

STRIDE Official Kick-Off Event

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On the 5th of November 2020, the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) approved project, [STRIDE](#), hosted the official public kick-off event of the project. The event was held virtually as a digital conference in light of the COVID-19 pandemic with the purpose to raise awareness of the objectives and activities of the project and provide information to stakeholders about expected results, benefits and their role in the project.

At the kick-off event, Interreg DTP Joint Secretariat (JS) project officer, Ana Leganel, welcomed all the partners and stakeholders present at the event and spoke about the “synergies that can be created between STRIDE project and the other DTP financed projects, especially CSSC LAB”. The JS officer also highlighted the fact that a good cooperation between the projects is expected for the benefit of the energy sector and the Danube region in general.

After formal introductions, Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (LEASP) presented a comprehensive overview of the project, including information regarding the role of the associated strategic partners in the project as well as the development of the STRIDE digital platform. The floor then opened up to a Q&A session, overseen by the event moderator, Chris Ashe, Director of the European Institute of Innovation – Technology (EIFI-Tech), who takes the lead on project communication for the STRIDE project.



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- BEST - Bioenergy and Sustainable Technologies
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- Scientific Research Centre Bistra Ptuj
- University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing
- Ministry of environment protection and energy
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- Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority
- Centre for Energy, Environment and Resources
- Regional Economic Community "REZ" d.o.o. Zenica
- Bulgarian Energy and Mining Forum
- Sustainable Energy Development Agency

Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria

■ Danube Transnational Programme area

Project co-funded by the European Union (ERDF, IPA).

Tea Potocnik

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Dalibor Jovanović - IR... Tsvetomira Komitova Stefan Abadjiev (Guest) Ana Leganel, DTP (G... Chris Ashe

Lead Partner, Tea Potocnik (LEASP), commented on the role of associated strategic partners in the scope of the official kick-off event: ‘‘Associated strategic partners play a crucial role in the STRIDE project, as they are the ones that will implement or support the implementation of the smart grid strategies and action plans – and in this respect, it is important to include them in the extensive dialog from the beginning of the project.’’

Given the importance of the role of associated strategic partners and stakeholders in the successful implementation of the project, the lead partner added, ‘‘The kick-off event was a first in the series of events organised within the project STRIDE that required active participation of associated strategic partners.’’

Furthermore, Roman Kekec of the lead partner organisation, LEASP, commented on the role of associated strategic partners in the development and roll-out of the STRIDE platform: ‘‘At the kick-off we presented the STRIDE platform, as it will be one of the most important project outputs, requiring the most engagement of all project partners as well as associated strategic partners and other stakeholders.’’

The Danube Region Smart Energy Platform, developed within the STRIDE project, will be established to create a network of experts, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders to boost the uptake of smart grid strategies across the Danube region. The web platform will be designed in a way that allows for their application throughout the entire Danube region; therefore, the outcomes of the project will represent a high replication value and ensure scalability within the Danube region and beyond.

Further information on the STRIDE project

The Interreg DTP STRIDE project is aligned with the 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 main results of the STRIDE project are developed and integrated Smart Grid strategies and action plans at a regional/local level with a joint collaboration of participating Danube regions. The STRIDE project, standing for *Improved energy planning through the Integration of Smart Grid concepts in the Danube Region*, is led by the Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (LEASP) together with seven project partners and eight associated partners from Slovenia, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through knowledge transfer and the development

of planning tools, the STRIDE project aims to provide a comprehensive support for regional/local policy makers for the improvement of energy planning.

Project Partners

The STRIDE partnership is led by the Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (LEASP). The partnership is well balanced with competent partners (ERDF/IPA + ASPs), including energy agencies, a university, R&D organisations, energy clusters and policy makers. The partnership expands across various regions, ranging in various levels of economic development.

1. Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (Slovenia)



2. European Institute for Innovation-Technology (Germany)



3. ConPlusUltra (Austria)



4. Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. for Applied Research (Hungary)



5. University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (Croatia)



6. Bulgarian Energy and Mining Forum (Bulgaria)



7. EGÚ Brno, a. s. (Czech Republic)



8. Centre for Energy, Environment and Resources (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



Associated partners:

9. Czech Biogas Association (Czech Republic)
10. Scientific Research Centre Bistra Ptuj (Slovenia)
11. Sustainable Energy Development Agency (Bulgaria)
12. Public utility Dorfen Ltd (Germany)
13. Ministry of Environment, Protection and Energy (Croatia)
14. Regional Economic Community “REZ” d.o.o. Zenica (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
15. BEST - Bioenergy and Sustainable Technologies (Austria)
16. Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority (Hungary)

Project Details

Total Budget: € 1,061,969.80

ERDF Contribution: € 834,497.49

IPA Contribution: € 68,176.80

ENI Contribution: € 0

Programme: Interreg Danube Transnational Programme

For more information on the STRIDE project, including project news and events, visit our [project website](#).