



# European 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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# Agenda

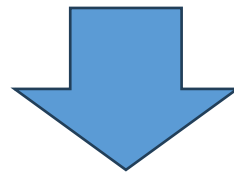
- ~ The European Green Deal and municipalities
- ~ The European Energy Award
- ~ Project „eea along the Danube“

# 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

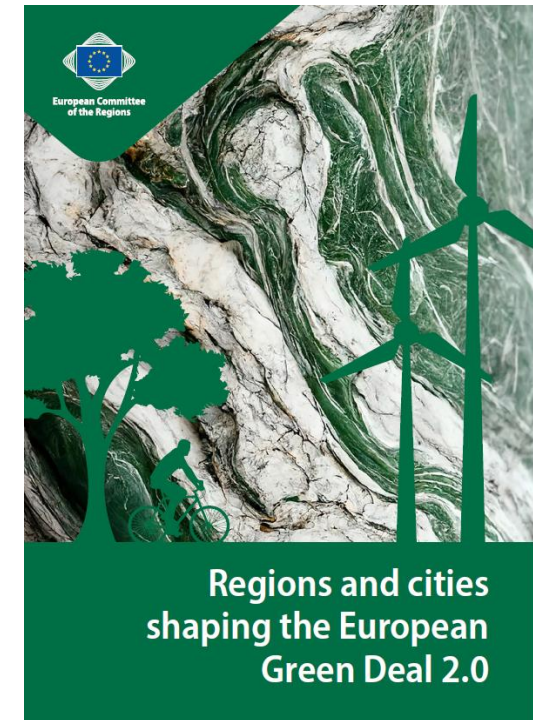
- ~ Local and regional authorities emerge as pivotal players in this transformative journey, reaping numerous benefits from implementation of the European Green Deal and
- ~ Local and regional authorities playing a key role in engaging the public and promoting behavioural changes, all the while increasingly facing climate, environmental and geopolitical risks.

**Local authorities play a critical role across these sectors due to their responsibilities, leadership, and geographic scope.**

# 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](#)

# 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

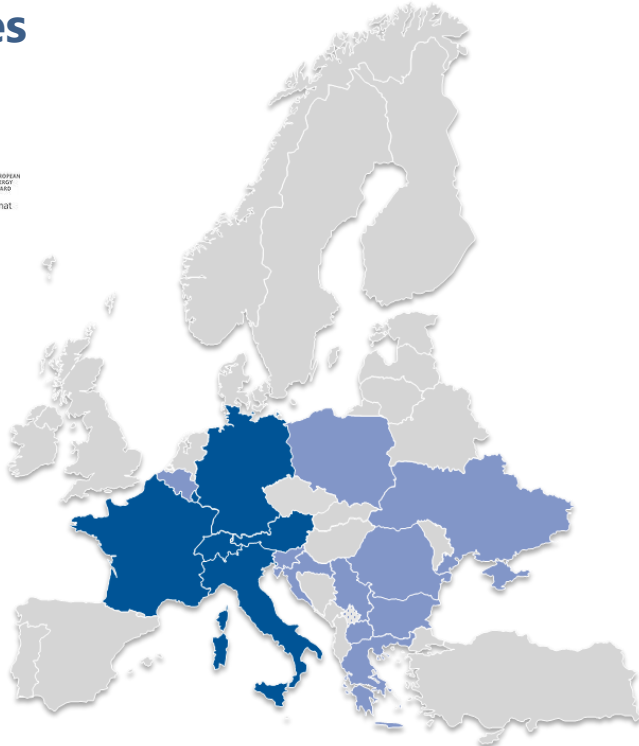
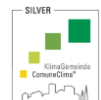


