



ELENA Completed Project Factsheet

Preparation and Mobilisation of Financing for Sustainable Energy Investments in Primorska Region Municipalities (PM4PM)

Location	Slovenia, with the majority of projects in the Primorska Region, Western Slovenia
Beneficiary	Goriška Lokalna Energetska Agencija – GOLEA (Goriška Local Energy Agency)
CoM signatory	No
Sector	Energy Efficiency and renewable energy in buildings District heating Energy efficiency in street lighting Sustainable Urban transport Energy efficiency in local infrastructure
Total PDS costs	EUR 2 311 114
ELENA contribution	EUR 2 025 000
Project development services financed by ELENA	<p>The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) consisted of GOLEA's own staff and various subcontracted external experts. The work carried out under ELENA was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysed the pool of investment projects to decide on appropriate financing option, including Energy Performance Contracting (EPC); • Conducted technical and economic feasibility analysis necessary for the project preparation process, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting of energy baselines, - Updating or conducting new energy audits, - Preparing feasibility studies, based on what was required under the chosen model (EPC or public procurement) and national legislation, - Preparing project design documentation. • Provided support to Municipalities in submitting applications for Cohesion Funds; • Supported the tendering process and public procurement by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting Municipalities in adopting legal acts on EPC and in preparation of EPC decrees, - Preparation of public procurement and EPC tender documentation, - Consultancy in the procurement/negotiations process (tender evaluation and selection of contractors). • Assisted in the preparation of works/Energy Service Company (ESCO) contracts. <p>The PIU cooperated with several Municipality and Public bodies from the project locations to provide the above.</p>
Description of ELENA operation	GOLEA is a local energy agency 100% owned by the Municipality of Nova Gorica. With the ELENA grant, GOLEA assisted a combination of 33 Municipalities and public bodies to prepare their sustainable investments.
Timeframe	October 2016– June 2020

Basis for investment identification	GOLEA had an active role in sourcing and preparing sustainable investments. Some preliminary feasibility studies had been carried out before ELENA and the agency had experience with helping Municipalities to apply for EU funding for energy-related projects.
Investment programme description	<p>The investment programme had 5 main components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building Retrofit: improving the energy efficiency of public buildings in Municipalities, which were identified to have the most energy saving potential. Works were primarily through deep renovation and included integration of renewable energy source heating and small-scale Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units. Approximately 130,448 m² of building space from over 80 buildings were retrofitted. 2. District heating: renovation of existing small-scale district heating systems and installation of new ones. Approximately 3.6 km and 0.2 km of district heating network was installed and upgraded respectively, with 46 buildings being newly connected. 3. Street lighting: improving the energy efficiency of street lighting systems. Measures include replacing mercury and sodium lamps with LEDs and retrofitting of luminaires, as well as adding control systems. Over 10,000 lamps were replaced. 4. Clean transport: introduction of electric vehicle charging stations, electric vehicles for public services, and compressed natural gas stations. Approximately 8 Electric vehicles and 4 electric buses were purchased and 20 charging stations were installed. 5. Local energy-efficient utilities: One project included the installation of IT technology for energy management and optimisation of infrastructure systems operation. <p>Investments were mainly located in the Municipalities of the Primorska Region.</p>
Investment in implementation phase	EUR 49.5m
Results expected to be achieved	The estimated energy savings correspond to 22.34 GWh/year, Final renewable energy production is estimated at 13.36 GWh/year CO ₂ annual reduction estimated at 8,172 t/year.
Leverage factor achieved	24
Lessons learnt	<p>A central body is crucial in order to realise investments across multiple Municipalities. Municipalities needed to be supported in all phases of the investment process and the role of the PIU and GOLEA, as an independent organisation representing the interests of public partners, played a key role in the successful implementation of projects.</p> <p>Financing sources are crucial and working with a financial partner directly was very valuable.</p> <p>Grants are becoming lower, which means Municipalities will need to provide their own funds or use financial mechanisms to implement the investment projects. On the basis of financial products, developed by the Slovenian Promotional Bank (SID), better adapted financing could now be available for future projects.</p> <p>Awareness of projects using EPC, among local and national stakeholders, increased. The ESCO market in Slovenia is still underdeveloped but this project helped to increase awareness of EPC among local and national stakeholders. The capacity of EPC providers and Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) increased, leading to increased quality of energy efficiency services and their further market development.</p>

Further information sources	N/A
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