Organisation Partner Profile for Project Consortia

Focus, Association for Sustainable Development

Focus is one of the **leading Slovene environmental and research-oriented organizations**, recognized nationally and internationally for its strong expertise in climate, energy, mobility and sustainability. With a team of 17 professionals, we are actively engaged in advocacy and scientific inquiry. As a registered research organization, Focus participates in numerous European projects and has previously coordinated a Horizon project, demonstrating **strong capacity for high-level project management** and **international collaboration**.

While **environmental** policy remains our core area of work, we place equal importance on exploring its **social dimensions**. We explore how green transitions can produce short-term (mostly financial) burdens for vulnerable groups, and work to ensure that **environmental measures are fair**, **inclusive** and **respectful of human rights**. This dual commitment—environmental advocacy paired with social and human-rights-based research—positions Focus as a bridge between sustainability goals and social equity in national and European policymaking.



We are currently seeking partners for projects, particularly for those addressing **sustainable mobility** and **energy solutions** through the lens of **transport poverty**, **energy poverty** and **broader social impacts**.

Webpage: https://focus.si

Topics of Interest & Approaches

/ Energy Communities
/ Citizen Engagement in the Energy
/ Renewable Energy Management
/ Just Transition (vulnerable groups)
/ Sustainable Mobility Transition
/ Sustainable Transport Policy & / Public Transport Advocacy
/ Mobility Behaviour & Transport Poverty / Transport Poverty
/ Sustainable Consumption
/ Sustainable Food Systems
/ Social Inclusion & Social Equity
/ Vulnerable Groups & Accessibility of Sustainable Solutions
/ Energy Poverty
/ Public Participation & co-creation
/ Social Innovation
/ Community Resilience
/ Participatory Approaches
/ Community Engagement
/ Behaviour Change Methodologies
/ Field Research, Focus Groups, Interviews
/ Co-creation
/ Piloting and Testing new services
/ Raising Awareness and Capacity Building

Key Expertise & Competences

/ **Domain Expertise:** Solid knowledge of energy poverty, transport poverty, climate adaptation, gender issues, governance and democracy, and housing policies.

/ **Research Methods:** Skilled in social science research methods, including qualitative and quantitative approaches in social studies, geography, and related fields.

/ **Collaboration & Networking:** Experience in multi-partner European projects, fostering cross-disciplinary and international cooperation.

/ **Project Management:** Competent in planning, coordination, and delivery of research projects, including monitoring milestones and managing resources.

/ **EU Funding & Compliance:** Strong understanding of EU funding mechanisms, grant agreements, ethics, and reporting requirements.

/ **Communication & Dissemination:** Effective in presenting research to both expert and non-expert audiences, and in disseminating results for maximum impact.

Other Relevant Expertise

facilitating citizen engagement activities / conducting social research and behavioural analysis / designing participatory co-creation processes / piloting community-based solutions / stakeholder mapping & involvement / integrating environmental and social aspects / evaluation of environmental and social impacts / shaping policy guidance and recommendations

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Past Projects

/ EmpowerMed: Empowering women to take action against energy poverty in the Mediterranean

(Horizon 2020, 2019 – 2023) | Coordinator | **European Social Innovation Award 2023**

The overall objective of EmpowerMed was to tackle energy poverty and to help improve health of people in the coastal areas of Mediterranean countries, with a particular focus on women. The project raised public awareness on energy poverty and the means for its alleviation, focusing on the specifics of coastal areas, gender and health aspects. It also implemented practical solutions tailored to empower households affected by energy poverty and formulated local, national and EU policy recommendations and promote solutions to tackle energy poverty.

/ REACH: Reduce energy use and change habits

(Intelligent Energy Europe, 2014 – 2017) | Coordinator

REACH focused on South-East Europe (Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia) to contribute to energy poverty abatement at practical and structural level. Over 200 students and volunteers from vocational schools and faculties were trained to perform energy audits and helped partners to implement 1,564 household visits. Project also resulted in several successes in policy field, establishing a national program of household visits in Slovenia, motivating over 50 local actors to engage and address the challenge of energy poverty and presenting a set of policy recommendations that are specific to the South-East Europe to more than 120 national and 300 EU level decision makers and relevant stakeholders.



