OT2.2 REGIONAL STRATEGIES - PART CZECH REPUBLIC

Project Title: REEF 2W—Increased renewable energy and energy efficiency by integrating, combining and empowering urban wastewater and organic waste management systems

WP Lead: adelphi
Authors: P.Jenicek, D.Pokorna (UCT Prague); Z.Varga, O.Benes (Veolia Czech Republic); O.Benes - Veolia Czech Republic

Submission Date: 01/2020

Contact:
adelphi
Alt-Moabit 91
10559 Berlin, Germany

Email: mueller@adelphi.de
## Output factsheet: Strategies and action plans

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### Summary description of the strategy/action plan (developed and/or implemented)

This regional strategy for the Czech Republic reflects the local specifics in the field of renewable energy production and targets ways how to quickly improve energy efficiency in urban wastewater treatment (at the level of the public wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs)) and organic waste management.

A set of actions is presented in the suggested regional strategy that takes in account all the experiences gathered within the preparation and start-up of this project. The major part of these particular experiences leads to a reformulation of the original assumptions and to an improved validity and probability of the realization of measures in the field of energy self-sufficiency.

This major objective is, however, still far away from being completed, thus the major part of the strategy aims to help the competent authorities (mainly the department of waste at Ministry of Environment, Energy Regulation Office and Ministry of Industry) to support both promotion and funding of the projects that have served as REEF 2W demonstration projects. This can only be done by active promotion by both UCT Prague and VEOLIA ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA.

### NUTS region(s) concerned by the strategy/action plan (relevant NUTS level)

CZ-NUTS, NUTS 0 - Czech Republic
Expected impact and benefits of the strategy/action plan for the concerned territories and target groups

The Czech Republic is positioned in the center of continental Europe and faces serious impacts of global climate change, including among others rapid depletion of water resources, thus leading to problems in energy production, which is heavily reliant upon water resources.

The major benefit of the material is linked to potential utilization of the findings and tools generated within this project. The discussions with competent authorities revealed that authorities are eager to work with simple or rather simplified tools that enable them to set-up priorities for funding.

Sustainability of the developed or implemented strategy/action plan and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

The regional strategy promotes the “achievement of sustainable consumption and production of energy” and “creation of sustainable transport”. The pilot of biomethane-to-transport unit at Prague WWTP is exactly in between these two conceptual objectives. The development and success of this strategy generally depends on the involvement of the regional authority and the good teamwork among the project partners. The interactions and success of transferring the pilot solutions shall be fostered by an intensive run of seminars/trainings and by using an excel tool developed.

The developed strategy vision is sustainable because it is based on a clear dissemination of the principles of energy-positive concepts at the level of water networks through the SOVAK (professional association of wastewater treatment plant operators in Czech Republic) platform and the promotion of the Ministry of the Environment by including a benchmarking tool. Therefore the developed strategy is only partly transferable to other countries.

Lessons learned from the development/implementation process of the strategy/action plan and added value of transnational cooperation

There are many challenges that both the water utilities and public authorities are facing in the process of implementation of REEF 2W solutions. Most likely, there shall be a problematic access to financing with relatively long payback time for individual solutions (as it was identified in the case of Prague pilot). The presented approach, however, tackles these issues by many concrete steps.
| References to relevant deliverables and web-links |
| If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex |

D.T2.5.1 Regional Strategy Czech Republic
D.T2.2 OUTPUT FACTSHEET: REGIONAL STRATEGY

Project Title: REEF2W Increased renewable energy and energy efficiency by integrating, combining and empowering urban wastewater and organic waste management systems

WP Lead: adelphi

Authors: Marko Zlonoga (REGEA- North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency)

Submission Date: 11/2019

Contact:

André Müller
adelphi
Alt-Moabit 91
10559 Berlin, Germany
Phone:+49(30)8900068910
Email: mueller@adelphi.de
Output factsheet: Strategies and action plans

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Summary description of the strategy/action plan (developed and/or implemented)

The main goal of this Regional Strategy is to enable policy makers, national, regional and local authorities to accelerate an appropriate legal and operational framework for implementing REEF 2W solutions. These solutions aim to foster an increase in energy efficiency and the production of renewable energies in the waste and wastewater sector. The Regional Strategy has three objectives: implementing renewable energy production at WWTPs, adding bio-waste in aerobic digestion WWTPs chain and finding solutions for sludge management. There are three strategic areas: capacity building, reaching energy targets and sludge management. Each strategic area has three strategic actions.

