



On June 21, 22, and 23, a group of 20 experts from the four partner municipalities of the project "Improving the capacity of administrations and pilot implementation of measures for successful adaptation to climate change in the municipalities of Peshtera, Batak, Sadovo and Strelcha" participated in a 3-day training session held in Sunny Beach resort. The training aimed to enhance the competencies of municipal employees under the project BGENVIRONMENT-4.004-0014 "Improving the capacity of administrations and pilot implementation of measures for successful adaptation to climate change in the municipalities of Peshtera, Batak, Sadovo and Strelcha" funded under the "Environment and Climate Change" Program of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2014-2021.

The event was organized in response to the municipalities' needs to enhance the capacity of their employees in the field of planning mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change. Qualified and experienced lecturers were provided for the training.

A wide range of topics was covered during the training, as follows:

Day 1 (June 21):

- General presentation of the project and the Program
- Challenges of climate change: causes, impacts, alternatives
- Consequences of climate change

Day 2 (June 22):

- Climate change actions by the EU
- Financing the EU's climate transition
- How the EU aims to reduce emissions in Europe
- Circular economy and opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation

Day 3 (June 23):

- Coordination and collaboration of municipalities with other institutions and stakeholders in combating climate change
- The role of local authorities in the adaptation process
- Presentation of best practices and green solutions in cities



As a result, 20 employees were trained with improved competencies in planning mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change, and the capacity of the municipal administrations of the four municipalities was enhanced in the areas of climate change mitigation, strategic planning, and implementation of adequate climate change adaptation measures.

The project is implemented with financial support amounting to EUR 281,000 provided by Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway under the "Environment and Climate Change" Program of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2014-2021.

The training is part of the planned activities of the project (Activity 2), and its implementation led to the execution of four measures included in the strategic plans of the four municipalities. These measures contribute to the implementation of the measures outlined in the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation and the Action Plan, namely:

1. Adaptation measure: Improving administrative capacity in planning and implementing policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in the Municipality of Peshtera.
2. Adaptation measure: Improving administrative capacity in planning and implementing policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in the Municipality of Batak.
3. Adaptation measure: Improving administrative capacity in planning and implementing policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in the Municipality of Sadovo.
4. Adaptation measure: Improving administrative capacity in planning and implementing policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in the Municipality of Strelcha.

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