Sharing practical experience with community energy in Náchod

In Náchod, we presented the experience of Hradecký venkov from the HERCULES-CE project and our journey towards establishing and developing the Hradecký venkov Energy Cooperative.

Jana Rejlová, representing Hradecký venkov, presented the main results of the Czech pilot, from mapping local producers and consumers and working with specific energy data to identifying an appropriate legal, technical and economic model and establishing the Hradecký venkov Energy Cooperative in May 2026. Jana Kuthanová complemented the presentation with practical experience from the perspective of the Municipality of Hořiněves, one of the founding members of the cooperative.

A separate part of the presentation focused on cooperation with ENVIROS. Jana Rejlová introduced the company's expert contribution to the Czech pilot, particularly in the field of energy data analysis, modelling of electricity generation and consumption, and assessment of the technical and economic conditions for future energy sharing. The analyses included, among other things, 26 buildings with annual consumption above 10 MWh and existing and planned photovoltaic installations with a combined capacity of more than 500 kWp.

The presentations were followed by a joint discussion with Pavel Rejchrt from ENERKOM Stolové hory, who shared practical experience from an already operational energy community. ENERKOM currently has around 70 active members, 34 photovoltaic installations and 160 consumption and generation points. During its first six months of real energy sharing, approximately 80 MWh of electricity was shared, and in the summer months more than 86% of the electricity offered for sharing was successfully used within the community.

The discussion confirmed that successful community energy is not only about installing renewable energy sources or establishing a legal entity. Equally important are reliable data, well-designed rules, ongoing communication with members and the ability to match local generation with real consumption. The experience of ENERKOM also demonstrated that electricity sharing is not an end in itself, but a practical tool for making better use of locally generated energy, reducing costs and strengthening cooperation within the region.

The meeting was also an important opportunity to compare different stages of community energy development and to transfer practical know-how between territories. For the Hradecký venkov Energy Cooperative, these exchanges are particularly valuable as the cooperative moves from its organisational establishment towards its first real energy-sharing arrangements.

About HERCULES-CE

HERCULES-CE – *Enhancing the energy transition in Central Europe with the support of renewable energy communities* – is implemented within the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE programme. The project brings together partners from several Central European countries and focuses on developing and testing practical approaches to the establishment and development of renewable energy communities. The Czech pilot is implemented jointly by Hradecký venkov o.p.s. and ENVIROS s.r.o. and examines how local stakeholders, energy data, legal structures

and economic models can be combined so that a community can move from an initial idea to real operation. One of the key outcomes of the Czech pilot is the establishment of the Hradecký venkov Energy Cooperative, which is intended to continue developing beyond the lifetime of the project and to translate the project's results into long-term practical use in the region.

