LIFE Clean Energy Transition Overview

Slovenian info day, 12/11/2026

Maria Laguna

Head od Sector LIFE CET programme, CINEA

The LIFE Programme 2021-2027

Objectives:

To contribute to the shift to a circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy based- and climate resilient economy

To protect and improve the quality of the environment

To halt and reverse biodiversity loss



Nature and Biodiversity



Circular Economy and Quality of Life



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



Clean Energy Transition

Supported activities:

- Promote best practices and behavioral changes
- Catalyse the large scale deployment of successful solutions

On legislation and policies

- Support their development, monitoring and enforcement
- Help Member States to improve their implementation

Enabling actions for energy efficiency and renewable energy policy

removing market barriers, mobilising investments, improving skills, raising awareness, educating, empowering

EU Energy policy framework priorities

The interrelated energy framework to deliver on 3 priorities:

➔ Competitiveness

- **Clean Industrial Deal** and **Affordable Energy Action Plan**
- **New Energy Efficiency Impetus**: (upcoming) Heating and Cooling Strategy, Electrification Action Plan, European Grids Package, Strategic Roadmap for digitalisation and AI in the energy sector

➔ Decarbonisation

- **Green Deal** and **Fit for 55 Package**: including Energy Efficiency Directive, Renewable Energy Directive, Energy Performance of Building Directive

➔ Security – REpowerEU

- Phase–out of strategic **dependencies**
- Strengthen the **resilience** of **EU energy system** vis-a-vis geopolitical crises impacting the global energy market

LIFE Clean Energy Transition – Turning Policy into Action

Competitiveness

Decarbonisation

Security

Renewable Energy Directive

Energy Efficiency Directive

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive









Heating & Cooling

Industry& Products

Digitatilisation

Mobilise investment and private finance

One-Stop-Shops

Energy Communities

Cities & Regions

Policy Support & Energy Efficiency First

Building Renovation & Building Performance

Clean Energy & Construction Skills

Energy Poverty

Giving LIFE to the energy transition – change in the spotlight

- Support to 500+ Energy Community projects and 600+ European Cities
- Set up of 50+ one-stop shops for better homes and public buildings
- Support to 60+ district heating operators
- Technical assistance to launch EUR 10+ billion of investments, leverage 1:30
- 50,000 professiona trained in construction and renovation



➔ More in: Giving LIFE to Europe's clean energy transition

LIFE-CET Intervention areas
(LIFE Multi-annual work programme)

1. Building a national, regional and local policy framework
2. Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of the related professional skills
3. Attracting private financing for sustainable energy
4. Supporting the mobilization of investment for local and regional projects
5. Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition

Translate into:

—**Annual funding topics for grants: aprox 40-60 per year.**

—and **Strategic tenders** in key policy areas

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LIFE CET – Call 2026 Funding topics (I)

Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition

- Towards an effective implementation of key legislation
- Delivery of integrated local heating and cooling plans
- Strengthening national frameworks for renewable and efficient heating and cooling in existing buildings
- [Multilevel climate and energy dialogue (PLP Call)]

Supporting the development of Local and Regional Investment Projects

- One-Stop-Shops – Integrated services for private building renovation
- Project Development Assistance for sustainable energy investments
- EmpowerEUcities – Scaling up smart and clean solutions for affordability in EU cities

Mobilising private finance for sustainable energy

- Crowding in private finance

LIFE CET – Call 2026 Funding topics (II)

Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition

- Alleviating household energy poverty in Europe
- Facilitating cooperation among energy communities

