

DeCarb NEWSLETTER

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"Pairing the clean energy transition to growth and job creation in coal-intensive EU regions"



ABOUT THE DECARB PROJECT

The EU 2030 climate and energy framework sets three key targets for the year 2030: at least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels); at least 27% share for renewable energy and at least 27% improvement in energy efficiency. The EU coal sector provides jobs to about 240.000 people. DeCarb sets out to address the challenge of pairing the clean energy transition to growth and job creation in coal-intensive EU regions.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FOURTH SEMESTER

The policy learning process part of the DeCarb project continues during Semester 4. Most of the partners were able to organize and carry out stakeholders' meetings before the COVID-19 outbreak and quarantine. Six stakeholders' meetings were organized, and the rest of the partners were planning the other meetings, but were eventually postponed.

The study visit foreseen for semester 4 in Aalborg, Denmark, was postponed and rearranged along with the steering committee for Semester 5.

Most of the partners, being regional authorities were very much engaged in addressing the crisis, and consequently have developed rapid reflexes to manage the project's activities, being guided and assisted by Interreg Europe through the whole process. Still, these unprecedented circumstances allowed the DeCarb partners to learn and share good practices and approaches on how to handle the unusual situation.

Social Dialogue on New Energy Mix is the next upcoming major event, that is going to be organized in every partners' regions and will allow a constructive dialogue on the Green Deal, the just transition, the decarbonization and mitigation of social, as well as the economic impact in coal-intensive regions. AGENEX in Extremadura was already able to organise the Social Dialogue event, and share its experience with the other partners.

NEW ENERGY STORAGE PITS PROJECT IN DENMARK



Photo: Rambøll

The Danish utility [Aalborg Forsyning](#) plans to create one of the world's largest sustainable energy reserves. The project will be located in the Danish city Aalborg and will be the first of its size and first to provide hot water at any time needed.

The new installation will consist of two heat storage pits of 500,000 cubic metres of water each and will store surplus energy from i.a. wind turbines, industrial production and waste incineration, which would otherwise have been lost energy. But with the new sustainable energy reserve it will be sent back to consumers and businesses, in the form of hot water – when needed by the consumer. One million cubic metres of water corresponds to 2,500 households' consumption of district heating in one year.

GREEN HUB DENMARK IN AALBORG

"Green Hub Denmark" will be a large-scale test area and incubator for tomorrow's green solutions and aims to be the green transition's counterpart to Silicon Valley. Part of the project will be to establish zones, where private companies can set up test facilities to research and develop new supply technology. Meanwhile, at the Port of Aalborg, investments will, among other things, go towards developing a sustainable industrial park with a focus on industrial symbiosis, sustainable heat, electricity and cooling as well as circular production, where waste is handled for recycling or recycling.



Photo by [Rahbek Media](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The scope of partners in Green Hub Denmark is part of the reason why the ambitious plans will most likely bear fruit. The hub consists of the City of Aalborg, Aalborg Forsyning (Aalborg Utility), Port of Aalborg, Confederation of Danish Industry (DI) and Aalborg University and many others. About EUR 670 million will be invested in the project until 2030. The payoff is expected to be improved sustainable solutions and better implementation of the solutions. Meanwhile, Green Hub Denmark is expected to create 5,000 new jobs within 10 years. These jobs add to the Confederation of Danish Industry's estimate that about 30,000 new jobs can be created by focusing on the green transition over the next few years.



LEGISLATION UPDATES FOR COAL MINES' CLOSING IN ROMANIA



Source : <https://energyindustryreview.com/>

The Ministry of Economy in Romania has launched in public debate the draft Government Decision on the approval of the granting of state aid of 110 million lei (EUR 22.6 million) for facilitating the closure of non-competitive coal mines within the Complexul Energetic Hunedoara - S.A. Company" in insolvency" Lonea and Lupeni in the Jiu Valley, for the year 2020.