The Regional Strategy looks in particular on the production of renewable energy in the Zabok pilot area, using both sewage sludge complemented with bio-waste from the region. The focus is on introducing anaerobic treatment- co-digestion of sludge and bio-waste at the WWTP Zabok, utilization of biogas (CHP and biomethane) and application of digestate as soil improver. The renewable energy potential in the waste and wastewater sector is addressed through REEF 2W. The Regional Strategy is one part of the overall effort to reduce energy consumption, to promote energy transition and and the implementation of more energy efficient solutions that help to establish energy-independent WWTPs (and thus their communities). The Regional Strategy focuses on the Zabok pilot, but in accordance with its results, the Regional Strategy can be applicable and usable for other waste and wastewater operators and stakeholders both on regional and national level.

NUTS region(s) concerned by the Regional Strategy/action plan (relevant NUTS level)

NUTS regions concerned by the Regional Strategy are: On NUTS 1 level there is NUTS-1: Croatia (Code HR0), on NUTS 2 level there is NUTS-2: Kontinentalna Hrvatska (Code HR04) and on NUTS 3 level there is Krapina-Zagorje County (as primary targeted county, where the site of pilot project is located, Code HR043), City of Zagreb (Code HR041), Zagreb County (Code HR042), Karlovac County (Code HR04D).
### Expected impact and benefits of the Regional Strategy/action plan for the concerned territories and target groups

The target group in this project and the Regional Strategy comprises local (cities and municipalities) and regional (counties) authorities as well as regional (scope of the project) utilities from waste and wastewater sector. Project for water utilities in the operating area of Zagorski vodovod Ltd. is currently ongoing which includes extension and construction of drainage system and construction of wastewater treatment plant in Zabok. In the meantime REGEA and ZCH will use the outputs of REEF 2W to build capacities and pave the way for a successful implementation of one or more pilot sites in Croatia. The direct expected impact and benefit for Krapina-Zagorje County, municipalities in the area of Zabok agglomeration, is energy saving and energy self-sufficiency of the local WWTPs. With reduction of energy bills and CO₂ emission there is a raising awareness of needed energy transition.

### Sustainability of the developed or implemented Regional Strategy/action plan and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

The Regional Strategy is implemented through three strategic areas with nine strategic actions. With capacity building (Strategic Area I), the idea is to build capacities starting from chosen Krapina-Zagorje County and extend it to other continental counties and, if proven successful, to the other Croatian Counties. The aim of the second strategic area of action is to get municipal and regional level authorities to clearly define their energy targets while advocating and offering REEF 2W solutions for their waste and wastewater utility operators. One of the strategic action in this area is the establishment of an operational framework that includes legal preconditions and suitable finance model(s) that will enable implementing REEF 2W solutions. The third strategic area addresses sludge management issues, such as the so far unsolved problem of sludge disposal. REEF 2W solutions will be hard to implement, or maybe even impossible, if there is no proper and viable solution for sludge disposal. With positive outcomes from all three strategic areas, it is expected that the sustainability of the developed Regional Strategy and its transferability to other regions will be achieved.

### Lessons learned from the development/implementation process of the Regional Strategy/action plan and added value of transnational cooperation

During the development of the Regional Strategy, especially the concept, goal, strategic areas and actions, we highly valued transnational cooperation from REEF 2W project. The gained knowledge and shared experience from our partners helped us a lot to define those elements and to improve the Regional Strategy. Through the development of the Regional Strategy, we sensed the importance of getting appropriate data, making precise analysis and establishing good communication with all stakeholders. Only if all stakeholders are actively involved, strategic actions can be implemented. We further realized that one of the challenges regarding the Croatian case is that energy component and sludge disposal of the WWTPs are not sufficiently recognized in waste and water management in Croatia.

### References to relevant deliverables and web-links

If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex
Relevant deliverables include D.T2.5.1. Regional Strategy Croatia and D.T2.3.5. First Part of The Feasibility Study Croatia.
OUTPUT FACTSHEET: REGIONAL STRATEGY - ITALY

Project Title: REEF 2W—Increased renewable energy and energy efficiency by integrating, combining and empowering urban wastewater and organic waste management systems

WP Lead: adelphi

Authors: Roberto Farina (ENEA)

Submission Date: 12/2019

Contact:
adelphi
Alt-Moabit 91
10559 Berlin, Germany
Email: mueller@adelphi.de
### Output factsheet: Regional Strategies

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**Summary description of the strategy (developed and/or implemented)**

