



europaean energy award along the Danube

Green Transition: Shaping transformation, creating opportunities

Session 1: Sustainable energy transition

Setting the frame: How to empower municipalities in their green- energy actions – the European Energy Award (eea) tool

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Overview

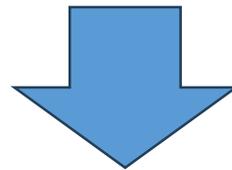
- ~ The European Green Deal and municipalities
- ~ The European Energy Award
- ~ Project „european energy award (eea) along the Danube“

The European Green Deal and municipalities

Introduction

The European Green Deal and municipalities

- ~ The European Commission has been fully committed to transforming the EU into a **clean, resource-efficient** and **competitive economy**.
- ~ This ambition has been translated into the **European Green Deal**, launched in 2019, and into a variety of EU climate and environmental policies.
- ~ The **European Green Deal** is the European Commission's ambitious plan to achieve EU **climate neutrality by 2050**.
- ~ The EU Climate Law sets an intermediate target to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55%** compared to 1990 levels **by 2030**.

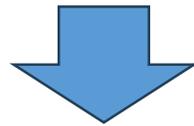


This broad initiative requires revising current laws and introducing new directives across sectors such as energy, climate, environment, mobility, nature, buildings, agriculture, and industry.

The European Green Deal and municipalities

Local and regional authorities ...

- ~ ...emerge as **pivotal players** in this transformative journey, reaping numerous benefits from implementation of the European Green Deal.
- ~ ... playing a **key role in engaging the public** and promoting behavioural changes, all the while increasingly facing climate, environmental and geopolitical risks.
- ~ ... play a critical role across these sectors due to their **responsibilities, leadership, and geographic scope.**



The effective implementation of the EU Green Deal requires multilevel governance and, in particular, the **involvement of local and regional authorities**

The European Green Deal and municipalities

Opportunities

- ~ Increased recognition of the importance of cities and municipalities (e.g. [Green Deal Going Local](#), [NetZeroCities](#), [Covenant of Mayors](#), [Energy Cities](#), [C40 Cities Green& Just Transition](#))
- ~ Increased active opportunities for shaping the own city/municipality and the EU
- ~ Increased funding possibilities
- ~ Increased networking opportunities at the municipal level and beyond national borders/ exchange of knowledge

Challenges

- ~ Challenge to decide where and how exactly to start with the many tasks and fields of action
- ~ Depending on the field of action, only limited possibilities to actively plan and implement transformations
- ~ Citizens and decision makers on national level must be convinced to initiate and implement developments
- ~ Lack of resources, especially in terms of staff and finances

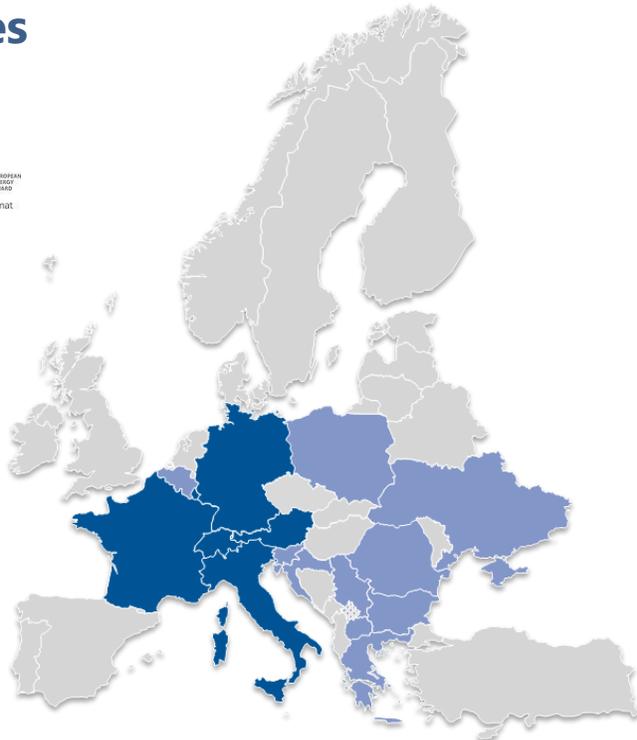
The European Energy Award

The European Energy Award (eea) supports municipalities in meeting this challenges systematically and adapted to the national needs

