

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	[101081558] - [Alliance of Associations Polish Green Network] (PGN)
PIC number:	[936797192]
Project name and acronym:	[Citizens' Observatory For Green Deal Financing] — [Citizens4EGDFunding]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	12
Event name:	Citizens' research – Virtual Tours to recovery projects in Poland
Type:	conferences/webinars
In situ/online:	Online
Location:	Online
Date(s):	06.06.2023; 25.10.2023; 16.01.2024; 11.03.2024; 18.03.2024
Website(s) (if any):	<p>Virtual tour video: Virtual tour video on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L36DyrkNpzU</p> <p>Video shared on PGN's webpage: https://zielonasiec.pl/2023/06/19/nowa-energia-film-dokumentalny-o-spolecznościach-energetycznych/</p> <p>Video shared on the project landing page: https://bankwatch.org/citizens-observatory?fbclid=IwAR2Jt1wrD327RT6gdHVltDznXWwg--IX8S6NdSyWXLrZS_F8TLerBh2pYxM#Poland</p> <p>Webinars: Webinar "The social dimension of the National Recovery Plan" – 06/06/2023 Article on PGN website with recorded webinar: https://zielonasiec.pl/2023/06/19/nowa-energia-film-dokumentalny-o-spolecznościach-energetycznych/ Recorded webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-A7iKijULIU&t=2s</p> <p>Article on the project landing page (includes link to published EDS): https://bankwatch.org/event/social-perspectives-of-the-polish-recovery-plan-new-energy-for-energy-cooperatives</p> <p>Webinar "Effective support for energy communities through the EU funds" - 25/10/2023 Article on PGN website: https://zielonasiec.pl/2023/11/03/podsumowanie-webinarium-spoleczności-energetyczne-i-ich-efektywne-wsparcie-z-funduszy-</p>

	<p>unijnych/</p> <p>Recorded webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jN9yJh6oOsA</p> <p>Article on the project landing page (includes link to published EDS): https://bankwatch.org/event/effective-support-for-energy-communities</p> <p>Webinar "Social Climate Fund - how to link climate and social protection?" – 16/01/2024</p> <p>Article on PGN website: https://zielonasiec.pl/2024/01/20/spoleczny-fundusz-klimatyczny-iak-polaczyc-klimat-z-ochrona-spoeczna-podsumowanie-webinaru/</p> <p>Recorded webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJdXncAQSXE</p> <p>Article on the project landing page (includes link to published EDS): https://bankwatch.org/event/webinar-the-social-climate-fund-how-to-link-climate-and-social-protection</p> <p>Webinar "Low-carbon buildings for all - how to use the Social Climate Fund?" – 11/03/2024</p> <p>Article on PGN website: https://zielonasiec.pl/2024/03/19/zakonczylysmo-cykl-spotkan-o-spoiecznym-funduszu-klimatycznym/</p> <p>Recorded webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISX-QkwX9aQ</p> <p>Article on the project landing page (includes link to published EDS): https://bankwatch.org/event/webinar-low-carbon-buildings-for-all-how-to-use-the-social-climate-fund</p> <p>Webinar "The social cooperative as an energy cooperative: Legal and financial aspects of operation" - 18/03/2024</p> <p>Article on PGN website: https://wiecejizenergia.pl/spoldzielnia-socialna-jako-spoldzielnia-energetyczna/</p> <p>Recorded webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XI2oNRTbDPk</p> <p>Article on the project landing page (includes link to published EDS): https://bankwatch.org/event/social-cooperative-as-an-energy-cooperative-legal-and-financial-aspects-of-the-operation</p>
Participants	
Female:	117
Male:	110
Non-binary:	1
Preferred not to say:	5
From country 1 [Belgium]:	8
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	7
From country 3 [Croatia]:	1
From country 4 [Czech Republic]:	2
From country 5 [Denmark]:	3

From country 6 [Estonia]:	1		
From country 7 [France]:	5		
From country 8 [Germany]:	2		
From country 9 [Greece]:	10		
From country 10 [Hungary]:	2		
From country 11 [Ireland]:	6		
From country 12 [Italy]:	6		
From country 13 [Luxembourg]:	1		
From country 14 [Poland]:	148		
From country 15 [Portugal]:	4		
From country 16 [Slovakia]:	1		
From country 17 [Spain]:	24		
From country 18 [Sweden]:	1		
From country 19 [The Netherlands]:	1		
Total number of participants:	233	From total number of countries:	19

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Within the framework of the work package 12, PGN organized a total of **5 webinars** thematically in such a way that **3** of them were dedicated to the topic of **energy cooperatives** and another **2** to the topic of **the Social Climate Fund**.