# The European Energy Award

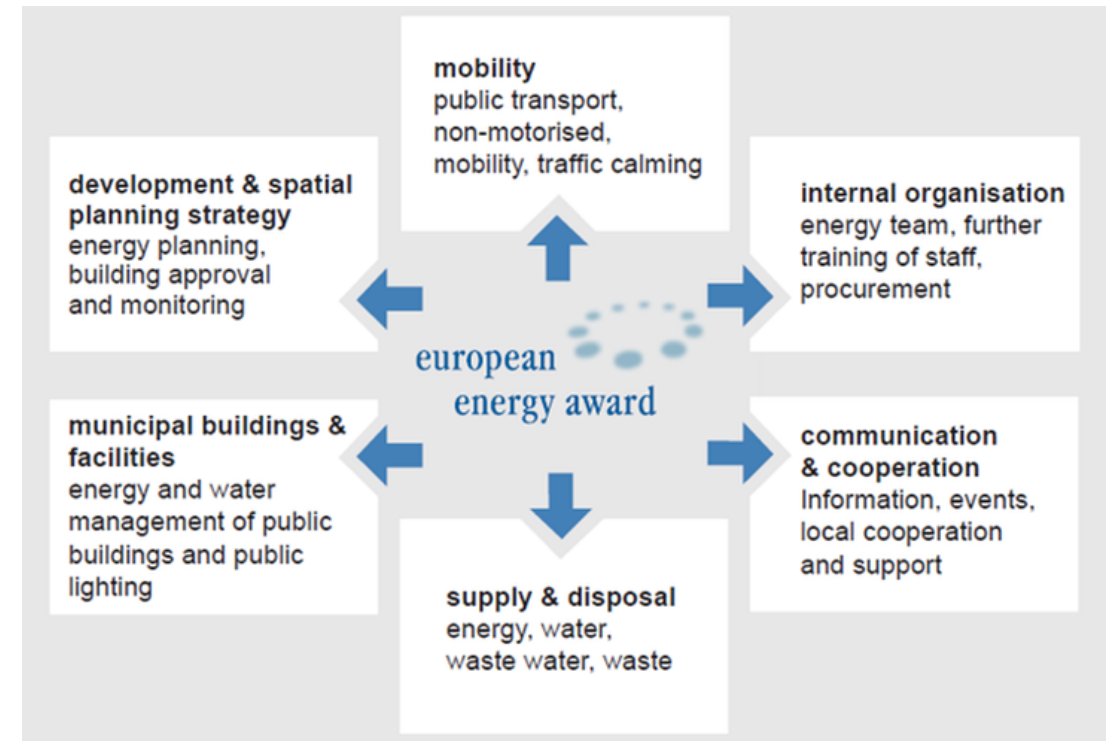
**The European Energy Award (eea) supports municipalities in meeting this challenges systematically and adapted to the national needs**

