



## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

### Connective Cities' Workshop on Renewable Energy Options on the Municipal Level

11 - 13 June 2024 | Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

As part of the learning process for the Southeast Europe/Caucasus (SEE) region, Connective Cities is organizing a workshop on the topic "Renewable Energy Options on the Municipal Level", which will take place in the town of **Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) from 11 – 13 June 2024**.

The follow-up event is aimed at German and international experts from local governments and municipal enterprises as well as experts from the private sector, civil society and academia who work in the field of renewable energy provision, municipal energy planning and building management.

#### **Context and Challenges of Renewable Energy Options on the Municipal Level in SEE**

The Southeast European (SEE) region faces significant socio-economic challenges, impacting social cohesion, political stability, and investment. Access to affordable, clean, and secure energy is crucial for economic growth and development. Renewable energy and energy efficiency have shown potential to improve incomes, urban life quality, and tackle poverty and unemployment. However, the region heavily relies on fossil fuels and imports oil and gas. Encouraging renewable energy options at the municipal level can empower cities towards a sustainable energy future, fostering economic growth and job creation.

To address these challenges, Connective Cities organized a Dialogue Event in October 2023, bringing together municipalities from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and Ukraine. The event aimed to discuss "Renewable Energy Options on the Municipal Level," showcasing strategies and successful projects while facilitating collaborative learning. With participation from 19 municipalities across 8 countries, the event revealed common challenges and emphasized the need for knowledge sharing and expertise enhancement to advance renewable energy initiatives.

#### **Thematic Focus of the Event**

The workshop is designed to refine and enhance the project ideas already developed through collaborative peer consultation. We seek to draw upon proven measures from municipal practice, leveraging the collective expertise and experience of participants to strengthen and optimize the proposed projects. In particular, expertise from the following areas is in demand:

#### **1. Attracting Investment in Renewable Energy:**

- How to facilitate partnerships between municipal authorities, investors/ private sector (public-private partnerships), and local communities
- How to design incentives such as tax breaks or subsidies to attract individuals and SMEs to invest in renewable energy projects
- How to generate revenue from existing installations such as electric charging stations (pricing strategies, dynamic pricing mechanisms)



## 2. Energy Efficiency Measures for Public Buildings:

- How to conduct comprehensive energy audits for public facilities (like public schools or swimming pools) to identify areas for improvement
- How to incorporate energy-efficient building materials and technologies into renovation projects to minimize long-term energy costs
- How to implement energy efficiency measures such as insulation, lighting upgrades, and HVAC system optimization

## 3. Community Involvement Programme for Energy Efficiency:

- How to develop outreach programs to engage local communities in energy efficiency initiatives (such as public spaces with renewable energy sources)
- How to offer educational workshops, incentives, and recognition for residents who actively participate in energy conservation efforts
- How to establish feedback mechanisms to gather input from community members and incorporate their ideas into energy efficiency plans

### Objectives and Methodology

The workshop aims to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and learning among municipal actors with diverse local contexts, focusing on practical examples and adaptable approaches. Key objective:

- **Supporting Municipal Energy Solutions:** Assist participating cities/municipalities in developing actionable plans, strategies, and project proposals to address their energy supply challenges, particularly through renewable energy sources. This will be achieved through tailored technical advisory and peer learning sessions.

### Participation

Connective Cities **invites urban practitioners from Germany/ Europe to express interest in participating in this workshop.** The event will be an interactive workshop with municipal actors, including representatives of civil society, academia, and the private sector. The conference language is English.

**Participants are encouraged to apply and, where feasible, offer an overview of their expertise.** Additionally, participants are invited to share any relevant plans or projects related to the discussed topics. Your contributions will enrich the discussion and enhance collaborative learning opportunities. We encourage the participation of at least two participants from each city/municipality.

### Contacts and Timeline

If you are interested in participating or may have questions concerning the process, please write to us. The **deadline** for application is **07. May 2024.**

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