

Swimming pool heating – Syros, Greece

Title

Municipal swimming pool heating with rejected power plant heat in Syros islands

Theme of Collaboration

Project development coordination & Funding scheme

Contact person

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Partners involved

- Municipality of Syros – Ermoupolis
- Public Power Corporation S. A.
- Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator (HEDNO)
- Region of South Aegean
- “The Green Fund” (Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change)

Cluster of Greece

Syros Island

Description

A large portion of the Greek islands are non-interconnected to the mainland electricity network but powered by local power plants with installed diesel generators producing a significant amount of heat which is usually rejected to the sea. However, in Syros Island the Municipality managed to reach agreement with the power company to exploit the rejected heat in order to heat the neighbouring municipal swimming pool for free. The tendering process has finalised and the project is expected to be installed before winter time; when in the last couple of years the swimming pool has been closing down because of lack of financial resources to support its operation. It is apparent that the project,



The municipal swimming pool

besides of the financial and environmental, has a strong social dimension since this is the only municipal swimming pool on the island. The multiple users who before the times of financial crisis where able to use it during winter now feel a strong disappointment and degradation of their quality of life which makes this project besides a technical also a strong political issue for the local authorities.

The Municipality had to collaborate closely during the project preparation period with the PPC and HEDNO (multi-lateral collaboration) to reach a common agreement and sign a contract. Besides that the Municipality had to ensure the financing of the project. For this purpose the Municipality communicated the project to the Region of South Aegean (regional level) and the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (multi-level collaboration) in order to secure state financing. The good management and devotion during the project development period by the Planning and IT department of the Municipality, highlighting besides of the financial also the social and environmental benefits for the local society was the main element of success for this project.



The power plant providing the heat for the swimming pool

Results related to MLG processes

Involvement of local authority personnel in project working groups

Creation of a municipal working group from the Planning and IT department which met regularly with the PPC, the HEDNO, the Region and the Ministry to ensure their support to the project. The group situated at the municipality and being part of the local society ensured their commitment to the realisation of the project.

Beneficial project for all the involved parties

The working group highlighted during the negotiation period the win-win character of the project for all the parties involved overcoming potential barriers regarding the contracting process with PPC and the financing of the project. The **Municipality** would have a heating source for free to heat the swimming pool that is now closed during winter time causing dissatisfaction to the local society. The **PPC** would decrease the temperature of the power plant exhausts and would create a good image for the local consumers by actively supporting a project of social responsibility.

The **Region** would be able to demonstrate its support to projects related to the enhancement of sports facilities which has been one of its main targets.

The **Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change** through the “**Green Fund**” would be able to finance a concrete municipal project aiming to the

reduction of local greenhouse gas emission.

Pre-feasibility studies were early enough carried out

A pre-feasibility study was early enough conducted to highlight besides of the financial also the social and environmental benefits for the municipality, the Region, the PPC and the local society.

In order to heat the swimming pool the municipality would need to consume 1200 litres of heating oil and 1500€ per day.

The local swimming clubs for children and adults will be able to train and use the pool also in winter time.

The municipality will decrease significantly the local greenhouse gas emissions by avoiding the use of heating oil.

Regional level setting the project in high priority

The Region facilitated the environmental licensing of the project collaborating efficiently with the working group and putting it into high priority as a project of significant social benefit for the local society.

Small investments taken over by involved parties

The PPC agreed to take over a small part of the investment that needed to be implemented at the power plant infrastructure. The good collaboration between the Municipality and PPC and the realisation of the benefits for both parties resulted to reaching an agreement which overcame the potential barrier of PPC having delaying or stopping the project because of concerns related to the technical integrity of the project that could possibly affect the safe operation of the power plant.

Lessons learnt on MLG processes

The main findings were that a larger group of experts and civil servants from different levels working together reach a good result in a short time for long-term challenges. For small municipalities it gives a great opportunity to get resources, knowledge and a process road map ahead to reach their objectives.

Local specialists have more interest about projects affecting their lives

A committed working group at local level that can provide efficient project management and carry out productive meetings and negotiations with the different involved parties of a project can benefit significantly the project preparation.

Highlight win-win conditions

It is a good idea to highlight the win-win conditions for projects where different parties are involved.

Commitment of involved parties assists financing support



In order to ensure state financial support for non-profit sustainable energy projects it is important to demonstrate the commitment of the involved parties and highlight the combined benefits for the municipality and the local society.

The MLG cooperation structure

The following diagram demonstrates the different governing structures and stakeholders involved in the whole process.

