



Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



TRIS Staff Exchange Report

Staff Exchange 1

1. Participants

ESS: Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden (sending organization)

ESS focuses on energy efficiency and renewable energy providing support for public actors and business. The regional focus of ESS is within Blekinge, Kalmar and Kronenberg.

Mr. Andre Benaim took part of the staff exchange. Started in ESS in February 2017. His background is on development of innovation capabilities and sustainable development. He has work experience with different organizations by developing programs and workshops for learning from experience. He currently works as project management within ESS. His main project is related to Circular Economy and tourism.

IFKA (hosting organization)

IFKA is the auxiliary organization of the Ministry of National Economy. It is consulted regularly by the Ministry, and is given tasks related to fields of specialization. Moreover, IFKA is in constant collaboration with trade associations and policy makers in relation to waste management. IFKA is the unique organization in Hungary having delivered industrial symbiosis programs and carrying out stakeholder negotiations about climate related topics since 2010.

HOI (Partner organization)

HOI is the background institution of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Environmental DG supports the Ministry in the areas of environmental monitoring, status assessment, policy and strategy preparation, regulation and impact assessment. HOI has an extensive experience in waste management and the application of waste hierarchy (prevention, reuse, and landfill). HOI conducts research in classification of substances as a waste or by-product helping the implementation of circular economy.

2. Staff exchange main topics and program

The main focus of the exchange were sustainability, circular economy, event greening and sustainable tourism initiatives. These topics were discussed during the different local initiatives visited.

1st Day (24th July 2017)

The exchange started with an **introductory session**. This provided opportunity to introduce professional background of the 3 partners including past and current climate-related projects. Some insight was introduced about the NISP methodology (role of practitioners, IS software, workshop methodology, etc.)

During the first site visit participants explored the use of **geothermal water** in local heating system (in Veresegyház). The role of the municipality in launching the project, the involvement of the companies in the development of the geothermal infrastructure were the main topics discussed.

2nd Day (25th July 2017)

On the second day the morning visit was dedicated to the site of **FINA Water World Championship**, hosted by Budapest. The Environmental Association (Zöldövezet Társulás) was responsible for the selective waste collection (and event greening activities) of 2 sites, one of them in MAC, Marguerite Island. Policy and other incentives were discussed during the visit. Mr André Benaim presented about ESS projects, and a few other examples of sustainable initiatives in Sweden.

The afternoon visit focused on **Herman Ottó Institute** (HOI) climate related activities. Projects related to carbon calculation, energy use, protection of water resources through practices of land use were presented. Activities carried out in **Camaro-D** (Interreg), **CirTolInno** (Circular Innovation Tools in Blue and Green Tourism), **Climfoot** (French calculation method of company carbon emissions), "**Bilan Carbon**" and **ACT** were presented in detail.

At early evening we went to a tour in the Danube riverside with Association **VaLyo**, who introduced us to the different initiatives they promoted to revitalize areas around and within the Danube for locals and tourists.

3rd Day (26th July 2017)

The morning of the final exchange day was dedicated to the **Heroes of Responsible Dining** (Felelős Gasztrohős). Their sustainable food promoting activities were described and the process of engaging different actors (coffees and restaurants besides citizens) to their network. They developed a certification for sustainable restaurants and coffee houses of which the highlights are: how they are supporting restaurants to turn away from the use of palm oil as a frying medium, to use more local products, to use environment friendly cleaning products and to avoid using polystyrene as packaging material. The program also supports people on finding alternatives when shopping or cuisining for themselves. They have beautiful info graphics!

The final visit was to the **Waste water treatment facility of South Pest**, which is operated by **Organica**. The traditional way of waste water treatment was shown in the presentation, and the innovative, Organica technology treatment was shown us on the site. The challenges faced by them and the benefits of their technology, such as size, odor and cost were also mentioned and proved. ☺

3. Lessons learned

A. Meet to innovate – the need of facilitated meeting spaces

Companies are often on their business as usual. Moreover, they might not have the capacity to see their material as resources for another organization, who might even be too far out of the radar to be reached. Therefore, creating the space for people to meet, expose their challenging materials, as well as resource-needs, is essential to promote IS and CE.

B. Essential authority support

The essential role that authorities have in facilitating the development of initiatives was also a clear pattern. Authorities create conditions and the space for companies to invest and benefit from infrastructures. Such structures will be beneficial economically, as well as environmentally and socially. For example, in the geothermal energy, the work of the municipality securing land, looking for such resource and attracting companies, allowed the infrastructure to be developed. The opposite example is in waste management. Here the recycling

of medicine and other chemicals in municipal waters will be treated only after a governmental push due to the cost and current technology maturity associated with such procedures.

C. The Intermediary is needed sometimes

One idea that was reinforced (in the participants point of view) was that intermediary organization are essential for developing and establishing CE solutions. One example is the collectors in FINA, who is an intermediary between the user (citizen) and the recycler. Successes reached by Valyo (Smart cities) also proves how tourism and local quality of life can be improved by developing initiatives around the river, such initiatives would have not happened by themselves, i.e without intermediation.

D. Communication and Empowerment - provide clarity and alternatives

The power of communication and empowering people to find alternatives was highlighted, for example by the Heroes of Responsible Dining. They don't only point out what is good with clear graphics, but they show how people can make a difference.

E. Good design is a best practice

When one puts ones mind to new design, it is possible to create brilliant results. Organica has assembled technology that not only tackles the problem of waste water in an elegant and efficient way, which suits busy urban areas, but it also creates energy (through biogas).

4. Follow up actions

The participant from ESS will create a report of the exchange. Furthermore, the initiatives as well as highlight and insights will be presented in the meeting of the local IS network. A similar presentation will be given to ESS co-workers, all dates are to be determined.

Communication about the staff exchange was delivered on the following sites:

<http://ifka.hu/green-economy/news/staff-exchange-at-ifka>

<http://ifka.hu/green-economy/news/heroes-of-responsible-dining-foundation>

<https://www.facebook.com/IFKAkft/posts/457648511257769>

<https://www.facebook.com/IFKAkft/posts/458357481186872>

<https://www.facebook.com/IFKAkft/posts/458970001125620>

