



RUSE and the Structural Funds: a joint opportunity

■ **RUSE**

Redirecting
Urban areas development
towards
Sustainable
Energy

PROJECT COORDINATION
Energie-Cités

MAIN PARTNERS

Polish Network "Energie-Cités" (PL)
Slovak Energy Agency (SK)
Lithuanian Energy Institute (LT)
South Bohemia Region (CZ)
French Energy Agency ADEME (FR)
Dutch Energy Agency SenterNovem (NL)



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■ **CONTEXT**

- Since 1st January 2007, the Structural Funds (SF) are also available in Bulgaria and Romania
- One of the main challenges we are facing now is to use this new opportunity in the most sustainable way, especially regarding energy issues which are a full component of regional development
- Experience has already been gained in the current EU, including both good and bad practice

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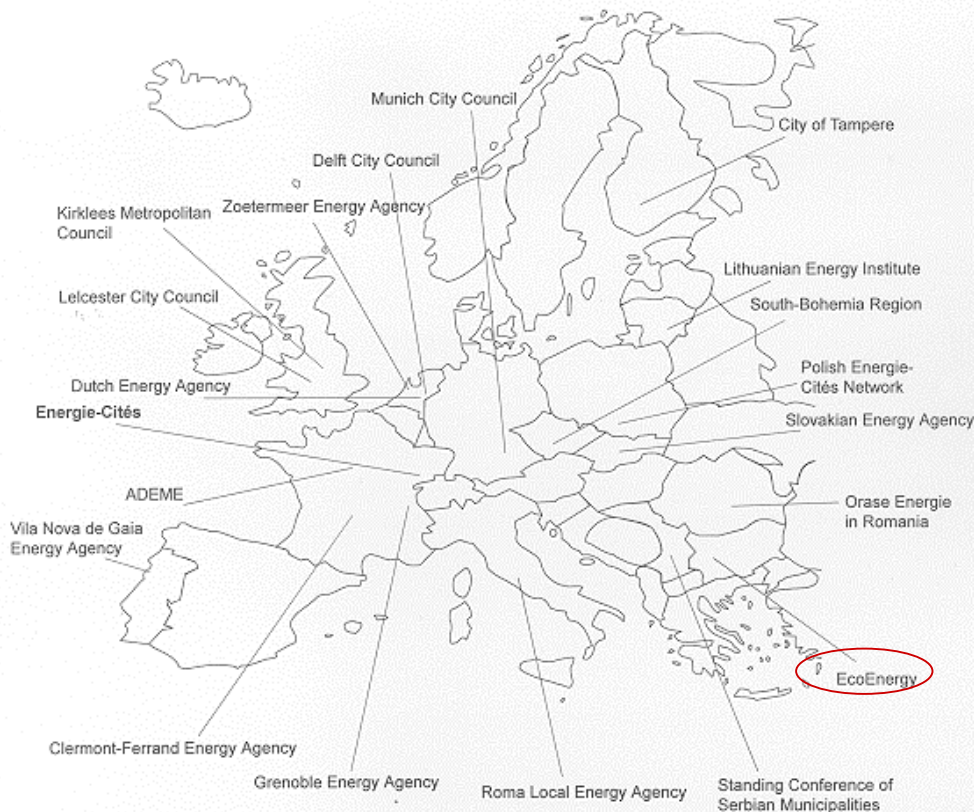
■ **PARTNERSHIP**

- Energie-Cités, the coordinator, is a network of European municipalities promoting local sustainable energy policies as an element of urban development
- 4 main partners located in Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic + EcoEnergy (BG)
- 10 municipalities or local energy agencies (EU-15)
- 2 national energy agencies (FR, NL)
- 2 associated city networks (Romania, Serbia)

- All partners have a great deal of experience in urban development related to energy issues.

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■ LOCATION OF PARTNERSHIP



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■ **BUDGET**

- Total eligible expenses: 1 574 000 €
- Interreg IIIC support: 893 000 €
- PHARE (Bulgaria): 75 000 €
- National cofinancing: 606 000 €

■ **DURATION**

- 45 months (March 2004 – December 2007)

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■ **OBJECTIVES**

- “Redirecting urban areas development towards sustainable energy” ...
- ...and improving the use of SF - and other financial resources - in the urban projects of at least 5 NMS...
- ...thus progressing towards a better integration of sustainable energy issues in their projects...
- ...also by improving capacity building in collective structures (city networks, agencies) and individual bodies (municipalities)

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■ **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Transfer of good practices and methods from both the EU-15 and the NMS
- Improvement of the capacity of intermediate bodies (specialist energy networks of municipalities, regions or energy agencies)
- Strengthening of the partners' activities towards cities and urban stakeholders
- Practical involvement of urban areas / cities and towns in projects supported by the SF

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■ **EXPECTED IMPACTS**

- Linking urban development and sustainable energy issues more strongly by making the positive role of energy issues more visible
- Influencing better use of SF at national, regional and local levels by promoting action on sustainability issues, especially energy related
- Creating and stimulating the “reflex” in different bodies and in cities to integrate energy issues as widely as possible in urban development

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■ **MAIN ACTIVITIES**

- Exchange of experience and knowledge
- Creation of a network of expertise
- Preparation and dissemination of good practice case studies or guides
- Provision of information to municipalities and relevant bodies
- Promotion of the project

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■ **MAIN OUTPUTS**

- Communication products: leaflet, website, newsletters, poster, material for exhibition, powerpoint presentations, guidelines for recommendations, data bases on contacts and good practices, etc.
- Meetings: organisation of joint seminars and workshops, participation in conferences, etc.
- Publication of good practice case studies from both the EU-15 and the NMS
- Networking activities: Study tours, Staff hosting, Help Desks, etc.

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■ **WORK PROGRAMME**

- **Component 1:** Management and Co-ordination
- **Component 2:** Dissemination of information and promotion at both European and national levels
- **Component 3:** Exchanges of experiences
- **Component 4:** Preparation and publication of good practice case studies
- **Component 5:** Information and advice to municipalities and relevant bodies at national scale

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■ **CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

The RUSE Operation is expected to be:

- a very successful project
- a model project for the future
- of high quality
- and will offer excellent opportunities for efficient (net)working among all partners...
- ...but also for all interested municipalities as well as for intermediate bodies (energy agencies, regional authorities, etc.)

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For further information visit:

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