Supported by:

Federal Ministry
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on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

AGRIC

European
Climate Initiative
EUKI

AGRIC Newsletter №1

July 2026

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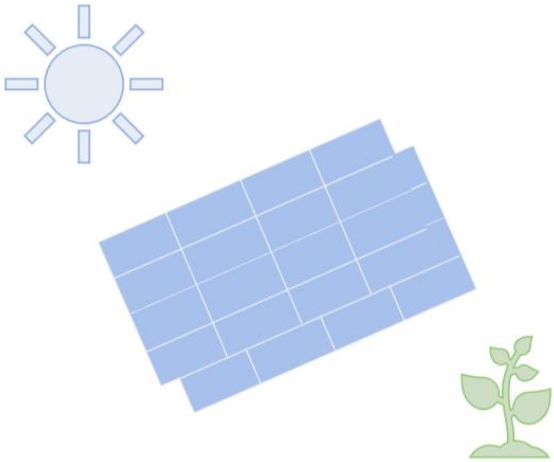

Advancing Photovoltaics in Agriculture

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About the Project

The AGRIC project strengthens the adoption of Agrivoltaic solutions by building practical knowledge, institutional capacity and investment readiness in rural regions. It delivers targeted trainings for public authorities, farmers, advisors and investors, supported by training materials, demonstration farm videos and best-practice examples. An interactive impact assessment tool helps stakeholders evaluate economic, environmental and agricultural effects of Agrivoltaics under local conditions.

The project develops a funding guide that explains available financing options and reduces uncertainty for project developers. Policy recommendations support clearer regulatory frameworks and smoother permitting procedures. Cross-regional workshops and stakeholder meetings enable exchange between agriculture and energy actors and showcase successful applications.

By sharing open-source tools, training materials and guidance beyond the project regions, the project supports replication in other areas facing similar challenges. These activities promote dual land use, protect agricultural production, reduce electricity costs and accelerate the rural energy transition.

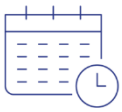
The European Union accelerates solar energy deployment under REPowerEU and the European Green Deal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen energy security. Reaching the target of more than 400 gigawatts of installed solar capacity by 2030 requires solutions that avoid land-use conflicts. Agrivoltaics, which combines agricultural production with photovoltaic electricity generation, offers an innovative approach to address this challenge.

The project operates in Bulgaria, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Serbia, where agriculture plays a major economic and social role, and climate policies increasingly link renewable energy with sustainable land use. National frameworks such as Germany's Renewable Energy Sources Act, Lithuania's National Energy and Climate Plan, Poland's photovoltaic sector strategy, and Serbia's renewable energy and climate strategies recognise the importance and potential of solar energy but provide limited practical guidance for Agrivoltaics. The project supports these policies by strengthening institutional capacity, improving investment readiness and enabling climate-resilient agriculture in line with European Union climate and energy objectives.

The project is co-funded by the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) Programme and has a duration of 30 months, from February 2026 to June 2028.

Total budget

€ 912.264,48



Project duration

02/2026 – 06/2028

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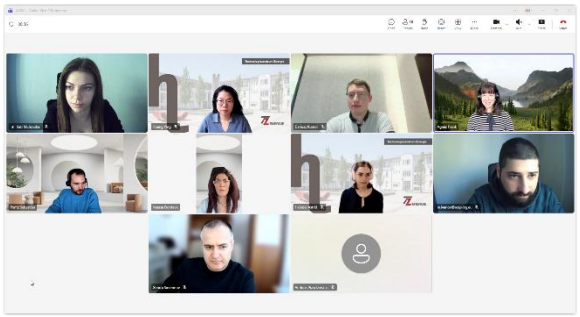
Project News

Kick-off Meeting of the AGRIC project



Date: 4th March 2026
Location: Online

The AGRIC project – "Advancing Agri-PV Readiness and Cooperation" officially kicked off on the 4th of March 2026. The Kick-off meeting took place online, and all project partners, representing the 5 participating countries (Germany, Poland, Serbia, Lithuania, and Bulgaria), participated actively.

