SUSTAINABLE REGIONS AND TERRITORIES IN ACTION

Where regional and local actors exchange and learn from each other

2019

FEDARENE
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Dear Reader,

It is my pleasure to present you the 2019 edition of the FEDARENE Brochure. 2018 has been an intense and successful year for our Federation, and we expect nothing less from 2019.

Over the past year, the projects of our Members brought regions and cities closer to their climate and energy goals by developing innovative financing schemes for green energy investments, retrofitting streetlighting and public/private buildings, promoting the uptake of renewables and implementing eco-mobility solutions. Many advocacy activities have been conducted in order to improve the European Union's approach to funding and to lead the fight for a more sustainable and energy efficient Europe. The dialogue we held with the European Union's Institutions focused essentially on improving the access of regions and cities to EU's funding programmes. FEDARENE is in favour of a forward-looking Multiannual Financial Framework post-2020, with priorities anchored in the local and regional realities and mindful of the importance of the energy transition as a driver for European Cohesion.

In the following pages, you will get an overview of the issues that drives us, but you will also learn more about who we are and what we do to advance the energy transition. You will discover a unique collection of projects implemented by European regions and their energy agencies that make our members proud.

I wish you a pleasant read.

Julije Domac
FEDARENE President & Managing Director
of North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency
THE ORGANISATION
ABOUT FEDARENE

FEDARENE was created in 1990 by people eager to adopt proactive sustainable energy policies and joint actions for energy management and control. Encouraged by the European Commission, regional actors wanted to see the importance of their role in the energy field recognised by the EU institutions. Today, FEDARENE is the premier European network of regional and local organisations which facilitate or implement sustainable energy policies and measures at the regional and local levels. With more than 70 members, the association represents 20 European countries, drawing on the advice of 800 experts throughout the union.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICIES

FEDARENE is facilitating the development of inter-regional partnerships and is helping regions develop their capacity to take action, and assisting them in the creation of energy and/or environmental organisations. The organisation also participates in EU projects developed by its members by raising the visibility of good practices. Local and regional governments play an essential role in the implementation of energy efficiency policies and in achieving the Europe 2030 objectives. They embody the relevant decision-making level in sectors such as transportation, urban planning, buildings and welfare, which makes them the most appropriate level for coordinated actions in energy efficiency. As public funds alone are deemed insufficient for delivering ambitious EU energy targets, a different approach is needed, increasingly relying on the use of market-based solutions.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN REGIONS AND EU INSTITUTIONS

FEDARENE is acting as a centre for the dissemination of information. Its bilateral communication activities are aimed at FEDARENE members for their own activities and their work within European Programmes, as well as at European Institutions. The organisation is a highly visible showcase of creativity and innovation of its member’s special information tools and strives to keep them constantly informed about EU updates. FEDARENE is also actively promoting the activity of its network on social media and beyond.

LOBBYING THE EU INSTITUTIONS

FEDARENE has been able to become a critical force with specific lobbying influence by promoting the regional dimension in debates concerning energy and the environment. Particular emphasis is placed on local demand and supply in order to contribute to sustainable development.

OUR MISSIONS

FEDARENE acts as a liaison between local / regional authorities and European institutions. We make the voice of regions and local governments heard at the European level and inform our constituency of relevant European initiatives and policies.

FEDARENE promotes the exchange of experience and the development of transnational projects. Through its events and networking activities, FEDARENE brings together organisations from across Europe to share know-how, develop European projects and replicate successful initiatives.

FEDARENE provides a forum for discussion for stakeholders of the energy sector. FEDARENE serves as a platform not only to its members but to all stakeholders striving for the energy transition: public authorities, non-governmental organisations, citizens, small and medium-sized enterprises and financial institutions amongst others.
Our members are spread across 20 countries, namely: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.
THE PEOPLE OF FEDARENE

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS

Julije DOMAC
President & CEO of North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency (HR)

Seamus HOYNE
Secretary General & Manager at Limerick Institute of Technology (IE)

Jean VAN PAMEL
Treasurer & Inspector General of Wallonia Region (BE)

Florin ANDRONESCU
Vice-President for Energy Efficiency & CEO of Alba Local Energy Agency (RO)

Gerhard DELL & Christiane EGGER
Vice-Presidents for Energy Efficiency & Managers of ÖÖ Energiesparverband (AT)

Didier DOUSSET
Vice-President for the Energy Transition & President of ARENE/IAU Île-de-France (FR)

Ilias EFTHYMIOPOULOS
Vice-president for Smart Islands, Remote & Small Communities & CEO of Aegean Energy Agency (GR)

Maria FABIANELLI
Vice-President for Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Smart Cities & Division Director of IRE Liguria (IT)

Ricardo GONZALEZ MANTERO
Vice-President for Renewable Heating & Cooling & CEO of the Regional Energy Agency of Castilla y León (ES)
Thekla HEINEL  
Vice-President for Climate Protection & Head of Department at Beratungs- und Service Gesellschaft Umwelt (DE)

