

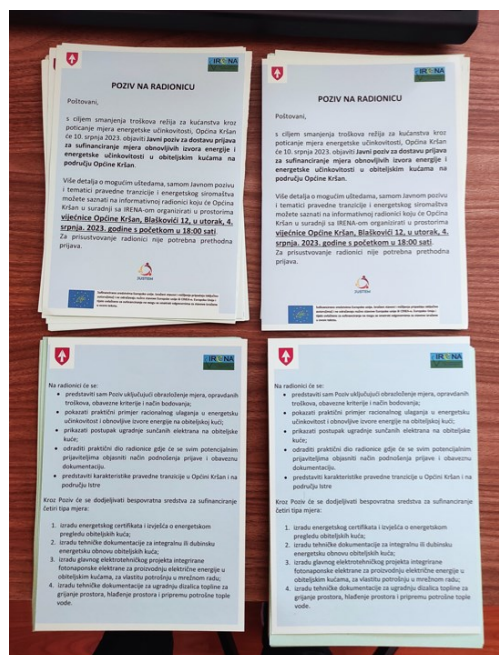
## PREPARATION AND INVITATIONS

The preparation for the first citizen workshop was organized in cooperation between IRENA - Istrian Regional Energy Agency and Kršan Municipality which also provided the venue for the event.

The workshop was planned to include two topics – application procedure and information about the public call for co-financing measures of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in family houses in Kršan Municipality area, and Just transition introduction and relevant information, as well as the current status in the region.

Initially the workshop was planned only for the public call topic, however since Kršan Municipality is designated as one of the main interest areas in the Territorial Just Transition Plan for Croatia and the last operational coal power plant in Croatia, TE Plomin, is located in this Municipality, the topic of Just transition was of particular interest for the local authority and these topics were combined. The topic of the public call was also then decided to be presented in the context of energy poverty.

The workshop was promoted by both Kršan Municipality and IRENA through social media, official website publications, radio announcements, phonecalls and invitation flyer distribution and bulletin board announcements. IRENA produced 490 invitation flyers with basic information about the workshop. These flyers were distributed in various settlements located across Kršan Municipality by IRENA staff according to a flyer distribution itinerary also made by IRENA.



Picture 1. Invitation flyers

Kršan Municipality consists of 2.951 residents, while Kršan settlement consists of 735 residents (24,91% of total), Vozilići-Šušnjeвица settlements consist of 744 residents (25,21% of total) and Čepić settlement consists of 407 residents (13,79% of total). These are the largest settlements in the Municipality as seen in Table 1 below, and were therefore selected as best for flyer distribution.

Popis stanovnika po naseljima	Broj	%		Prijedlog tura	Broj stanovnika	Udio u ukupnom broju st.
Blaškovići	149	5,05%	149	<b>KRŠAN</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>24,91%</b>
Boljevići	86	2,91%	86			
Čambarelići	154	5,22%	154	<b>VOZILIĆI-ŠUŠNJEVIKA</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>25,21%</b>
Jesenovik	57	1,93%	57			
Kostrčani	30	1,02%		<b>ČEPIĆ</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>13,79%</b>
Kožljak	160	5,42%	160			
Kršan	238	8,07%	238			
Lanišće	74	2,51%				
Lazarići	96	3,25%	96			
Letaj	43	1,46%				
Nova vas	69	2,34%	69			
Plomin	113	3,83%	113			
Plomin Luka	173	5,86%				
Polje Čepić	148	5,02%	148			
Potpican	513	17,38%				
Purgarija Čepić	228	7,73%	228			
Stepčići	40	1,36%	40			
Šušnjeвица	69	2,34%	69			
Veljaki	120	4,07%	12			
Vozilići	236	8,00%	236			
Zagorje	116	3,93%				
Zankovci	8	0,27%				
Zatka Čepić	31	1,05%	31			
<b>UKUPNO</b>	<b>2951</b>					

Table 1: Kršan Municipality settlement number of residents

The itinerary consisted of three tours, with two people on each tour:

Tour 1 (orange): Settlements Stepčići-Vozilići-Plomin-Kožljak-Šušnjeвица

Tour 2 (green): Settlements Kršan Pristav-Kršan Blaškovići-Čambarelići-Lazarići-Veljaki-Boljevići

Tour 3 (blue): Settlement Čepić

IRENA staff distributed 490 invitation flyers to residents' PO boxes or directly to residents if possible, and announcements were placed on approximately 20 local bulletin boards.



