## EEW4 External Event Report

**Title of the event:** Circular solutions and energy efficiency narratives in district heating in Central and Eastern Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; location:</th>
<th>16th May 2022, 13:30-16:00 / on Zoom</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organiser(s):</td>
<td>Energy Cities – in cooperation with the FlexHeat Project</td>
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**Summary of the event:**
This webinar – embedded in a hybrid event, organised in cooperation with the FlexHeat project - was aiming to discuss potentials for EE modernisation and circular solutions for district heating in Central and Eastern Europe. Involving some of the key district heating operators in CEEC and targeting municipalities considering also modernisation of their DH networks; this event was also discussing (changing) narratives for district heating in the current geopolitical – economical context.

**Objective & main programme point:**
Objective of the session was to debate different modernisation strategies for district heating (DH) in Central and Eastern Europe along with the supportive narratives. DH company Fotav, Croatian agencies, EIHP and REGEA shared their views along with Bucharest’s energy agency, AEEPM.

**Conclusions:**
ENERGY SECURITY / INDEPENDENCE as (the) major driver for modernisation – is now a matter of survival for DH companies. Indeed, dependence on gas with rising prices – in parallel with regulated consumer prices caused bankruptcy in some CEEC district heating companies. TIME factor poses concerns – as in any EE investments it is important to take time for the cautious preparation and realisation; ‘now, we are almost in winter and we don’t have the time’ (referring to the planned EU embargo on Russian oil & gas). DATA is key; their availability and quality contributes faster decision making; appropriate mapping is a key tool for prioritisation of investments. Largest potential for EE is still on the demand (secondary) side; BUILDINGS refurbishment connected to DH can reach up to 60% savings.

Personal contacts and demonstration of visible, key benefits of EE helps to make the business case and realise investments.
AGENDA:

Circular solutions and energy efficiency narratives in district heating in Central and Eastern Europe
Date & Time: 16th May 2022, 13:30-16:00
on Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82857698786

Outline

This webinar and hybrid workshop, in cooperation with the FlexHeat project aims at exploring and promoting supportive narratives and successful strategies of energy efficiency in district heating in Central and Eastern Europe. Indeed, in the context of rising energy prices and unstable supplies, district heating offers a great alternative not only for decarbonising our energy systems. Energy efficiency and the integration of waste heat and renewables in these traditionally widespread systems throughout Central and Eastern Europe provides for a more affordable and secure heating and cooling alternative for the region; yet faces many challenges in the current geopolitical-economical context.

Besides sharing good practices and supporting narratives for energy efficiency in CEEC, this webinar aims at discussing case studies and narratives developed by 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.


13:45 - 15:30 Sharing experience in Central and Eastern European experience

- Ilija Drmač, Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (HR) - Waste heat utilisation & mapping in district heating
- Tomislav Novosel, REGEA (HR) - District heating (consumption) map in Zagreb and Osijek
- Ion Dogeanu, Bucharest, Sector 1 AEEPM (RO) – Large scale energy efficiency refurbishment in Bucharest’s building stock, financed by ELENA
- Balázs Némethi, FŐTÁV, Budapest (HU) - Modernisation efforts and energy efficiency achievements in the district heating system of Budapest

15:30 – 16:00 Discussion: District heating energy efficiency narratives in Central-Eastern Europe

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 narratives are “stories” which combine facts and the ability to trigger emotions.*

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The publication reflects only the author’s view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains
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