



“Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Mobility and Energy Efficiency in Island and rural Contexts”

Second Meeting, Siggiewi Local Council, Malta



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Introduction



- ▶ Glabušovce, in Slovakia, is a village with only 123 residents.
- ▶ Despite its size, the municipality exemplifies how tailored, innovative technologies can significantly enhance quality of life, promote environmental sustainability, and foster resilient local development.
- ▶ By sharing experiences and best practices, we aim to identify effective strategies that can be adapted and implemented in similar rural and island contexts across Europe and beyond.

Introduction



In Glabušovce, despite its small population, we have embraced several innovative technologies and practices to promote sustainable mobility and improve energy efficiency:

- 1. Solar-Powered Street Lighting:**

We will installed solar-powered LED streetlights throughout the village, reducing energy consumption and operational costs. This sustainable lighting solution has improved safety during nighttime, while minimizing our carbon footprint.

- 2. Electric Vehicle Charging Station:**

Although limited in scale, we are planning to set up a small electric vehicle (EV) charging station to encourage the use of electric transportation among residents and visitors. This initiative will promote cleaner mobility options and will prepares our community for broader adoption of EVs.

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3. Community-Based Carpooling Platform:

We will introduce in the short term future a digital carpooling platform tailored for our residents, facilitating shared transportation for work, shopping, and social activities. This practice reduces individual car use, lowers emissions, and fosters community engagement.

4. Energy Efficiency Improvements:

We will upgrade public buildings with better insulation and energy-efficient heating systems, significantly reducing energy consumption and costs.

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► Impact:

- These initiatives will led to noticeable reductions in energy costs, increased awareness of sustainable practices, and enhanced connectivity within our community. They also will serve as a model for other small rural municipalities aiming to improve sustainability with limited resources.

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In a small community like Glabušovce, fostering collaboration among stakeholders is essential to successfully implement sustainable mobility and energy efficiency initiatives. Given our limited population, we focus on building strong, personal relationships and leveraging existing community structures. Some of the strategies that have proven effective include:

- ▶ **Community Meetings and Informal Gatherings:**
We regularly hold small, informal meetings where residents, local leaders, and representatives of NGOs or nearby organizations can share ideas, discuss needs, and plan joint actions. This open communication fosters trust and collective ownership of projects.

How do you foster collaboration between different stakeholders (e.g., local governments, NGOs, businesses, and community members) to enhance sustainable mobility and energy efficiency initiatives? What strategies have proven effective in your experience?



- ▶ **Leveraging Local Events and Traditions:**
We integrate sustainability messages into local events, festivals, or gatherings, encouraging participation from community members and local stakeholders. This approach raises awareness and fosters a sense of shared responsibility.
- ▶ **Partnerships with Regional Organizations:**
Although our community is small, we collaborate with regional NGOs, nearby municipalities, or external experts who can provide technical support or funding opportunities. These partnerships expand our capacity and bring in innovative ideas.

How do you foster collaboration between different stakeholders (e.g., local governments, NGOs, businesses, and community members) to enhance sustainable mobility and energy efficiency initiatives? What strategies have proven effective in your experience?



► Volunteer Initiatives:

We encourage residents to volunteer for sustainability projects, such as maintaining solar panels or organizing carpooling groups. Personal involvement increases engagement and helps sustain initiatives over time.

► Effective Strategies:

Building trust through transparent communication, emphasizing the shared benefits of sustainability, and involving community members directly in decision-making have proven most effective. In small communities, personal relationships and a sense of collective purpose are key to sustaining collaborations and achieving our goals.

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In Glabušovce, promoting democratic dialogue and community engagement is vital given our small size. We prioritize inclusive and transparent communication to ensure everyone's voice is heard in developing and implementing sustainable mobility initiatives. Some of the approaches we use include:

1. Regular Community Meetings:

We organize informal gatherings where residents can discuss mobility challenges and suggest solutions. These meetings are accessible to all and foster open exchange of ideas, allowing community members to influence decision-making directly.

2. Suggestion Box and Feedback Channels:

We maintain a physical suggestion box and utilize simple communication methods such as local notice boards or a community WhatsApp group, encouraging residents to share their ideas or concerns between meetings.

In what ways do you promote democratic dialogue and community engagement in developing and implementing sustainable mobility initiatives? How can we enhance the sense of European identity while addressing local needs?



3. Involving Local Leaders and Volunteers:

We engage trusted community members and local leaders to facilitate dialogue, spread information, and encourage participation, ensuring diverse voices are included.