/ Gender4Power: Generating Equity, Nurturing Diversity, Energising Resilience 4 Power Against Energy Poverty

(LIFE, 2024 – 2028)

The GENDER4POWER project aims to enhance living conditions and energy efficiency in buildings (and households) affected by energy poverty. It emphasizes a holistic gender-responsive, multi-stakeholder, and people-centred approach to renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions. It aspires to demonstrate the potential of gender-responsive projects in meeting EU strategies. By incorporating gender mainstreaming and intersectionality and by involving citizens, the project aims to enhance public acceptance and community trust, bridge social networks, and ensure active participation of marginalized groups in decision-making processes.

/ SOCIALNRG: Sustainable Options for Community-based Low-income Renewable energy

(LIFE, 2024 - 2027)

SOCIALNRG is building resilient, citizen-led energy initiatives across Belgium, Italy, and Slovenia. By uniting social and cooperative housing providers, the project helps low-income residents reduce costs while fostering social ties, local ownership, and active participation in the energy transition. At a time when social and environmental priorities risk being overshadowed, SOCIALNRG proves that a fair and sustainable energy future is possible.

/ ZENPRE: Reducing Energy and Transport Poverty

(Slovenian Eco Fund, 2020, 2019 – 2023)

The ZENPRE project focuses on reducing both poverties among two particularly vulnerable groups—older adults and women—who are at greater risk due to low incomes and other structural disadvantages. It aims to better understand their needs in mobility and energy use, and to empower them through training, awareness-raising, and behavioral change, while also informing policy and fostering stakeholder cooperation. Ultimately, the project seeks to support more socially just, gender-sensitive, and sustainable energy and mobility systems.

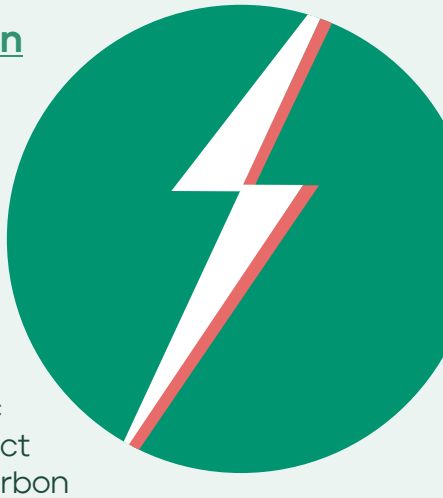
/ Renoverty: Home Renovation Roadmaps to Address Energy Poverty in Vulnerable Rural Districts

(LIFE, 2022 - 2025)

RENOVERTY fosters energy efficiency building upgrades in the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)/Southeastern Europe (SEE) countries, as well as Southern European countries (SE), by setting the methodological and practical frame to build renovation roadmaps of vulnerable rural districts in a financially viable and socially just manner.

/ Overcoming Transport Poverty in the Era of Green Transition: A Mixed Methods Approach

(research project, 2023 – 2026)



The project investigates transport poverty in the context of the green transition, examining how environmental policies may unevenly affect different population groups. By combining quantitative and qualitative methods, it aims to uncover hidden factors of mobility exclusion, develop a standardized definition of transport poverty for Slovenia, and assess the macroeconomic impacts of green policies through a CGE model. Ultimately, the project seeks to provide evidence-based guidance for a fairer low-carbon transition and more effective transport and social policy planning.

Awards

European Social Innovation Award
2023

Awarded for EmpowerMed by the European Commission

SozialMarie Prize
2024

Awarded for the Hrastnik Solar School Energy Community

Energy Globe Award
2024

Awarded for the Hrastnik Solar School Energy Community

European Commission

SozialMarie PRIZE for SOCIAL INNOVATION

