



First Local Government owned small hydropower plant in Croatia

Pleternica, Croatia – 11 323 inhabitants

Community energy – Small Hydro – Municipal ownership

Pleternica is a small city in the Požega-Slavonia County, situated on the Orljava river at the entrance to the Požega Golden Valley and surrounded by several hills. In 2006 the city initiated the first RES project owned by local government with the first small hydropower plant (sHPP) integrated in the national grid since Croatia declared its independence in 1991.

Project in a Nutshell

The total investment cost of the sHPP was €670 000, and it was co-financed by the City of Pleternica (50%), the national Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection Fund and the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds. The equipment for the sHPP was produced and installed by the Croatian company Končar.

Impact & Next steps

The power capacity of the plant is 220kW, and it produces 1 100MWh of electricity per year, with almost no impact on the environment. The electricity produced is sufficient to cover the energy demand of public lighting of all the settlements in the area, and the plant annually generates around €115.000 of additional revenue to the city budget. Financial savings can be used to initiate new projects, and at the same time contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions.

The City established a company to be able to get the concession for using the river. After the testing period, the company has gained the status as an eligible producer of electricity and is now receiving a feed-in tariff for the period of 14 years. The Orljava River holds a potential for the installation of several more hydropower plants of this kind, using natural water drops thus with almost no impact on the environment.

Challenges & Success Factors

The project implementation lasted for 6 years. Many procedural obstacles have occurred since many laws and regulations have changed in the implementation process. The city is sharing lessons learned with other cities in the region, and some of them are already following the Pleternica example of investing in green local growth.

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