The 1st Conference of Mayors of Kosovo

The aim of the 1st Conference of Mayors of Kosovo, held on September 19, 2018 in Pristina, was to inform the participants of the Conference, the mayors and their teams, on Government’s policies and EU support for implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in the municipalities. The Conference was organized by the EU-funded project “Support on Implementing the 3rd Energy Package with Focus on Energy Efficiency and Renewables” and German International Cooperation (GIZ).

The participants and speakers were welcomed to the conference by the Ambassador Nataliya Apostolova, Head of EU Office in Kosovo/EU Special Representative and Heads of EU Missions in Kosovo, and the Minister Valdrin Lluka, Ministry of Economic Development.

In the first session of the Conference the speakers from the Energy Community and the Covenant of Mayors Office has introduced the best examples of European policy and practices in successful implementation of the municipal energy efficiency action plans, while the representative of the city of Freiburg has presented Freiburg’s respectful and successful practices related to sustainable energy managements in the cities.

In the second session information was given on EU project’s support to the municipalities in development of municipal energy efficiency plans (MEEAPs), the study tours to the city of Freiburg in Germany organized by EU project for the Government and municipal representatives, as well as on the support given to establishment of Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund which will ensure financial support for implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the municipalities. It was
also announced that a training program on municipal energy management is being developed by the EU Project in co-operation with GIZ, which will be implemented together with the Association of Kosovo Municipalities. The speakers in this session of the Conference were from the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Agency, the Association of Kosovo Municipalities and the organizers of the Conference – the EU Project and GIZ.

In the concluding part of the Conference the Energy Charter of Mayors of Kosovo was inaugurated as a declaration of commitment of the municipalities to improve comfort level at all municipal buildings by implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to reduce environmental pollution in municipalities and save energy costs. After the Charter was inaugurated the mayors have signed it at the conference.

During the Conference, the opportunity was used for the interviews with the speakers.

Will this project and its activities be able to help Kosovo fulfil the obligations from Energy treaty?
This project is really supporting the implementation of requirements from the Energy Committee, is also supporting the EU integration in sustainable energy field, and we are happy to hear today that it will continue basically through next year to support real implementation of deliverables of the project, and primarily this local Energy Efficiency action plan.

Is Kosovo in general in a good path to deliver, in this regard?
I think yes, basically, what we recommended now on this annual implementation report and in our regular monitoring for Kosovo, is just to adopt what already exist either as draft or there is adopted law but needs adoption of secondarily legislation and for all this activities Kosovo is basically advancing so they have ready draft and also through this EU Project there will be some finalisation
What is The Secretariat hoping for Western Balkan countries achieve in next 20 years?
I mentioned during my presentation, we are working on 2030 targets, so at least the achievement of this 2030 target and then hopefully all these countries will contribute to the EU target in next 20 years, so they would become full-fledged EU members and Energy Committee will not be necessary for these countries anymore.

Can you please describe briefly, what Covenant of Mayors does and what is the overall aim of the organization?
The Covenant of Mayors is an initiative that was launched in 2008 to respond from a local perspective to the targets and the ambition of the European Union trying to decrease 20% of greenhouse gas emission, increase 20% of renewable energy and increase 20% of energy efficiency by 2020 across cities in Europe. So, cities are committing voluntary and this is just mayors taking the chance on themselves to try to implement a better quality of life for the citizens through three main pillars of actions reducing greenhouse gas emission, and I mentioned 2020 target, but now they have been updated to 2030 in line with European policy; establish a plan for adaptation to climate change and foster resilience, and the third pillar is to improve access to energy, in a more fair and sustainable manner. And this is for Europe very much related to energy poverty and trying to tackle that.