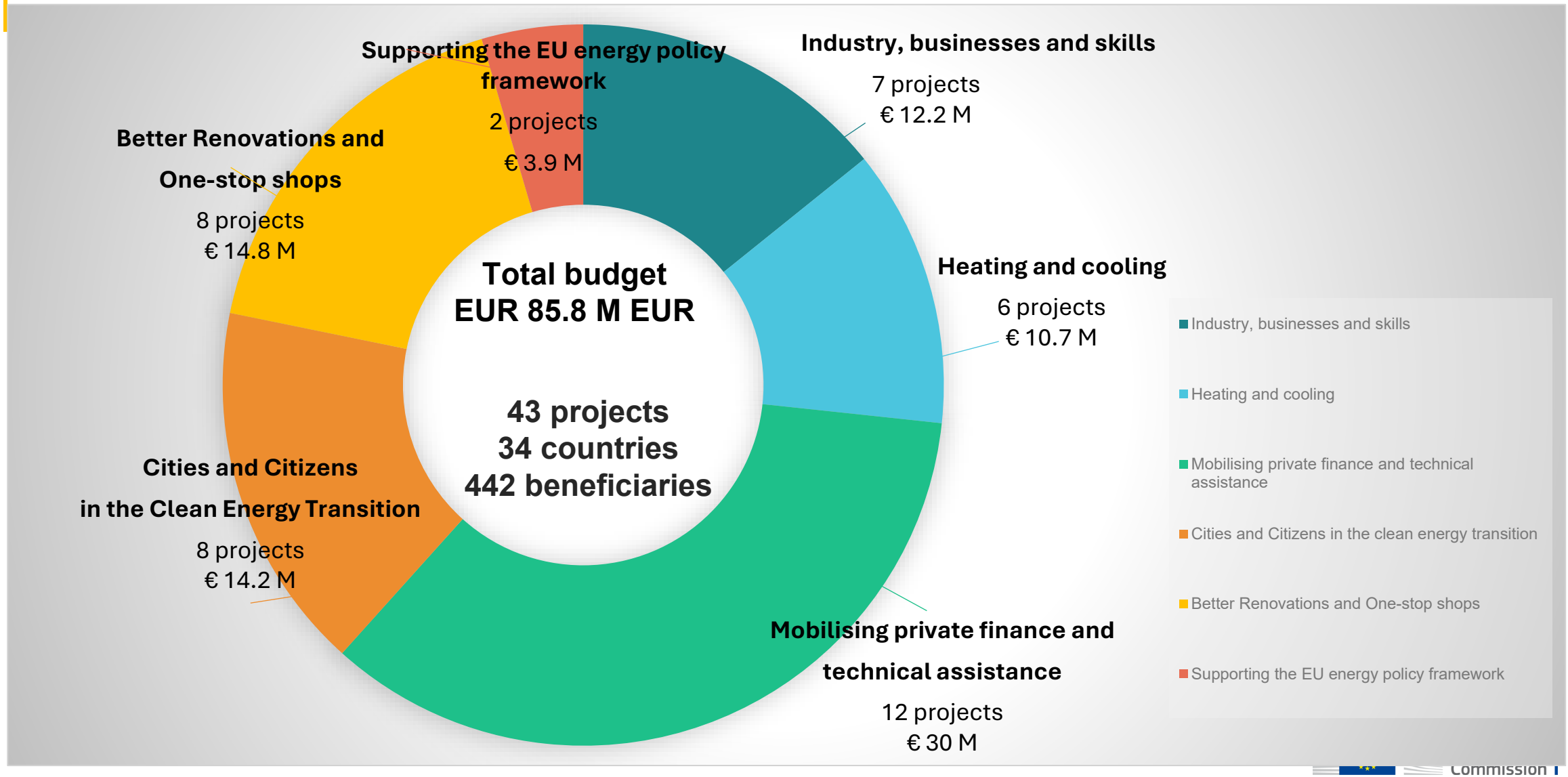
Decarbonisation of buildings and building skills

- Energy renovation solutions – Boosting building renovations through effective markets and instruments
- BUILD UP Skills – National Platforms on energy efficiency skills for the clean energy transition

Capacity of Industry and Digitalisation

- Supporting the clean energy transitions of European industry and businesses
- Supporting digitalisation of Distribution System Operators for a smart energy transition
- [PLP- Compliance Ecodesign and energy labelling compliance support facility for suppliers and retailers]

Outcomes of LIFE CET Call for proposals 2025*



* *Subject to successful Grant Agreement Preparation (GAP) and signature*

LIFE Clean Energy Transition beyond the call – key initiatives for policy implementation