Picture 2. Bulletin boards

## WORKSHOP

Location: Kršan Municipality City Hall  
 Time and place: Tuesday, 04<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 18:00 PM  
 Participants: 32

### Agenda:

18:00 – 18:15	Participants reception and welcome speech Lucian Mrzlić, president of Kršan Municipal council
18:15 – 18:35	Rational investment in energy efficiency on the example of a family house Dalibor Jovanović, IRENA
18:35 – 18:55	Photovoltaic power plant installation steps for family houses Andrea Poldrugovac, IRENA
18:55 – 19:10	Public Call application demonstration Doris Pajković, IRENA
19:10 – 19:30	Just transition introduction and status in the region Antonio Franković, IRENA
19:30 – 20:30	Open discussion and Q&A All involved participants

The workshop was organised in Kršan Municipality City Hall on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 18:00 PM. A total of 32 participants were reported, consisting of Kršan Municipality members, IRENA members, Kršan Municipality residents, a representative from Istrian County, a representative from LAG 'East Istria', and a representative from 'Mate Blažina' high school.

The workshop was divided into two parts – the first part was the preparation for the application for the Public call for co-financing measures of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in family houses in the area of the Municipality of Kršan. In order to increase the use of renewable energy sources and reduce overhead costs for households, as well as to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the building sector, the Municipality of Kršan will publish a public call for submission of applications for co-financing measures of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in family homes in the municipality on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Therefore, the workshop was intended to provide to the residents basic information and conditions of the public call and to also explain the topic of energy poverty in this context. Members of IRENA are responsible for providing technical assistance to the Municipality and citizens during the duration of this Call and therefore participated as presenters. Participants were presented with practical examples and the process of investing in renewable energy sources, provided advice related to investment and installation of new or replacement of old heating and cooling systems, and demonstrated the application submission process for the upcoming call and possible obstacles during application. Energy poverty was discussed during this part since the mentioned upcoming call is linked to ENU-4 - Energy refurbishment program for family houses in 2021-2030 period as defined in the National Action Plan of Energy Efficiency for 2022-2024 period published in August 2022, a program also aimed at energy poverty alleviation.

The second part was an introduction to Just transition topic and current status of Just transition in the Municipality and Istrian County, as well as the possibilities of citizen involvement.

The participants were first introduced to the topic of Just transition through basic information, planning process and general strategy of Just transition in Croatia. The basic premise, definition and goals of Just transition were explained to the participants. Importance of Territorial Just Transition Plan for Croatia was briefly elaborated along with the planning timeline and implementation of the Plan. Current coal sector status and trends in Croatia, as well as energy poverty definition, terminology and status were also presented, and the participants were informed of future trends relating to closure of coal related industries and the need to adapt to new business opportunities, on local, regional and national level. This was followed by information on main economic operators in Istrian region and number of workers affected by transition from coal to cleaner energy sources. Participants were also informed of the coal phase out date planned in 2023 and the urgency for adaptation to new conditions. A brief overview of Territorial Just Transitional Plan status in JUSTEM partnership based on T.2.1. Report analysis of TJTP plans in each partner country was presented next. Characteristics and

main focus of Just Transition Fund, was presented at the end, as well as a short recapitulation of the presentation with possible challenges and expected activities in the next time period.

Infographic flyers and questionnaires were distributed to the participants during the Just transition presentation, and filled-out questionnaires were collected at the end of the discussion part.

Results of the questionnaires were as following:

For the question rating the usefulness of the workshop, 9 persons (33,33%) rated the workshop as very helpful, 13 persons (48,15%) as somewhat helpful, 4 persons (14,81%) as neutral, and 1 person (3,70%) as somewhat not helpful. Based on the answers, we can rate the workshop as moderately to highly useful to the participants.