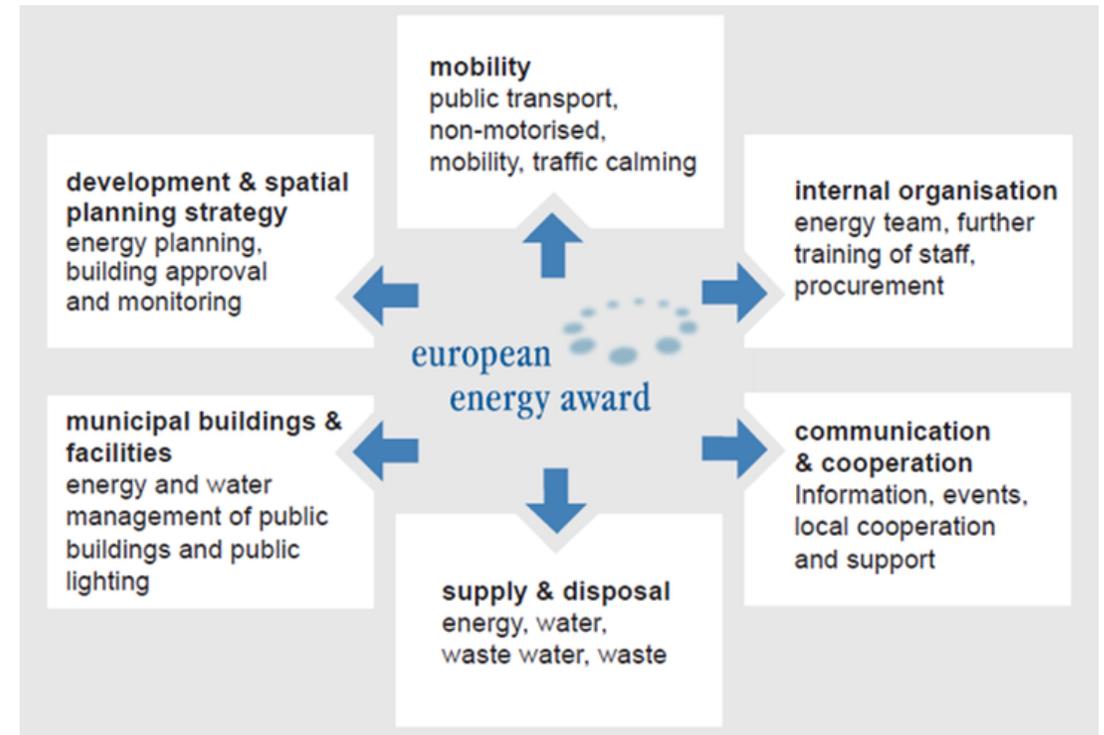


European Energy Award

Non-profit international Association
 (as umbrella organization), located in Brussels
18 European countries, about 1900 local authorities



Qualitymanagement and certification tool for municipalities & cities focusing on 6 relevant areas of local action:



European Energy Award – Process



Project: eea along the Danube

acting locally for the climate



What is the framework of the project?

- Project title: **“eea along the Danube”**
- Project funding: **State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg, Germany**
- Project duration: **2 ½ years** (February 2022 – August 2024)
- Project partners: **Danube Office Ulm/ Neu- Ulm**
(Application and coordinating partner)
- Association European Energy Award AISBL**
(International eea office, European coordination)
- KEA Climate Protection and Energy Agency Baden-Württemberg GmbH**
(technical expertise EEA)



What is the project about?