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



# What is the project about?



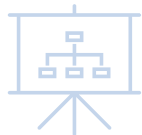
Modul 1: Research & Analysis



Modul 2: Information & Networking

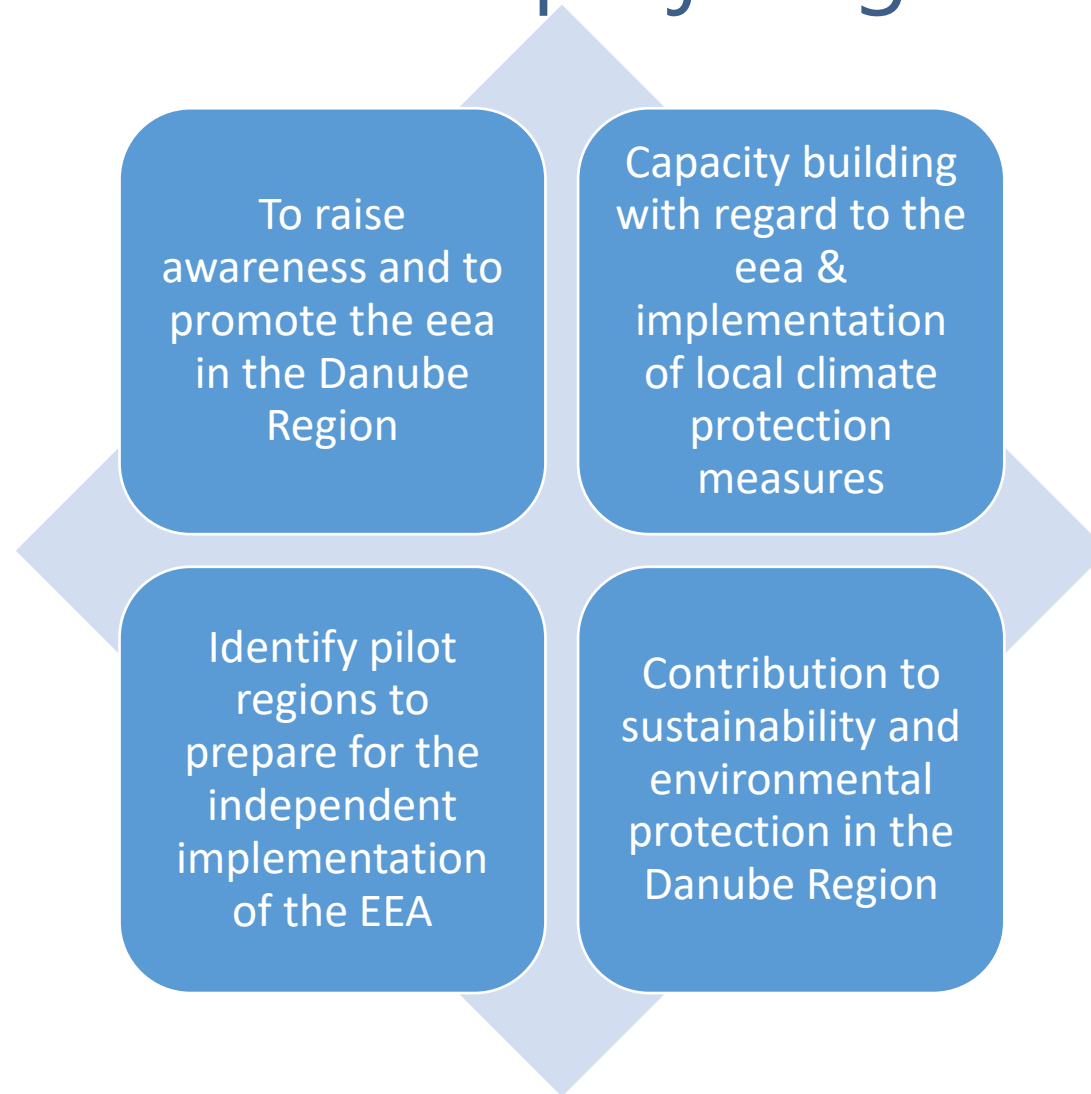


Modul 3: Preparation Phase & Capacity Building



Modul 4: Presentation & Public Relations

# What are the project goals?



# Project activities



## Modul 1: Research & Analysis

### Factsheets



## 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/km<sup>2</sup>  
 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).



# Project activities

## Modul 3: Preparation Phase & Capacity Building

### In-depth workshops in the selected regions/municipalities

In 2023, the 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.



# Project activities



Modul 3: Preparation Phase & Capacity Building

## Pilot county/ cities/ municipalities

- ~ 1 County, Croatia
- ~ 4 cities/ municipalities in Hungary
- ~ 8 cities/ municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

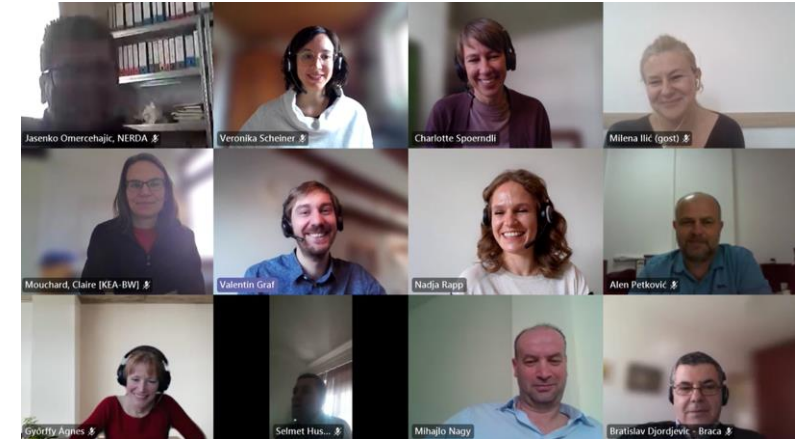


# Project activities



Modul 2: Information & Networking

## 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

- ~ 9<sup>th</sup> 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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