- **Member States Concerted Actions** for Renewable Directive, Energy Efficiency Directive, Building Directive, Product Legislation, Defence Forum
- **Strategic tenders and initiatives** e.g. European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), Building Stock Observatory, ManagEnergy, Build up Portal, European City Facility, European Community Facility, Support to the EU Energy Efficiency Finance Coalition, Clean Energy Transition Investment Forum
- **Policy support actions** e.g. EU wide monitoring of energy efficiency trends and policy evaluation (ODYSEE MURE), EU Practitioners network on Integrated Home Renovation services (EU PEERS), Community of practice for BUILD UP Skills (BUSUnited)

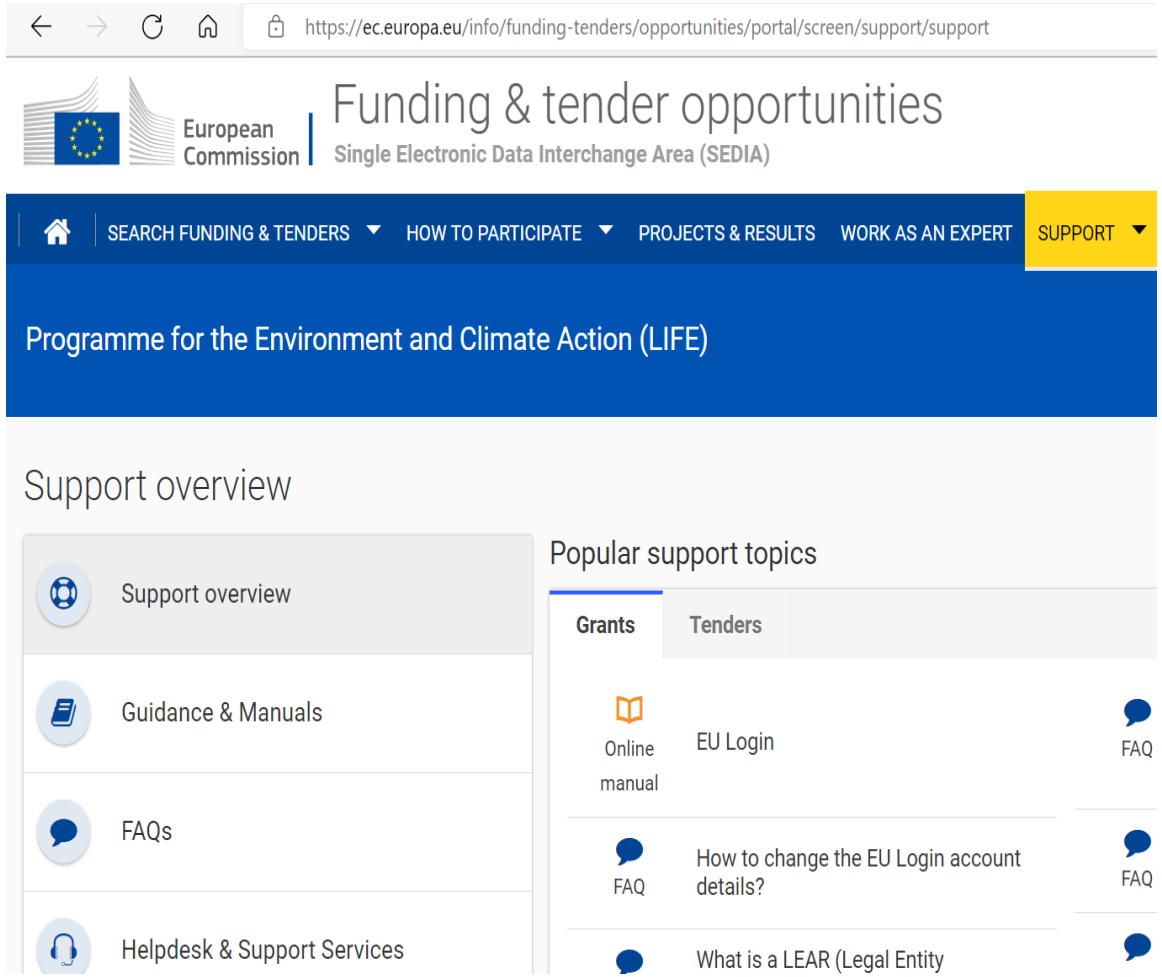
LIFE CET In a Nutshell



- **Annual calls of +/- 85-100 mEUR** available for aprox 13-15 detailed topics
  Topics
- policy-driven funding topics with **detailed guidance**
- Most funding topics: **minimum of 3 (eligible) entities from 3 different eligible countries** (average number of partners is higher)
- **95% co-funding rate**
- Apply electronically via the EC's Funding & Tender opportunities portal