For the question rating the participants' level of being informed about Just transition, 6 persons (22,22%) rated the level of being informed as very high, 13 persons (48,15%) as somewhat high, 7 persons (25,93%) as neutral, and 1 person (3,70%) as somewhat not high. Based on the answers, we can rate the workshop as moderately to highly informative to the participants regarding the Just transition topic.

The answers to these two questions signify that the participants generally understood the basic concept of Just transition, are better informed about its goals and can possibly apply them in the future.

For the question rating the participants' level of understanding of Just transition process activities in their Municipality, 8 persons (29,63%) rated the level of understanding as very high, 12 persons (44,44%) as somewhat high, 5 persons (18,52%) as neutral, and 2 persons (7,41%) as somewhat not high. Based on the answers, we can rate the workshop as providing a moderate to high level of understanding of current Just transition activities to the participants.

For the question rating the participants' opinion on the significance of their influence on municipal policies of their Municipality, 1 person (3,70%) rated the level of understanding as very high, 11 persons (40,74%) as somewhat high, 5 persons (18,52%) as neutral, 8 persons (29,63%) as somewhat not high, and 2 persons (7,41%) as not high at all. Based on the answers, we can rate the workshop as providing a neutral to moderate level of participants' overall positive belief in the significance of their influence on municipal policies.

From the answers to these two questions, we can conclude that the participants have been informed and equipped to keep track of ongoing activities related to Just transition in their local area of interest and are aware of their possible influence on these activities.

The following question in the questionnaire asked the participants to rank six topics within Just transition suggested by JUSTEM based on significance, 1 being least important and 6 being most important. The initial goal of the question was for participants to rank all six suggested topics as a whole, ranking them from least to most important. However, probably due to the

question being structured without offering all necessary information, most participants filled out the survey differently – by ranking each individual topic from 1 to 6, stating their rating of importance for each topic separately. Therefore, the results of these questions are analyzed for both methods according to the methodology used.

Method of ranking all topics as a whole: The highest rated topic with 32 points is the offered topic of implementing social policies enabling financial support to families during transition to clean energy, followed by the topic of ensuring employment to each person in new green economy with 25 points. Next topic by significance is the topic of supporting workers in learning new skills in order to adapt to the new labor market with 24 points, followed by the topic of assistance to citizens in making their own 'green' energy with 20 points. Two lowest rated and least significant topics according to participants' ratings are the topic of minimizing the risk of inaccessibility of energy during transition to clean energy and the topic of enabling more efficient solutions for replacement of outdated services, both with 16 points.

Method of ranking each individual topic from 1 to 6: the offered topic of ensuring employment to each person in new green economy was rated by 10 persons (50%) as highly important, 6 persons (30%) as important, 3 persons (15%) as neutral, and 1 person (5%) as not very important. The offered topic of supporting workers in learning new skills in order to adapt to the new labor market was rated by 6 persons (30%) as highly important, 11 persons (55%) as important, and 3 persons (15%) as neutral. The offered topic of implementing social policies enabling financial support to families during transition to clean energy was rated by 4 persons (20%) as highly important, 10 persons (50%) as important, 4 persons (20%) as neutral, and 2 persons (10%) as not very important. The offered topic of minimizing the risk of inaccessibility of energy during transition to clean energy was rated by 7 persons (35%) as highly important, 9 persons (45%) as important, and 4 persons (20%) as neutral. The offered topic of enabling more efficient solutions for replacement of outdated services was rated by 7 persons (35%) as highly important, 10 persons (50%) as important, 1 person (5%) as neutral, and 2 persons (10%) as not very important. Lastly, the offered topic of assistance to citizens in making their own 'green' energy was rated by 11 persons (55%) as highly important, 4 persons (20%) as important, 4 persons (20%) as neutral, and 1 person (5%) as not very important.

Combining the ratings from both methodologies and using a basic calculation of rating numbers to determine the final results, according to workshop participants the topic of ensuring employment to each person in new green economy is considered as the most important topic with 110 points. The next most important topic is the topic of implementing social policies enabling financial support to families during transition to clean energy with 108 points, followed by the topic of supporting workers in learning new skills in order to adapt to the new labor market with 107 points. The topic of assistance to citizens in making their own 'green' energy is next with 105 points. Two topics deemed as least important are the topic of minimizing the risk of inaccessibility of energy during transition to clean energy with 99 points and the topic of enabling more efficient solutions for replacement of outdated services with 98 points.

