

Empowering H2-ready Regions in Central Europe

H2CE at a Glance

“Supporting the energy transition to a climate-neutral central Europe” (SO 2.1)

1 April 2023 – 31 March 2026

2.4 million € total budget

12 partners, 7 countries, 9 regions

Lead Partner:

Joint Spatial Planning Department
Berlin-Brandenburg



DE: Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg
JSPD Berlin-Brandenburg
Regional Development Agency Northwestern-Brandenburg
City and Regional Utilities Luebben

PL: Regions of Pomorskie and of Lower Silesia
Pomeranian Voivodeship
Foundation “Dumni z Lubina”

CZ: Usti Region
Economic and Social Council of the Ústí region

AT: Region of Styria
Energy Agency of Styria

IT: Regions of Veneto and of Emilia-Romagna
Regional Union of Chambers of Commerce of Veneto Region
Institute for Transport and Logistics Foundation

HR: Zagreb Region and North-West Croatia
City of Zagreb
North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency

SK: Communication Manager
Twenty Communications

13 supporting partners from central Europe

Challenge

Transition to climate neutrality will need a boost of production, storage, transmission and use green hydrogen in a rather short term.

Regions in central Europe have to integrate hydrogen issues into their local and regional energy planning.

Objectives and expected changes

The project aims at anchoring the European requirements of the energy transition with a focus on transferable energy planning at the local and regional level in regions in central Europe.

- Integration of H2 into regional and transnational strategies
- Identification of regulatory hurdles
- Coordination with regional actors – multi-level governance
- Strengthening local and regional capacities and competencies
- Consolidation of hydrogen projects

Main outputs and solutions

The project partners will jointly develop strategies and action plans, establish competence centres and design a hydrogen incentive scheme.

The project results will be bundled and consolidated through a digital collaboration platform. The platform and all project outputs will be made available for other European regions.

Why cooperation is central?

H2CE empowers regions to steer and coordinate the process of developing a hydrogen infrastructure and to integrate hydrogen solutions into their existing instruments of spatial and regional development. The project builds on existing regional and national knowledge platforms and networks, which will be complemented by a transregional perspective.

H2CE will foster territorial cooperation in central Europe. It is supported by cross-border and transnational initiatives and alliances.