



REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

POTEnT

Public Organisations
Transform Energy
Transition

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INTRODUCTION

POTENT PROJECT

The POTEnT (Public Organisations Transform Energy Transition) project innovatively deals with a key challenge for European cities and regions: how to achieve a greater reduction in carbon emissions using the potential of direct and local measures by citizens and communities. The need is large and urgent. Under an international agreement, the EU undertook to achieve ambitious aims in the reduction of carbon emissions. Regional and local authorities can provide a positive alternative to the market provision of energy services. The POTENTIAL consists of their local connections, opportunities and responsibilities. However, they face a lot of challenges to becoming players on the energy market. They first have to develop legal mechanisms, attract investments, obtain skills and involve communities. Second, a lot of market regulations are adopted at the level of Member States, so tailored solutions are necessary. The project's aim is to reduce carbon emissions faster than in the "ordinary way" through more and better energy services provided by local and regional authorities.

Ostrava, the third largest city in the Czech Republic, is in the country's northeast. With a population of almost 300,000, it is the capital of the Moravian-Silesian Region (pop. 1.2 m). Through the project, the city is trying to improve its own political tool - the City of Ostrava Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP, adopted in 2018). The document contains measures to reduce CO₂ emissions through: the introduction of energy management and energy-saving measures in public buildings, in the other services sector and in the housing sector, modernisation of heating systems and boilers, environmentally-friendly public transport, organisational and economic measures in transport and measures in new construction. The strategy also includes energy measures that the city cannot execute and perform itself. The aim is to find new procedures to involve all the relevant entities - not only public organisations, but also primarily the private sector, which actually has suitable means to create new opportunities in the area of sustainable production and distribution of energy that could contribute and support the introduction of new market models.

PART I

GENERAL INFORMATION

Affected Partner Organisations

1. City Boroughs
2. Dopravní podnik Ostrava a.s.
3. Allowance organisations of the City of Ostrava

Country

Czech Republic

NUTS2 Region

Moravian-Silesian

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PART II

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The aim of the action plan is to influence

The Investment for Jobs and Growth programme

The European Territorial Cooperation programme

Another tool of regional development policy ✓

Name of policy tool to which the RAP relates

City of Ostrava Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan 2030 – SECAP

Other details about the strategic context and the method in which the action plan (RAP) should contribute to improving the policy tool

The regional action plan should contribute to an improvement in a key policy tool - the city document for sustainable energy and the climate, “City of Ostrava Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan 2030 – SECAP”, which the City of Ostrava undertook to comply with by becoming a member of the Covenant of Mayors. This strategic document (policy tool) was approved in February 2022 by the City of Ostrava assembly.

Since 2011, the City of Ostrava has been a member of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. The city undertook to make CO₂ savings of 24 % of 2000’s production. In 2015, the city had already reduced production by 34.39 %. In accordance with the development vision formulated in the current City Strategic Plan and also in connection with the successful performance of current obligations Ostrava is planning to adopt a new obligation to reduce CO₂ emissions by 55 % by 2030. The updating of the obligation reflects the EU’s commitments in the area of reducing the influence on the climate and adaptation by 2030 (Green Deal, Fit for 55 %).

The activities under the POTEnT Regional Action Plan will lead to the introduction of more efficient management of energy consumption; there will also be verification of the benefit of specific green energy projects, which will contribute to better achievement of climate goals, as set in SECAP (2030).

The City of Ostrava is facing a problem where, on the one hand, it is necessary to develop the city and its infrastructure and on the other there are shortcomings concerning the capacity of electricity connection lines. In addition to this, the City of Ostrava is affected by the reduction in the number of energy traders, both as a consequence of higher energy prices and due to the influence of the emphasis placed on reducing CO₂ production into the atmosphere. These are all reasons that are leading us towards an innovative approach to energy management and to wider cooperation with local partners in this area.



PART III

MEASURE I

ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF “SMART ENERGY” TOOLS

1/ IMPORTANCE FOR PROJECT

On 18 February 2021 the City of Ostrava Energy Manager participated in an online study visit to the project partner **Milton Keynes Council** concerning the good practice of **Centralised Utility Bill Payment and Monitoring**. The aim of the study visit was to explain the principles for the operation of the energy management of Milton Keynes, its benefits for reducing the city's carbon footprint, and primarily monitoring of this carbon footprint.

