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Document history

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0.1	17.05.2022	Katherine Quinteros	First draft
0.2	20.06.2022	Katherine Quinteros	Updated with new press release
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1 Executive Summary

The first SUSTENANCE press release, *"The local communities of the future supply their own green, renewable energy"* has been prepared by AAU with contributions from the demonstration sites, for circulation from M12 of the project. Its focus is to introduce the objectives of SUSTENANCE as well as highlight some of the innovative aspects, i.e. citizen engagement. It has been translated into Danish (see Annex A) to ensure it reaches a wide variety of technical and policy stakeholders, and local citizens.

2 Introduction

The SUSTENANCE project is required to deliver two press releases, the first in M12 and the second in M42. The purpose of this first press release, one year into the project, is to introduce SUSTENANCE's objectives and expected beneficial results. Its structure is focused on highlighting the aims of the project, along with its contribution in terms of accelerating the green transition of Europe's energy system.

The press release (see Annex A) includes personal statements from Prof Birgitte Bak Jensen, Aalborg University (AAU), project coordinator, to enhance the readability of the article and bring the project to life.

A section stating the general information about the project (total duration, list of beneficiaries, EU and DST emblem and official acknowledgment, as required by Horizon 2020 Grant Agreement), is included at the bottom.

3 Press Release Distribution

To ensure the press release reaches the four general target groups identified for SUSTENANCE's communication activities: G1 – Society/citizens), G2 – Industry/innovators, G3 – Local/regional policy makers, G4 – Researchers, the document will be shared via the following different channels:

- The project's website;
- The e-Newsletter;
- SUSTENANCE's LinkedIn page;
- The websites of the project's research institutions: AAU, UT, SAX and IMP;
- Local/national media in DK, India, NL and PL.

Denmark

The press release was published online on the Via Ritzau media system, which reaches 394 Danish media sources, including the trade press:

- https://via.ritzau.dk/pressemeddelelse/nyt-globalt-forskningsprojekt-fremtidens-lokalsamfund-leverer-selv-gron-vedvarendeenergi?publisherId=8155951&releaseId=13653250

The Netherlands

The press release was published online:

- Saxion University of Applied Sciences:

Poland

The press release was published on the website of partner Energa Operator (EOR):

- https://energa-operator.pl/aktualnosci/752741/nowy-globalny-projekt-badawczy-lokalne-spolecznosci-dostarcza-wlasna-zielona-i-odnawialna-energie

India

The press release was published online:

-

In addition, as detailed in D9.1 the project's dissemination and communication plan, the Dissemination, and Exploitation Board are responsible for organising at least 4 press releases per demo/country (at least 1 per each year of project operation). The following local and regional newspapers will be considered as and when activities of local interest take place: Olst-Wijhe local weekly newspaper, Tubantia, Stentor regional daily newspapers (NL), Skanderborg weekly newspaper (Dk), Magazyn Fotowoltaika, Magazyn instalatora, Murator, Instal (PL), and Indian local and regional weekly and daily newspapers and Indian magazines (Electrical India, Saur Energy, Renewable Mirror).

4 Conclusions

As the first SUSTENANCE press release, this deliverable represents the first major step in the public promotion of the project. Moreover, it should generate media interest and contacts for future use, especially for the second press release in M48 which will be focused on disseminating the project's results.

5 Annex A

Nyt globalt forskningsprojekt:

Fremtidens lokalsamfund leverer selv grøn energi

Et nyt, stort EU-støttet forskningsprojekt, der er ledet af Aalborg Universitet, vil hjælpe med etablering af energiøer i lokalsamfund i både Europa og Indien. Målet er, at lokale borgere selv skal kunne skabe CO2-neutrale energifællesskaber med egen produktion af grøn energi.

Lokalsamfund står globalt set for en betydelig andel af det samlede energiforbrug. For at kunne nedsætte CO2-udledningen, der er afgørende for at nå FN's klimamål, er det derfor vigtigt at arbejde på at gøre lokalsamfundenes energiforbrug grønnere og mere effektivt.

Aalborg Universitet koordinerer i samarbejde med forskere fra fire andre lande et stort forskningsprojekt ved navn H2020 SUSTENANCE. Hovedformålet er via bæredygtige energisystemer at sikre en grøn omstilling i lokalsamfund i hele Europa og i Indien. Borgerne er en vigtig nøgle til projektets succes.

"*Den grønne energiomstilling kræver, at vi inddrager borgerne for at lære, hvordan deres adfærd kan være med til at sætte skub i processen med at finde praktiske løsninger, der er tilpasset energiforbruget. Målet er også at sikre en pålidelig energiforsyning i en tid med stigende forbrug af vedvarende energikilder, som også kan være ustabile*", fortæller professor og koordinator i H2020 SUSTENANCE-projektet Birgitte Bak Jensen fra Institut for Energi på Aalborg Universitet.