The budget will cover costs with compensatory payments granted to employees who lose their jobs, professional retraining costs, underground closure costs and costs related to the rehabilitation of former mining operations.

The state aid in total amount is fully supported from the state budget, through the budget of the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Business Environment, approved for 2020.

Source: <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/230933>



NEW ENERGY MIX DIALOGUE ORGANISED BY ENEREA

ENEREA has organized the New Energy MIX Dialogue on the 16th of September. The main topics addressed were the environmental restoration and land reclamation needs, as well as post-mining land use opportunities.

The lecture was started by Dr. Róbert Vass, who presented Geological causes of the formation of coal and peat deposits in the Northern Central Mountains and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County.

The presentation focused on the sustainability of mining. This is because the global supply of energy and raw materials is fundamentally based on mining. In 2018, mining accounted for 7% of world GDP of which 40% was energy from coal.

Dr. Falus presented Hungary's coal assets, coal mines and now closed coal deposits, where landscape wounds have formed: mining waste, slag and fly ash. The condition of these areas should be assessed and then stabilized and made safe.

The survey itself is a very complex task, as it is necessary to pay attention to the size and slope of the area, the chemical-mineral composition of groundwater and the situation of leaking water. This is very important because the object cannot be life-threatening.

The next speakers were Ms. Siskáné and Dr .Beáta Szilasi and the topic of the lecture was the expected socio-economic impact of the cessation of coal-based activities.



Source : ENEREA



Source : ENEREA



Source : ENEREA

Source : ENEREA

Some good practices, suggestions were made, like the redeployment of unskilled labour to the automotive and building sectors. The event highlighted the important role of training and capacity building to improve the employment competencies for creating new job opportunities.

In addition, the opportunities concerned the developments related to the renewable energy sector and the need for further infrastructures.

Finally, Dr Lajos Szalontai spoke on Economic alternatives following the phasing out of carbon-intensive topics.

The target groups addressed with this New Energy MIX social dialogue event were: citizens and the general public, who could also ask questions interactively during the presentation. The Public Administration, as well as representatives of local stakeholders, companies, environmental organizations, regional agencies, universities, etc., were represented too.



Source : ENEREA

VIRTUAL STUDY VISIT ON THE POTENTIAL OF “CLEANER COAL”, CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES

On the 28th of October, ENEREA organized a virtual Study visit to discuss the potential of “cleaner coal”, carbon capture and storage technologies. Due to the Covid-19 situation, the event was held online.

The session started with greetings from Mr. Róbert Orosz, Managing Director of ENEREA Eszak-Alfold Regional Energy Agency Nonprofit Ltd. Afterwards, Dr. Róbert Vass, from the Institute of Tourism and Geography of the University of Nyíregyháza analysed the situation and future of coal mining in Hungary.

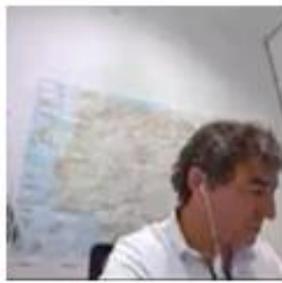
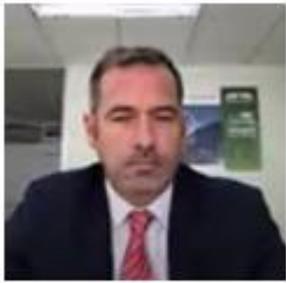
Formerly, Dr. György Falus, Head of the Geological and Geoinformatics Department of the Hungarian Mining and Geological Service, presented his research activity on the current results and future options of Carbon Geological Storage.

After a short break, Mr. Róbert Orosz introduced the “Knowledge and assessment of cleaner coal technologies by the general public and economic operators in the light of calls for proposals”. Therefore, Dr. Lajos Szalontai, PhD, Associate Professor of University of Miskolc spoke about Clean coal technologies and opportunities for the DeCarb regions. The event ended with the concluding remarks on the virtual study visit.

