EEW4 External Event Report

Title of the event: Municipal renovation plans in Romania and supporting narratives* for the energy transition

Date & location: 25th March 2021, on Zoom

Organiser(s): Energy Cities with the network of Orase Energie Romania (OER)

Summary of the event: This webinar was an integral part, a 2.5 hours long plenary session at OER’s annual conference that took place online this year, due to COVID19 travel restrictions.

Aim of the webinar was to present EEW4 survey results for Romania, while gathering further input for the narrative developments. The webinar was also providing supporting elements for municipalities in their long term renovation plans and aimed to assist in identifying key arguments, motivations and potential allies in the process.

Objective & main programme point: Aim of the webinar was to present EEW4 survey’s Romanian national results and gather feedback on the survey as well as to provide further input for the narratives development. Key input factors for Romania was presented by FEDARENE and interpreted in Romanian simultaneously.

Municipalities of Bacau and Mizil and Sibiu were reacting and commenting on seven poll questions. These questions and comments have generated a lively discussion with the audience; whose feedback via the poll questions and the chat was valuable input for the narratives development.

Conclusions: Key priorities of Romanian municipalities attending the webinar – according to poll questions and discussions – has been to increase the attractiveness of their city (51%), while improving air quality and keeping day-to-day running came next with 21%.

Discussing key motivations of municipalities for engaging in energy efficient building renovations, 64% of poll respondents opted for ‘energy independence through lower energy consumption’ alongside with
‘improved air quality’, while ‘creating more affordable and healthier built environment’ came second by 56% of respondents. When asking about municipalities’ key allies or influencing local stakeholders; local citizens’ groups, civil organisations and NGOs, then secondly associations of large industries seemed to impact most local decisions. All municipalities aim at involving as many local stakeholders as possible in their decision making process.

Reflecting on influencing circumstances; primarily funding opportunities are most decisive, followed closely by local and national elections and political changes.

AGENDA:

Municipal renovation plans and supporting narratives* for the energy transition

WEBINAR

Venue: https://zoom.us/j/97833124100
Date & Time: 23rd March 2021, 10:15-12:30 am CET

Outline:

This webinar has a double purpose: offering Romanian municipalities extensive information on long term municipal renovation plans while discussing and gathering feedback on supporting narratives that can back their energy efficient investment decisions.

Municipalities of OER will share their experiences, their preparations as well as their motivations, their key arguments and stories for supporting their renovation plan.

10:15-10:30 – Welcome and introduction – objectives of this session
Kristina Deley, Energy Cities

10:30-10:50 – Guidelines for developing local renovation plans
Camelia Rata, OER

10:50-11:10 – Presentation of EEW4 survey results – gathering input for narratives
Filip Dumitru, PEGARENE

11:10-11:40 – Discussion: renovation strategies in OER municipalities – what are the success factors?
Sibiu, Beacs, Sighișoara

11:40-12:20 – Q&A and moderated discussion with speakers – feedback and interactive discussion with the audience around poll questions

12:20-12:30 – Conclusions and next steps

*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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