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EU4 ENERGY
TRANSITION:
COVENANT OF MAYORS
IN THE WESTERN
BALKANS AND TÜRKIYE

**MONTHLY
BULLETIN**

- September 2023 -





EU4 ENERGY TRANSITION: COVENANT OF MAYORS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TÜRKİYE



September Focus

Energy poverty

A situation where individuals or communities do not have access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services. It is a significant global issue that affects millions of people, particularly in developing countries. Energy poverty can have serious social, economic, and environmental consequences.

Visibility: Energy poverty

We inspected the topic "Energy Poverty" with all of its aspects in September and made this broad issue visible to our community in our Social Media Accounts.



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Expert Gaze on Energy Poverty:

Exclusive Interview with Arif Künar:

"We need not only a technical approach, but also a human-oriented view that touches people. "No time to waste on energy transition; it should be done tomorrow."



Arif Künar
General Manager - VENESCO

Upon SECAP and Energy Poverty:

*"Establishing and implementing **SECAPs** to reduce energy poverty is vital to increase energy standards at both industrial and individual levels. Having these plans complete, monitored, and publicly reported are essential requirements for an effective energy poverty reduction strategy."*

Three suggestions for municipalities aiming to combat energy poverty

1



Establish energy centers or desks in district municipalities to provide information on environmentally friendly and economical lighting and heating solutions. Implement simple mechanisms to inform citizens about good energy specifications, technologies, and practices. Support municipalities in providing technical, logistical, and informational assistance to residents for energy-efficient practices.

2



Establish Cooperatives. Evaluate citizen demands for renewable energy, following examples like Citizens' Energy Plant (YES). Include functions in the platform to suggest financing models and support citizens with options like bank loans for energy transformation.

3



Conduct a study on building transformation and energy poverty in Istanbul. Create an inventory of building types and living conditions, partnering with universities, professional chambers, and municipalities. Develop different models for various building types and establish a platform to monitor, report, and provide logistical support.

Good Implementations to Combat Energy Poverty:

Center for Spatial Justice is carrying out a study called Indoor Thermal Comfort between July and December, which is a project that has just started in the context of Adaptation to Climate Change. There is also one in Izmir, a good example is the KİT (Global Climate Community). This community plans to measure energy efficiency in neighborhoods affected by energy poverty in Izmir. And in addition, Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality has a 3-year energy facility built with JICA.



GROWING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EU4ETTR AND ISTANBUL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

05.09.2023



On the 5th of September 2023, EU4ETTR met with Istanbul Chamber of Commerce for concrete actions to have close work with the business sector.

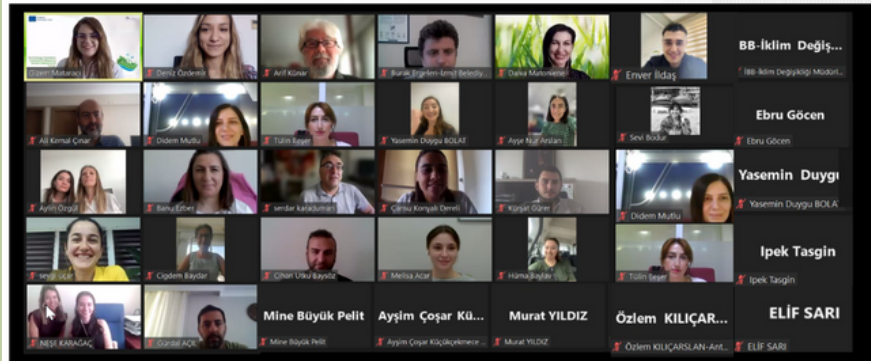
SECAP TRAINING ON ENERGY POVERTY



06.09.2023

Access to energy is a fundamental human right, and during our recent "Energy Poverty" training session on 6th of September, 2023, Mr. Arif Künar, our expert, shared in-depth insights on this crucial subject. Among the key takeaways, he emphasized that local governments should redirect their efforts towards not just alleviating energy poverty but completely eradicating it by promoting the responsible and efficient use of energy and ensuring long-term access.

