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ZEROCO2 continues on its decarbonisation journey

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From 2016 to 2020, the [Interreg Europe ZEROCO2 project](#) defined Near Zero CO₂ Emission Buildings due to energy use (NZCO₂EB). The project presented various benefits, which resulted from various types of building. The original project demonstrated the combination of different technologies and energy efficiency sources – these technologies could be used to achieve the set carbon reduction targets to design tailored policies, which promoted NZCO₂EB at the local, regional, national and EU level. The ZEROCO2 project also presented various financial methodologies in order to promote these types of buildings.

In 2021, the ZEROCO2 project received additional EU Interreg Europe funds to continue its applauded work in increasing awareness of and sharing best practices in the realm of decarbonisation technologies for buildings. The extension of ZEROCO2 allowed the participating partner regions take another leap forward targeting the decarbonisation agenda, net zero policies, including the EU Green Deal, by addressing policy instruments to optimise allocated recovery funds with a focus on deep renovation of public and residential buildings.

The international consortium has, indeed, continued to make waves on their journey to net zero over the past year of additional activities. From conducting valuable baseline studies – including the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) regional analysis jointly developed with regional stakeholders, as well as the exchange of experiences/expertise in Ptuj (i.e., what we have learned, what are the common challenges) – to the identification of twelve good practice (GP) examples and peer review event in Malta, the international consortium has been working towards their main aim of submitting relevant good practices onto the open-source Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform database.



The ZEROCO2 partnership convened in March 2022 in Ptuj, Slovenia for an interregional exchange of experiences and partner meeting. The meeting was hosted by project partner, Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (LEASP).

During the first in-person partner meeting of the extended project (March 2022, Ptuj, Slovenia), each project partner was given adequate time to present their findings from their regional SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analyses, which had been carried out over the previous few months in regards to the promotion of near-zero CO₂ emission buildings due to energy use; specifically, within the realm of the identification of measures that address energy efficiency, renewable energy sources (RES), sustainability, and so on as part of the COVID-19 relief.

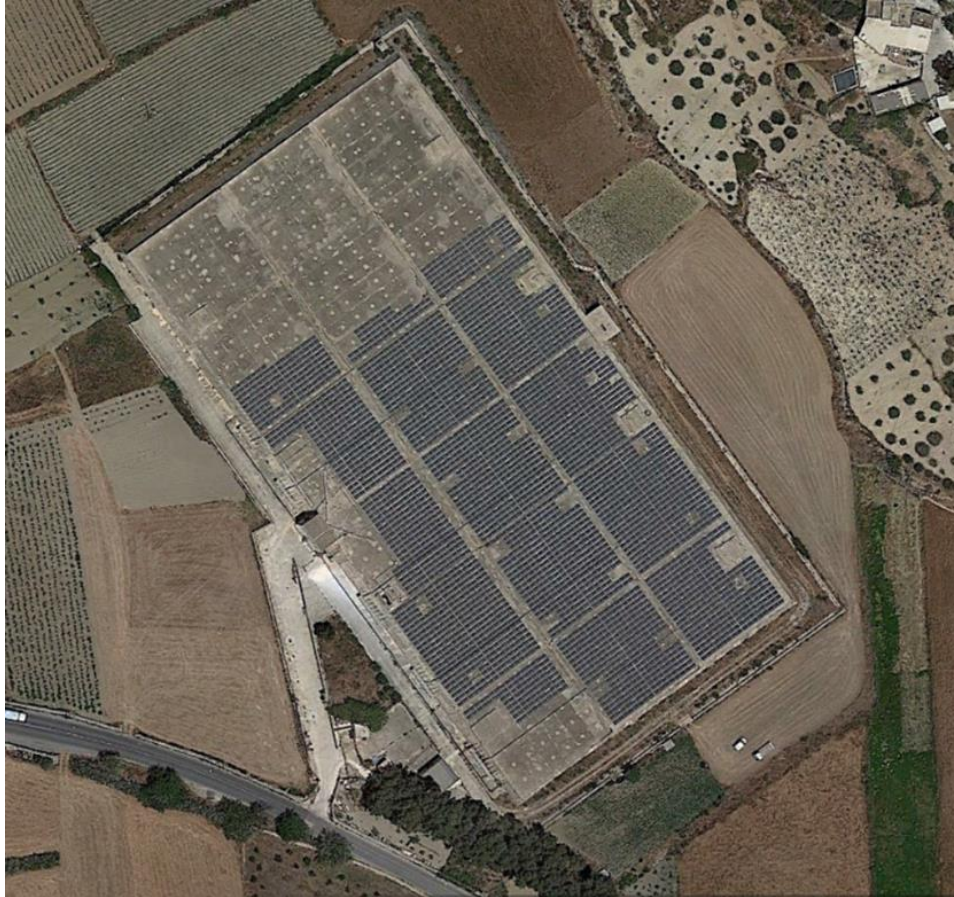
Furthermore, the consortium managed to communicate and disseminate project results and work conducted within the ZEROCO2 project well beyond the diverse project partnership. On the 5th of May 2022, the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform hosted a webinar as the second episode of the renewable energy financing series on the topic of mobilising citizen financing for renewables. During the session, Charles Yousif from the University of Malta, Institute for Sustainable Energy, and Sandro Lauri from the Energy and Water Agency of Malta presented a case study on [Solar Photovoltaic Communal Farm Scheme](#). The Solar Photovoltaic Communal Farm Scheme was identified as a good



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practice through the ZEROCO2 project and is now being shared on the Policy Learning Platform to inspire others and ensure helpful knowledge exchange of identified good practices. The webinar itself will be centred on renewable energy finance in the private domain, with a strong focus on mobilising citizen financing and what public authorities can do to facilitate this.



On the 5th of May 2022, representatives of the ZEROCO2 project from the University of Malta presented the [Solar Photovoltaic Communal Farm Scheme](#), a case study highlighted by ZEROCO2, on a webinar hosted by the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform.

In these final months of the extended ZEROCO2 project, the partners have reached their final step at regional level: hosting regional events at which the GPs identified by the consortium to be most relevant for a particular region(s) shall be presented to key stakeholders in the energy, technology and public sectors (e.g., representatives from energy agencies, technology providers, local/regional/national authorities, municipalities, etc.). These identified GPs highlight those technological transferred to the region.



Partners and stakeholders of the Interreg Europe ZEROCO2 project convened on 8th-10th June in Malta for an Interregional Exchange of Experience & Peer Review of Good Practices in the realm of decarbonisation technologies for buildings

Until the end of 2022, the extended ZEROCO2 project shall continue to make waves in the field of energy efficiency in buildings, extending beyond its original aims and continuing to decouple economic growth from the use of resources and support the shift towards decarbonisation, increased use of renewable energy sources and promotion of energy efficiency – this time, on the path toward net zero carbon economy by 2050.

Project partners

1. Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (LEASP) – Slovenia



2. Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICH) – Greece



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3. Molise Region – Italy



4. Thermopolis Ltd. – Finland



5. Agency for Sustainable Med Cities & Territories (AVITEM) – France



6. University of Malta – Malta



External expertise: European Institute for Innovation – Technology (EIfI-Tech) Germany