Webinar "The social dimension of the National Recovery Plan" – 06/06/2023

The axis of the first was the presentation of our virtual tour video, entitled "[New Energy](#)", the subject of which we made energy cooperatives. We shot and edited the video for the first 5 months of the year 2023. It shows the current situation of cooperatives in Poland and three of the first initiatives taken to establish them. We talk to experts and presidents of the emerging cooperatives. We tell about the organizational, legal and financial context for the development of these entities in Poland. With regard to the latter, the topic of the National Recovery Plan (NRP) comes up in particular. The Plan, thanks in part to the efforts of our organization, includes financial resources for emerging cooperatives. At the same time, we wonder whether the funds set aside within the framework of EU funds will be spent for this purpose in a thoughtful and effective manner.

The film presentation was followed by a discussion with experts from the Polish Green Network, the CEE Bankwatch Network, the Frank Bold Poland Foundation and the Polish Ministries: for Development and Technology; Climate and Environment; and Agriculture and Rural Development. Such a wide range of panelists allowed participants to receive a broad insight into the current situation of energy cooperatives in Poland. Representatives of the social side talked about the advantages of civic energy, examples from other countries worth following, as well as expected actions on legal and financial issues. Representatives of the Ministries, on the other hand, presented their plans for the development of energy cooperatives, with particular emphasis on the planning of funds for this purpose under the Polish NRP.

The webinar brought together mostly people who already knew about the existence of energy cooperatives, but very little about them. We received a lot of congratulations on our film for the way we showed the situation of these cooperatives in Poland in a comprehensive way in several minutes. Thanks to the presence of representatives from three ministries, the audience also learned what the plans are for changes in regulation, management and possible funding for cooperatives. Very

importantly, information was also given on the possibility to participate in public consultations and planned competitions for the EU funding.

In total, we had 60 participants of the webinar from 7 EU countries - 38 women, 21 men and 1 person who preferred not to indicate their gender. For this webinar, we haven't received responses to the EU Survey.

Webinar "Effective support for energy communities through the EU funds" - 25/10/2023

The second webinar, entitled '**Effective support for energy communities through the EU funds**', was strictly focused on the prospects of obtaining funding for individuals and entities interested in setting up such a cooperative. It was organised jointly by PGN, BWN and REScoop.eu - an organisation bringing together energy cooperatives from many European countries. Bankwatch Network presented recommendations developed in advance, for use in all countries concerned, on project selection criteria for future calls to be organised under the EU funds. REScoop.eu showed the so-called '[Public finance tracker](#)', a tool with which it is possible to see the current status of the implementation of funds earmarked for social energy in the EU countries. PGN, on the other hand, added a national context, showing the Polish prospects for obtaining EU funding for such projects.

At this event we brought together participants from many EU countries, as energy communities are present in most of them (at different stages of development). We were mainly watched by people who are already involved to some extent in the creation/functioning of such a community, so the interest in funding issues was high and the discussion concrete. Most of the active participants wanted to know how they would be able to benefit from EU money earmarked for this purpose. We told them about the implementation of the Recovery & Resilience Fund and other funds in each country. Importantly, we have also pointed out the possibility of influencing the countries' funding policies, through participation in monitoring committees and public consultations.

In total, we had 77 participants who did not attend the previous webinar, coming from 16 EU countries – 32 women, 42 men and 3 persons who preferred not to indicate their gender. For this webinar, we have received 2 responses to the EU Survey. In both cases the overall assessment of our event was 5/5. They also valued highly increased awareness and increased knowledge, as well as preliminary information provided before the event. They also stated to definitely use what they learnt in their everyday life/work.

Webinar "Social Climate Fund - how to link climate and social protection?" – 16/01/2024

As mentioned at the beginning, we decided to dedicate the third and fourth webinar to the issue of the Social Climate Fund (which we have also discussed at national meetings as part of the WP 3). The third one - "**Social Climate Fund – how to link climate and social protection?**" - was a basic introduction to the topic. It was a story about what SCF is, what is the climatic context of its introduction and what are the conditions and main purposes of using this financial tool in our country. We also talked about the expected process of preparing the Social Climate Plan, emphasizing the potential for public participation resulting from the requirement to develop the Plan. Moreover, an expert from the Habitat for Humanity Poland foundation outlined how we could use this Fund to eliminate (or at least significantly diminish) the problem of energy poverty.