Can you tell us more about the coordination between mayors, how does this coordination work?
It is actually very exciting, because it is not anymore only in Europe, now the Covenant of Mayors for Europe is part of a larger umbrella initiative this Global Covenant of Mayors, and therefore the family is actually enlarged very much. We have, of course, a series of events, ceremonies where we take stock of old and new signatories and also the old and different experiences and lessons learned that happen almost every year. But there are also series of webinars that happen online very frequently, we have series of workshops and other kind of conferences that happen on regular base, where mayors and also city representatives according to the topic, can actually meet and exchange and share with one another. Each city that signs up to the Global Covenant of Mayors but also to the European Covenant of Mayors has access to several platforms. For the European Covenant of Mayors specifically, they can create an online profile, and through there they can access not only a lot of resources but also be able to participate in forum of discussion with other cities that are facing similar challenges. So, it becomes a brilliant network, a platform through which cities can actually exchange and get to know one another and share things together. To give you an example, we have several frontrunner cities in Covenant of Mayors that now are branched and not just looking into the topics of climate change, mitigation to climate change but trying to implement real policy for sustainable urban development and specifically they are looking into implementing the sustainable development goals and they have created their own little network within signatories of the Covenant of Mayors to explore how this can be done on the ground, for example Malmo in Sweden is part of this, Ghent in Belgium is part of this, so, they get to know each other and start working together, of course the key is always cooperation.

What was the motivation of Freiburg to become greenest city in Europe and what is the target of Freiburg in this regard for next 20 years?
It wasn’t planned like this but it began in ’70s, we had people fighting against nuclear power plant and out of this came the initiative to look for other energies and then we had the people in Freiburg, looking even further and further and then in took suddenly place in Freiburg.

Is there a way or perspective through which we can relate the Freiburg experience to Kosovo?
I think is the most important thing is to begin, you have to begin and to look for opportunities and you have to take your citizens in this, they must see it and also have something out of this.

What can you tell us about your involvement and experience from this conference?
I saw very much motivated mayors here in Kosovo and I think they are in the right way to begin now and to go on further and to take the citizens with them.

How important is the new energy efficiency law and potential establishment of energy efficiency fund for Kosovo?
Drafting the law or transposing Directive 2012/27 on Energy Efficiency ultimately almost solves the energy problem in an organizational sense, both in terms of funds, and in the field of monitoring and reporting. It is a law that will support the private sector, in the field of energy efficiency, as well as the household sector. This law will regulate this structure between the private and public sector. We also have other financial mechanisms foreseen by this law, the Energy Efficiency Fund, the obligatory
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very important role in energy efficiency because in terms of the public sector it is the biggest energy agency by applying for different funds from donors and the government. So, the municipality has to submit these plans to the agency, and these plans shall be implemented in cooperation with the Agency for energy efficiency, in coordination and cooperation with the agency. Then they are obliged to implement them in the field of energy efficiency measures at the local level, initially by implementing municipal energy efficiency plans that have already been drafted in most municipalities.

How do you see the progress of Kosovo toward fulfillment of national targets in reducing energy consumption which is 9% increase of energy efficiency in the final consumption by 2018 and 25% for the share of renewable energy sources in the final energy consumption by 2020? The issue is that the 9% target is set until 2018 and so far, half of this target has been reached, but no monitoring at Kosovo level has yet been carried out to really understand how much Kosovo has met the target. So far, only the public sector has been monitored, and the household sector has not been monitored, and businesses and industry have been partially monitored. Without monitoring the entire system, we cannot know whether the target is reached or not. But through the establishment of the fund and other donor funds and the Government of Kosovo we will aim to achieve the anticipated target.

What are current relations of Kosovo Energy Efficiency Agency with the municipalities and energy managers, and how do you see the relation and cooperation between the Agency and municipalities and what kind of support KEEA could provide for implementation of Municipal Energy Efficiency Action Plan?

First, municipalities are obliged to draft municipal plans for energy efficiency, now the action plans for energy efficiency, in coordination and cooperation with the agency. Then they are obliged to submit these plans to the agency, and these plans shall be implemented in cooperation with the agency by applying for different funds from donors and the government. So, the municipality has a very important role in energy efficiency because in terms of the public sector it is the biggest energy consumer, when compared to the central level. So, it will undoubtedly have a very big role in achieving targets and implementing energy efficiency measures.

38 municipal energy efficiency action plans will be implemented throughout Kosovo. Does KEEA have a system for monitoring this implementation? Can you tell us more about the current system and future plans for verification of implementation?