The meeting started with partner organizations presenting themselves. During the meeting, the following objectives were discussed: Project management, Financial management, Monitoring project progress, Internal management, Communication & branding guidelines, and Upcoming activities.

The AGRIC project directly strengthens the institutional capacity and investment readiness for adopting Agri-PV solutions in Bulgaria, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Serbia. To achieve this, AGRIC delivers dedicated trainings, disseminates best practices through training materials and demonstration farm videos, a funding guide and an interactive impact assessment tool, as well as policy recommendations. Building on these activities, AGRIC aims to showcase the benefits and opportunities of integrating Agri-PV as a dual-land use solution in the agricultural sector. The activities of the project are related to fostering awareness of climate resilience in the agricultural sector and accelerating the energy transition in rural regions through cross-regional learning.

The Kick-off meeting concluded with a discussion of the upcoming in-person event of the project, which will be organised in Ruhstorf, Germany, on 21st April 2026.

Kick-off Conference in Germany

On the 21st of April 2026, a Kick-off conference within the AGRIC project (Advancing Agri-PV Readiness and Cooperation) was organised in Ruhstorf an der Rott, Germany. The host of the event was the project's implementing organisation – Landshut University of Applied Sciences, Technology Centre for Energy (TZE).

The event brought together partners from all participating countries in the project (Bulgaria, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Serbia).

Date: 21st April 2026
Location: Ruhstorf an der Rott, Germany

The meeting started with an introduction of each project partner. The morning session focused mainly on the project's content-related topics, with particular attention given to the Train-the-Trainer guideline, which is to be developed as part of the project. The Train-the-Trainer programme aims to systematically build and share knowledge about Agri-PV. In each of the project partners' regions, two trainers are to be trained. They will then be able to pass on the knowledge they have gained to various target groups in their regions, informing them about the opportunities, basic principles and possible applications of Agri-PV. In a subsequent workshop, the key questions related to this topic were discussed in small groups, and the results were then presented to all participants.

During the working day, a Financial Management session was organised, in which the entire process of financial implementation was explored among the participants.

The next part of the meeting was dedicated to the project's Communication session, with a special focus on activities that will be carried out throughout the project's duration. The communication coordinator of the AGRIC project explained that the communication objectives aim to foster collaboration among partners and involved stakeholders. In addition, all communication rules were presented alongside several useful pieces of advice on how partners can contribute to the project's visibility and dissemination.

The Kick-off event concluded with a status update by each partner and an open discussion focusing on the next planned steps within the frame of the project implementation.

Overall, very positive results were achieved. The meeting helped all participants develop a stronger shared understanding of the project's

content, as well as of the financial and communication-related framework conditions.

Participation of AGRIC project in Third-Party Events

The AGRIC project took part in the EUKICON26 conference in Germany

On 19-20 May 2026, the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) hosted EUKICON26 - its sixth Networking Conference. The event brought together experts in many different fields and stakeholders from all over Europe to Berlin, Germany, for a 2-day discussion and exchange of best practices regarding EU's current climate policy and ways to perfect it.

Date: 19-20th May 2026
Location: Berlin, Germany

AGRIC - Advancing Photovoltaics in Agriculture was one of the projects that attended at the conference. The project aims to strengthen the adoption of Agrivoltaic solutions by building practical knowledge, institutional capacity and investment readiness in rural regions. It delivers targeted trainings for public authorities, farmers, advisors and investors, supported by training materials, demonstration farm videos and best-practice examples.

Over the course of EUKICON26, everyone who attended had the chance to join one of the many thematic workshops and panel discussions on contemporary topics, such as fostering a circular economy in an urban environment, battling climate change, industrial decarbonisation, sustainable energy solutions and more.

EUKICON26 featured two days of discussions on how climate action fits into the changing political landscape. The power of the EUKI community was evident during the course of the conference, demonstrating the real-world impact of its projects.

