

MENERGERS

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"Municipal Energy Manager"
The Bulgarian Experience
Svilengrad Municipality

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Svilengrad Municipality



Overview

- Located on the south border of Bulgaria with Turkiye and Greece;
- 20 333 inhabitants – 16 497 people living in the city of Svilengrad;
- The city is known for its gambling tourism, wine production and diverse cultural and natural heritage;
- The city has about 4000 buildings, many of which have some form of Energy Efficiency measures done on them;
- Most of the energy consumption comes from natural gas, electricity and wood;



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■ Objectives of the "Municipal Energy Manager" (MEM) team

- Set the foundation for practices related to responsible and effective energy management and consumption in the municipality;
- Data collection, tracking, reporting and optimization of the municipal energy production and consumption;
- Management and supervision of municipal RES production installations;

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- Organizational structure of the Department "Municipal Energy Manager" (MEM)
 - Currently the MEM team is comprised of two experts and is not a separate municipal unit/department;
 - The MEM team reports directly to the Mayor of Svilengrad Municipality;
 - All day-to-day tasks and processes are handled by both team members with the goal of gaining as much information and experience as possible;

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■ Scope of the MEM Service

- In the current state of the service, the MEM team oversees four municipal buildings:
 - The main administrative building of Svilengrad Municipality;
 - The municipality’s landscaping enterprise building;
 - The public library of Svilengrad;
 - Kindergarten “Detelina”, Svilengrad;

- The goal of this selection of buildings is to gather data about municipal builds with various workloads and occupancies, therefore serving as foundational stepping stones to gather experience and expand MEM further in the future.

- The team also handles other tasks such as monitoring on troubleshooting of municipal PV installations in the municipality.

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■ Team Functions and Duties

- Data collection through invoices, measuring tools (and other) on the energy consumption of the four subjected buildings;
- Analysis of the collected data to analyze energy consumption throughout the year, as well as its cost for the municipality;
- Combining gathered information into databases to be monitored and presented in the administration;
- Monitoring and management of municipal PV energy production installations;
- Communication with municipal departments and structures;
- Communication with energy suppliers for data and references, contracting and other processes;
- Researching various options for financing of EE and RES measures in the municipality;

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■ What challenges (difficulties) do they face?

- One of the main challenges the team faces is related to the process of gathering needed information from outside of the municipality.

When requesting external information, it is usually a slower process than internal information and it is often accompanied by fees and taxes. (for ex. Requesting references or enquiries from external providers);

- The lack of financial resources also plays a significant obstacle to the development of effective and significant MEM practices.

There a number of adequate, technologically advanced monitoring tools that can be placed in subjected buildings that allow for real-time data monitoring and analysis of energy. These tools can improve the workload of workers in the MEM sector, but are expensive to purchase, install and maintain.

- Other factors include some administrative challenges. In the case of Svilengrad Municipality, the lack of human resource creates a difficulty to administrate MEM into a separate unit/department.

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- Personal motivation for working in the MEM Department?
 - Since MEM is a relatively new concept in Bulgaria and municipalities have a relatively limited budget in terms of facilitating MEM departments, it is rare to see trained personnel, suitable and willing to work as MEM.
 - As any pilot action, the main goal is to establish a workflow and process that is a working, multipliable solution.
 - In the case of Svilengrad, the team is comprised of members that work in a different department, but are passionate about energy efficiency, RES, EV and similar processes, innovations and technologies.
 - The main motivation of the team members stem from the opportunity to participate in the establishment of processes and models that will be hugely beneficial in the environmental, financial and cultural sense in the near future.
 - Like in any field, regardless of how the processes of MEM are organized, it is important to have team members that approach their work with passion and willingness to learn and improve their personal knowledge and skills.

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■ What does the Department/experts need to be effective?

- Training and constant improvement of knowledge;

A crucial step in the success of MEM models is the opportunity to acquire knowledge. This can be facilitated in the form of seminars, workshops, exchanges of experience between MEM nationally and EU-level, personal learning and other.

- Technical provisions;

Having the correct tools to organize MEM also plays a significant part of the process. This can include access to software and energy management systems, measuring tools, vehicles, communication devices and all other necessary tools that can improve and streamline the process of MEM.

- Administrative support;

Arguably the most important part of MEM is the right administrative/policy support – both locally and nationally. Having an effective policy to support the work of MEM, which clearly regulates all the processes, powers and responsibilities between the involved parties will create a faster and more effective workflow.

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The MENERGERS impact in Svilengrad Municipality



What local activities were generated through the MENERGERS project?



How did the city change, due to the MENERGERS project?

What impact did the project have on you or your team's professional abilities?



How will your efforts continue to support Municipal Energy Management?

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The MENERGERS impact in Svilengrad Municipality



Starting a conversation...

The MENERGERS project started a conversation on the importance of the adaptation to climate change, future-proof planning and the need to expand our knowledge.



Planning responsibly...

The MENERGERS project inspired us to plan our strategies and investments through the lens of energy management, taking eco-friendly, sustainable approaches into consideration.



Creating change...

Every significant ecological, economical and cultural change needs to be built on solid foundations. True positive impact requires cooperation on all levels – personal, communal, national.

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Thank you!

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