The main recommendation that Ostrava undertook to comply with is **the introduction of software for monitoring energy consumption and other parameters**. The current system at the level of the City of Ostrava means that the work involving purchasing and paying for energy consumed is split up. The good example of Milton Keynes showed that the benefit of this software is not only working with data and verifying payments, but, in particular, identification of fluctuations in the consumption of individual energy systems, and therefore the option of preventing unnecessary and long-term increases in consumption caused either by a defect or poor facility management.

In addition to monitoring data about energy consumption, the software platform presented on the study visit enables predictions of trends in the production of the carbon footprint, which are related to measures applied or new sources of renewable energy that the city brought into operation. As well as monitoring carbon emissions, there is also monitoring and automatic evaluation of pollutants related to the consumption of energy and commodities, such as NO_x and $\text{PM}_{(x)}$. In addition to fossil fuels and the obligatory renewable sources, the relevant calculations already include new energy sources such as hydrogen, biogas and bioCNG, and therefore electricity as a vehicle fuel. One very interesting functionality

is the prediction of costs for the following period and, based on price trends, also calculations of trends in compliance with the production/consumption plan or the drawing of funds during the set period. Key output will be continually presented to the public through standard electronic communication channels.

In Ostrava's case, the motivation for introduction of the systemic software is to make more transparent and secure repeat payments of bills for energy by city organisations and components that are directly processed by the City Authority. The implemented software and process settings for the collection of the necessary data will ensure the validation of payments for energy and commodities, searches for irregularities in consumption and financial flows and the opportunity to respond in a fast and appropriate manner. With the help of the data ascertained, the city can find opportunities for the realisation of additional investments in economy measures. The software enables easy-to-use reporting for the city's leadership and, thanks to the metrics contained, there will be more precise evaluation and predictions of the city's carbon footprint, meaning better documentation of obligations accepted.

Good practice, obtained during the study visit to Milton Keynes, created a solid conceptual idea about the required functionalities



for the acquisition of a similar software tool – a system that will be implemented as a part of the City of Ostrava's processes during 2022 and that should therefore become a significant part and component of the proposed RAP activities. The system itself will be implemented as an integral part of control and monitoring processes, for which a newly created working group will be responsible; its task will be energy management in the city. In addition to the aforementioned collection, assessment, presentation and interpretation of data, energy management will also include a proposal of suitable measures as a part of the energy systems or the operational side of facilities.

The implementation of this measure is newly a part of the policy tool – Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan - SECAP (2030) - in the area of monitoring progress in reductions in CO₂ in the city and in the area of more effective energy management. Optimisation of energy management is stated as a type measure in the updated document with the specific aim of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from the operation of city buildings and in the tertiary sector. The measure proposed consists primarily of the installation of smart meters able to remotely read energy consumption.

2/ CHARACTER OF MEASURE

A key aspect of this project is the introduction of basic energy management tools at the level of the City of Ostrava, in both organisational and technical terms. This primarily concerns the setting out of processes in the city established by the specialist working group dealing with active energy management. The group's primary activities will include an assessment of data about energy consumption, the assessment of the effectiveness of measures taken and the proposal of energy-saving measures. In the relevant context what is important is connection with facility management. It is a software platform that ensures the necessary functionalities for managing and monitoring the energy policy in the city and the organisations it has established within the City of Ostrava's local authority competences.

The main shortcoming in the current monitoring of the SEAP (SECAP 2022) policy tool is the “manual and ad hoc” processing of data collected about the results of energy-saving projects and information with the calculation of savings achieved in CO₂ production (MEI – Monitoring Emission Inventory). It is estimated that 4-8% of savings achieved

annually are not recorded, because they are not reported or are reported incorrectly. The current data collection system also requires the personal presence of employees; the necessary recapitulation of data from various sources does not help SECAP monitoring go smoothly and can be demotivating. The new process solution will ensure automatic and ongoing monitoring and communication/simplification of the interpretation of data or measures already realised as a part of SECAP in the city.

