

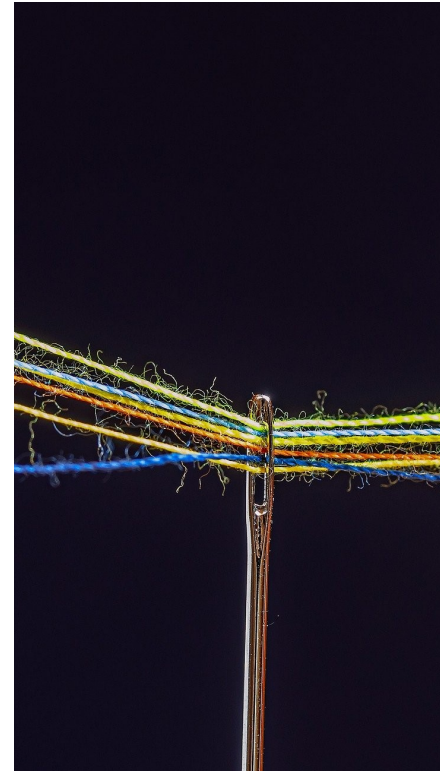
# STRIDE PROJECT NEWSLETTER

## STRIDE SMART GRIDS TRAININGS

For the last six months, the STRIDE consortium have dedicated their efforts toward the planning and delivery of the **STRIDE Smart Grids Trainings**, which will be made freely available to members of the **STRIDE Smart Energy Platform**. The purpose of the STRIDE trainings, to be held at least twice in each partner region, is to provide public officers and other relevant local target groups with knowledge on energy planning in order to build capacity for the future smart grid policy developments on the local, regional and national level.



Topics of the STRIDE trainings range from smart grid motivations to smart grid strategies and energy policies at the local, regional, national and EU levels. All open-source training materials are readily available through the digital STRIDE platform, now live. In addition to providing registered members with tools and resources for the improvement of energy planning, the STRIDE platform creates a network of experts, policymakers, and other relevant actors to boost the development of smart grids throughout the Danube Region. Registration to the **platform** is free and open to all interested parties.



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### PROJECT DETAILS

**Period:** July 2020-Nov. 2022  
**Budget:** € 1,061,969.77  
**ERDF:** € 834,497.49  
**IPA:** € 68,176.80  
**ENI:** € 0

The Interreg Danube Transnational Programme STRIDE Project is co-funded by the European Union funds (ERDF, IPA, ENI).

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## THE POWER OF SOLAR PV GAINING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

In the Czech Republic photovoltaic solutions (i.e., solar panels) on the roofs of halls and in industrial areas increased year-on-year in 2021. The modernisation of distribution systems also strengthens this trend in the coming years. By increasing its capacity and introducing smart management, it will be possible to connect more smaller electricity producers to the grid than is currently the case. The interest of companies in solar energy is confirmed by data from the Solar Association. According to them, in 2021, almost 400 new installations with a total output of 19.2 MWh were added to the roofs of companies/commercial buildings in the Czech Republic.

## STRIDE REGIONAL IMPACT

### Bulgaria

On the 29th of March and 11th of April 2022, the trainings of local policy makers and stakeholders on smart grids and energy planning were conducted in the Bulgarian municipalities of Panagyurishte and Pernik, respectively. Municipal experts as well as managers and employees of local business and NGOs participated in the training sessions. Expert lecturers presented the general definitions and aspects of the smart grids and their inclusion in the energy planning. The Director of SEDA, the Bulgarian Associated Strategic Partner (ASP) in the STRIDE project, provided information on the latest changes in energy policies and legislation and the basic concepts of smart buildings and their role in the national and regional development plans.



Various perspectives from the energy cooperatives, new technologies for utilisation of local (renewable) energy resources, the smart grids from the consumers' side, were introduced to the participants. Representatives of the municipalities and the business shared their views on the local opportunities and needs in regards of funding, potential of renewable energy sources (RES), clean energy, utilisation of local energy resources, and finally, future collaboration. Training materials, lectures and videos, and the good practice guide were provided to the participants, who were encouraged to join the STRIDE Smart Energy Platform.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the last six months, the CENER 21 team has focused their scope of work on the preparation of the Strategy and Action Plans for Smart

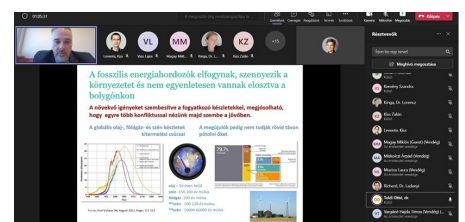


*STRIDE at the Energy Summit 2022 in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Grids in the Region of Zenica-Doboj and Central Bosnia Canton. Activities were centred on the organisation of meetings with relevant stakeholders and experts engaged in the preparation of the STRIDE documents. Particularly important were the topics related to the identification of priority domains of the electricity grid for the introduction of the smart grid concept. Keeping in mind the significant potentials identified during the analysis of the current energy situation in the region, the following domains were singled out: increasing the capacity of the distribution grid to integrate new RES producers, developing the transmission grid and increasing the integration of large-scale RES systems, establishing AMI systems and the development of e-mobility.