We noticed a great diversity among the webinar participants - there were representatives of local authorities, local associations, individuals. Interestingly, there were also representatives of organisations we know of that work in the field of climate and environmental protection. All participants emphasised that the topic was new to them and that they were getting their first information on the subject during our event. We, for our part, in addition to general information about the SCF, placed particular emphasis on an open conversation about the envisaged process of working on the Social Climate Plan. Our aim was to get participants interested in the process and to show them that the preparation of the Plan will be impossible without extensive consultation with many stakeholders on the social side.

In total, we had 24 participants who did not attend the previous webinars, coming from 2 EU countries - 13 women and 11 men. For this webinar, we haven't received responses to the EU Survey.

Webinar "Low-carbon buildings for all - how to use the Social Climate Fund?" – 11/03/2024

As for the fourth and last webinar – "**Low-carbon building for all – how to use the Social Climate Fund?**"- it was a continuation of the SCF topic in terms of energy generated in buildings. Apart from a short introduction about the Fund itself, dedicated to people who did not participate in the first session which took place in January, we focused on the building part. Our expert was a representative of the "Fala Renowacji" ("Renovation Wave") Association - a group of industry specialists dealing with the energy efficiency of buildings. She presented a comprehensive presentation on renovation, thermal modernization and heating in the context of real needs and obligations arising from the EU directional decisions.

After the presentation part, there were numerous questions and comments from webinar participants. We noted the presence of representatives of companies and associations from the construction industry, who commented on the opportunities and risks for the assumed goals. Therefore, the

discussion between the participants and our experts was substantive and specialised. We also highlighted the context of energy poverty linked to the condition of residential buildings and the heating sources installed in them. Thus, the event addressed in a very comprehensive and professional manner the area addressed and the potential for its management in the Social Climate Plan (which describes how the SCF shall be spent).

In total, we had 20 attendees who did not attend any of the previous webinars from 2 EU countries - 11 women, 7 men, 1 non-binary and 1 person who preferred not to indicate their gender. For this webinar, we haven't received responses to the EU Survey.

Webinar “The social cooperative as an energy cooperative: Legal and financial aspects of operation” - 18/03/2024

The previous cooperation with Habitat for Humanity Poland and new contacts with the Polish Association of Social Cooperative Reviews led to our decision to organise an additional webinar. The webinar discussed key issues related to the potential merger of a social cooperative with an energy production, outlining the theoretical aspects of developing and financing energy cooperatives, as well as the practical benefits and problems associated with their establishment. Other relevant issues related to social climate policy, such as the tools and funds available and their impact on the local community, as well as strategies for mitigating the challenges and exploiting the opportunities of the policy, were also addressed.

To our knowledge, this was the first event in Poland dedicated to this topic. It brought together many participants, some of whom shared their insights and comments. There were many voices about how important energy cooperatives can be for the development of local communities. Also very important was the speech by the President of “The Neighbours” energy cooperative, who is one of the few people with experience in combining both types of cooperatives. He shared his practical experience with the participants and discussed the benefits and challenges of operating an energy cooperative through a social cooperative.

In total, we had 52 attendees who did not attend any of the previous webinars, from 1 EU country (Poland) - 23 women and 29 men. For this webinar, we haven't received responses to the EU Survey.

Conclusions:

To sum up, all our webinars ended with an interesting **discussion with the participants**. Sometimes these were questions for the panellists and sometimes comments from the audience on a given topic. The event organized with REScoop.eu on the financing of energy cooperatives gathered the largest audience. In this webinar also, we had the highest rate of participants located in various EU countries.

When it comes to the **gender** composition of our webinar participants, we have managed to maintain a positive balance. What we are particularly pleased about is that we have managed to achieve a higher participation of women, even though it is widely believed that energy policy topics are a domain reserved and preferred by men. Our particular achievement was that at the third and fourth webinars the presenters and panellists were exclusively women. This was even true for the last one, which was dedicated to the topics of energy generated from buildings and district heating systems.

To conclude, we have implemented the WP 12 events so that they constituted 2 thematic blocks that provided comprehensive knowledge and encouragement to engage and follow up on these topics. We considered both energy communities and the Social Climate Fund to be issues of great importance in terms of public understanding and acceptance of the objectives and principles of the European Green Deal. At the same time, the blocks were different enough to allow us to bring together and engage different audiences. Theme 1 – energy communities - mainly interested individuals/groups of people, both from Poland and other EU countries, who seek to be in the vanguard of the energy transition. Theme 2 – the Social Climate Fund - on the other hand, was mainly aimed at local government and industry institutions that have an important role to play in supporting vulnerable groups in their smooth transition to green energy.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).