisation in Bulgaria; there is a lack of ownership of energy and climate issues in the government (but also at municipal level). In Bulgaria; many EU funded projects are too highly subsidized (often 100%); undermining potential market based solutions (eg. ESCOs). Gabrovo modernised its street lighting system – using only 30% subsidies; an optimal ratio of co-funding. In terms of narratives; innovation and competitiveness are still important; but even more; a major driver today to tackle the energy crisis is energy security and energy independence.



"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153"

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AGENDA:



The energy crisis, changing narratives and the myth of financial decentralization

Date & Time: 7th July 2022, 14:00-16:00

on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83172821393>

This hybrid workshop (online and onsite in Gabrovo, Bulgaria) organised jointly with the BeSmart project aims at discussing the root causes and potential answers by Bulgarian municipalities to the energy crisis. Discussions with local political leaders will explore their local action plans, local potentials and the changing narratives needed for an accelerated energy transition.

The [Energy Efficiency Watch project](#) that monitors the implementation of energy efficiency policies in the EU27 and develops supporting narratives for the local energy transition.

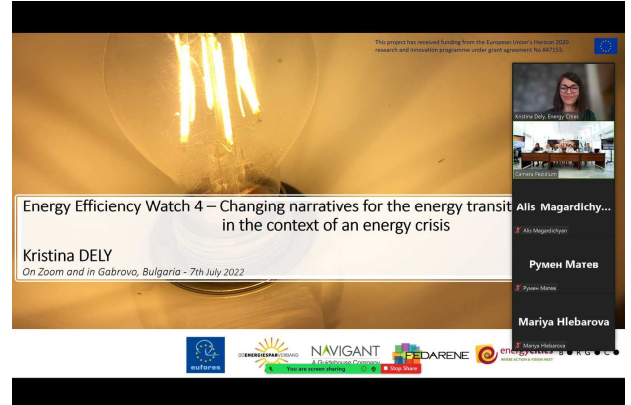
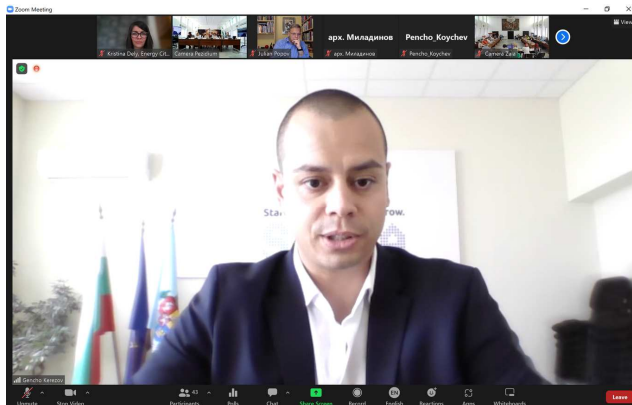
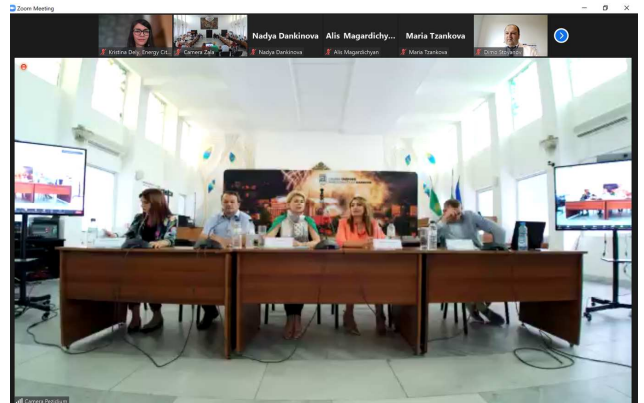
14:00 – 14:15	Welcome and introduction <i>Eva Meidel, Member of the European Parliament</i>
	CHANGING NARRATIVES FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE CONTEXT OF AN ENERGY CRISIS
14:15 - 14:30	<i>Kristina Dely, Energy Cities, the Energy Efficiency Watch project</i>
14:30 – 15:30	CAN WE MANAGE ENERGY EFFICIENTLY? PLANNING, MANAGEMENT, LOCAL CAPACITY <i>Panel discussion featuring:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Julian Popov, political advisor of the European Climate Foundation</i>- <i>Tanya Hristova, Mayor of Gabrovo</i>- <i>Vesna Baltina, Deputy Mayor of Burgas</i>- <i>Gencho Kerezov, Deputy Mayor of Sofia</i>- <i>Danka Mihailova, Mayor of Troyan</i> <i>Reactions from the financial institutions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Kamelia Georgieva (NDEF), representative of FEEVI (invited)</i>
15:30 - 16:00	POLL - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



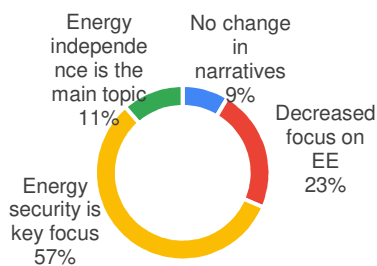
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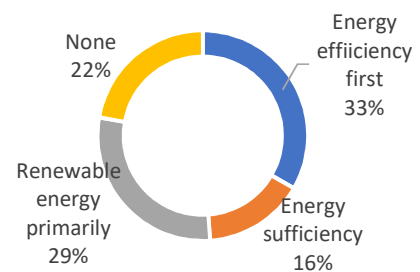
PICTURES



What changes in the public dialogue on energy efficiency are you seeing in your municipality?



What emergency measures do you consider the most effective and feasible to reduce dependence on imports



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