

Zoom on

Interview with Andrei Șerban, Mayor of Slănic Moldova (RO), another new community within the RURENER network.



Welcome Mr. Șerban to the network! Why are you joining the project?

The town of Slănic Moldova is interested in sustaining itself from the point of view of energy, and the RURENER project offers a real opportunity of identifying internal as well as external partners interested in partnership and cooperation in the field of energetic neutrality and efficiency.

How do you define the energetic neutrality?

The energetic neutrality means using all types of renewable energy which may be feasible in our area, aiming at self-sustainability and at storing enough green energy for our community, as well as some extra green energy which could be introduced in the national distribution system in order to be sent to other consumers outside our town, taking into consideration the principles of sustainable development and the respect towards nature and environment.

What are the development objectives in your area? What is the potential of this area?

Considering the recent cooperation agreement between Romania and Greece, "Carpathians Green COP", signed in Leipzig, Germany, in the January 2011, we suggest the following investments in the field of green energy in the town of Slănic Moldova and we'd like to create an energy ring with a range of 50 km:

1. A modular geothermal power plant combined with a biomass (wood) heating system in Slănic Moldova (4 m €) – in cooperation with an experienced partner in Lower Saxony (DE);
2. A solar unit installed on the gym roof (0.4 m €), the electric power being delivered directly to the electric vehicles;
3. The biogas plant "Slănic Agro Gaz România" (12 m €), with materials from Romania, supported and assisted by our German partners (technology transfer) Agro Fuels Consult Edderitz in Saxonia-Anhalt;
4. Wind Park Slănic România (8 m €), implemented by Doblen EST / Saxony, the details being set subsequently with the Romanian partners;
5. E-mobility (0.25 m €), using German electric automobiles produced by Automotive Interior World GmbH Regnitzlosau and Plauen-Neuensalz in cooperation with Romanian partners;
6. Infrastructure (3 m €), Saxonia building company in association with Romanian road building contractors;
7. Building and envi-

ronmental design (1.1 m €) with Froelich & Sporbeck München, the Plauen / Vogtland branch office;

8. Project management (1.25 m €) with the companies ERK and ECPC.

The total amount of money estimated for investments in the energy ring is 30 m €.

Which is the most important action in the local action plan?

Considering the fact that at the moment the action plan was drawn up the opportunities stipulated in the partnership agreement mentioned above could not be foreseen yet, I believe our first priority should be the implementation of the whole cooperation agreement signed between Romania and Greece, based on a sincere bilateral cooperation, as well as the necessary motivation brought forth by the initiative and the enterprise of the German authorities.

Which is the greatest problem/challenge in the way of the energetic neutrality?

I believe the main challenge in the way of energy independence is the national legal system concerning the use of the green energy and the proper way to introduce this type of energy into the national distribution networks. At present, the Romanian legislation is still in the pioneering stage, but the experience of our German partners as well as the legislation in use in Germany – world leader in the field of sustainable energy – can be used by the leaders of our country in order to make the Romanian legal system more efficient and compatible.

What do you expect from the European policies in the field of energy stated in Brussels?

The European policies in the field of sustainable energy are according to the strategic objectives mentioned in the European programmes concerning the use of green energy, aiming that until 2020 the EU countries should use sustainable energy amounting to at least 20% of the total demand of energy.

Unfortunately, at this point Romania is not able to apply these European provisions since the national financial resources are not enough and the legislation in this field is being reformed. The non-refundable sources are a great opportunity for each area that could be a potential beneficiary; however the process of accessing and implementing these funding sources is still inefficient and difficult.

Have you got any advice for the RURENER network?

The RURENER network includes communities and partners who each have their own problems to solve. It is a real opportunity to be able to discuss these problematic aspects for each member of the network as well as the good examples they set forth, during the annual meetings.

Considering the fact that I am a new member, I can not give any piece of advice for this form of association yet.

Thank you very much!

RURENER

Network of small
RURal communities for
ENERgetic-neutrality



01/2011

NEWSLETTER

To the reader,

Welcome to the third edition of the RURENER newsletter! This newsletter is aiming to inform you, the working and decision making people in small rural communities, the decision makers on regional, national and European level in terms of energy policies and any other interested elsewhere about the work done within the RURENER network to date and any other relevant news and information around the network.

In this edition we will focus on dissemination and public participation of the RURENER issues. How can we amplify the knowledge about our main subjects like renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy saving? How can we get the citizens involved? These are the questions we want to follow.

The implementation of a Local Energy Day in Keratea, Greece is one of our best practice examples we would like to present. The field report will show some good and some less good experiences, will give some advice and suggestions for further realization of local energy days or similar activities within the RURENER network.

We hope you enjoy reading it!