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Information sources and support



- **LIFE Info Days!**
- **LIFE CET mailbox:** CINEA-LIFE-CET@ec.europa.eu

Project databases

- EU Funding & Tender Portal - LIFE Funded Projects
- CORDIS for H2020
- **Information portals:** BUILD UP, ManagEnergy
- **LIFE and CINEA newsletters** (Register for updates and success stories)

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Slovenian Partners in LIFE CET

- 48 LIFE CET projects with Slovenian participants
- CINEA Project Portfolio - Overview | Sheet - Qlik Sense
- Recent Publication with 28 Some project examples



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CLEAR-HP - facilitate consumers' access to heat pumps

Providing **information to consumers** on the availability, quality and suitability of heat pump products for their homes

Identifying available **financing opportunities** for consumers and addressing gaps with national authorities

developing **partnerships with heat pump suppliers and installers**

Launching **collective purchase** schemes based on 'purchase and install' packages which ensure the quality of the product offered and simplify the purchasing process for consumers

Up-skilling installers of heat pumps in what consumers need to know

Communicating to consumers the **general benefits of heat pumps** versus traditional technologies to encourage new and future investments and interest



All results available here:

https://www.beuc.eu/clear-hp#results



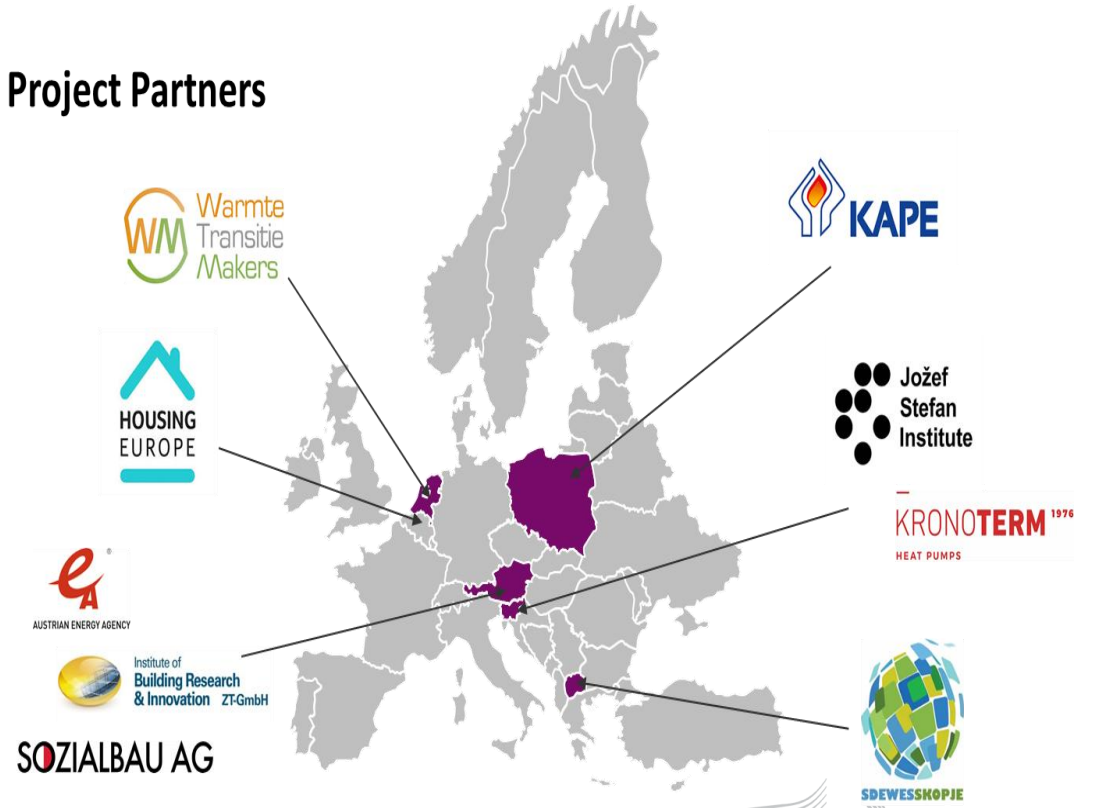
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install.res

Make heat pump rollout in buildings simple and affordable

install.res
heat pump rollout. simple and affordable.

