



Tandems Quarterly

June 2023

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This May, Burgas was the host of the TANDEM consortium meeting. Inviting partners to our city was special for two main reasons. First of all, the idea behind the project is to ensure a clean energy transition, which leaves no one behind. This can also be said of Burgas, which is transforming itself into a climate-friendly city without leaving any of its residents behind. Secondly, Burgas wants to move forward to become a 'smart' metropolis that includes cooperation with European countries through knowledge and experience exchange.

Despite being an industrial city with a large oil refinery, Burgas has an aim of transforming itself into a climate friendly city. It undertook the path of renovating multifamily residential buildings to increase its energy efficiency and is introducing new investments, such as the Anaerobic Installation that turns organic waste into heat and electricity, which are important milestones on its path to a greener future. Additionally, some of the city's public buildings are being fitted with photovoltaic technology, for example an exhibition centre, which now has solar energy panels and a green roof. The Burgas Municipality supports residents, small enterprises, NGO's and other actors in this process and provides expert advice on what steps citizens can take to participate in the energy transition. It is clear that the path towards a climate action is a collaborative one, which is why Burgas is not only working very closely with residents at every step of the way, but also participates in programmes such as TANDEM, which allows for international collaboration.

Through partnering with other organisations and countries within the TANDEM project, Burgas has a chance to gain insights into other energy systems, learn from other energy cooperatives and exchange important knowledge about how citizen initiatives can work within current energy market. On the other hand it also gives us the chance to show our work within the field and inform our partners about the efforts of our city to make energy transition a democratic process. The municipality values the input of citizens, who are affected by any measures, and regularly organises group discussions regarding planned decisions. Apart from residents, participants include business, universities, NGOs, and state, regional and local public bodies, in an effort to bring all relevant stakeholders together. Focus group discussions have so far been organised about sustainable energy management, building retrofitting, mobility, smart IT solutions and street lighting.

Nevertheless, Burgas does not rest on its laurels. Although our achievements are something to be proud of, we are always looking for ways to grow. The TANDEM project gives us the chance to push the idea of energy communities, which give the citizens even more energy independence and brings residents increasingly into the picture. With the addition of a platform, which facilitates the interaction between citizens and the municipality, it will be exciting to see what we can achieve in the future and we look forward to continuing our partnership and our work within the Black Sea metropolis.



Ivaylo Trendafilov
Chief Expert in Burgas Municipality

Why should we, as citizens, participate in energy communities?

As an initiative of citizens, who bring together resources for sustainable projects, we, ZuidtrAnt, a Belgian energy community with almost 10 years of experience, know first hand the uncertainties connected with joining energy communities.

Nevertheless, after years of working in the field of providing local and renewable energy to all members of the society, we can confidently stand behind our social purpose and fill you in on the benefits of joining an energy community.'

[Click here to find out more...](#)



Discovering TANDEMS partner, the Municipality of Gabrovo.

Interview with Todor Popov and Vanya Lazarova

Gabrovo is Green Leaf award winner in 2021 and among the first 100 climate neutral EU cities by 2030. Due to the latter, we have decided to participate in TANDEMS, which aims to promote the development of energy communities as means of energy transition. [To read more click here....](#)





The challenges, needs and ideas in regard to citizen engagement.

Report based on interviews by Duneworks.

In February and March, Duneworks, the leader of work package related to 'Strengthening and supporting citizen initiatives', conducted interviews with all partners, asking them about the challenges, needs and ideas regarding citizen engagement in EC (Energy Communities). This article is an insight into the results of these interviews.

[Click here to read more...](#)



TANDEMS Pilot Project: BioZon by AGEM

Interview with Justin Pagden

The first pilot we chose to introduce the cost price model for citizens was the energy community of BioZon, in the town of Zelhem. This citizen energy community collectively owns and operates a small electric generator running on biogas from an old landfill.