Max. 2000

The REEF 2W strategy aims to establish organic waste as a source of renewable energy in the Italian REEF 2W pilot study region. The pilot is located in Emilia Romagna region that has already planned and lunched energy strategy since 2008. Most of the targets of such strategy have been reached, but environmental critical climate situation stress everybody to increase the targets of the new strategy to more ambitious levels. The vison of the new regional energy strategy continue to stimulate the production of energy from organic wastes not only from agricultural residues, but also involving the other organic biomasses available from wastewater treatment as well as from wastes to increase the energetic neutrality of the region and reduce the carbon dioxide emissions and the fine particles, and increase the RES used for heating and cooling industrial and urban buildings. The proposed REEF 2W strategy defines strategic actions in the area of the pilot plant able to facilitate the achievement of the regional targets. A strong exchange of information and experience has been conducted not only with the local authorities more linked with the pilot plant, but also with the regional environmental authority to develop an evaluation of the energy potentiality of all the treatment plants existing in the region (wastes and wastewater). Furthermore, based on the proposed REEF 2W strategy a memorandum of understanding was elaborated and signed by the local authority. This shall ensure further establishment of energetic use of wastewater also beyond the premises of the wastewater infrastructures even after the end of the REEF 2W project.

**NUTS region(s) concerned by the strategy (relevant NUTS level)**

The strategy concerns the Italy province of Northeast Italy (NUTS-2 Region: ITD59).

**Expected impact and benefits of the strategy for the concerned territories and target groups**
In the territory of the pilot plant the expected benefit will be the reduction of the energetic costs of the waste treatment, the possibility to have a neutral GHG emission plant and the possibility to increase the numbers of the employees. At a regional level the impact expected is the beginning of a new strategy for increasing especially where an already heat distribution system already exists the recovery of heat from thermal treatments or from wastewater.

**Sustainability of the developed or implemented strategy and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders**

The sustainability of the developed strategy will be ensured through the available memorandum of understanding with the local authorities. Although the recovery of energy from wastewater and other not actually heat used in the treatment plants in the region in this moment the potential of this renewable source will be evaluated only from a strategic view and to implement further action. The transferability of the developed strategy to other Italian territories is also possible especially in northernmost areas of Italy where the advantage of heat from RES could be used for longer period of the year.

**Lessons learned from the development/implementation process of the strategy and added value of transnational cooperation**

The development of the strategy was a rather dynamic and interdisciplinary process than a straightforward and monodisciplinary one. An overview on the contents/aims of existing national and provincial (regional) energy strategies and funding schemes certainly is an important prerequisite. Furthermore, good knowledge concerning the perceptions, acceptations and even prejudices of the different stakeholder (groups) possibly involved in the energetic use of wastewater is crucial. It is in any case develop a cooperative action that involves with an objective information, the policy makers that should take the responsibility to push their territories toward a more sustainable development, involving in the same time also the civil society and the productive sector that sharing the views and ideas could help in the production and in the utilization of RES

**References to relevant deliverables and web-links**

If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

Relevant deliverables are:
- DT2.5.1 (Regional strategy)
- DT2.3.1 (Feasibility Study)
OUTPUT FACTSHEET: STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Project Title: REEF 2W Increased renewable energy and energy efficiency by integrating, combining and empowering urban wastewater and organic waste management systems

WP Lead: adelphi

Authors: Anika Conrad, André Müller (adelphi)

Submission Date: 07/2019, revised: 01.04.2020

Contact:
 André Müller
 adelphi
 Alt-Moabit 91
 10559 Berlin, Germany
 Phone:+49(30)8900068910
 Email: mueller@adelphi.de
Output factsheet: Strategies and action plans

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Summary description of the strategy/action plan (developed and/or implemented)

The main goal of the Regional Strategy for the Berlin case is to enable the Berlin Senate to accelerate the implementation of wastewater-to-energy solutions in wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). This will enable WWTPs to become energy self-sufficient as well as to use their surplus energy to supply the market and to become important agents in the flexibilisation of the regional energy market. Thereby they will be enabled to contribute to key energy-related targets of the Berlin energy and climate protection programme (BEK 2030). In the case of the Berlin Pilot, the Regional Strategy has been developed in cooperation between the project partners adelphi and the Competence Centre for Water in Berlin gGmbH (KWB) and the Department for Environment, Transport and Climate Protection of the Senate in Berlin (SenUVK) in the course of several meetings.

The Regional Strategy is divided into three main steps: Definition of a vision, strategic goals and targets, strategic analysis that opposes barriers to the implementation of the selected REEF 2W solutions in the Berlin region with planned actions of the BEK 2030. The strategy concludes with a strategic formulation where a set of new actions is developed to make progress in reaching the afore-defined goals and to overcome current barriers.