Focus: Local Energy Days - Implementing Local Energy Plans by with the support of the public

Description:

Keratea (Greece) has already developed a comprehensive Local Energy Plan within RURENER network. Besides the environmental and energy benefits the implementation of this plan will reduce the energy costs for the community and citizens as well. An important factor for successful implementation set by the plan is the wider dissemination and public participation and awareness. Therefore a local energy day was organised.

It was held by CRES and Keratea community and it included a) a tour in the Energy Education Park of CRES and b) a workshop at the Cultural Centre of the City of Keratea entitled "Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Saving at local level". The target audience was the local citizens.

Imprint

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The factor of success:

The Park offers a successful combination of informational, demonstrative and educational activities in Renewable Energy Sources. During the tour the participants had the opportunity to see the various forms of renewable energy operating, to learn about these technologies, and the resulting benefits for the environment and Community in general.

The workshop allowed the audience to get information but also interact with the participants and the stakeholders as well. The workshop is a chance for the citizens to be informed for practical issues that can be applied at local level and creates the ground for immediate action! (Study tour complementary activity).

The difficulties:

The study tour took place during summer and working day (morning). Thus, although the study tour was well organized, the citizens' participation was not the expected. On the contrary the afternoon workshop in the Cultural Centre gave the chance for fruitful debate and thoughts and more than 60 residents attended it.

Our advices:

Every Community can organize a Local Energy Day (based on different thematic areas and events). The key is a mixture of presentations by competent speakers and study tour or other activities (like exhibitions, student competitions, etc). The Community profile, local characteristics and needs is a good guide for the structure of the events. Proper sequence and organization of the events is needed for success implementation.

Within the RURENER network it is our intention to disseminate further best practice examples of local energy days/road shows in the participating communities. If you intend to stage a local energy day in your region, the good practice template, developed by EnerMaTec, Braunschweig (DE) would be a useful tool for the documentation and evaluation of the event.

You can find the template at <http://rurener.eu/2010/02/28/toolbox-of-communication-and-participation/how-to-write-a-communication-plan/>

Between us

Schladen, Schöningen and Wesendorf (Germany) are hosting the next RURENER meeting from March, 29th until April, 1st 2011. The European conference on the 31st gives the opportunity to meet partners, pilots and other interested small rural communities as well as national and European decision makers. With presentations, discussions and site visits the German partners organise the conference as a platform for sharing know how and experiences.

RURAL ENERGY Discover the potential of Europe's new rural energy solutions RURENER will be part of the EU Sustainable Energy Week. On April, 12th 2011 we will have the opportunity to discuss with representatives of the Committee of the Regions, the European Commission, the European Parliament, local and regional governments European energy policy and local action in rural areas. The event will focus on tangible and practical local energy solutions and their impact on rural communities. The main responses will be included in a 'Rural Energy Matters synopsis', which will be presented to the representative of the Committee of the Regions/the European Parliament for them to comment as a conclusion. If you are interested in joining the event, please contact info@rurener.eu

We welcome three new communities in Romania! Capu Câmpului, Pâncești and Hangu are joining the Rurener network. And also a heartily welcome to Saint Bonnet le Froid and Saint germain l'Herm (France). As you know RURENER continues to look for new members. All participating communities are looking forward to share their experiences with other small rural communities. If you are on your way to energetic neutrality or if you want to make the first step, don't hesitate to contact either on of the project partners directly or info@rurener.eu

In brief

EU Sustainable Energy Week

Between 11 and 15 April the EUSEW 2011 will take place in Brussels, and all over Europe. Various activities like exhibitions, workshops, debates, conference etc. will build the program. More than 300 events in 30 countries are announced during these days. One highlight of the week is the Sustainable Energy Europe Awards, which recognises the most outstanding renewable energy or energy efficiency projects of the past year. The Sustainable Energy Week was launched in 2005 as the key event of the Sustainable Energy Europe campaign which is an initiative of the European Commission. For further information please go to www.eusew.eu

ManagEnergy Annual Conference

As another interesting part of the 2011 EU Sustainable Energy Week, the ManagEnergy Annual Conference is taking place on the morning of 13 April in Brussels. The conference will focus on the synergies between regional development and sustainable energy actions. The latest developments in EU policy will be presented as well as in the area of technical support for sustainable energy at the local and regional level. Examples of the close collaboration between energy agencies and local authorities will be showcased, while discussion and experience exchange will be facilitated. A special session in the afternoon will discuss financing opportunities for sustainable energy measures at the local and regional level, including structural funds, the ELENA facility and a new EU energy efficiency investment facility. Please note that a separate registration is required for the afternoon event. Find more information including the conference program: www.managenergy.net



Keratea (Greece)