ENERJİ DÖNÜŞÜMÜ İÇİN AB: BATI BALKANLAR VE TÜRKİYE'DEKİ
BELEDİYE BAŞKANLARI SÖZLEŞMESİ PROJESİ
GÖZLEMÇİ BELEDİYELER
ENERJİ YOKSULLUĞU EĞİTİMİ
6 EYLÜL 2023



It's undeniable that addressing energy poverty is pivotal in reaching our emission reduction goals. Consequently, our Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) must incorporate comprehensive solutions to combat energy poverty alongside strategies for mitigation and adaptation.



MEETING WITH JOINT RESEARCH CENTER

12.09.2023

ENERJİ DÖNÜŞÜMÜ İÇİN AB: BATI BALKANLAR VE TÜRKİYE'DEKİ
BELEDİYE BAŞKANLARI SÖZLEŞMESİ PROJESİ
ORTAK ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ (JRC) İŞBİRLİĞİ TOPLANTISI
12 EYLÜL 2023



JRC is the main scientific organization and evaluator of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP), provides stimulating information sharing.

At the meeting where we discussed opportunities to increase our cooperation, it was agreed that JRC will be the main trainer in SECAP monitoring month for our project observer municipalities of Türkiye. Collaboration is a continuous journey, valuable partnership is growing!

WE CELEBRATE OUR GRANT MUNICIPALITY:

14.09.2023



Melikgazi Municipality, which applied to the Lithuania Central Project Management Agency (CPVA) to use alternative energy sources, has been granted funding for **The Solar City**.

Melikgazi Municipality, has just inked an energy connection protocol, propelling us closer to a sustainable future. We're ecstatic to have played a pivotal role in supporting this critical project through our grant program.

This project serves as a compelling testament to how local governments can ramp up efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and champion renewable energy. Anchored by a robust 127kWp solar power plant, it's poised to satisfy a significant chunk of the municipality's energy needs. Notably, the project also features a cutting-edge car charging station and offers a unique advantage by covering energy expenses for agricultural irrigation.





CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH COOPERATION: TEKIRDAG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY LEADS THE WAY

17.09.2023



Tekirdag Metropolitan Municipality has taken significant steps in its commitment to climate action. Acknowledging the indispensable role of agriculture in Tekirdag and recognizing the direct correlation between climate initiatives and the well-being of its residents, a promising journey of progress has begun hand in hand.

One noteworthy milestone in this journey is Tekirdag Municipality's participation in the prestigious Covenant of Mayors initiative, which showcases their dedication to climate actions. By embarking on the path of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) preparation, the municipality is solidifying its commitment to address climate challenges head-on.



Project Team Leader from EU4ETTR project, Ms. Daiva Matoniene celebrated Tekirdag Metropolitan Municipality. Through this invaluable partnership, Tekirdag is creating a groundbreaking model of teamwork and cooperation that serves as an inspiration for municipalities far and wide.

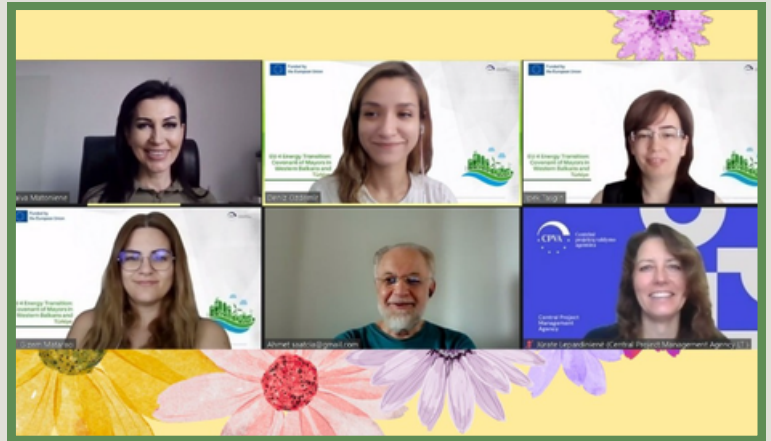
MLGP Milestones: *Upcoming Working Group Meetings on 28-29 of September 2023*



Our preparations are nearing completion

After the important improvements in our MLGP Structure, we will be having the third working group meetings at the end of the month!

We will convene to collaboratively seek solutions to challenges facing our test municipalities. In attendance will be our partners from national and international institutions, as well as esteemed representatives from Turkish ministries. Melikgazi Municipality will be represented to deliver a presentation on the Solar City Project.



