

## EEW4 External Event Report

**Title of the event:** *Alternative solutions and changing narratives in the context of the energy crisis*

**Date & location:** 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022, on Zoom

**Organiser(s):** Energy Cities

**Summary of the event** The event aimed at providing municipalities, signatories of the Covenant of Mayors with munition of supportive narratives and successful strategies for handling their local energy crisis. Indeed, in the context of rising energy prices and unstable supplies; energy efficiency and the integration of waste heat and renewables in district heating systems provides for a circular, more affordable and secure heating and cooling alternative to imported gas and fossil fuel; yet faces many challenges in the current geopolitical-economical context.

**Objective & main programme point** Objective of the session was to discuss energy crisis strategies and underlining narratives in European municipalities. The webinar featured alternative strategies and discussed narratives of three capital cities in Central and Eastern Europe - Vienna, Budapest and Bucharest – in the context of the energy crisis.

**Conclusions** With different historical backgrounds and financial authority, the three cities have different possibilities and capacities for action; yet, their aim is similar: achieving energy independence and decarbonise their cities in parallel. A lively discussion on potential solutions and supporting narratives took place with the involvement of the audience – via chat and polls. Speakers highlighted their innovative solutions and how the current energy crisis could give a boost to the energy transition but also voiced their concerns about multiplied energy prices and high inflation that could slow down investments. Responses to poll questions also reflected a general caution about the upcoming period: participants thought that the upcoming era would see investments slowing down in the short term; but holds a great opportunity for the energy transition and decarbonisation of cities on the longer term.



*“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:

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### *Alternative solutions and changing narratives in the context of the energy crisis*

#### **WEBINAR**

Date & Time: **12<sup>th</sup> October 13:30-15:00**

On Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88397061421>

#### **Outline**

This webinar, organised by Energy Cities, aims at providing municipalities, signatories of the Covenant of Mayors with munition of supportive narratives and successful strategies for handling their local energy crisis through district heating modernisation. Indeed, in the context of rising energy prices and unstable supplies; district heating offers a great alternative for avoiding gas and decarbonising our energy systems. Energy efficiency and the integration of waste heat and renewables in these systems provides for a circular, more affordable and secure heating and cooling alternative to imported gas and fossil fuel; yet faces many challenges in the current geopolitical-economical context.

This webinar is organised in the context of the [Energy Efficiency Watch project](#) (EEW4) and [Decarb City Pipes 2050](#), which aims at designing transition roadmaps towards a decarbonised heating and cooling sector. EEW 4 monitors the implementation of energy efficiency policies in the EU27 and develops supporting narratives for the local energy transition.

**13:30 – 13:45** Kristina Dely, Energy Cities, Energy Efficiency Watch project – **Setting the scene**

**13:45 – 14:30** Sharing experience

- **Ada Amon, City of Budapest** - Crisis strategy, investments and changing narratives in Budapest
- **Ion Dogeanu, Bucharest, Sector 1, AEEP** – Large scale energy efficiency refurbishment in Bucharest’s building stock
- **Peter Lichtenwoehr, City of Vienna** - From gas dependency to renewable energy supply in the building stock
- **Astrid Madsen, Decarb City Pipes 2050** – Heating and cooling plans – essential step in the energy transition

**14:30 – 15:00** Discussion: Solutions and narratives for energy efficiency in times of

Moderator: Kristina Dely, Energy Efficiency Watch 4 project, Energy Cities

*"So-called "narratives" combine several arguments and are supported by a larger number of actors. The objective of developing and spreading such narratives is often to gain wider support for a political movement, a policy or even a change in society, such as the energy transition policies. Often, these narrative are "stories" which combine facts and the ability to trigger emotions.*

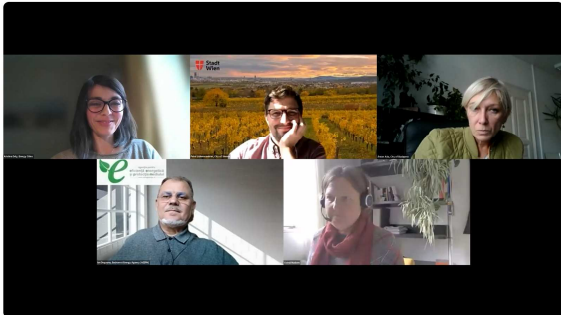


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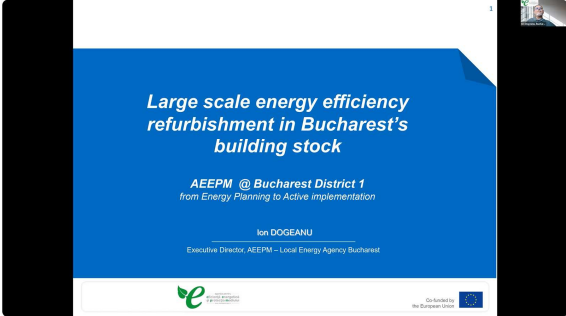
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PICTURES

zoom Energy crisis: alternative solutions and narratives... - Shared screen with gallery view




zoom Energy crisis: alternative solutions and narratives... - Shared screen with gallery view





zoom Energy crisis: alternative solutions and narratives... - Shared screen with gallery view




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