Vlasta KRMELJ  
Vice-President for Financing and Sustainable Mobility & CEO of the Energy Agency of Podravje (SI)

Christel LILJEGREN  
Vice-President for Mobility and Transport & CEO of the Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden (SE)

Simone LOWTHE-THOMAS  
Vice-President for Energy Efficiency (Buildings & Behavior) & CEO of Severn Wye Energy Agency (UK)

Mario MAZZOCCA  
Vice-President for Climate Change & Undersecretary to the Presidency of the Abruzzo Region (IT)

Serge NOCODIE  
Vice-President for Climate Change & President of Auvergne-Rhône Alpes Energy Environment (FR)

Rolf NYHOLM  
Vice-President for Bioeconomy and Bioenergy & Chairman of the Central Finland Region (FI)

Manel TORRENT AIXA  
Vice-President for Energy Efficiency & CEO of the Catalan Energy Institute (ES)

With the support of Patrick Biard  
Deputy Secretary General & Manager International Projects at Auvergne-Rhône Alpes Energy Environment (FR)
THE BRUSSELS OFFICE

The FEDARENE has a representation office in Brussels since 1991, which is currently composed of 5 employees who are dedicated to the organisation’s activities and members.

Dominique Bourges
Coordinator
dominique.bourges@fedarene.org

Elodie Bossio
Project Manager
elodie.bossio@fedarene.org

Filip Dumitriu
Project Officer
filip.dumitriu@fedarene.org

Francesca Bormioli
Project Officer
francesca.bormioli@fedarene.org

Mélissa Miklos
Communication Officer
melissa.miklos@fedarene.org

A QUESTION?
We’re here to help you!
THEIR WORDS ON FEDARENE

A lot of regional energy and environment agencies in Europe have different approaches but work on the same goal - a liveable environment and CO2-free future. FEDARENE gives us the opportunity to force the exchange of ideas and projects, to show our partners what we achieved but also to learn from other regions and draw inspiration from their strategies.

Tino Blondiau, Energy & Climate Expert at eNu (AT)

FEDARENE is the privilege of working with the best in Europe.

Julije Domac
FEDARENE President
Director at REGEA (HR)

FEDARENE brings its members active European cooperation with competent stakeholders on the way to energy transition and a sustainable common future.

Thekla Heinel, FEDARENE Vice-President & Head of Department at Beratungs- und Service Gesellschaft Umwelt (DE)

At the closure of 2018, FEDARENE is expanding its boarders to include more and more island members from several members states. AEGEA is very excited to be part of this growing family and contributing to the exchange of knowledge and experiences among the members of the federation.

Kostas Komninos, Head of the Energy Department at AEGERA and Director of DAFNI Network (GR)

For us at IRE, FEDARENE represents a place for cultural growth, knowledge and cooperation. It is the international forum where we exchange ideas, test innovative approaches and develop new energy policies, and this exchange has shaped us into the agency we are today.

Maria Fabianelli, FEDARENE Vice-President for Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Smart Cities & Division Director of IRE Liguria (IT)
FEDARENE regularly releases position papers that reflect the main priorities and issues of its members regions and energy agencies.
5 steps to a Budget for a United and Sustainable Europe

1. **The energy transition is a driver for European Cohesion.** The energy transition is not an adjustment variable for the budget of the European Union but on the contrary, it is an essential part of the solution that maximises its impact and creates additional revenues. It is a driving force that brings benefits across all sectors and for all levels of society through the creation of sustainable jobs and investment opportunities, the improvement of health and the quality of life and by addressing social inequalities.

2. **The added value of European Union’s financial programmes is made tangible through local and regional initiatives.** Local and regional initiatives show that cohesion policy is both a catalyst for investment and a means for beneficiaries to raise their ambitions and take ownership of the European objectives, specifically those of the Energy Union.

3. **The accessibility of funds is a prerequisite for effectiveness and efficiency.** Current rules and processes remain prohibitive for local and regional authorities, and organisations who are seeking to finance their Climate and Energy actions plans. Looking at procedures from the point of view of potential beneficiaries should be a core principle for the simplification process.

4. **Complementarity of funding programmes can be achieved through common frameworks and local and regional platforms.** Mutualising research and innovation efforts in Europe, and up-scaling investments in sustainable energy, can only be achieved through harmonised financial programmes and territorially anchored platforms with the aim of aggregating projects, interacting with various EU financial programmes and initiatives, and ensuring a reliable interface between investors, project developers and citizens.

5. **Financial programmes must be made available for all levels and scales.** Research and innovation programmes should be specifically structured so as to enable local and regional level activity, and must continue to enable coordination and networking activities, dissemination and use of knowledge.
FEDARENE is the premier European network of regional and local organisations which implement, co-ordinate and facilitate sustainable energy and environment policies. As such, we consider the debate on the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) as an opportunity to address the weaknesses of the European Union's approach to funding, and together achieve our vision of a united and sustainable Europe.