Partners Introduction

Technology Centre for Energy (TZE), Lead Partner

The Technology Centre for Energy (TZE) is an institute of Landshut University of Applied Sciences. From a technological perspective, TZE develops short- and long-term energy storage solutions in its laboratories. At the systemic level, TZE works on integrated solutions for the deployment of renewable energy, for example through energy system simulation and modelling. The third pillar focuses on social aspects. In cooperation with local partners, such as the District of Passau, TZE analyses regional needs for a socially just and economically viable energy transition.

As a research institution, TZE contributes to capacity building among students as well as regional partners, including municipal stakeholders. Capacity building forms part of several ongoing and completed projects and is implemented through direct cooperation with local partners. TZE also promotes knowledge creation among the wider public through public events (e.g. the Landshut Energy Talks and open days). Furthermore, it is part of TZE's mission to connect regional stakeholders, including municipal decision-makers, agricultural actors, SMEs, business support organisations and research institutions.

Currently, TZE is implementing around 20 projects at the regional (Bavaria), national and international levels.

Regional Energy Agency of Pazardjik (REAP)

The Regional Energy Agency of Pazardjik (REAP) is an association of local authorities from Pazardzhik Province. It was established under the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme with the support of the Pazardzhik Regional Administration in 2005. The main purpose of REAP is to encourage the development of sustainable energy through local and regional actions for energy efficiency (EE), renewable energy sources (RES), and sustainable mobility. The Agency offers support to local and regional authorities in achieving their objectives and strategic planning for rational use of energy and larger deployment of renewable energies, as well as development of a range of initiatives

with other local, regional and foreign organizations.

Among the main priorities of REAP are: development and implementation of projects in the area of protection of the environment, EE, RES, sustainable mobility and climate change issues with a specific view on energy efficiency in buildings, development of sustainable energy communities, EE and RES in SMEs, sustainable means of transport and biofuels promotion.

A specific priority of REAP is the biomass use for energy purposes, defined by the big agricultural and forestry potential that exists in Pazardzhik Province.

Rzeszow Regional Development Agency (RRDA)

RARR
RZESZOWSKA AGENCJA
ROZWOJU REGIONALNEGO

Rzeszów Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego SA was established by a notarial deed on May 31, 1993 in the form of a joint stock company. The goal of RARR S.A. is to conduct activities aimed at the comprehensive development of the Podkarpacie region by concentrating and mobilizing the potential of local communities as well as advisory and service activities in the processesof restructuring, opening and supporting economic ventures, promoting the region and acquiring foreign aid funds.

The area of RARR S.A.'s activity however, there is not only the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, as many projects implemented by the Agency have a supra-regional and even international scope. It has implemented more than 300 EU-funded projects worth almost EUR 450 million, trained 25,000 people, awarded grants for starting a business to over 4,000 people, granted grants to over 3,000 companies and loans to 300 companies, supported over 100 social enterprises with grants and trainings, manages the Podkarpackie Science and Technology Park "Aeropolis", the Podkarpackie Technology Incubator and the Academic Pre-Incubator.

RARR S.A. has a large human resources potential. It employs over 180 people, including lawyers, economists, sociologists, financiers, engineers and design specialists. They all have the necessary experience and knowledge needed to provide the services offered.

Within this scope of activities, RRDA has conduct in-depth analysis of special needs, monitor the current situation on the labour market, as well as developed dedicated handbooks and training programmes. RRDA also puts special emphasis on educational projects especially among the youth and elderly through various projects and trainings. RRDA is involved in development of skills and chances on the local labour market and especially those which have difficulties or are excluded and discriminated living in rural areas and having limited access to education etc.

After having many international projects, RRDA has gained required experience in financial and objective project flow. Rzeszów Regional Development Agency is a member of the Enterprise Europe Network, which is currently the largest European network of institutions supporting the technological development of enterprises. The network supports companies in identifying potential business partners and developing foreign contacts for SMEs.

