

GreenLink

Building cross-border capacities and empowering communities for a clean energy shift

Project code:	ROHU00493
Lead Partner:	Municipality of Nyírbátor (HU)
Project Partner:	Municipality of Carei (RO)
Budget:	€1 814 505.84 (€1 451 604.66 ERDF) – Nyírbátor: €57 242.87 own contribution – Carei: €13 392.99 own contribution

GreenLink addresses the following common challenges:

- **Reaching the EU and national climate targets** (especially related to the use of RES) still needs extensive work in the cross-border area – smaller cities have even more barriers to overcome.
- **Public institutions** often **lack** the administrative **capacities**, but also up-to-date knowledge of what is available to them (new technologies, funds, etc.).
- The partner cities have **no local strategy** related to energy transition, or even climate change adaptation in general – so far, they have been implementing related initiatives without any **underlying policy support**.
- Despite the EU-led push towards participative governance, **low levels of citizen & stakeholder engagement** remain a persistent issue.
- Not every citizen has the same resources to contribute – understanding their situation is crucial to plan out and implement a truly **fair energy transition** in the pursuit of the national target values.

In line with the above, the main objective of GreenLink is **improving key conditions for a clean & fair energy transition** in the cross-border area **by increasing** (1) **the participation level** of stakeholders in urban planning; **and** (2) **the capacities** of thematic experts, public officials, and citizens, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups.

These objectives will be reached by implementing the following activities:

1. **Mapping the current state of affairs** – energy use and energy efficiency, share of RES, relevant policies, funding sources, etc.
The resulting **Joint analysis** will cover Satu Mare and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg for comparison, but with a narrowed focus on the two municipalities to uncover actionable intelligence (e.g., heat maps of public buildings to identify and later minimize energy waste).

2. **Facilitating a participative action planning process**

Developing a ***Joint action plan*** by using co-design methods (co-creation workshops, questionnaire survey, etc.) to handle the most pressing barriers of cleaner energy use in the cross-border area

These documents will provide a **strategic policy background** for a clean & fair energy transition. In addition, the methods of action planning address the issue of **stakeholder and citizen participation** in urban development by engaging them through several ways. As an innovative aspect, the partners will join the EIT Climate-KIC initiative and organize **Climathon events simultaneously in 2025 and 2026** to support the action planning process. These type of events (typically lasting 12-48 hours where participants collaborate to tackle local climate challenges in a format similar to a hackathon) are still rare in the cross-border area – they are expected to generate more publicity to the project and the issue it focuses on.

3. **Identifying the main actors in the energy sector and connecting them through networking seminars** to foster cross-border collaboration
4. **Creating a *Guidebook*** with relevant good practices that cover the available state-of-the-art technologies, innovative ways of policy-making, funding, etc. in the field of green energy transition
5. **Designing training materials aimed at public officials** (decision-makers and employees) for a deeper understanding of the issue and the necessary technical and governance details, **followed by a joint online training**

The *Guidebook* will be based on the collected knowledge of all experts involved in the seminars, used to increase the capacities of public officials immediately through the implementation of an online training. However, the deliverable will be addressed to smaller cities in general, therefore, its later transferability outside the partnership is assured.

6. **Organizing and implementing a communication campaign** on both sides of the border to promote energy transition and energy efficiency/savings by informing the citizens about these issues and offering practical advice tailored to specific groups (e.g., low-income families)
7. **Holding informative classes in schools** to educate students about energy efficiency and clean & fair energy transition
8. **Procuring energy recovery tiles and stationary bicycles** which harness and convert kinetic energy generated by walking or biking into electrical energy (for awareness-raising)

The **investment** component of the project is **renovating a cultural building in both Nyírbátor and Carei. Making them more energy efficient by utilizing RES** (mainly photovoltaic modules and heat pumps) will contribute to reaching the **EU and national climate targets**.