The City of Ostrava has approximately 4,000 metered consumption points administered by City Authority, city boroughs or city organisations, which the platform must be able to serve and, in the future, also enable the operation and connection of different technologies to support community energy in the city. The first stage of realisation should include the systematisation of approx. 500 consumption points. The implementation of this system will take place in cooperation with technology providers active in the city and on the market.

The planned project assumes the introduction of a software platform as a part of the city's organisational structure, ensuring the collection, archiving and consolidation of data for assessment. The data will include, in particular: consumption of energy, fuel and utilities in individual organisations and buildings, energy-saving measures realised and their expected contribution to energy savings and, in particular, their impact on reducing the city's carbon footprint as a part of ongoing monitoring. This will lead to the arising of a software platform that will gather data and through which it will be possible to compare the actual effectiveness of measures realised in relation to subsequent energy savings.

As a tool, the software platform will support the processing of data that is provided to the city and its organisations by energy and public service suppliers, as well as a tool for distributed energy management in individual organisations or buildings. A relatively large part of this activity is the implementation of the necessary technical and organisational mechanisms, which will ensure the smooth collection, assessment and implementation of the necessary measures for the management of assets and operation of buildings or facilities and will also enable the introduction of "energy management", with the help of which it will be possible to start to set up processes and projects that could, in the future, lead to support or the practical development of community energy and its operation in Ostrava.

The main aim of the measures is to have available an information base and professional tools enabling strategic planning of energy projects, as

well as ongoing monitoring and demonstration of successfully applied measures to reduce the city's energy consumption and carbon footprint for the purpose of complying with the aims of SECAP (the policy tool).

The acquisition of the software platform has two basic stages

- The first stage will be acquiring and implementing the basic software tool, which will be able to accept and assess energy consumption data, consolidate and present the data;
- The second stage will be to ensure ongoing measurement for assessment;
- The last stage, which is not part of the plan, but should be considered, is to acquire an advanced control system for energy consumption.

The measure is in accordance with the SECAP 2030 policy tool, where it is proposed in the first stage to start with a conceptual proposal for a software solution, which will be followed by progressive implementation. Suitable meters are to be installed on the spot always with other energy measures with subsidy support.



3/ PARTICIPATING PARTIES

The local technology leader in the area of tools for data analysis and hardware measures with which cooperation will continue is OVAK - Ostravské vodárny a kanalizace. The data suppliers in the initial software implementation stage will be energy suppliers and traders. The current position of the city's energy manager has been found to be insufficient – both in terms of the competences associated with the position and due to substitutability complications.

As a part of the SECAP policy document, the establishment of a working group for the implementation of energy management is proposed. The working group will be comprised of representatives of the City Authority divisions that currently have some competences set out by the city's organisational rules. The group will be created under the City Authority secretary, who is the office manager according to the Act on Municipalities. As a part of the approved policy document, the working group is proposed with the following composition:

- Representatives of the economic administration division - whose competences include facility management for buildings owned by the City of Ostrava;
- The public procurement division, whose competences include the purchase of energy for the City of Ostrava;
- The investment division, whose competences include the building of connection points and the implementation of energy-saving measures; and
- The strategic planning division, which handles the strategic and planning framework for the relevant measures and evaluates them, handles foreign experience and assesses the effectiveness of measures in total for the city.

One of the tasks of this working group will be the selection and acquisition of a SW tool for energy management and facility management.

4/ TIMEFRAME

2Q/2022

Pilot Implementation of Software Tool for Facility Management and Energy Management

During 2Q 2022 there were presentations of several software tools for energy management; they basically used the same principle and had a very similar extent; they did not fundamentally differ even in terms of the range of accompanying services. The range was found to be insufficient by LSG representatives. Nevertheless, what appeared interesting was the possible linking of the software tool for facility management and energy management. Experience gained until now shows that the linking of the management processes could be a functional pathway. Verification in several buildings is taking place in the City of Ostrava.

