**Project Summary**

**Project Background**
The South East-European (SEE) countries are characterized by the lowest per capita income in Europe and enormous per capita energy consumption. At the same time the whole Balkan region has to cope with shortages in energy supply, power blackouts and a high dependency on energy imports. Striving for more independence, most Balkan states have already elaborated national strategies aiming at reducing of energy use, however huge potentials for improving energy efficiency (EE) and increased use of renewable energies (RE) in the region remain still unexploited. The German Government has created an Open Regional Fund (ORF) on Energy implemented by GTZ that opens up a broad spectrum of technical assistance subprojects in the field of EE and RE.

**Project Objectives**
The overall goal of the project is to make energy supply and consumption in the South East Europe more sustainable through more efficient energy utilisation and growing use of renewable energies.

**Project Activities**
- Support of regional dialogue and networks as well as knowledge transfer between key local stakeholders such as public energy regulators, communes, academic and research institutions, NGOs, supplier of energy products and services and their associations.
- Advice to the members of the Task Force on EE and RE of the Energy Community Secretariat on the strategies formulation, assistance in the preparation of national action plans on EE (NEEAPs) in SMEs, transport, service sector, public buildings and private households; advice in preparing laws, regulations, and incentive programmes.
- Support of the Task Force Energy Efficiency of NALAS, a regional network with members from 13 countries in South-East Europe. Development of the NALAS strategy study on EE, a network-wide assessment of needs and potentials for joint activities of the member associations promoting EE and RE at the local level, including recommendations for political actions at the regional level of NALAS, as well as at the national level of the 13 countries.
- Establishment of a regional knowledge management system by elaborating conceptual documents, by implementing of supportive measures and by establishing a cooperation network.
- Support to relevant groups of actors in the implementation of measures aiming at energy saving and increased use of RE.
- Implementation of small demonstration projects.

*) Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia

**Services Provided**
- Establishment of a regional knowledge management system
- Advice on strategy formulation and elaboration of national policies on renewable energy and energy efficiency, e.g. NEEAP
- Development of the NALAS strategy study on EE potentials
- Training of relevant governmental and non-governmental actor groups on EE and RE
- Setting up of regional networks
- Technology and Know-How Transfer on EE & RE
- Implementation of demonstration projects