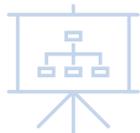
Modul 1: Research & Analysis



Modul 2: Information & Networking

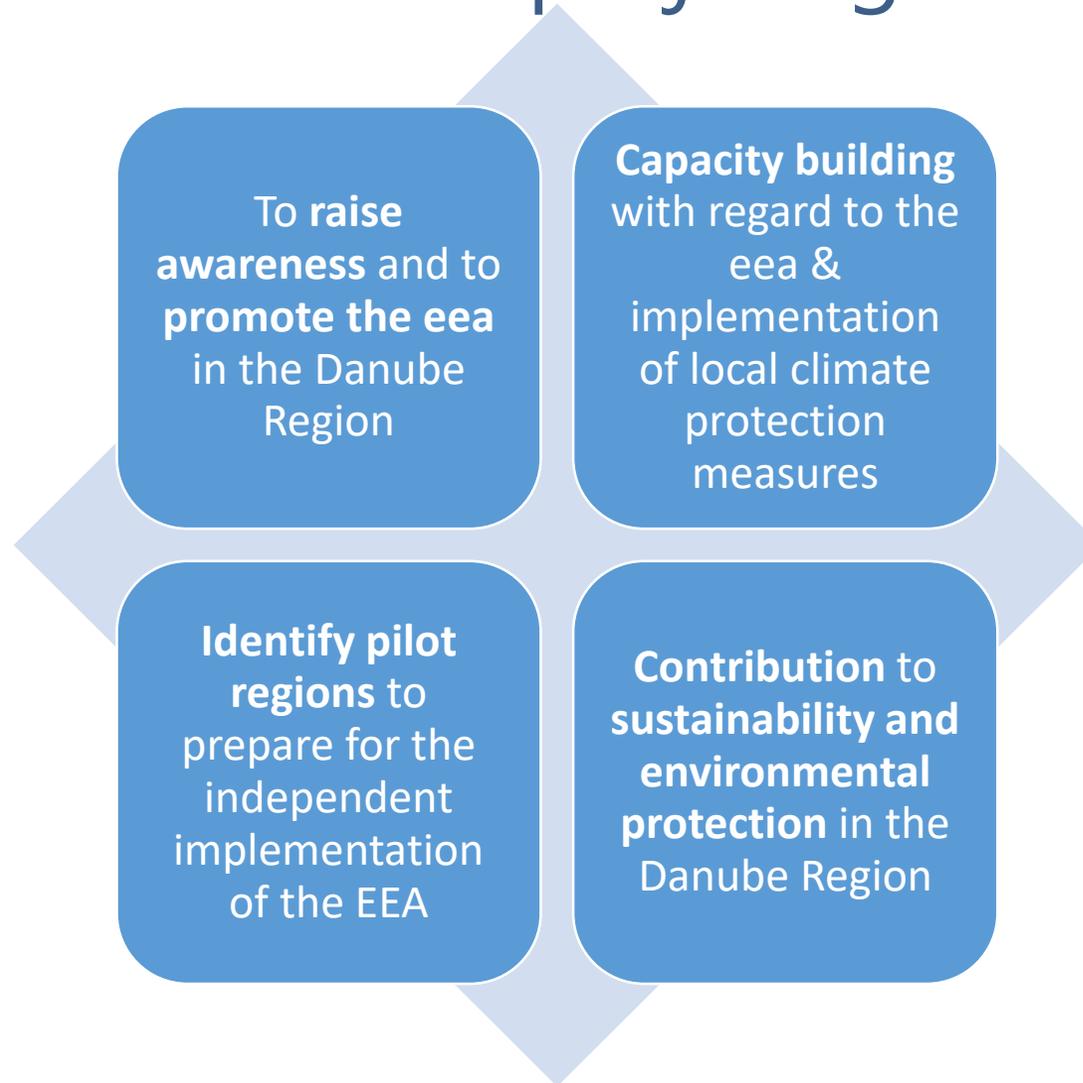


Modul 3: Preparation Phase & Capacity Building



Modul 4: Presentation & Public Relations

What are the project goals?



Project activities



Modul 1: Research & Analysis

Factsheets

- ~ Overview on status quo of the eea relevant criteria
- ~ For all 14 countries in the Danube Region



Modul 2: Information & Networking

Pilot regions and local partners

- ~ In the north-east of **Croatia** [EKO- Sustav Ltd.](#)
- ~ In the southwest of **Hungary** [IMRO](#)
- ~ In the north-east of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** [NERDA](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

FACTS AND FIGURES

Population: 3'415'752
 Population density: 66.7/km²
 Official language(s): Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian
 GDP/capita (nominal): \$7'078

Administrative units:

- Federation of BiH (FBiH): 10 cantons and 79 municipalities and cities
- Republika Srpska (RS): 64 municipalities and Brčko Dist.

