

Open Days – European Week of Regions and Cities Brussels 6-9 October 2008-10-17

Panel: Sustainable Development: Regional Responses to climate Change – “A Sustainable Alliance”

Wednesday 8 October 2008

Workshop GREENERGY – Sustainable Energy Management

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„Initial steps towards sustainable energy management in Međimurje“

Sustainable development is a strategic choice of Međimurje County and energy management is a prerequisite for achieving sustainability. In order to reach the sustainability objectives the appropriate structures for implementing energy related measures have to be in place. These structures can make informed decisions only on the basis of data on current energy balance, RES potentials and current trends in energy production and consumption.

The presentation focused on the process of establishing these structures and obtaining necessary information for improved planning and achievement of sustainable development in the future.

County, through its development agency, initiated a number of initiatives and projects in the field of energy using all of the available opportunities such as EU and national funding. In parallel to the analysis of energy potentials, County established the first local energy agency in Croatia which will be the driver of its future energy related activities. A number of Interreg and IEE projects were also applied for funding and are being currently implemented. Through these projects relevant information has been gathered and methodologies for reaching strategic energy related issues have been developed. An emphasis have been placed on presenting the NIMSEC project in the scope of which a novel model of sustainable energy communities will be developed and implemented through a number of measures in the field of education, policy and finance.

All of the activities presented serve as a good model of establishing a structure for energy related issues in the regions that haven't these structures in place yet.