- 14 demonstration sites testing
  - alternative business models (e.g. Energy Performance Contracting, Rent a Heat Pump model)
  - innovative delivery models (e.g. building component activation, local cold-water grids)
- Developing toolbox to support decision-making and efficient planning and installation
  - for end users (e.g. cost comparison tool, fact checks)
  - for building professionals (e.g. planning tips for sizing and efficient operation, reducing complexity, communication guide, best-practices for low-cost options)
- Project goal: 15 000 heat pumps installed and 5 000 tCO_2eq emission savings per year



Further info: here
Project website: here

ENABLE DHC

Title: Enabling strategies and investment plans for efficient, multi-energy and digitalized DHC

ENABLE DHC aims at fostering the switch of district heating and cooling (DHC) networks towards efficient DHC as defined in the Energy Efficiency Directive, by developing 9 case studies of investment plans in 7 countries (AT, HR, IE, IT, LV, SI, UA)

Case studies:



- Start date: September 2024
- End date: August 2027
- Coord: Ambiente Italia

- **Slovenia**

Beneficiary: ENVIRODUAL, trajnostno okoljsko in energetsko upravljanje, raziskave in izobraževanje, d.o.o.

Case study: Ljubliana with a goal to decarbonise grid since most of the energy used in it comes from coal and biomass.

RISE DHC

Title: Resilient Investment plans Supporting Efficient new District Heating and Cooling systems

RISE DHC targets the development of new district heating/cooling systems that are 100% based on renewable energy and/or waste heat, designed to meet the “efficient DHC”.

Case studies:

RISE DHC targets eight committed local authorities across seven countries: Bjelovar (HR), Valdagno (IT), Dobrovnik (SI), Guimarães (PT), Kungsbacka (SE), Waterford (IE), Portlaoise (IE) and Alzenau (DE)

- Start date: September 2026
- End date: August 2029
- Coord: Energy Institute Hrvoje Pozar