National paying agency under the Ministry of Agriculture (NPA)

The National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania (NMA) is a public institution responsible for the administration of European Union and national support for agriculture, rural development, and fisheries in Lithuania. Established in 1999, the Agency operates under the Ministry of Agriculture and acts as the accredited paying agency implementing the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The main objective of NMA is to ensure the efficient, transparent, and compliant management of financial assistance by assessing applications, adopting decisions on support allocation, executing payments to beneficiaries, and performing control and audit functions. Through its activities, the Agency contributes to the development of a competitive, sustainable, and resilient agricultural and rural sector.

NMA administers a wide range of support measures, including direct payments, investment support, and rural development programmes. It provides services to farmers, rural businesses, and other stakeholders, while ensuring proper use of EU and national funds in accordance with applicable legal and financial requirements.

Among the key priorities of the Agency are the effective and transparent administration of support schemes, strengthening of risk-based control and audit systems, digitalisation of processes, reduction of administrative burden, and continuous improvement of service quality. Particular attention is given to the application of innovative solutions, including remote monitoring and digital tools, to enhance efficiency and accessibility of support.

NMA is also actively involved in international cooperation and the implementation of international projects, particularly within the framework of EU programmes and partnerships. The Agency participates in knowledge exchange, capacity building, and development of innovative solutions in areas such as digitalisation, risk management, and effective administration of agricultural support, thereby contributing to the strengthening of institutional capacities at both national and European levels.

Regional Economic Development Agency for Šumadija and Pomoravlje (REDASP)

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
for Sumadija and Pomoravlje

REDASP is the oldest regional development agency in Serbia, established as a public–private partnership of local self-governments, business support organisations and regional chamber of commerce. The Agency is responsible for the development, coordination and implementation of sustainable development strategies in the Šumadija and Pomoravlje, NUTS 3 region, covering over 500,000 inhabitants, in line with national legislation and EU strategic frameworks.

The region represents one of Serbia's key industrial and innovation hubs, hosting major assets such as the automotive industry (Stellantis), the Pan-European Corridor X, the University of Kragujevac, the National Data Centre and MIND Park.

With more than 20 years of experience, REDASP contributes to regional competitiveness through multi-sector cooperation, facilitating collaboration between public authorities, businesses, academia and civil society. The Agency has implemented over 80 national and international projects with a total value exceeding EUR 70 million, supported more than 20,000 clients, and contributed to the establishment of over 1,300 companies and 3,000 jobs.

REDASP is accredited for the implementation of national SME support programmes and actively contributes to Serbia's development and EU integration processes.

The Agency is a member of EURADA, a founding member of the national RDA network (SARRA), a member of the Serbian Rural Development Network, and part of the National Working Group for the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the Pan-European Programme for Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP). In addition, REDASP collaborates with EIT Manufacturing in the field of advanced manufacturing.

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Communication Channels

The project includes a well-balanced mixture of partners coming from several main sectors: public authorities (local, regional and national), research institutions, agriculture representatives, NGOs, and energy agencies. Together, we represent varied views across a range of stakeholders and interests, providing competent knowledge and experience in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, agriculture, and policy design. The partnership is characterized by a strong transnational character, covering five nations and five institutions within the European Climate Initiative Programme area, thus ensuring a good geographical and cultural coverage and relevant attention to the issues and needs of a wide range of institutional settings and establishments from European Countries.

Technology Centre for Energy (TZE), Lead Partner - **Lead partner**, Germany	TZ ENERGIE	www.tz-energie.de
Regional Energy Agency of Pazardjik (REAP), Bulgaria	REGIONAL ENERGY AGENCY - PAZARDJIK reap	https://reap-bg.eu
Rzeszow Regional Development Agency (RRDA), Poland	RARR RZESZOWSKA AGENCJA ROZWOJU REGIONALNEGO	https://rarr.rzeszow.pl/
National paying agency under the Ministry of Agriculture (NPA), Lithuania	NPA NATIONAL PAYING AGENCY	https://nma.lrv.lt/en/
Regional Economic Development Agency for Šumadija and Pomoravlje (REDASP), Serbia	REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY for Sumadija and Pomoravlje	http://www.redasp.rs/index_en.html

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