3Q/2022

Establishment of Specialist Working Group - Energy Management

A specialist working group will be created under office manager (secretary), established in accordance with the approved policy document, comprising representatives of the strategic development, investment, public procurement and economic administration divisions. The principle is basic coordination of activities as a part of the strategic aims set.

Selection of buildings for fitting meters

Data are an integral input for software for facility management and energy management. At the current time, data about consumption are obtained through energy suppliers' data. Data, however, should be supplemented manually, in these conditions software only serves to collect and assess consumption and to look for trends. The aim is to automate the process, i.e. to ascertain data almost solely online, with regular readings of the state of energy consumption and to make use of such effective process actively to look for increased consumption as a consequence of sudden crisis situations and accidents. The data obtained will also be used to evaluate measures adopted.

4Q/2022

Implementation of selection proceedings for software supplier

In the period in question there will be the relatively complicated process of placing, as well as creating and understanding the assignment. Presentation of the results of the pilot implementation of the software for energy management and facility management will uncover benefits and will essentially be a functioning system. Nevertheless, a request for such system assumes knowledge of the risks and detailed functionalities. The assignment's brief needs to be formulated appropriately and with regard to the needs of energy management and facility management.

1Q-2Q/2023

Acquisition and bringing into operation of software for energy and facility management (stage 1)

Based on the selection proceedings that were conducted, a software supplier will be selected and contract concluded, including general services. In parallel with this there will be meetings with energy suppliers over the provision of data on consumption in connection with the software selected, in the requested format. At the same time, there will be preparations on an optimum solution for ensuring and setting online energy consumption readings of progressively installed meters.

3Q-4Q/2023

Implementation of platform (stage 2), expansion of software as a standard, harmonised tool for facility management and energy management

The implementation includes the fitting of energy consumption meters with a remote reading option. This will also ensure a check on data validity.

5/ ORIENTATION COSTS

The acquisition of the software will be financed from the budget of the City of Ostrava in the amount of CZK 1m (approx. EUR 41,000). The amount is currently only for orientation purposes.

6/ ORIENTATION SOURCES OF FINANCE

The purchase of software will be financed from the City of Ostrava's budget. To acquire measurement devices that can be read remotely the city is trying to obtain external funds from EU operational programmes.



MEASURE II

PILOT REALISATION OF THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY FROM PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS IN SELECTED BUILDINGS IN THE CITY OF OSTRAVA

1/ IMPORTANCE FOR THE PROJECT

A great example of the use of photovoltaic power in a city was provided by a study visit to see the good practice of **Bretagne Energies Citoyennes and OnCIMè**, arranged on 9 February 2021 in online form by the project partner ALOEN – Energy and Climate Local Agency of South Brittany, entitled **Citizens' Renewable Energy Projects with OnCIMè and the Town of Lorient**, which was attended by the City of Ostrava energy manager.

The aim of the study visit was to explain the principles of **using photovoltaic power in the functioning of an energy association**, which came into being in the location of the managing partner, the Town of Lorient, and is supported through the energy agency ALOEN. As a part of the study visit, representatives of the city and the non-profit organisation CITOYNNES, which handles community energy, and a representative of the city energy agency ALOEN, which creates tools and looks for ways to produce energy in the city usable in the future and to involve additional partners, made presentations.

The study visit highlighted the principles of the course of investments in renewable sources of energy, motivation and the involvement of citizens in energy cooperatives, including financial parameters that enable long-term sustainability of the relevant concept in French conditions. Trends in activities in community energy and forms of support for these ideas by the Town of Lorient were also dealt with and communicated with the participants in the study visit. This concerns, for example, the establishment of a special-purpose partnership that symbiotically

enables collective investment in “energy cooperatives”, the implementation of new sources of renewable energy in the city and the possibility of financing this activity by the town in the form of rental of such renewable energy sources in town structures. Energy cooperative stakeholders arrange educational events for the town concerning modern energy and energy self-sufficiency for young fellow citizens and school children.