The Agency, in cooperation with donors, has installed software for monitoring and verifying these plans. Also, some trainings have been conducted in municipalities on using this software to monitor and verify these plans. These plans foresee the implementation of energy efficiency measures by sectors which include all sectors of energy consumption within municipalities. I.e. it will be very easy for the agency to, through this software, collect energy saving data and report it to the energy committee secretariat to achieve the target.
centralized, i.e. municipalities do not have direct access but rather these funds are obtained through respective ministries. In the future, we hope that the European Commission will decentralize this issue and enable municipalities to apply directly. We can say freely that there are strong donors in Kosovo who support projects for energy efficiency at the national level but also at the local level. There have been good investments but not enough to meet all the standards required by various European conventions, in this case for energy efficiency.

**Will this charter be able to improve cooperation between municipalities, what are your expectations in this regard?**

Municipalities with signing this card today have taken the pledges. Most municipalities have municipal plans for energy efficiency. Now, together with the Collegium of Municipal Officials for Energy Efficiency, further steps will be taken to draft the Action Plan. For now, we have only the Energy Efficiency Plan, but now together with the European Commission and GIZ project we will draft action plan models and we believe that inter-municipal cooperation will bring results, and by unifying inter-municipal actions there will be a lower cost and a greater impact.

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**Can you please describe briefly the main contributions of GIZ to Kosovo in terms of improving the Energy Efficiency?**

German government through technical cooperation or German organization GIZ has supported Kosovo’s institutions in the field of energy efficiency since 2006 and beyond. From 2006 until 2012, the German government has implemented projects with municipalities in the field of energy efficiency through the “Smart Skill Project Fund” in the form of co-financing up to 50% of the value of the project. But at the same time during this period it also organized numerous trainings for municipal officials and officials of central institutions. From 2012 to 2016, this cooperation has resulted through the Open Regional Energy Efficiency Fund, which, again, is a GIZ structure, which has supported Kosovo institutions especially in building a monitoring and verification platform. While from 2016 onwards, GIZ, i.e. the German government, through technical cooperation, is supporting the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning to build capacities for the promotion and building of the energy efficiency market. Here we contribute to the drafting of policies, respectively sub-legal acts, and to creating a system for training and certification of energy auditors and the municipal energy management system, of which I spoke today at the conference.

**This conference is one of good examples of donor coordination and cooperation in terms of promotion of EE in Kosovo, can you please tell us more about the importance and plans of donor cooperation in this regard?**

I take this opportunity to thank the European Commission project that has been ready for close cooperation and coordination of activities because as a result of that we are covering all Kosovo municipalities with support in the field of municipal energy management. Together we have drafted the model of how the action plan will look and which will be similar for all municipalities of Kosovo. Capacity building and training of officials are being done in close coordination. The project of the European Commission has taken over the training of officials dealing application for the fund or with how can projects be funded, while we have taken over the management part. So, in some way we have covered together all areas related to energy management.

**What are the plans of GIZ in terms of supporting Kosovo on Energy Efficiency in upcoming periods?**

Our goal is to see a market that operates in Kosovo freely, in which the private sector is also involved. However, support is still needed for institutions to build standards and to build a legal base to give more space to private companies and different models that were proposed during the conference, until we reach this point. This would be the future field of interest for us in Kosovo.

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**What are the main results of Project’s activities implemented in the period before the Conference of Mayors?**

The Law on Energy Efficiency (Law No. 04/L-016) was prepared by the Project and it is now in the procedure of the Parliament of Kosovo, after it was adopted by the Government of Kosovo. The EE Law is important since it requires preparation of Municipal Energy Efficiency Action Plans (MEEAPs) and National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP). While Kosovo Economic Reform Program (ERP), 2018-2020, assumes to „Establish a financing mechanism to support impleleatment of energy efficiency measures, by the EE Law this financial mechanism – the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund (KEEF) will be established once the EE Law will be passed by the Parliament. Beside the EE Law and the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund it is crucial to develop Municipal Energy Efficiency Fund in order to plan the EE measures and prepare the projects to apply for financing from KEEF. The Project will
What main effects have been gained from the Conference of Mayors?

