

EFFORT - ENHANCING FACILITIES FOR A FUTURE WITH AN OPTIMAL RESOURCE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY TRAJECTORY

Contracting Authority: **European Commission**

Program: **Cross-border program Albania - Kosovo, Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II)**

Beneficiaries: **Municipality of Mirditë, Albania, Municipality of Junik, Kosova,
Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development**

Duration: **18 December 2023 - 18 December 2026**

The overall project objective

Improve the energy efficiency of public buildings in the two municipalities and substantially decrease the energy consumption, by implementing innovative equipment and further promoting sustainable building management practices. The project also aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration between the two municipalities, promoting cross-border cooperation and the sharing of experiences and best practices related to energy efficiency.

The project will focus on public buildings and will involve the implementation of measures such as energy audits, the implementation of renewable energy sources and extend its actions towards energy-efficient building renovations. To ensure continuous sustainability, the project will focus on building, enhancing and improving sustainable energy practices at an institutional (regional and local level), community level and among cross-border territories.



Intervention logic

- 1.** **Physical interventions and equipment purchases**, implying the purchase and implementation/installation of photovoltaic panels in the specified public buildings in both municipalities, including here all the necessary supportive infrastructure. The thermal insulation of the building's facade and the installation of a central heating system are also anticipated in two public facilities.
 - 2.** **Soft/strategic interventions**, aim at addressing the problem at the source and imply undertaking of all the training, awareness raising, and collaborative activities between and among all identified stakeholders. On the other hand, the action foresees the drafting of the Energy Efficiency Plans for each of the municipalities, which will provide a straightforward action plan to be implemented by the municipality in the long term, as well as the creation of the Municipal Database on EE measures.
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Specific objectives

- 1.** Identifying opportunities for energy efficiency improvements of public buildings in the municipalities of Mirdita and Junik through assessment and energy audit activities.
- 2.** Reducing the level of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission through the implementation/ installation of innovative technologies in public buildings of both municipalities.
- 3.** Enhancing capacities of municipal staff on energy efficiency measures through drafting and undertraining a comprehensive training and capacity building program that fosters and facilitates knowledge exchange and collaboration between the two cross-border municipalities.
- 4.** Raise public awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency and sustainable building management through outreach and education activities and cross-border exchange of best practices.

Expected results

- 1.** Evaluation and energy audit of 10 public buildings in Mirditë Municipality and Junik Municipality.
- 2.** Drafting of Local Energy Efficiency Plans (including strategic measures for energy reduction/saving) to be implemented in a short-term period at the local level.
- 3.** Drafting of technical projects for the installation of innovative equipment (photovoltaic panels, central heating system and thermal insulation).
- 4.** Installation of innovative energy-saving equipment by the 3rd year of the project (photovoltaic panels in 10 public buildings), including piloting the installation of a thermal heating system in a building in Junik and thermal insulation in a building in Mirdita.
- 5.** Capacity building in terms of improving energy efficiency practices, identifying energy-saving opportunities and effectively managing equipment through a comprehensive training program that contributes to a more sustainable and cost-effective operation of public facilities.
- 6.** Informing the local community and mainly students and interest groups in both units about energy efficiency practices through awareness activities and educational initiatives carried out by the project.

Target groups



LGU/Municipal
governments and staff of
Mirdita and Junik



Vocational training institutions
and School staff/students in
both municipalities



National Energy Agencies/
Energy Regulators



Local communities of
Mirditë and Junik

Final beneficiaries

20 students from the vocational
training institutions/ secondary school

Local communities of
Mirditë and Junik

Municipal staff of
Mirditë and Junik

Project targets

- 70 %

The electricity bill of public
buildings in the cross-border
municipalities

8

Local/national organizations/
institutions involved

10

Public buildings in both
Mirditë and Junik assessed
and audited & specific
measures for energy
efficiency are provided

- 60 %

Reduction of gas emission (in
public building using biomass
for heating)

1

Thermic insulation
project in Mirditë

Thermal heating
system in Junik

Energy Efficiency database
in each municipality

10

Public buildings in which the
utilization of renewable
energy sources (photovoltaic
panels) is introduced

100

Municipal staff
trained

2

Local Energy Efficiency
Plans drafted

4

Training events

13,000

Population reached by the
awareness raising campaign



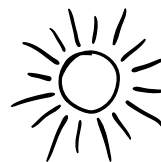
Funded by
the European Union



BENEFITS OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS

SAVINGS

Eliminates the costs of electrical bills in some buildings and reduces the overall electricity consumption of the municipality by up to 70%



FREE ENERGY

Solar energy is free and inexhaustible



LIFE SPAN

The photovoltaic systems have a life span of 25 years



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Against electricity cost increases (independence of electricity market values)

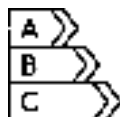
ECONOMIC PROTECTION

Against electricity cost increases (independence of electricity market values)



PRODUCTION IN CLOUDY DAYS

The panels continue to produce electricity even in cloudy days



EFFICIENT CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM

- Improves thermal comfort in the building
- Reduces heating costs and expenses
- Reduces gas emissions in the atmosphere



THERMIC INSULATION

- Reduces emissions,
- Reduces heating/cooling demand,
- Increases the lifespan of the building,
- Reduces energy costs and increases the municipality's income
- Increases the performance of persons who exercise activity in the building