### Hungary

This April, the first STRIDE training was in Hungary, titled "Electricity: Cities and Energy Communities". It addressed municipalities and the related decision bodies (i.e., mayors) in Hungary. The event was connected to the annual renewable event, RENEO. There were 30 registered participants including relevant representatives of municipality associations like the leading officer of the National Association of Municipalities and the Hungarian Coordinator of the Covenant of Mayors.





## STRIDE Regional Updates

One of the most important conclusions of the event was, that municipalities need regularly update their knowledge regarding energy solutions background in legal, technology and economical aspects. For this it is highly advisable to employ personnel educated in Smart Grid development. The full event programme and presentations (in Hungarian) are available [here](#).

### Croatia

Within the past six months of the project, several novelties significant in the context of smart grid development in Croatia can be highlighted. In cooperation with the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (FER) in Zagreb, the Zelena Energetska Zajednica (ZEZ) organised a Policy Lab on energy communities, an expert discussion that brought together approximately 20 experts from relevant institutions: Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Croatian Energy Regulatory Agency (HERA), Croatian Operator market energy (HROTE), Hrvatske elektroprivrede (HEP), HEP ODS, Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (EIHP), Regional Energy Agency of Northwest Croatia (REGEA), Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture (FSB), Končar Digital and Grid-One. The discussion was held by the FER on 17 February 2022.



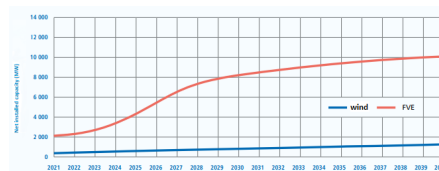
*The Policy Lab in Croatia focused on energy communities*

Furthermore, a main focus of the FER was on the application of the existing Electricity Market Act and future regulations in the establishment of energy communities and the participation of end-user

groups in the market. Three models of energy communities of citizens and groups of end customers were presented at the presentation, as well as measurement resolution options that need to be analysed in order to adopt a more suitable and enforceable regulatory framework for energy communities and encourage investment in renewable energy sources.

### Czech Republic

The “Evaluation of Source Adequacy of Generation Capacity of the Czech Republic until 2040” was published earlier this year, which analyses the impacts of various scenarios of the development of the source mix in the Czech Republic in the medium term and draws attention to a possible lack of resources. It follows up on the ENTSO-E Association's assessment of the adequacy of resources at European level.



*Conservative (realistic) scenario  
(Source: TSO ČEPS)*

If the departure from coal energy is accelerated before 2038, capacity mechanisms will need to be put in place to support the construction of stable power sources in order to maintain security of electricity supply, despite the rapid increase in the share of RES contained in the document scenarios.

### Germany

In Germany, the European Institute for Innovation - Technology (Elfi-Tech) together with their Associated Strategic Partner, Stadwerke Dorfen, have developed their STRIDE Smart Grids Strategy and Action Plan. Through their research, it was highlighted

## ENERGY SUMMIT IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

At the end of March, the CENER 21 team attended the three-day National 6th Annual Energy Summit, one of the most important events in the energy sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Here, CENER 21 provided STRIDE brochures and info on the project to interested participants. The key topic of the 6th Energy Summit was defining the path of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the transition to clean energy.



During the conference, a series of panel discussions were held on the reform of the energy sector in BiH and its importance for the sustainable future of the sector – with particular emphasis on the EU Clean Energy Package and the preparation of the National Energy and Climate Plan for BiH (NECP), which will pave the way for the transition of the energy sector in BiH.

## STRIDE Regional Updates

that the German government's interest in the promotion of smart grid projects is rooted in the enormous impact expected in terms of the national economy and the energy industry. The projects will play a role in promoting greater competition along the value-added chain in Germany—from power stations and network operators to other players in retail, housing and services. At the same time, innovative growth fields and employment opportunities were developed at the interface between ICT and energy technology.

Furthermore, at the regional level, the development of a potential "Genossenschaft" (cooperative) is currently being explored to support in the operation and financing of smart grid projects in the region.

### Austria

ConPlusUltra (CPU) is supporting the establishment of renewable energy communities in four Austrian municipalities. Thanks to the Renewable Expansion Act 2021, energy communities can be more easily set up in Austria. These communities can generate their own renewable energy and share it among their neighbours. The main aim behind such communities is to make energy production more sustainable and local. How renewable energy is generated in the community largely depends on the conditions on the ground.

Since Autumn 2021, ConPlusUltra has been accompanying the founding of four energy communities in the municipalities of Oberpullendorf (Burgenland), Randegg and Gresten (Lower Austria). As a part of its consulting services, ConPlusUltra has organised information events, collected data, created simulations and held discussions with interested parties, local councils and network operators.