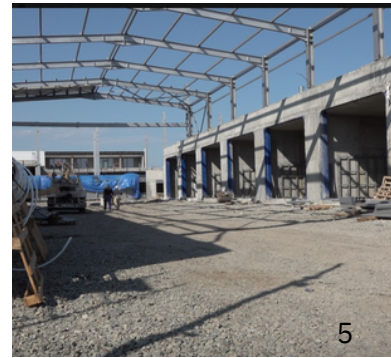
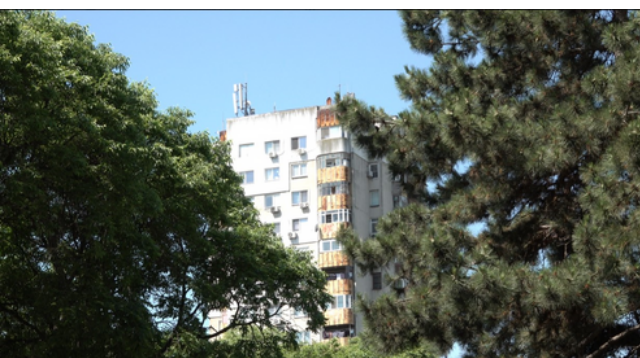
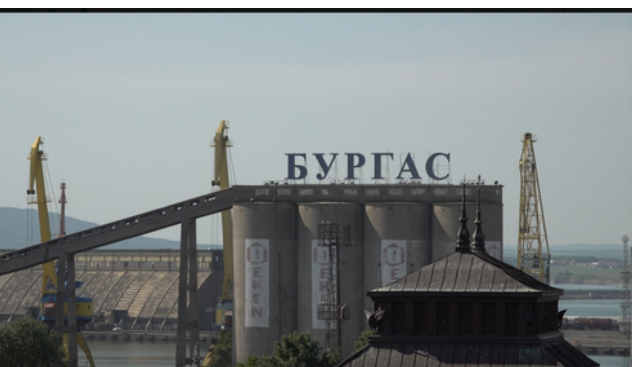
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Industrial Complex and Collective Housing: Green Energy Transition in Burgas

A Reportage from TANDEM'S second Consortium Meeting in Burgas.

It was our great pleasure to pay a visit to Burgas, where the local municipality as well as the Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect, hosted the project's second consortium meeting between May and June 2023. Among site visits, idea sharing and interactive workshops, the consortium and external partners touched base to move the project forward. [Get the full story here...](#)



NEWS/EVENTS/HIGHLIGHTS

19th April 2023

ZuidtrAnt opens their pilot project

Partner Activity

ZuidtrAnt starts Neighbourhood Renovation project Bloemenwijk

'Together with the municipality of Zoersel we want to help as many households as possible with the transition to renewable green energy. On a collective level, we want this neighbourhood to evolve to a renewable energy community.'

More than forty people registered for our newsletter and already seven inhabitants applied to be an ambassador of the project in their neighbourhood!'

26th April Stadt Mechelen and Klimaan organise an information session about solar panels and energy communities.



27-28th April

Gabrovo presents municipality policy and projects (including LifeTANDEMS) in front of local stakeholders and citizens.



2nd May

Municipality of Gabrovo, including the mayor, meets with EnEffect to discuss a potential pilot project and ways to inform and include citizens as well as developing a program leading up to implementing an energy community in Gabrovo.



ZuidtrAnt
energiecoöperatie



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ZuidtrAnt-W (W for warmteprojecte) are given the leading role in developing a heat network in the village center of Oelegem and the Ter Straten industrial estate.

To read more visit:

https://www.nieuwsblad.be/cnt/dmf20230426_96066555

16th May

AGEM spoke about 'Customer engagement – lessons from the energy crisis in a digital era' at the #CEERCustomerConference2023 organised by the Council of European Energy Regulators. The topic of the conference was 'Avenues for the Green and Digital Transition: enabling energy consumers as agents and beneficiaries'.



19th May

ZuidtrAnt-W and Klimaan CVSO partner up to develop the first cooperative heating network in Heist-op-den-Berg.



8th June

Klimaan and ZuidtrAnt-W officially launch the largest heat network in Rivierenland: OMWARM Warmtenet Averegten.

HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG

PERSMEDEDELING

8 Juni 2023

Grootste warmtenet van de Kempen komt in Heist-op-den-Berg

Een nieuw gemeentelijk woonproject aan de Averegtenlaan in Heist-op-den-Berg wordt een van de grootste duurzame residentiële woonwijken opvatbaarlijk van gas, van de Zuidkempen en het Rivierenland. De verwarming en koeling van 88 woningen en 56 appartementen gebeurt via een duurzaam warmtenet en/of geothermische warmtepompen. De aanleg van het leidingnetwerk is zonet al voltooid. Het woonproject is het eerste dat 100% beantwoordt aan het Lokaal Energie- en Klimaatpact dat Heist-op-den-Berg in 2021 heeft ondertekend.

Meer info

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31st May-1st June

TANDEMS Second Consortium Meeting in Burgas



15th June

Inspiration knowledge exchange session with



AND



2nd June

TANDEMS presentation at the nZEB Roadshow Event in Burgas



**For information and updates
please visit:**



www.lifetandems.eu



<https://twitter.com/LifeTandems>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/life-tandems/>



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