Distribution of settlements by population:

- <20'000: 133
- 20'000 - 200'000: 10
- >200'000: 1



STATUS OF THE EEA IMPLEMENTATION

Until 2022, there were no activities or projects within the framework of the European Energy Award in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).





In-depth workshops in the selected pilot regions/municipalities

- ~ In 2023, workshops took place in **Vukovar** (Croatia), **Zalaegerszeg** (Hungary) and **Tuzla** (Bosnia and Herzegovina).
- ~ Interested representatives from cities, municipalities and development/energy agencies were informed about the eea, examples from other countries in the Danube Region and the project.
- ~ The current situation in the region was reflected and it was shown how the eea can support the implementation of planned measures.



Project activities



Modul 3: Preparation Phase & Capacity Building

....Following the workshops,

~ 1 County, Croatia

~ 4 cities/ municipalities in Hungary

~ 8 cities/ municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina



decided to work on the implementation of the
European Energy Award in the future

Pilot county/ cities/ municipalities





Online study visit and Information session



- ~ 2 days online study visit and information session on the eea for the pilot county and the pilot cities/municipalities
- ~ Presentation of several good practice example → different fields of action of the eea were highlighted, examples from small municipalities to cities and districts were presented and opportunities and challenges were discussed
- ~ The international eea office presented in-depth aspects of the implementation of the eea. Among other things, the establishment of interdisciplinary energy teams and possibilities for energy monitoring were discussed and experiences were exchanged.

Project completion & outlook

Final conference

- ~ 9th July 2024, the final conference will take within the context of the International Danube Festival in Ulm, Germany
- ~ results of the “eea along the Danube” project will be presented
- ~ application for a follow-up project will be further developed
- ~ participants will visit practical examples from the city of Ulm, which have contributed to the city's eea gold status



Thank you for your attention

Contact

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Back up

The eea along the Danube

Existing partnerships

Long-term countries with national programmes

Austria (e5), Germany (eea)

Pilot countries (and corresponding pilot partners and projects)

Croatia (REGEA North West Croatia Regional Energy Agency)