This marks an important step towards empowering communities to play an active role in the energy transition. It is hoped that this project will stimulate local interest in such initiatives and inspire surrounding communities to replicate the activities of existing energy communities.



### Slovenia

In Slovenia, in order to support local authorities in smart energy planning, Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (LEASP) has organised the STRIDE local trainings for municipality representatives and other stakeholders. Representatives from 13 municipalities of the Spodnje Podravje region have participated in the training, and support has been provided from Iskratel (the company providing and connecting, intelligent OT devices and business IT systems, empowering smart grid with innovative applications).

Additionally, participants were encouraged to provide their feedback into the development of the smart grid strategy and action plan within the STRIDE project, as the first draft of these strategic documents were previously shared with them.



### BULGARIAN MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION FOR EV CHARGING STATIONS

Planned In February 2022, it was declared through a signed Memorandum of Cooperation that Bulgaria will install 10,000 charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) within five years, all sourced by renewable energy sources.



This is one of the various goals of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed by the Electricity System Operator (ESO), the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Branch Chamber of Power Engineers, the Electric Vehicles Association, the Electric Vehicles Industrial Cluster and the Electric Vehicle Owners Association in Bulgaria. Learn more [here](#).





## ABOUT THE STRIDE PROJECT

### ISSUES ADDRESSED

In recent years, Smart Grids have established a position very high on the European Union's agenda. As the development of new technologies have allowed for more concrete and realistic system solutions in regards to smart grids, Smart Grids increasingly represent the entire future development of the electric power system. Smart Grid concepts cover many areas, from the planning, operation, maintenance of the grid on one side and on the other side, from production, transmission, distribution and end-use.

Although prepared from a technological standpoint to implement Smart Grids, the Danube region is still in the early stages of the actual deployment of smart distribution systems. Local policy change to integrate the Smart Grid concept is essential in the further development of Smart Villages, Smart Cities or Smart Regions.



#### ZEZ LECTURE SERIES

**Zelena Energetska Zajednica (ZEZ)** ("The Green Energy Cooperative") in Croatia has announced a new series of lectures that will make it easier for citizens to make a decision on investing in a home solar power plant. Informative lectures covering topics such as "Energy Communities and solar power plants for apartment buildings" were held between March and April 2022 and all lasted 45 minutes on Zoom.

### PROJECT GOALS

Through knowledge transfer and the development of planning tools, the STRIDE project, standing for *Improved energy planning through the Integration of Smart Grid concepts in the Danube Region*, aims to provide comprehensive support for local/regional policy makers for the improvement of energy planning. Some of the main objectives in this transnational project include regional analyses, developed strategies, action plans and other tools (i.e. methodologies, guidebook, digital platform) that will enable and accelerate the integration of Smart Grid concepts into local and regional policies across the Danube region.

### LONG-TERM RESULTS

The STRIDE project is aligned with the Danube Transnational Programme's *Priority Axis 3 - Better connected and energy responsible Danube region*, and will directly contribute to the programme *Specific objective 3.2 - Improve energy security and energy efficiency*. The STRIDE methodology for regional analysis, good practice guidebook and digital platform will be designed in a way that allows for their application to be rolled out across the Danube region — this shall have impact on building capacity of smart grid infrastructure in the Danube region. Replication of the STRIDE project shall provide much needed scalability across the Danube region and beyond.



SERIJA INFORMATIVNIH  
PREDAVANJA

**Solarna energija  
za kućanstva**

ožujak – lipanj 2022.

## STRIDE STEERING GROUP MEETING IN ZAGREB

The international STRIDE consortium will gather this May 2022 in Zagreb, Croatia for an in-person Steering Group Meeting. At the meeting, partners shall share their experiences with hosting their regional trainings, in addition to presenting their two main outputs of the past six months, the regional STRIDE Smart Grids Strategies and Action Plans.

## STRIDE SMART ENERGY PLATFORM

The STRIDE Web Platform is live and available to all project members and publicly to all interested parties. The STRIDE “Danube Smart Energy Platform” serves as a network of experts, policy makers, and other stakeholders from all target groups and therefore build capacity for the STRIDE project. The open-source platform is well-stocked with training materials, good practices, reports, and more for all interested and partners, involving members from the whole Danube Region. The platform allows members to exchange ideas, experiences, and knowledge of the STRIDE project topics and share them with the public.

Register now at [www.energy-stride.com](http://www.energy-stride.com)



## PROJECT PARTNERS

The international STRIDE consortium is well-balanced with competent partners, including energy agencies, R&D organisations, energy clusters, a university and policy makers:

- Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (Slovenia)
- European Institute for Innovation-Technology (Germany)
- ConPlusUltra (Austria)
- Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. for Applied Research (Hungary)
- University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (Croatia)
- Bulgarian Energy and Mining Forum (Bulgaria)
- EGÚ Brno, a.s. (Czech Republic)
- Centre for Energy, Environment and Resources—CENER 21 (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

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