The dialogue with the Berlin authorities and the water utility revealed that the wastewater sector plays an important role in Berlin’s energy transition. This applies not only to the reduction of energy consumption and CO₂ emissions, but particularly to the provision of green biogas. The current infrastructural, political-legal and economic framework conditions make it unattractive for the Berlin water utility to increase sewage gas production significantly. Some of the key technologies, for instance, such as power-to-gas, are still in their infancy and thus not competitive.

As a result, important challenges were identified: The wastewater sector faces a conflict of objectives where energy and environmental policy requirements, water quality control requirements and cost minimisation requirements are in contradiction. Furthermore, funding periods that are insufficient for upscaled plants were criticised and legal barriers at national level were highlighted. The following main measures have been identified to address these barriers:

**Formation of a working group on climate protection in the Berlin (waste)water sector:** In order to enable the Berlin water utility to tap the energy potential in the long term and not to be hampered by conflicting goals, cooperation with various actors from politics and business is necessary, including representatives of the Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Businesses and from the energy and water sector in Brandenburg.
Municipal support for feeding sewage gas into the grid: Financial support and a guaranteed purchase for a certain volume and period at city level would promote the production and grid-compatible supply of biomethane - and thus counteract the barriers at federal level.

The Berlin Energy and Climate Protection Programme (BEK) 2030 of the Berlin Senate offers a concrete first possibility for a political implementation of the recommendations for action. The BEK 2030 is to be continued and revised after the first implementation period in 2021. The Berlin Senate is willing to consider the points of the regional strategy in this respect.

### NUTS region(s) concerned by the strategy/action plan (relevant NUTS level)

The Regional Strategy was developed based on desk research and interviews with representatives of the Berlin Senate and Water Utility.

- **Meeting venues:**
  - Brückenstraße 6, 10179 berlin
  - Neue Jüdenstr. 1, 10179 Berlin

- **Country (NUTS 1) DE**
- **Region (NUTS 2) DE30, Berlin**

### Expected impact and benefits of the strategy/action plan for the concerned territories and target groups

The strategy helps to foster the achievement of targets relating to climate change mitigation and the energy transition in different strategic and planning documents by the Berlin Senate such as the BEK 2030. It further offers insights on how energy-related actions concerning the wastewater sector can be strengthened to reach climate targets.

Through the resulting improved cooperation, the exchange of new findings from cutting-edge research projects will be accelerated and thus awareness of the energy potential in the wastewater sector towards politicians increased. The different involved departments of the Senate responsible for climate protection and wastewater treatment will be able to extend their technical knowledge on energy-related aspects in the wastewater sector. This information is usually not easily accessible to them. At the same time, cooperation and planning across departments of the Senate and sectors will be improved. By involving BWB and other stakeholders in the review processes of key Senate planning documents, an alignment of plans to the interests of affected sectors will be enabled.

Moreover, the strategy offers insights on how energy-related actions concerning the wastewater sector can be strengthened to reach the climate targets of Berlin in time or even faster.

### Sustainability of the developed or implemented strategy/action plan and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

Sustainability is here defined as the degree to which project outputs are further used during the project period and beyond by partners and other actors. This includes concrete measures (including e.g. institutional structures, financial resources, policy improvements etc.).
As part of the REEF 2W project, the project partners for the Berlin context and the Berlin Senate signed a joint declaration of intent for further cooperation on the implementation of REEF 2W solution concepts particularly with regard to the recommended and jointly identified actions within the strategy formation. This declaration will be valid beyond the end of the project and foster ongoing cooperation. Thus, the current recommendations for action of the Regional Strategy are to be continuously further developed and supplemented with lessons learned from ongoing and new research projects. The co-development of the strategy is likely to strengthen the cooperation between BWB and the Berlin Senate. This cooperation is essential to drive energy-related measures in the water and wastewater sector.

Lessons learned from the development/implementation process of the strategy/action plan and added value of transnational cooperation

The following lessons learned should be considered in future strategic cooperation between BWB and other stakeholders and Berlin Senate and the further development of action plans:

- To initiate a strategy for governmental institutions, it is necessary to initiate contact. Governmental institutions are usually busy and hard to convince for spending time on matters that bring no immediate payback. The same is valid for utility operators (in this case the BWB). The signing of the declaration of intent between adelphi and KWB and the Berlin Senate as well as the establishment of contacts from the beginning of the project was crucial for successful cooperative development of the strategy.
- The REEF 2W solution concepts benefit from the interaction and integration of different sectors (waste sector, wastewater sector, energy sector etc.) and infrastructures (gas, power and heat grid). Thus, in order to reach the set climate targets by Berlin, involvement of the different departments of the Berlin Senate with different disciplinary foci as well as other actors from different sectors (BWB, Stadtwerke) is crucial.