This experience was a great inspiration for the City of Ostrava. Ostrava will transfer this good experience into its local conditions. Due to higher investment, technical and organisational demands, however, the project is divided into several stages. For the realisation of the POTEnT regional action plan, there is a plan for the activity for assessment and pilot installation of photovoltaic panels for use in operating conditions of local partners' buildings. Five local partners are involved in preparations for this measure, where in the case of Ostrava City Hospital eight buildings are under consideration.

This pilot project will lead to a reduction in CO₂ production and will contribute to the achievement of SECAP (2030), the aim of which is to reduce the City of Ostrava's carbon footprint. After verifying the functioning of the pilot project and the benefit of this procedure there will be (outside the RAP framework) a massive expansion of current installations of photovoltaic panels. There will also be a marked increase in the benefit in terms of a reduction in CO₂ production in the city. Together with a more massive expansion of the installation of photovoltaic panels, the implementation of community energy is also expected. This is because we expect that based on the good practice of the French project partner, thanks to the pilot and expanded stage of the project, funds will again be obtained for installation. Experience with the functioning of community energy obtained during the study visit was valuable for the city and is a very important impulse for the future (after the necessary amendments to Czech legislation) for the long-term planning of other projects for energy and energy management (outside the framework of this RAP).

A study visit to view good practice at **cooperative solar plants** was arranged in online form on 17 September 2021 under the name **Community Energy in Sweden**. The project partner Energikontor Sydost AB - Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden presented the activities of energy companies in southeast Sweden that realised large installations of solar panels in different areas. For the intended measure as a part of the RAP

the study visit was also very beneficial from the viewpoint of experience with the application of photovoltaic panels and the production of electricity at solar farms.

The traditional energy company Kalmar Energy, owned by the city, which is the network owner, was presented. In 2006, the company established the first energy cooperative, which has 500 members and is still working today. Kalmar Energy created contracts for land and roofs, as well as building various types of power plants. Most of the stakeholders are citizens and companies.

The building of a solar farm (the Nöbble solar farm) was inspiring and it is specific due to the placement of solar panels on the roof for a south-facing cattle barn. Another example was Törneby solar farm, specific due to the placement of solar panels in free space on a large airport site, where they make effective use of free space and their placement by the ground does not interfere with the airport's operations. The solar farms are connected to the network, electricity is then supplied to the market, it is purchased by Kalmar Energy and sold back to shareholders. This concept was a unique action that was later replicated in multiple companies, for example Affärsverken Karlskrona – a photovoltaic power plant located on a contaminated urban waste dump, including products from the manufacture of bulbs, such as mercury, which would be very expensive to decontaminate.

An example of the closest measure to what our RAP is directed at is the partner's good experience with apartment communities. The benefit of this arrangement is an existing community of owners that is used to cooperating and contributing to common projects. At the current time, in the case of these groups of owners it is popular to install photovoltaic power plants on building roofs. Owners have certain economic benefits, one advantage is that in the case of the operation of solar energy in a building there is a transition to one common electricity meter for the whole building (instead of individual electricity meters for each apartment from the network administrator). In the case of housing cooperatives, a large part of the electricity is used in the building, so it is very efficient use of electricity energy without a taxation effect.

The manager of the POTEnT project and a stakeholder for Heimstaden participated in the study visit for the City of Ostrava. Experience was passed on through inspiration using examples of implementation of solar panels on various surfaces, which will be considered in the pilot realisation

of photovoltaic panels in Ostrava as a part of this RAP measure. Good examples of various forms of community energy in Sweden will, the same as French good practice, be used after the timeframe of the RAP's implementation.

2/ CHARACTER OF MEASURE

The aim of this measure is to verify in practice a pilot solution in the field of the production of electricity from renewable sources in the City of Ostrava.

Before the pilot implementation, a study is being prepared that will examine the suitability, effectiveness and economics of realising this type of investment in selected buildings owned by the City of Ostrava. The structures are selected with emphasis on year-round and all-day operations and with regard to the spatial conditions. The study will examine the options and methods for implementation, individual performance parameters for a possible solution, the basic setup from the viewpoint of achieving the greatest possible effect in the relevant conditions, and will also assess the return on the investment and therefore the reasonableness of the investment also at the level of socio-economic benefits that can be calculated and that cannot be calculated.