Lokale energiløsninger sikrer grøn omstilling

Projektet er en del af EU's HORIZON 2020 pulje og har et budget på næsten 4 millioner Euro. Lokalsamfundenes behov for elektricitet, varme, vand, affald og transport er stort. Formålet med projektet er at gøre lokale energikilder CO2-neutrale ved at udnytte de i forvejen tilgængelige kilder til vedvarende energi mere optimalt i lokalområderne.

Ved at integrere teknologiske løsninger såsom intelligent styring, batterilagring og energibalancering vil forskerne sikre en høj grad af fleksibilitet i den grønne energiforsyning. De effektivt integrerede energiløsninger vil være med til at øge andelen af lokale vedvarende energikilder og dermed bidrage til den grønne energiomstilling.

Forskellige samfund i verden bruger samme teknologiske løsninger

De nye energiløsninger vil blive testet af lokalsamfund på forsøgssteder i Danmark, Holland og Polen foruden udvalgte landdistrikter i Indien. På trods af landenes økonomiske, samfundsmæssige og politiske forskelle er målet, at de udvalgte samfund vil vise, at de samme teknologiske løsninger kan tilpasses i hvert enkelt tilfælde. På den måde vil forskerne sikre, at energiløsningerne kan kopieres og implementeres på globalt plan.

Grøn energi og selvforsyning forbedrer livskvaliteten

Et afgørende punkt i SUSTENANCE-projektet er at sikre, at lokalsamfundene er selvforsynende med energi, og at energien kommer fra modstandsdygtige energisystemer. En anden gevinst ved projektet er en forbedring af borgernes livskvalitet i disse lokalsamfund.

To af de udvalgte forsøgsområder i Indien er i landdistrikter, hvor brugen af lokale mikro elnet vil sikre strømforsyningen til vandpumpning, madlavning og opladning af e-rickshaws til transport af skolebørn. Dette vil forbedre dagligdagen for kvinder og børn.

Forhindringer og betingelser for grøn omstilling belyses

Forskerne vil også analysere de eksisterende markeder, lovgivningsmæssige rammer og systemer for at identificere både forhindringer og de betingelser, der er nødvendige for at skabe forandringer. Der vil blive udarbejdet retningslinjer for nye procedurer for energiforvaltning for at vise, hvordan man kan øge bevidsthedsniveauet hos borgerne og øge forbrugernes deltagelse i forandringsprocesserne. På det hollandske forsøgssted hænger projektets vision sammen med øget forbrugerbevidsthed om energi på grund af stigende priser.

"*I den nærmeste fremtid vil den nye normal være en, hvor vi er mere opmærksomme på forholdet mellem det bedste tidspunkt at forbruge energi på, og hvornår denne energi produceres* " forklarer Professor Johann Hurink fra Twente Universitet.

I Polen er en del af projektets mål at uddanne beboere i en boligforening til at kunne skabe en bæredygtig energiø. På den måde kan beboerne eliminere brugen af naturgas og øge brugen af elektricitet fra vedvarende energikilder i deres eget område.

”*Vi har i SUSTENANCE-projektet en holistisk tilgang. Det skal forstås på den måde, at vi både ser på den grønne omstilling og de konkrete teknologiske løsninger, der skal til for at skabe forandringen. Samtidig tager vi hensyn til de menneskelige, markedsmæssige, lovgivningsmæssige og miljømæssige problemstillinger, der skal sikre, at SUSTENANCE implementerer realistiske løsninger, som kan bane vejen for, at andre borgere og samfund følger trop*”, forklarer professor Birgitte Bak Jensen fra Institut for Energi på Aalborg Universitet.

FAKTA:

SUSTENANCE – blev lanceret i juli 2021 og løber i 42 måneder. Det har et budget på over € 3.8 mio fra Horisont 2020, der er EU's rammeprogram for forskning og innovation, foruden midler fra Institut for Videnskab og Teknologi (DST) under Indiens regering.

Konsortiet, der koordineres af Aalborg Universitet (DK), består af 21 modtagere fra fire lande: Skanderborg Kommune (DK), Aura A/S (DK), Neogrid Technologies Aps (DK), Bjerregaard Consulting Aps (DK), Universiteit Twente (NL), Stichting Saxion (NL), Instytut Maszyn Przeplywowych im. Roberta Szewalskiego Polskiej Akademii Nauk (PL), Energa-Operator SA (PL), STAY-ON Pawel Grabowski (PL), Funfacja KEZO przy Centrum Badawczym Polskiej Akademii Nauk (PL), Wlasnosciowa Spoldzienia Mieszkaniowa im. Adama Mickiewicza w Sopocie (PL), Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Indian Institute of Science, Indian Institite of Technology Kharagpur, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, National Institute of Technology Society Tiruchirappalli, National Institute of Technology Silchar,

Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology Nagpur, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Allahhabad, Gram Oorja Solutions Private Limited (Indien).