References to relevant deliverables and web-links

If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

The Development of the Regional Strategy (DT2.5.1) is an important element of the project REEF 2W, closely relating to other project deliverables. The most important ones are the Feasibility study for the Berlin pilot site Schönerlinde (DT2.3.2) and the Position paper (DT2.5.3). Furthermore, without the good cooperation and the signing of the MOU (DT2.5.2), the elaboration of the Regional Strategy would not have been as successful. Other important documents and weblinks, which were developed externally and which contributed essential information to the elaboration of the strategy are, for example, the strategy platform (https://www.powertogas.info/startseite/) and roadmap for power-to-gas applications from the German energy agency (dena 2017). The regional strategy was based on existing planning documents of the Berlin senate, such as the Berlin Energy and Climate Protection Programme (BEK) 2030 (SenUVK 2018) and the Climate protection agreement between the State of Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development and Environment and Berlin water utility (BWB and SenUVK 2016).
A. References


OUTPUT FACTSHEET: REGIONAL STRATEGY - AUSTRIA
Output factsheet: O.T2.2  
Regional Strategy - Austria

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**Summary description of the strategy (developed and/or implemented) Max. 2000 Zeichen**

The REEF 2W regional strategy aims at establishing wastewater as a source of renewable energy in the Austrian REEF 2W cases study region (province) of Upper Austria. The regional authorities have already launched an energy strategy (Energie Leitregion OÖ 2050). The vision of this strategy is to establish the province of Upper Austria as an internationally leading energy region until 2050. Hereby, 5 equally ranked targets are being defined: (1) Energy efficiency and renewable energy, (2) Supply reliability, (3) Competitiveness and economic efficiency, (4) Innovation, location safeguarding, research and development, and (5) Acceptance and representation of interests. The proposed REEF 2W strategy defines strategic areas (information, institutions, and investments) and related possible objectives/priorities. To facilitate the practical application of the suggested REEF 2W measures the interlinkages between the proposed REEF 2W strategy and the existing regional energy strategy are clearly illustrated. Furthermore, based on the proposed REEF 2W strategy a memorandum of understanding was elaborated and signed by the regional authority. This shall ensure further establishment of energetic use of wastewater also beyond the premises of the wastewater infrastructures even after the end of the REEF 2W project. As a supplement to the REEF 2W strategy a summary/overview of national and regional (provincial) funding opportunities for REEF 2W solutions was elaborated.

**NUTS region(s) concerned by the strategy (relevant NUTS level)**

The strategy concerns the Austrian federal province of Upper Austria (NUTS-2 Region: AT31).
Expected impact and benefits of the strategy for the concerned territories and target groups

The proposed strategy fosters the further recognition and establishment of energetic use of wastewater beyond common applications (basically wastewater treatment plant internal ones). Applying the suggested objectives/priorities (for the introduced strategic areas) can contribute to achieving the regional/provincial energy targets. Conclusively, wastewater as a local, renewable and climate friendly energy source will help to make Upper Austrian energy supply more sustainable and future-orientated.

Sustainability of the developed or implemented strategy and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

The sustainability of the developed strategy will be ensured through the available memorandum of understanding. Therein, the province of Upper Austria recognizes a possible contribution the energetic use of wastewater can make to meeting the regional energy targets. Furthermore, it is confirmed, that wastewater as a renewable source of energy will be considered in future implementations and adaptions of the provincial energy strategy. The transferability of the developed strategy to other Austrian territories is also given. This is due to the fact, that the national as well as the regional energy strategies are inline with related EU regulations and thus can be considered as comparable (apart from certain local specific aspects). Existing energy strategies already have a rather interdisciplinary character. Furthermore, the proposed REEF 2W approach explicitly addresses the involvement of different stakeholder groups. Thus, the transferability to other stakeholders is also provided.

Lessons learned from the development/implementation process of the strategy and added value of transnational cooperation

The development of the strategy was a rather dynamic and interdisciplinary process than a straightforward and monodisciplinary one. An overview on the contents/aims of existing national and provincial (regional) energy strategies and funding schemes certainly is an important prerequisite. Furthermore, good knowledge concerning the perceptions, acceptations and even prejudices of the different stakeholder (groups) possibly involved in the energetic use of wastewater is crucial. Conclusively, a new strategy may receive best support if it is compatible with existing schemes/frameworks and accepted by a broad basis of different stakeholders. The focus of the presented work was Austrian national/provincial only. Therefore, added value of transnational cooperation cannot be evaluated here.

References to relevant deliverables and web-links
If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex
Relevant deliverables are:
- DT2.5.1 (Regional strategy)
- DT2.5.2 (Memorandum of understanding)
- DT3.2.1 (Financial options)