

DT4.1.2.

Implemented trainings on participative governance

Slovakia



ERDF PP17 – KSR Košice Self-governing region
ERDF-PP7 Bioeconomy Cluster

January 2022

Project Information

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1. General information about the trainings on participative governance

Date of the training	14 th January 2022
Location	Košice, Slovakia
Project partner(s)	Košice Self-governing region
Format of the training	Online workshop
Topic of the training	Opportunities to support the functioning of Water Councils using the methodology of participative governance
Guiding question of the training	Presentation of possibilities to support the functioning of Water Councils participatory management methodology.
Number of participants	14
Type of participants (Target groups) ¹	Local public authority 4 Regional public authority 2 Interest groups including NGO's 1 SME 7
Cooperation with experts (i.e. speakers, external moderators, politician...)	The training was carried out by Slovak project partners.

¹ Please group the target groups according to the ones listed in page 42 of the Application Form and include the names of the organisations

2. Agenda of the training

TIME	AGENDA
10.00 - 10.15	Presentation of the GoDanuBio project
10.15 - 10:45	Introduction of the topic of the Participatory Governance (definition and purpose of the participatory governance, goals and advantages of participatory governance and its methodology)
10.45 - 11.00	Presentation of possibilities to support the functioning of Water Councils using the participatory management methodology. Finding possible links between Water councils and the possibilities offered by the GoDanuBio project
11.00 - 11.30	Discussion

3. Was a methodology presented at the training and if so, which one?

The training was conducted online using the methodology of the open space conference, focused on the topic of participatory governance methodology in the public administration system. The workshop was designed to bring to the fore the topic of participatory management, its basic definition, definition of terms, in order to ensure a smooth course and understanding of the topic as a whole.

The main aim of the workshop was to discuss possible solutions on how participatory governance could be used to improve the functioning of Water councils.

The first part of the workshop devoted to the presentation of the main topic, whereby in the second part the solutions of possible improvements in the functioning of Water councils were presented through open discussion.

We will offer suitable solutions and thus find out whether there is interest from water council representatives. According to this result, we will postulate the following training. We are counting on many questions that will complete the creative space on the topic.

We counted with professional participants who had something to say on the topic, so the result will be a fruitful discussion. The methodology of the workshop was supported by theoretical lecture and prepared presentation which led to subsequent discussion.

Most of the questions were open-ended, thus stakeholders were able to participate by answering questions related to improvements that they need to implement. We used a methodology of stakeholder meeting, which offers an opportunity to inform interested parties about planned activities, project and possibilities how to support them with synergies with the GoDanuBio project.

4. How does this capacity building activity contribute to the upcoming co-creation workshops?

The aim of this activity was to gain as much information as possible about general overview that stakeholders and workshop participants have about participatory governance process. On the other hand, further intention was to present the GoDanuBio project in order to find possible links and synergies with the functioning of Water councils.

We decided to involve Water councils into the training because they meet the criteria of participative governance by established rules for cooperation. Košice Self-governing region approved the Košice Region Landscape Renewal Program which is implemented by Water councils – which were set up in principle of participative governance.

The aim of the Water councils is to change the approach to the management of forest and agricultural land, as well as urban land, and to enable the establishment of water retention measures so that a substantial part of rainwater can be retained in the country.

Through the implementation of these measures, the region, in cooperation with partners, wants to contribute to the renewal of biodiversity processes, to the increase of soil fertility, to the increase of the water resources and to the improvement of the climate.

6 individual Water councils were created by Košice Self-governed region - they initiate a discussion and thus create a common cooperation and consultation tool, which formed the vision of integrated water protection in individual districts

The aim of organized workshop was to link the Water council functioning of participatory governance together with the possibilities that the project can offer to the stakeholders. We would like to find out whether the representatives of Water councils will be willing to cooperate in the following areas:

- To present methodology and activities of Water Councils within the GoDanuBio project on domestic and foreign soil (methodology of participatory management of Water Councils - already developed by responsible experts)
- Visibility of the concept of functioning of Water Councils and its implementation in Košice region
- Possibilities of co-financing other methodological manuals, experts, conferences etc.