4. Participatory Planning:

When planning initiatives like improving local transport or bike routes, we involve residents in the early stages to co-design solutions that meet their needs and reflect their priorities.

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5. Enhancing a Sense of European Identity While Addressing Local Needs:

We see the European dimension as an opportunity to connect our community to broader values of sustainability, solidarity, and innovation. To strengthen this connection, we promote awareness of European programs and funding opportunities, highlighting how they support local projects. We also celebrate shared European values through local events, emphasizing how sustainable mobility contributes to a unified effort across Europe while respecting our unique local context.

By fostering inclusive dialogue and linking local efforts to European ideals, we aim to build a stronger community identity rooted in shared values of sustainability and cooperation.

What capacity-building strategies or training sessions have you found effective in empowering local stakeholders (including youth and women) to engage in sustainable mobility solutions? What topics do you believe should be prioritized in future workshops?



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In our small community of 123 residents, capacity-building is essential to empower all stakeholders—especially youth and women—to actively participate in sustainable mobility solutions. Some effective strategies we've implemented include:

1. Interactive Workshops and Training Sessions:

We organize accessible, informal workshops focused on practical topics such as basic understanding of sustainable mobility options (e.g., cycling, walking, carpooling) and how to advocate for changes within the community. These sessions are designed to be inclusive, encouraging participation from diverse groups, including youth and women.

2. Peer-to-Peer Learning:

We promote sharing experiences among community members, where those who have adopted sustainable practices (like cycling or using shared transport) can motivate others and share tips.

What capacity-building strategies or training sessions have you found effective in empowering local stakeholders (including youth and women) to engage in sustainable mobility solutions? What topics do you believe should be prioritized in future workshops?



3. Involving Local Schools and Women's Groups:

Engaging youth through school activities and involving women's groups helps ensure that different perspectives are represented and that capacity-building reaches those often underrepresented.

4. Providing Simple Resources and Support:

Distributing easy-to-understand materials, like flyers or short videos, helps reinforce learning and encourages ongoing engagement.

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Topics to Prioritize in Future Workshops:

- ▶ **Basics of Sustainable Mobility:** Understanding options and benefits
- ▶ **Advocacy and Leadership Skills:** How to influence local decision-making
- ▶ **Digital Skills:** Using apps or online platforms for carpooling or bike-sharing
- ▶ **Funding Opportunities:** How to access European or regional grants for mobility projects
- ▶ **Inclusive Approaches:** Ensuring mobility solutions serve all community members, including vulnerable groups

Focusing on these topics can strengthen local capacity, foster ownership of initiatives, and ensure sustainable mobility solutions are inclusive and community-driven.

How do you currently monitor and evaluate the impact of your sustainable mobility and energy efficiency initiatives? What indicators and methodologies have you found most useful for assessing progress and ensuring long-term success?

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In our community, we recognize the importance of systematically tracking the impact of our sustainable mobility and energy efficiency initiatives to ensure continuous improvement and long-term success. Our approach includes the following strategies:

1. Defining Clear Indicators

We focus on both quantitative and qualitative indicators such as:

- ▶ **Transport Mode Share:** Percentage of residents using sustainable options like walking, cycling, or shared transport
- ▶ **Energy Consumption:** Changes in household or community-level energy use, particularly from renewable sources
- ▶ **Participation Rates:** Number of community members involved in initiatives, workshops, or events
- ▶ **Emission Reductions:** Estimated decrease in CO₂ emissions attributable to mobility and energy measures
- ▶ **Behavioral Changes:** Increased awareness and adoption of energy-saving practices, assessed through surveys

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2. Data Collection Methodologies

- ▶ **Surveys and Questionnaires:** To gather feedback on behavior changes, satisfaction, and awareness levels
- ▶ **Mobility and Energy Use Tracking:** Using simple tools such as logs, community surveys, or digital apps where available
- ▶ **Observation and Counts:** Monitoring foot and bicycle traffic, or usage of shared mobility options at key locations
- ▶ **Energy Use Audits:** Conducting periodic assessments of household or communal energy consumption

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3. Use of Participatory Approaches

Engaging community members in monitoring helps build ownership and ensures relevant data collection. For example, local volunteers can assist in data gathering or in conducting informal interviews.

4. Regular Reporting and Feedback Loops

We compile data into periodic reports (e.g., biannual or annual) to assess progress, identify challenges, and adapt strategies accordingly. Sharing these results with the community fosters transparency and motivation.



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