

## Capacity building for regional regulators and framework stakeholders

Subject:	Capacity building for regulators and framework stakeholders in Varna, Bulgaria
Description:	The main objective is to attract attention on SDH technology and its commercial and environmental aspects and benefits through the relevant actors. Using capacity building actions the interested supporters were trained and prepared with basic knowledge for a future implementation of SDH in the region.
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### Summary description of the instrument

Region: Varna, Bulgaria

Partners involved: Institute for Zero Energy Buildings

Short description of the measure: Capacity building for regulators and framework stakeholders in Varna

### Initial situation

Varna region has twelve municipality with the population of 475 000 people. The population of the Varna region is concentrated in the city of Varna which is the third largest city in Bulgaria

There are two departments inside of the Varna Municipality structure with relevant responsibility: "Architecture, urban and spatial planning, "Engineering Infrastructure and Public Works". These departments are led from directors with status of deputy mayor.



The technical university of Varna has educational program of HVAC, RE and ecology. There is a team of professors and PHD students having research activities in the field.

In the region several active NGO and associations are operating with relevant interest and expertise.



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## Capacity building for regional regulators and framework stakeholders

### Objectives

The main objective was to attract attention on SDH technology and its commercial and environmental aspects and benefits through the relevant actors. Using capacity building actions the interested supporters were trained and prepared with basic knowledge for a future implementation of SDH in the region.

In addition the regional strategic documents and regulation were studied from prospective of SDH implementation and upgrades will be proposed to the policy makers.

### Measures and actions

- In the framework of the Black Sea Energy Days on June 21-22, 2017 in Varna, during the EU Sustainable Energy Week was conducted a training seminar on SDH, supported by international SDH experts
- On November 9, 2017 in Plovdiv was conducted a seminar on efficient and economical use of energy in industry and households
- Organizing 4 further stakeholder events addressing national and municipal authorities and stakeholders organisations linked with yearly organised events as "Energy days" in different municipalities and other related events

### Barriers and opportunities

#### Barriers

- Lack of experience among the actors in the field
- Lack of knowledge of the technical aspects for SDH and its benefits and potential among city planners and heat planners and municipal authorities
- Lack of sufficient information about the barriers to implementation of RES DH and SDH in Bulgaria

#### Opportunities

- Interested local DH company
- Friendly and supportive municipality
- Active NGO and agencies and professional associations
- Local technical university with education programs in the field

### Results



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The seminar in Varna was attended by more than 40 people – regional authorities, regional agencies, municipalities, city planners, heat planners as well as professors and researchers from the Varna Technical University. Per Alex Sørensen has shown Danish SDH history and SDH technology and its commercial and environmental aspects and benefits. The strategic development and legal barriers for SDH in Bulgaria and propositions for updates and improvements were also discussed. Moreover IZEB presented two case studies for the implementation of the technology in “Kaisieva gradina” district – Varna and in a small municipality.

48 experts from national authorities, DH companies and different stakeholders organisations were participating in Plovdiv, where the challenges and opportunities for solar energy and solar heating energy utilization in Bulgaria were presented and discussed. Experts highlighted the advantages and potential of the DC with the aim of overcoming the negative attitude towards district heating and trying to bring consumers back.

Furthermore, future implementation of SDH project will be supported through the capacity building of the relevant actors and through the elaboration of changes and improvements in the regional and national strategic policy and regulations

### Lessons learned

It was found out that SDH is a “hot” topic and there is a desire from local stakeholders to raise their knowledge in the field and an interest for implementation of SDH project in the city of Varna.

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