Beside information given on EU practices and useful experience from the city of Freiburg, inauguration of the Energy Charter of Mayors of Kosovo is certainly the most visible element of the whole conference. It is very important that the mayors, by signing of the Charter, have shown their commitment to promote and implement energy efficiency and renewables in their municipalities, while common signing of the Charter will furthermore enable the cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience from implemented EE projects between the municipalities.

Will the Project continue to support the municipalities after development of the MEEAPs?

Yes, the Project will further support the municipalities to prepare their EE projects and apply to Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund for financing. Initial capitalization of the Fund is EUR 16 million. EUR 10 million is EU grant, EUR 1 million will come from the Kosovo's budget while EUR 5 million will come as the loan from the Word Bank. This EUR 16 million will be used for financing of municipal EE projects based on EE measures planned by MEEAPs.

EE/RE Market Assessments were Conducted by the Project

Until September 2018 the Project has conducted two market assessments with aim to determine are the EE/RE technologies, needed for energy refurbishing of the buildings, available at the market and do the companies from EE/RE sector have the capacities and capabilities to conduct EE/RE measures planned in NEEAP and MEEAPs. It was also assessed what impact could implementation of NEEAP and MEEAPs have on potential jobs creation in Kosovo during the period of next four years. The conclusion was that relevant EE/RE technologies, products and solutions are available on the market, while expected jobs creation caused by implementation of NEEAP and MEEAPs could be approximately 2000 jobs by the end of 2022.

Based on the findings from the Survey-1, the main characteristics of the companies supplying EE/RE technologies, products and solutions in Kosovo are as follows:

More than 50% of the companies have less than 10 years of business practice and more than half of the companies are located in Prishtina area. More than 80% of the companies are local companies. The most provided technologies by the companies are: photovoltaic systems, heat pumps and heating of boilers. 75% of interviewed companies produce EE/RE technologies by themselves, while 25% are just distributing the products. More than 80% of the companies provide multiple brands. EE technologies provided by the interviewed companies, include: solar panels, hot water storage tanks, batteries, solar constructs, thermal heat pumps, air heat pumps, heat on boilers, heat exchangers, air conditioners, inverters, LED lamps, towel radiators, panel radiators, LED tubes, and EE refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, laundry washers and driers, and cooking ovens. More than half of the companies do the installation of their product by their in-house capacities. Small companies (10-49 employees) dominate with 69%, followed by small micro ones (0-9 employees) and medium ones (50-250 employees) with 25% and 6%, respectively. The average number of employees stands at 27.7; workers comprise 71% of all employees, technical staff/engineers 11%; office and administrative staff 10% and management 8%. 37% of the surveyed companies say that their products are available for delivery from the warehouse/store, while 44 percent say that products could be made available for delivery within about 2 weeks, on average. All of the interviewed (100%) declare that their buyers are supported with advices on optimal solutions from their in-house expert. The most common means of payment are the following: ‘in advance by bank account transfer’ (75% of cases), ‘regular bank account transfer upon delivery’ (69%), and ‘cash’ (50%). Half of the interviewed companies claims that purchasing of their products is supported by loans from local commercial banks. Around 50% of the surveyed report to have an annual revenue of more than 750,000 EUR; about 25% between 250,000 EUR and 750,000 EUR; and another 25% declare to have an annual revenue of less than 250,000 EUR. To employ 10 additional employees, the interviewed companies believe that they have to increase their overall revenues by 46%, on average.

Based on the findings from the Survey-2, the main characteristics of the companies which install EE/RE technologies, products and solutions in Kosovo are as follows:

More than half of the companies have more than 10 years of business experience, while almost 30% of them are located in Prishtina area. 88% of the surveyed companies are local, while 12% are branches of international companies. 63% of the interviewed companies have practical experience in thermal insulation, while 27% in double and triple glazing windows. A somewhat more detailed analysis reveals that the most frequent activities of the interviewed companies include: ‘producing thermal insulation material’ (41% of all cases); ‘selling imported thermal insulation material’ (35%); ‘producing double and triple glazing windows’ (29%). The companies that do the installation themselves indicate that their experience is mostly with individual houses (92% of cases) and small residential multi-apartment buildings with <20 apartments (77%). Small companies (10-49 employees) dominate with 65%, followed by micro companies (0-9 employees), and..
Medium ones (50-250 employees) with 24% and 11%, respectively. The number of employees in the interviewed companies averages at 32.6; workers comprise 76% of all employees, office and administrative staff 10%; management 8%; and technical staff/engineers 6%. 58% of the surveyed companies say that their products are available for delivery from the warehouse/store, while 24% say that products could be made available for delivery within one week, on average. The most common forms of payment are ‘could be done after delivery’ and ‘should be done in advance’ – constituting 63% and 56%, respectively. 56% of the surveyed companies say that purchasing of their products is supported by loans from local commercial banks. The vast majority of firms or 86% report to have an annual revenue of more than 1 million EUR; while only 14% declare to have a revenue of less than 500,000 EUR. To increase the number of employees by 10, the interviewed companies believe that they have to increase their revenues by 37%, on average.

Presentation of Energy Consumption Survey Results

With the support of the Project a survey on energy consumption for the Household, Service and Transport sectors has been carried out during the period from September 2017 to April 2018. The Project has processed and finalized the results of the survey and presented them to the main users such as Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Development, Energy Regulatory Office and other stakeholders. The presentation was held on Friday June 29, 2018.

The aim of the presentation was to make aware all relevant ministries, agencies and institutions for the importance of the results of three Energy Surveys in the development of energy strategy, energy policies and planning at both central and local level. Some of the key findings of the survey for the three sectors are as follows:

**Residential sector**

Fuel wood is the most used energy source for securing space heating with the share of 78%, followed by electricity with 9.2% and pellets with 3%;

Electricity is the most used energy source for securing domestic hot water with the share of 80.2% (through electrical boilers), followed by fuel wood (especially in rural areas) with 17.3%, while central heating systems and solar energy have the share of only 0.1%;

Fuel wood is the most used energy source for cooking with the share of 48.4%, followed by electricity with 29.4% and LPG with 21.9%. While coal is not used much as the energy source for cooking;

In incandescent light bulbs are the most used light bulbs with a share of 41% at country level, followed by simple fluorescent light bulbs with 12.8%, compact fluorescent light bulbs with 25.9% and LED light bulbs with 20.2%.

**Transport sector**

Passenger diesel vehicles have the biggest share of 76.4%, while the share of gasoline vehicles is 22% and LPG vehicles 1.6%;

**Workshop on Preparation of the National Registry of Energy Performance in Buildings and Inventory of Central Government Buildings**

On Tuesday June 26, 2018, the Project held a workshop with Central Government Institutions in Pristina. This workshop gathered together various ministries and other agencies with the aim to inform responsible energy managers on the processes related to the preparation of Central Government Building Inventory and National Registry of Energy Performance in Buildings.

The workshop presented the audience an overview of the concept for the National Registry of Energy Performance in Buildings which will be developed by the Project at a later phase, as well as the activities that are expected to take place related to the preparation of the
Inventory of Central Government Buildings. Thus, in order to facilitate the collection of data for the Inventory, the project prepared a questionnaire which was explained to the participants and it will be send to each institution for data collection. Data will be one of the inputs for preparation of the Inventory and developing of an Action Plan for Renovation of Central Government Buildings.

**Workshop on Municipal Energy Efficiency Action Plans**

A workshop on Municipal Energy Efficiency Action Plans (MEEAP) was held in Pristina on March 6, 2018 with aim to sensitize municipal authorities and municipal energy managers on the importance of the MEEAP by giving an overview to the municipal representatives on the process of the development of the MEEAPs and energy planning. The representatives from ten Kosovo municipalities who attended the workshop were informed on importance of development of MEEAPs as a precondition to get funding for their energy efficiency projects. The opening remarks were given by: Mr. Arsim Kuliqi, Kosovo Energy Efficiency Agency, Mr. Sami Isufi, Ministry of Local Government and Administration, and Mr. Zoran Morvaj, Team Leader of the project “Support on Implementing 3rd Energy Package with focus on Energy Efficiency and Renewables”.

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Implemented by

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