Study visit on the potential of “cleaner coal” and carbon capture and storage technologies (virtual agenda)	
Interreg Europe project DeCarb – Supporting the clean energy transition of coal-intensive EU regions  	
Online meeting code https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/975095141	
08:40 – 09:10	Registration of participants
09:10	Greetings from Mr. Róbert Orosz - Managing Director of ENEREA Eszak-Alfold Regional Energy Agency Nonprofit Ltd.
09:20	Dr. Róbert Vass, Institute of Tourism and Geography, UNIVERSITY OF NYÍREGYHÁZA, mb. institute director - The situation and future of coal mining in Hungary
09:40	Dr. György Falus, Head of the Geological and Geoinformatics Department of the Hungarian Mining and Geological Service - Carbon Geological Storage Options in Hungary - Research Activity, Current Results and Future Options
10:05	Coffee Break
10:15	Mr. Róbert Orosz - Managing Director of ENEREA Eszak-Alfold Regional Energy Agency Nonprofit Ltd. - Knowledge and assessment of cleaner coal technologies by the general public and economic operators in the light of calls for proposals.
10:35	Dr. Lajos Szalontai PhD: Associate Professor of UNIVERSITY OF MISKOLC, Faculty of Earth Sciences and Engineering - Clean coal technologies and opportunities for the DeCarb region's
10:55	Concluding remarks on the virtual study visit
12:10	End of the virtual study visit



ENERGY TRANSITION IN EXTREMADURA: THE KEY ROLE OF SOLAR SELF-CONSUMPTION



On the 15th of October, AGENEX participated on the session **Energy Transition in Extremadura: the key role of solar self-consumption** focused on analyzing the pathways to the transition both in Spain and Extremadura. During the event, the legal framework for self-consumption was analysed, presenting the opportunities of these sources and discussing the prospects of the renewable energies in a post-covid scenario.

In addition, information about public regional grants was shared. Subsequently, a panel of experts initiated a debate on the challenges that the society of Extremadura is facing, especially related to the a Fair Energy transition, very linked to DeCarb project.

This session was part of [ENERSELVES final conference](#), where the key achievements of the project were presented, but also was focused on the PEIEC (the regional Plan for Energy and Climate) that has been approved recently and it is the Roadmap to achieve climate neutrality in the region 2030 .



Source : AGENEX



THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL POST COVID-19 AND THE BULGARIAN ENERGY TRANSITION

The new European Commission set a new pace for Europe's green course with the ambitious goal of full climate neutrality by 2050. What are the upcoming changes and what will be the cost of the Green Deal to the European and national levels?

This conference focused on the need for a just energy transition for Bulgaria, the important challenges that need to be addressed and the necessary measures for the latter to be successful.

The conference targets all stakeholders - government institutions, international organizations, non-governmental sector, energy business and civil society in its entirety.

The conference received broad international, regional and national participation. Furthermore, the organizers attempted to respond to the enhanced public expectations for a concrete dialogue on the main problems of social development, recently announced on a political level, too.

A speaker at the conference was Dr. Romyana Grozeva, from the Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency presenting the current regional developments in the field of energy transition processes and the lessons learnt thanks to the implementation of DeCarb project.



Source : SZREDA

Details on the conference available [here](#). Speakers' presentation to be find [here](#).

THE PARTNERSHIP



[Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency](#) (BG)



[Lodzkie Region](#) (PL)



[Eszak-Alfold Regional Energy Agency Nonprofit Ltd.](#) (HU)



[South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency](#) (RO)



[Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, State of Brandenburg](#) (DE)



[House of Energy](#) (DK)



[Regional Association of Local Governme of Western Macedonia](#) (GR)



[Energy Agency of Savinjska, Saleska and Koroska Region](#) (SI)



[Extremadura Energy Agency](#) (ES)

ABOUT US

DeCarb is co-funded by INTERREG Europe / European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)



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European Regional
Development Fund



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