Our discussions with our expert pool during preparations:



SARAJEVO ENERGY AND CLIMATE WEEK (SECW): MULTI LEVEL GOVERNANCE AND CLIMATE ACTIONS IN ISTANBUL

26.10.2023

In the SARAJEVO ENERGY AND CLIMATE WEEK (SECW), insights from Istanbul took center stage. During the panel discussion, EU4ETTR project team leader Daiva Matonienė Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's Head of Department of Environmental Protection and Control Prof. Ayşen Erdiñçler shared Istanbul's climate initiatives and Türkiye's multi-level governance progress. The session explored cities' responses to climate change and their role in energy transition. Engaging discussions occurred among Sarajevo City, Kakanj Municipality, Croatia Balkans Regional Representative, People in Need (PIN), and Green Energy Cooperative (ZEZ, Croatia). Hosted by Sarajevo City and GIZ, the panel shed light on effective climate strategies and collaborative efforts shaping sustainable urban development.



The Sarajevo Energy and Climate Week (SECW) is a five-day global conference focused on discussing the crucial topic of achieving an efficient transition in the energy sector.

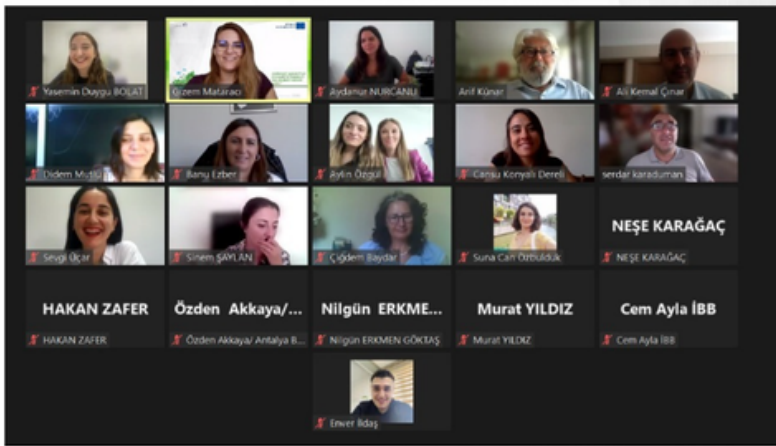


SECOND SECAP TRAINING ON ENERGY POVERTY

27.09.2023



ENERJİ DÖNÜŞÜMÜ İÇİN AB- BATI BALKANLAR VE TÜRKİYE'DEKİ
BELEDİYE BAŞKANLARI SÖZLEŞMESİ PROJESİ
GÖZLEMCİ BELEDİYELER
ENERJİ YOKSULLUĞU EĞİTİMİ
27 EYLÜL 2023



In the final session of our energy poverty awareness month under SECAP, our observer municipalities, focusing on the third pillar of the Covenant of Mayors, Energy Poverty, shared inspiring project ideas. Expert Mr. Arif Künar led an interactive session on improving and implementing these ideas.



Multi Level Governance Platform Milestones

Working Group Meetings Were Held
28-29 of September 2023



The recent working group meetings of the Multi-Level Governance Platform (MLGP) have brought forth significant strides in our pursuit of sustainability.

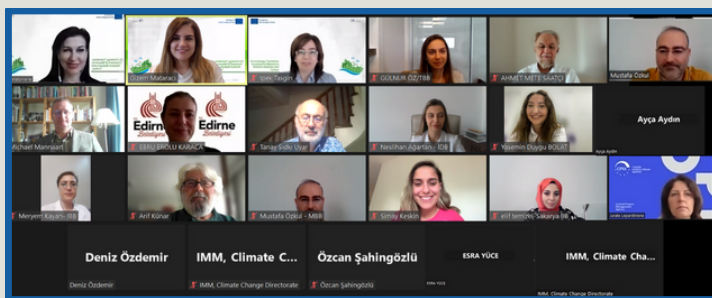
The Challenges & Solutions Working Group, convened under the EU4ETTR project and in collaboration with esteemed partners, marked a substantial leap forward. During this session, municipalities and experts meticulously charted a course for seamless communication between national and local authorities, a crucial framework for effective SECAP implementation. Concurrently, the International Cooperation, Project Development, and Finance Working Group Meeting underscored our global impact, demonstrating the innovative spirit propelling our initiatives. This marked our final working group meetings for 2023, filled with impactful discussions and inspirational projects. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all speakers, experts, and participants who contributed to this enriching experience.