The responses provided by the participants to the last question, asking which problem or need in Kršan Municipality is most important to address on the next workshop, were the following: recognising opportunities for new employment, defining useful social policies, analyzing the need for energy communities, focus on renewable energy sources, financial support for parents, and enhancing local infrastructure.



Picture 2. Infographic

Open discussion was held after the Just transition presentation and was divided into two separate groups whose members interchanged at times – one group discussed the public call, while the other discussed Just transition issues, concerns regarding the transition process and individual needs in this context.

Concerns were raised by several residents in regards to the possibility of involvement in the Just transition process, stating that they are very sceptical if citizens voices are heard on municipal, and particularly on regional level. This was further supported by the fact that the TJTP process for Croatia was done almost entirely without citizen involvement or feedback. However, interest in the process was expressed and feedback opportunity was viewed as positive.

Kršan Municipality expressed their support for the Just transition process and involvement of both IRENA and local residents. It was stated that further support will be necessary to promote the project of entrepreneurial and innovation incubator approved by European Commission for JTF financing under Kršan Municipality jurisdiction to interested residents in the following months. The incubator will serve to develop new technologies and products and will aim to position Kršan Municipality as one of the technologically more developed local government

units in Croatia, offering new jobs and reskilling and upskilling opportunities. It was mentioned that a potential programme of refurbishment, reconstruction and conversion study was developed for a building in Potpićan settlement formerly used for coal separation. This building will be converted to be used for entrepreneurial and innovation incubator utilities.

It was also mentioned that a conceptual solution project for the incubator is being developed and that the next phase for the project is also solving legal property relations since the building in question is in possession of Croatian government. Since the Municipality will be providing financial incentives in the form of subsidies to new potential investors and accelerating the business zone plot distribution to stimulate employment and production, local residents will be necessary for the successful start and implementation of the mentioned JTF project, and the Municipality will have to define interested parties beforehand for promotional and co-financing purposes. Additionally, non-refundable grants are also envisioned for young and new entrepreneurs and StartUps.

Additional concerns were raised by residents regarding the upcoming incubator project, stating that it will be difficult to attract new entrepreneurs to the area mainly due to the positioning of the business zone which is in a slightly distant location and due to the current business climate, where businesses are being shut down due to increasingly difficult economic conditions. Concerns were addressed by Kršan Municipality members stating that financial incentives and additional promotional steps will be undertaken in order to enable the successful implementation of the project.

Reskilling opportunities in the context of the incubator project were deemed as positive, but residents were slightly concerned how these opportunities will be able to involve older residents, which are less flexible and less open to business environment changes.

Potential for regional development was recognised in enhancing the Municipalities' infrastructure, mainly the roads and water grid, in order to repair damaged roads and bring water to settlements without steady water service and to improve connection efficiency to the incubator and the surrounding area. Other development opportunities were recognised through Municipality policies targeting the stimulation of new businesses and outside investment, and increasing existing grants and introducing new grants for deficitary occupations.

Energy poverty was discussed and some residents mentioned spending a third or half of their monthly salary on utilities. However, almost all residents reported spending increasingly more on utilities each year, meaning that the percentage spent on utilities has a rising trend and the risk of energy poverty is increasing.

Importance of residents engagement in the Just transition process was mentioned by IRENA, stating that Kršan Municipality needs their feedback and support in order to better plan and conduct their JTF project and other activities related to the project and that the following project phase is very difficult, if not impossible without citizen participation.



The open discussion was extended until 21:15 PM, after which the workshop was finished. At the end of the discussion, all participants were invited to participate on the second workshop and were told that they will be informed in time about the event.



Picture 3. Workshop venue and participants

## **AFTER THE WORKSHOP**

JUSTEM Interviews were discussed with several selected participants and IRENA agreed to follow up and distribute them in the days following the workshop.

A discussion was also held with Kršan Municipality representatives for organising another citizen workshop some time in Autumn.

The venue for the workshop unfortunately proved to be slightly insufficient spacewise, since several participants had to stand and follow the presentations from the hallway. The second workshop will therefore probably be organised in a different location to support all the participants.