- **Slovenia**

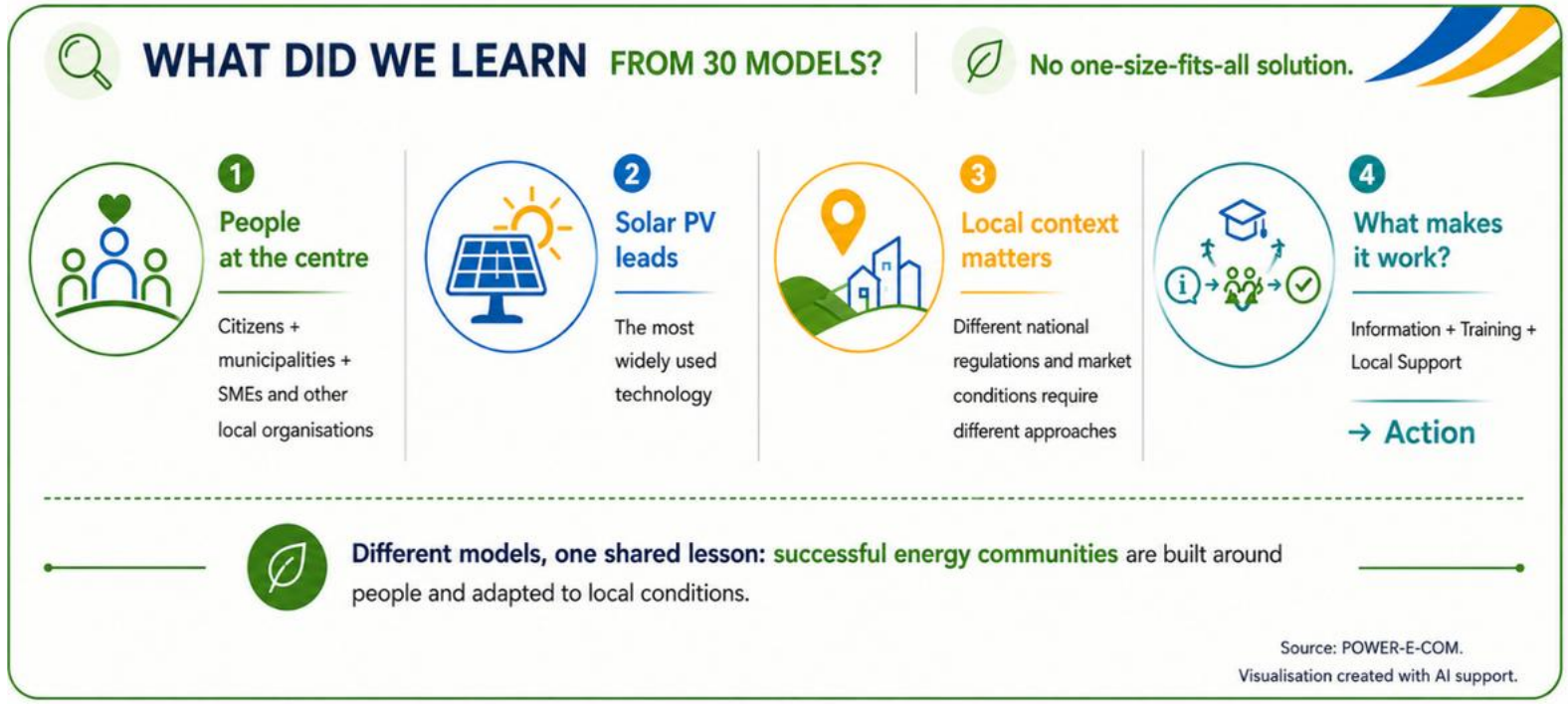
Beneficiary: Geological Survey of Slovenia (GeoZS)

Case study: Dobrovnik (Pomurje region), geothermal-led DHC operating at high temperature (~90/70 °C), complemented by shallow geothermal with large heat pumps.

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POWER-E-COM - Empowering Renewable and Citizen Energy

- The project has established and is successfully operating **7 Energy Community Transformation Offices** (ECTOs) with 30 business models developed during the project in Austria (Linz), Bulgaria (Gabrovo), Germany (Penzberg), Ireland (Nenagh), Slovenia (Maribor) and Spain (Madrid/Rivas).
- Combined practical local support with **training**, **mentoring** and **capacity building** for municipalities, regional authorities, citizen groups and energy agencies on community energy topics.
- Online **Mentoring Programme** and **training pack** are available on the project website: https://power-e-com.eu/



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Kidričevo & Ptuj – SI

Located in

Podravje, Slovenia



Targeting **31,500** residents in area

Designated **€33,8 million** for energy poverty



Kidričevo and Ptuj socialist-era housing



Renovation barriers:

- High renovation complexity
- Fragmented ownership slows decisions
- Financial struggle despite subsidies

Next steps:

- Facade insulation – highest impact
- Heating system upgrades to follow
- Estimated €800,000 for three buildings' renovation

FULL ROADMAP

Co-funded by the European Union

The CEESEN-BENDER project has received funding from the European Union's Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE 2021–2027) under grant agreement no LIFE 101120994. The information and views set out in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK

CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NETWORK
CEESEN-BENDER

CEESEN-BENDER:
Building intErventions in vulNerable Districts against Energy poveRty

Aim: Empower vulnerable homeowners and renters in Soviet-era multi-apartment buildings (MABs) through the renovation process in 5 CEE countries.

