Krk Smart Island

Towards the first zero-emission and fully energy indepent island in the Mediterranean

A Covenant of Mayors 2016 Case Study

In a nutshell

Through the implementation of the Smart Island project, Krk is aiming to increase the efficiency in the management of the islands' infrastructure, improve the quality of life for islanders and achieve substantial savings for taxpayers

Krk in numbers

Number of inhabitants: 19,383

Joinned Covenant of Mayors: 2011

CO_2 reduction target of the city: 20% by 2020

Number of Covenant of Mayors signatories in Croatia: 78

Background

In 2011 the city of Krk submitted a SEAP to the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) committing to reduce CO_2 emissions locally by 20% by 2020. This was done with the assistance of REA Kvarner, an energy agency founded by the Primorje Gorski Kotar County to promote and encourage sustainable regional energy planning through the uptake of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. The participation of REA Kvarner since 2016 in the HORIZON 2020 project SIMPLA (Sustainable Integrated Multi-sector Planning) will further empower public authorities to develop, implement and finance sustainable energy policies and actions by creating the conditions for a smart integration between SEAPs (Sustainable Energy Action Plans) and SUMPs (Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans). Within this project, the participation of the northern Adriatic island municipalities is foreseen. Supported by the Primorje Gorski Kotar County, this project will help local authorities harmonise their SEAPs and SUMPs, in line with the new CoM for Climate and Energy objectives.

Islands lead the energy transition

The Smart Island Krk project is about the deployment of a set of cutting edge technologies for the efficient use of local infrastructures, including smart electrical network (smart grids, street lighting upgrade) mobility (electric vehicles (EVs), electric bikes), geographic information system GIS etc. The project aims to increase the efficiency in the management of the islands' infrastructure, improve the quality of life for islanders and achieve substantial savings for taxpayers. The ultimate goal is to transform Krk into a zero-emission territory, so that it becomes the first fully energy independent island in the Mediterranean and thus set an example for other island communities.

The Smart Island Krk project contributes to the realization of the “Zero Emission Development Strategy”, adopted by the island’s local authorities (including the city of Krk). A number of stakeholders, such as Ponikve Ltd., the local waste and waste water management company, REA Kvarner, the energy cooperative “Island of Krk”, the Primorje Gorski Kotar County, all island municipalities and the local action group “Kvarner islands” are involved in the project, since it was made clear early on that for Krk to become energy independent all actors and citizens had to be fully involved in the transformation process.

Overall the project has revealed that energy independence requires much more than innovative high tech solutions. It is essential to use the power of social innovation concepts and involve the local people who live on the island. These can be the owners of the roof tops that can be used for PV systems, those who generate and sort organic waste to be used for biogas production, those who engage in sustainable tourism activities and so on.

Promoting the Island of Krk as an innovation test bed can not only help the islands move away from fossil fuels by tapping their significant renewables and energy efficiency potential, but can also boost local green and innovative jobs creation, strengthen social inclusion, increase public awareness level, and foster a yearlong, sustainable and responsible tourism. All this can be considered the added value of the Krk Smart Island project, also forming the backbone of knowledge-transfer to other small and remote communities.

Smart Island Krk project in numbers

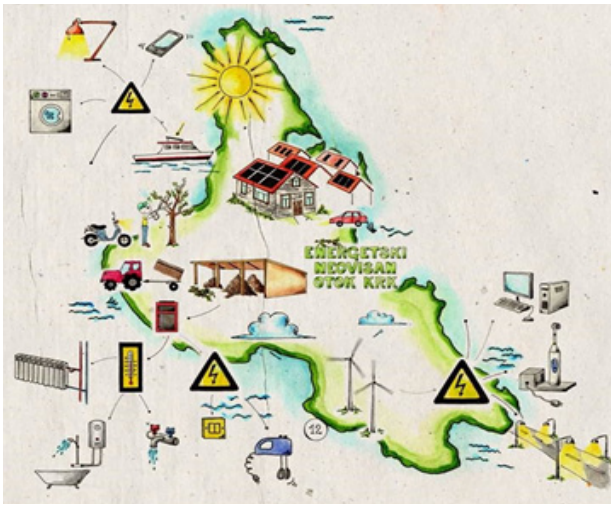
Forseen activities in the next 20 years:

- Installation of about **36.8 MWp** of new PVs on rooftops

- 4 MWp of PV on the ground

- 25.2 MW of wind power

- **250 kWel** in biogas plants



For more information on the project, please contact:
Darko Jardas, Director Regional Energy Agency Kvarner, Croatia
darko.jardas@reakvarner.hr , www.reakvarner.hr

Covenant of Mayors, press@eumayors.eu