Dette projekt har modtaget støtte fra EU's Horizon 2020 forsknings- og innovationsprogram under tilskudsaftale no 101022587 og Institut for Videnskab og Teknologi (DST), Indiens regering under SUSTENANCE-projektet. Eventuelle resultater af dette projekt afspejler kun dette konsortiums opfattelse, og finansieringsorganerne og Europa-Kommissionen er ikke ansvarlige for den brug, der måtte blive gjort af de oplysninger, det indeholder.

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https://www.linkedin.com/company/sustenance-h2020-project/

New global research project:

The local communities of the future supply their own green, renewable energy

A large, new EU-funded research project led by Aalborg University will help establish energy islands in local communities in both Europe and India. The goal is for locals to be able to create CO2-neutral energy communities with their own production of green energy.

Local communities around the world account for a significant share of total energy consumption globally. In order to reduce CO2 emissions, crucial to achieving the UN's climate goals, it is therefore important to work on making local communities' energy consumption greener and more efficient.

Aalborg University, in collaboration with researchers from four other countries, is coordinating a major research project called H2020 SUSTENANCE. The main objective is to ensure a green transition in local communities throughout Europe and in India through sustainable energy systems. The project is part of the EU's HORIZON 2020 pool and has a budget of almost 4 million Euros.

"The green energy transition requires us to involve citizens in order to learn how their behaviour can help accelerate the process of finding practical solutions adapted to energy consumption. The goal is also to ensure a reliable energy supply in a time of increasing consumption of renewable energy sources, which can be unstable", says professor and project coordinator in the H2020 SUSTENANCE project Birgitte Bak Jensen from the Department of Energy at Aalborg University.

Local energy solutions ensure green transition

The needs of local communities in terms of electricity, heat, water, waste and transport are high. The aim of the project is to make local energy sources CO2-neutral by utilising the already available sources of renewable energy more optimally in the local areas. By integrating technological solutions such as intelligent control, battery storage and energy balancing, researchers wish to ensure a high degree of flexibility in the green energy supply. The efficiently integrated energy solutions will help to increase the share of local renewable energy sources and thus contribute to the green energy transition.

Different societies around the world use the same technological solutions

The new energy solutions will be tested by local communities at experimental sites in Denmark, the Netherlands and Poland, in addition to selected rural areas in India. Despite their economic, societal and political differences, the goal is for the selected societies to demonstrate that the same technological solutions can be adapted in each individual case. In this way, the researchers wish to ensure that energy solutions can be reproduced globally.

Green energy and self-sufficiency improve quality of life

A crucial point in the SUSTENANCE project is to ensure that local communities are self-sufficient when it comes to energy and that the energy comes from resilient energy systems. Another benefit of the project is its ability to improve the quality of life of citizens in these communities.

Two of the selected pilot areas in India are rural areas where the use of local microgrids will secure power supply for water pumping, cooking and charging of e-rickshaws for transporting school children. This will improve the everyday lives of women and children.

Obstacles and conditions for the green transition are highlighted

The researchers will also analyse existing markets, regulatory frameworks and systems to identify both obstacles and the conditions needed to create change. Guidelines for new energy management procedures will be developed to show how to raise citizens' awareness levels and increase consumer participation in change processes. At the Dutch test site, the project's vision is linked to increased consumer awareness of energy due to rising prices.

"In the near future, the new normal will be one where we are more aware of the relationship between the best time to consume energy and when this energy is produced," explains Professor Johann Hurink from Twente University.

In Poland, the project will take steps towards educating residents of a housing association to be able to create a sustainable energy island. In this way, residents will be able to eliminate the use of natural gas and increase the use of electricity from renewable energy sources in their own area.

"*In the SUSTENANCE project, we are taking a holistic approach. This is to be understood in the sense that we are looking at both the green transition and the concrete technological solutions that are needed to create change. At the same time, we are taking into account the human, market, regulatory and environmental issues that are to ensure that SUSTENANCE implements realistic solutions that can pave the way for other citizens and societies to follow suit*," explains Professor Birgitte Bak Jensen from the Department of Energy at Aalborg University.

FACTS: About SUSTENANCE

SUSTENANCE – launched in July 2021 and runs for 42 months. It has a budget of over €3.8m from Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and also receives funding from the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The consortium, coordinated by Aalborg University (DK), consists of 21 recipients from 4 countries: Skanderborg Kommune (DK), Aura A/S (DK), Neogrid Technologies ApS (DK), Bjerregaard Consulting ApS (DK), Universiteit Twente (NL), Stichting Saxion (NL), Instytut Maszyn Przeplywowych im. Roberta Szewalskiego Polskiej Akademii Nauk (PL), Energa-Operator SA (PL), STAY-ON Pawel Grabowski (PL), Funfacja KEZO przy Centrum Badawczym Polskiej Akademii Nauk (PL), Wlasnosciowa Spoldzienia Mieszkaniowa im. Adama Mickiewicza w Sopocie (PL), Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Indian Institute of Science, Indian Institite of Technology Kharagpur, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, National Institute of Technology Society Tiruchirappalli, National Institute of Technology Silchar, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology Nagpur, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Allahhabad, Gram Oorja Solutions Private Limited (India).

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