Slovenian pilot area: Spodnje Podravje, with 2 micro-locations – Kidričevo and Ptuj

- Building–level renovation roadmaps and investment strategies for 6 pilot MABs in Kidričevo (4) and Ptuj (2)
- Workshops and Q&A sessions for homeowners, landlords, tenants and building managers
- Country-level reports on building renovation

*Featured in the LIFE CET flagship publication of success stories *Giving LIFE to Europe's clean energy transition* (2026)

EENOVA (2023-2026)

- **EENOVA** aims at re-thinking the **food processing industry**, making it not only more energy-efficient on company level but also on **value chain** level.

- The project developed a multi-stakeholder **business model** of services for cooperation and implementation of **energy efficiency and renewable energy measures** between individual businesses, both SMEs and larger companies, being part of the same **regional food processing value chains**:

  - Bakery – Upper Austria
  - Meat – Romania
  - Water and soft drinks – Lithuania
  - Winery – Bulgaria
  - Dairy – West Slovenia

ASSUMMER | ACTOR GROUNDED COORDINATION STRUCTURES for SUMMER ENERGY POVERTY

CONNECTING NATIONAL POLICY AND TERRITORIAL ACTION

- Establish permanent, multi-level, multi-actor Summer Energy Poverty Coordination Structures bringing together local social actors, policymakers, technical experts, and community organisations and bridging national policy and local implementation in Euro-Med countries: France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Cyprus, Spain, Croatia
- Develop taxonomy maps and an Integrated Assistance Toolkit on Summer Energy Poverty
- Capacity building programmes: mentorship and peer-to-peer exchanges
- Support bottom-up policy design: 14 Policy-to-Practice events and 28 Coordination Dialogues with national institutions
- Ensure coordination and replication: set up a Mediterranean and European Coordination Board

PROJECT DURATION

40 Months
1 September 2026 – 31 December 2029

A MULTI-ACTOR RESPONSE TO SUMMER ENERGY POVERTY

Effective action requires social, energy, health and policy actors to collaborate with housing, building, architectural, urban-planning and climate-adaptation professionals.

2 level communication gaps

HORIZONTAL COORDINATION

Connect energy, social, health, housing, urban planning and civil-society actors.

VERTICAL COORDINATION

Link local needs and evidence with national policies, institutions and energy poverty observatories.

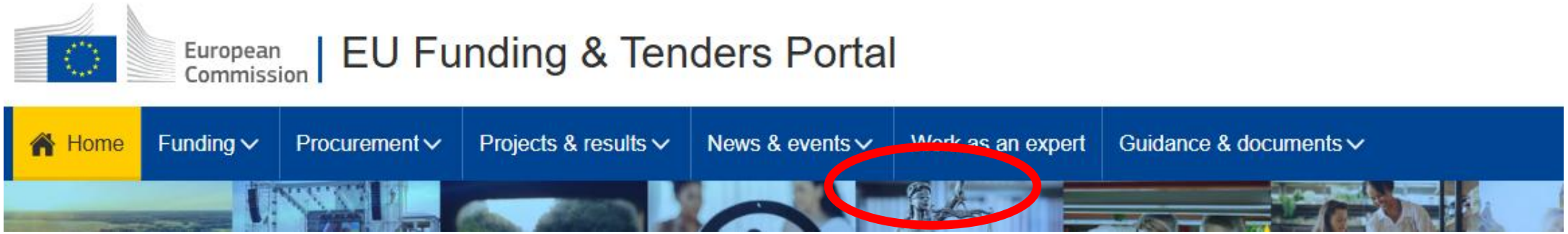
7 NATIONAL STRUCTURES

One SEP-NCS in each pilot country:



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Evaluating Clean Energy Transition proposals - Evaluation experts welcome!



- Are you working in **clean energy transition topics** e.g. building renovation, heating & cooling, project development, industry, finance energy efficiency, renewable energy communities, etc?
- Eager to **engage with peer experts across Europe** and **contribute to proposal evaluations**, first hand?
- Available for an expert assignment **('independent' input, confidential, no conflict of interest)** for 10-12 working days/year?

➔ Register under "work as an expert" on the Funding and Tender Portal!

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LIFE Energy & LIFE Climate Unit



The LIFE Programme on social media & newsletters

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LIFE Programme

EUSEW LinkedIn page

LIFE Programme

CINEA – European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Agency

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Hashtags
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Thank you

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