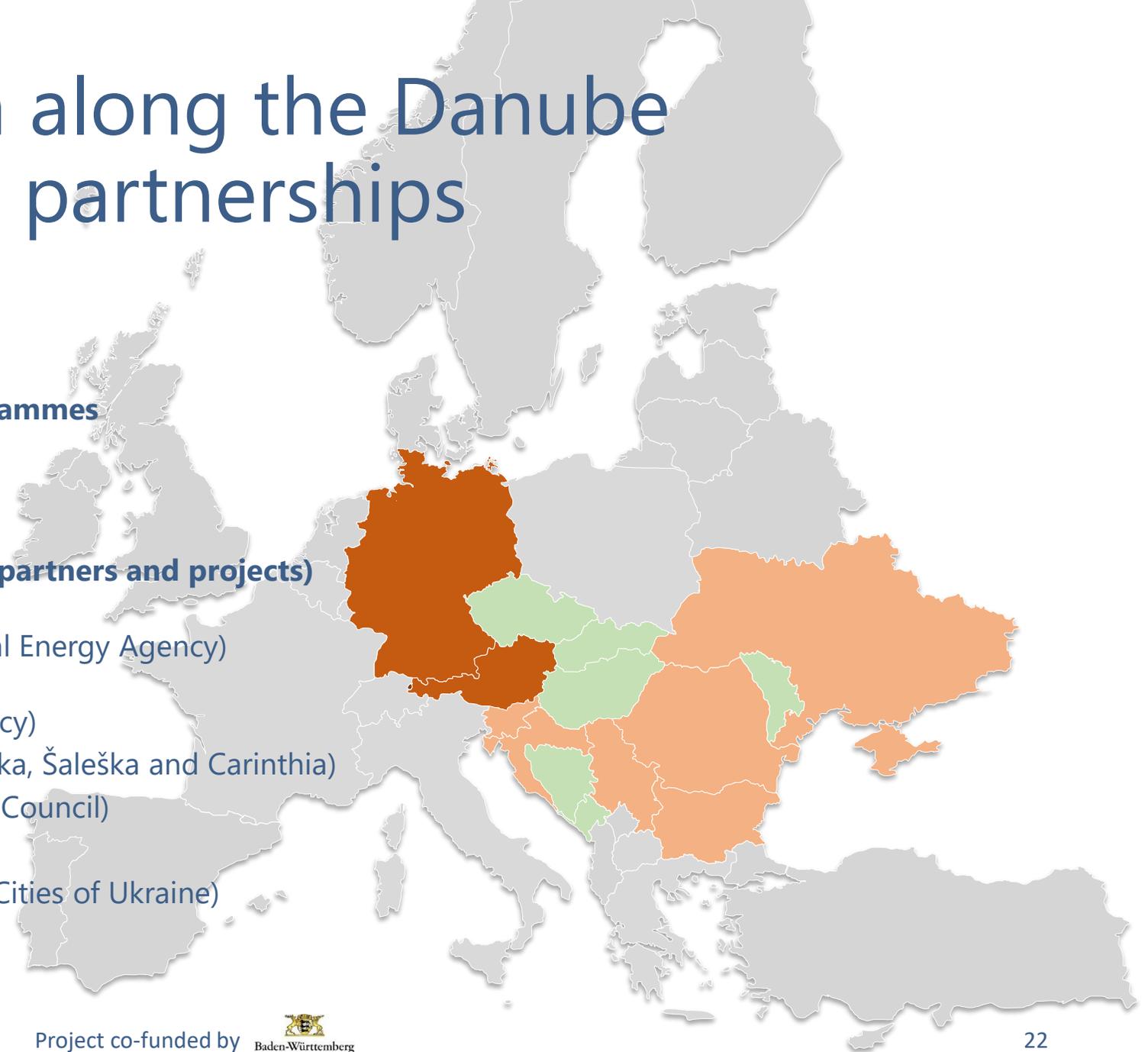
Bulgaria (EnEffect Center for Energy Efficiency)

Slovenia (KSSENA Energy Agency of Savinjska, Šaleška and Carinthia)

Romania (RoGBC Romanian Green Building Council)

Ukraine (MinRegion, EECU Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine)

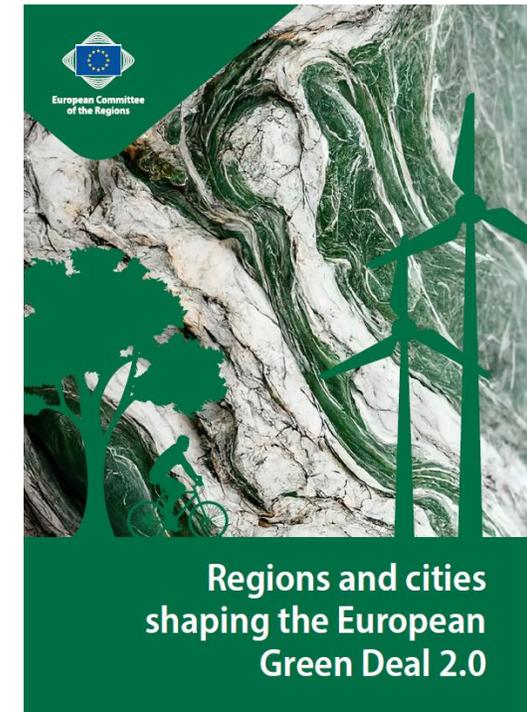
Serbia



The European Green Deal and municipalities

EU Green Deal – Areas of Action

- ~ Climate
- ~ Energy
- ~ Environment and oceans
- ~ Agriculture
- ~ Transport
- ~ Industry
- ~ Research and innovation
- ~ Finance and regional development



[Link to the publication](#)