The next step will be to prepare project documentation and select a supplier for the installation of photovoltaic panels in individual structures. The study will be part of source documents both for preparing project documentation and for the selection of a supplier for photovoltaic installation. There will also be intensive communication with the executive management of the selected structures - senior citizens homes, treatment institutes for the long-term sick and city hospitals.

In the context of the RAP (i.e. by the middle of 2023) for time reasons there is an intention to prepare an investment plan, project documentation, select a supplier and start a pilot investment project. This pilot (and demonstration) project will help increase interest in the use of photovoltaic power in the city's energy management and it is possible to assume that it will create the conditions (after overcoming legislative barriers) for the implementation of a community energy policy and, in particular, for more massive production of green energy in the city, which will help reduce the carbon footprint and therefore better implement the city's SECAP (2030) policy tool.

In connection with the knowledge gained from the POTEnT project and based on wider discussion in the City of Ostrava, the application of renewable sources (photovoltaic panels) is stated in the updated SECAP 2030 policy document as a type measure with the specific aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the operation of city buildings, in the tertiary sector and in households.

Measures as a part of SECAP contain two type examples with different annual electricity consumption. According to the document, for realisation it is first necessary to identify suitable structures by analysing the buildings owned by the City of Ostrava, preparing requests for support from available sources of finance, involving the relevant divisions at Ostrava City Authority and motivating and involving property owners. After the identification of suitable structures, the equal distribution of the number of structures for the period of SECAP's validity, i.e. until the end of 2030, is considered for implementation. The measure stated as a part of the RAP is therefore the first step towards the achievement of these aims.



3/ PARTICIPATING PARTIES

At the study stage there are a total of 12 structures under consideration and options for using photovoltaic panels in the city will be examined; they are buildings owned by the City of Ostrava. This concerns are two senior citizens homes - Kamenec Senior Citizens Home and Iris Home, allowance organisations of the City of Ostrava. There will also be a check on the option of using photovoltaic panels on the roof of Sheltered Housing (accommodation for senior citizens and young married couples) - Bělásek, Treatment Home for the Long-term Sick in Radvanice and 8 pavilions at the Ostrava City Hospital site.

The preparations for the project and the study were contributed to by the directors of the relevant organisations, the mayor of the borough of Nová Bělá and the advisory working group, energy management.

4/ TIMEFRAME

2Q/2022

Preparation of source documents for drafting project documentation

The source documents will be directly used for selecting a project documentation supplier. The source documents shall be understood to mean the investment plan, which defines the framework and conditions for preparing technical documentation.

3Q/2022

Preparation and implementation of tender proceedings for contractor for project technical documentation

4Q/2022-1Q/2023

Preparation of project technical documentation and obtaining the necessary permits for installation of photovoltaic panels

It is possible to assume a permit at the level of basic stages of construction administrative proceedings. With regard to the fact that current technology at the various buildings is only to be supplemented, it is possible to assume that the documentation and permission processes will not be that complicated. The duration is due to the extent of the order (quantity of buildings involved).

2Q/2023

Selection proceedings for contractor for installation of photovoltaic panels on city buildings

Significant interest on the part of potential contractors is expected. At the current time in the Czech Republic, there is extremely high demand for the implementation of small photovoltaic power plants, so small contractors are obtaining experience and contacts usable for the realisation of larger contracts, such as the contract intended in this case.

3Q/2023-1Q/2024

Realisation of pilot project for installation of photovoltaic panels on city buildings

5/ ORIENTATION COSTS

The total costs of investment and preparing project documentation are assumed to be CZK 50m (EUR 2 m). The working group - energy management and the city's leadership will decide on the start of the investment stage based on subsidy options and available city funds.

6/ ORIENTATION SOURCES OF FINANCE

The costs of acquiring project technical documentation and organisation of selection proceedings will be financed from the City of Ostrava's budget.

The city will attempt to obtain external funds for the investment costs of acquiring the photovoltaic panels - from an EU operational programme, the National Recovery Plan or the Modernisation Fund.



Organisation name: City of Ostrava

Tomáš Macura, Mayor, City of Ostrava



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