Working Groups

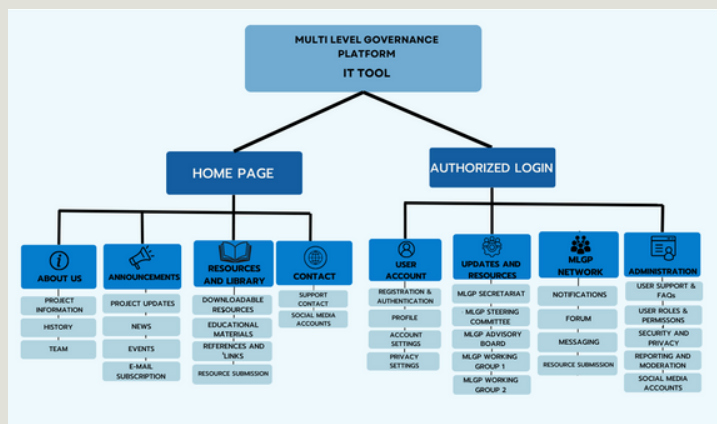
Challenges & Solutions

On September 28, 2023, the final meeting of the MLGP's Challenges & Solutions Working Group for 2023 represented a significant milestone in our collective journey. Valuable insights from municipalities and experts were diligently collected, focusing on fostering a seamless, sustainable communication model between national and local authorities to effectively implement SECAPs.

During the meeting, Türkiye's climate initiatives, including legislative updates were discussed with the ministry representative; and adaptation plans and the MLGP IT Tool is presented.



Challenges & Solutions WG Meeting
28.09.2023



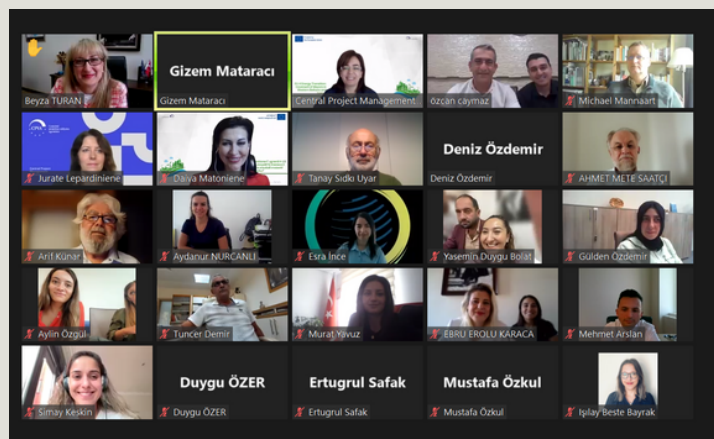
Structure of Multi Level Governance Platform - IT Tool

International Cooperation, Project Development, and Finance



On September 29, 2023, the final meeting of the MLGP's International Cooperation, Project Development, and Finance Working Group meeting was held.

In the meeting, concrete actions and international collaboration for effective multi-level governance are emphasized. MARUF (October 4-7, 2023) was taken into account as a prime opportunity for local and global partnerships. Melikgazi Municipality's EU4ETTR-funded "Solar City Project," was presented, emphasizing transparent communication and grant alignment. By that the importance of clear, comprehensive project proposals are underscored via the current and great example.



International Cooperation, Project Development, and Finance WG Meeting
29.09.2023



Our deepest appreciation goes to Marmara Municipalities Union, Union of Municipalities of Türkiye, 10 test municipalities, and the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change for their invaluable contributions.



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Our Note:

"Even in the face of adversity, the warmth of determination can melt away the coldest challenges, lighting the path to a brighter, better future."

Addressing energy poverty involves leveraging SECAPs and fostering collaboration and synergy between governments, communities, and organizations. By tailoring sustainable energy plans to local needs, sharing resources, and promoting energy-efficient practices, we can make renewable energy sources accessible and affordable. Through these coordinated efforts, communities can escape energy poverty, fostering economic growth and environmental sustainability.

EU4ETTR Team



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