Given inputs will be used in the following co-creation workshops.

5. Do you think the participants of the training are likely to attend in the co-creation workshops and why?

The workshop was attended by invited official representatives of Water councils, who are directly involved in the discussed topic. The participants appreciated the effort to open the topic related to further cooperation between Košice Self-governing region as a regional authority and the intentions of Water councils.

They expressed interest of the GoDanuBio project concept, proposed several solutions for possible cooperation and agreed that there was a need on their side to support their functioning of Water management in the region. Over the next few days, participants will receive a questionnaire regarding feedback as well as suggestions for specific solutions for further cooperation.

These inputs will be used in following co-creation workshops - these will serve as the basis for the strategy of the following co-creation workshops. The intention is to organize them according to specific

needs of participants. The first workshop was perceived as a positive start of cooperation, which will lead to concrete results.

6. Do you already have plans for the regional co-creation workshops?

Although the first workshop was organized online, next workshops are planned to be organized physically, in the premises of Košice Self-governing region institution. It is definitely better to share issues personally. Due to the pandemic situation official anti-pandemic measures will be followed when organizing further workshops.

Co creation workshops are planned to be organized organize the workshops in the months of April-June 2022 involving also experts and other partner organizations. The next workshops will work with the results of previous training and will focus primarily on the implementation of participatory management processes in practice.

7. Did the region in which the training was organised have already a tradition/culture for participative governance? If so name an example.

In October 2021, the Košice Self-governing region announced a call for proposals on public benefit projects, which will be implemented within the participatory part of the regional budget. For the first time in the region's history, citizens were able to decide where public money will go.

Projects proposals aimed at developing sports infrastructure in the region were supported. Cities, municipalities, but also civic associations and non-profit organizations could have prepared their project proposals - focused on the construction, reconstruction or modernization of sports facilities.

The participatory budget will be redistributed to projects in each region in the region, its amount will depend on the population.

The individual proposals were assessed by an expert commission. The public will decide which will be implemented. Projects in the field of sports with the largest number of votes will receive financial support from the region. The implementation of projects should take place in the next year 2022.

Another example is establishment of Water Councils, which consist of mayors, farmers, forest managers, representatives of the state administration, activists and volunteers of the

Košický Self-governed region, which the first workshop was targeted.

8. Do you think that the training can have any positive effect in regards to a bottom-up approach on policies and regulations related to the circular bioeconomy in your country / region? Please explain.

We believe that the organized workshop could have positive effect in terms of impact on cooperation effect between specialized organization under Košice Self-governed region called Water councils and regional policies. As the concept of Water councils is directly related to the topic of bioeconomy, the main goal of the concept was to find possible synergies focused mainly on:

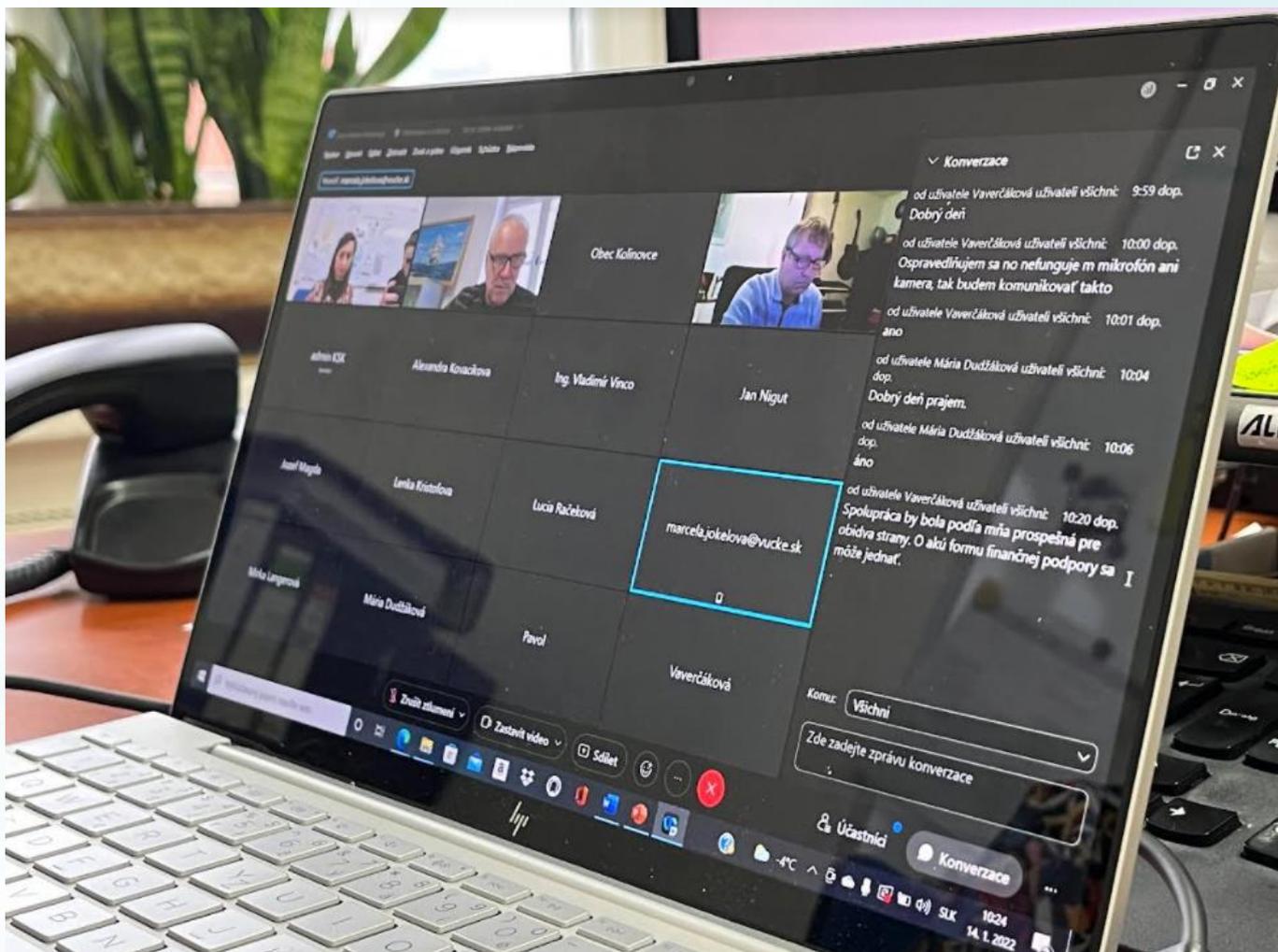
- Streamlining the functioning of Water Councils, making their position more operational
- Institutionalization of Water Councils
- Water councils as an advisory body
- Introduction of a participatory budget

9. Problems occurred and lessons learnt

No significant problems were detected during the organization of the workshop. We have to work on the result after processing a questionnaire, which will bring suggestions for specific solutions among the participants. If the promised proposals do not come, we will address the following workarounds.

10. Annexes

Invitation of the training,
powerpoint presentation (prepared in SK language)
list of participants



List of participants

Name	Organization
Ing. Barbora Kováčová	Košický samosprávny kraj
PhDr. Ing. Marcela Jokeľová	Košický samosprávny kraj
Mgr. Iveta Urbanová	Košický samosprávny kraj
Ing. Miloš Kočíš	Urbárske a pozemkové spoločenstvo Žehra
Mária Dudžáková	MV SR, Okresný úrad Spišská Nová Ves
Kamil Bodnár	Obec Zemplínska Nová Ves
Ing. Rastislav Bartoš	Podielnícke družstvo Gočaltovo
Ing. Jozef Stajsko	Okresný úrad Spišská Nová Ves
Ján Varga	obec Horňa
Lukáš Šlosár	SVP š. p.
Ján Erdélyi	Pozemkové lesné spoločenstvo Čičarovce
Vladimír Vinco	Obec Čierne Pole
Ing. Jaroslav Tešliar, CSc.	Agentúra na podporu regionálneho rozvoja Košice n.o.
Ing. Jana Vaverčáková	SHR Hincovce