Currently, Europe is facing considerable challenges on a national and global level, including economic inequalities, terrorism, climate change and natural disasters. The next EU budget is Europe's chance to prove it stands together in meeting these challenges head-on. In the light of the Paris Agreement and the 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' package, it is also Europe's moment to firmly establish its leadership in tackling climate change and undertaking the energy transition. Achieving these goals will require member states, regions, municipalities and citizens to work together. We believe that the European Union and the constructive cooperation of its members is the only way to fight climate change effectively, to achieve higher common standards for a modern low-carbon economy, and to assure a sustainable future for all.

Common objectives call for common commitments. The members of FEDARENE commit to supporting the European vision with their resources, and by cooperating with European partners within and outside of the association. We will continue to:

- share knowledge and experience, and join forces for the sake of a peaceful, united and sustainable Europe which sets an example with regard to energy efficiency and renewable energy as well as environmental and climate protection;
- support regions and municipalities to act as a role model for their inhabitants, be it in terms of energy transition, climate action or of supporting solidarity amongst different groups of society in the European context;
- bring the idea of Europe to the regions and municipalities and the ideas of regions and municipalities to Europe;
- promote and bring forward the Energy Union.

The MFF must have the capacity to achieve the European Union's Leaders' own commitments, which include “to promote economic and social progress for their peoples, taking into account the principle of sustainable development and within the context of the accomplishment of the internal market and of reinforced cohesion and environmental protection, and to implement policies ensuring that advances in economic integration are accompanied by parallel progress in other fields”2. To this end, we support the European Parliament's call for a significant increase of climate-related spending compared to the current MFF, suggesting that it should reach 30 % as soon as possible, and at the latest by 20273.

Regions and cities across the EU count on the catalysing effect of the EU budget to stimulate the necessary additional private and public investments and achieve their long-term Climate and Energy targets.

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1 Berlin Declaration of FEDARENE – Stand Together for a United Europe, June 2017
2 Preamble of the Treaty on European Union
I. A UNITED EUROPE – DRIVEN BY A STRONG COHESION POLICY

The energy transition is a driver for European Cohesion.
As the cohesion policy aims to achieve the overall harmonious development of the EU, notably through reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions, local and regional authorities are also witnessing how the energy transition creates jobs and investment opportunities, and how it supports the transition to low-carbon industries and creates a friendly environment for innovative enterprises. Investing in the energy transition improves health and the quality of life, reduces energy poverty and in general addresses social inequalities. The energy transition is for all intents and purposes a structural pillar of the cohesion policy.

◆ There should be no reduction in cohesion policy funds, nor dilution of the key focus and principles of these programmes, to maintain a strong focus on reducing inequalities between regions. The emphasis should be strengthened on the energy transition as a structural pillar of the cohesion policy that provides solutions to the multiple policy challenges of the European Union.

The added value of EU’s financial programmes is made tangible through local and regional initiatives.
Cohesion policy supports overcoming barriers in the field of energy transition, in achieving a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, alleviating energy poverty and ensuring security of energy supply. Over the years, ESI Funds have contributed to mobilising investments in the low carbon economy, which would be very difficult for many regions to achieve without this assistance. Indeed “small organisations, municipalities and actors with less institutional capacity have been given incentives to place themselves in bigger contexts, cooperate and take on the EU’s objectives. Municipalities and regions have been linked up with the European project, which has given the EU greater legitimacy at local and regional levels”⁴. Exemplary local and regional initiatives in the area of sustainable energy⁵ highlight how beneficiaries take ownership of the European objectives and engage meaningfully in achieving common goals.

◆ European and National representatives must remember that the cohesion policy is not only a catalyst for investment but also a means for beneficiaries to raise their ambitions and take ownership of the European objectives, specifically those of the Energy Union.

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⁴ Added value of the EU Cohesion Policy in Northern Sweden, Europaforum Norra Sverige, www.europaforum.nu
⁵ www.fedarene.org/sustainable-energy-investments-catalysed-by-eu-structural-funds
The ex-ante conditionality instrument seems to be a useful self-assessment tool for Member States and provides an incentive to implement structural changes and systemic policy reforms, but the conditions sometimes lack clarity, and their fulfilment criteria would benefit from additional detailing and quantifiable targets. A more specific requirement might be made in relation to effective linkages with the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans which Member States will be required to develop in accordance with the proposed “Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union”.

- Ex ante conditionality fulfilment requirements should be set out more clearly, and cover a broader range of relevant conditions, with particular reference to climate and energy plans.

**The accessibility of funds is a prerequisite for effectiveness and efficiency.**

Experience from different countries has highlighted that not all national and regional bodies are effective at managing ESI Funds or the European Territorial Cooperation programmes. Administrative processes are confusing and over-complicated with the effect of restricting access to local and regional actors. In general, access to structural funds is administratively very onerous for beneficiaries, and the costs and time involved in participating can cause serious problems for smaller authorities and organisations. Initiatives such as the Smart Specialisation Platform, Taiex Regio Peer 2 Peer, the Energy and Managing Authorities Network and JASPERs are trying to build the skills and strategies of the managing authorities and share best practices in this domain. However, while their activities are converging, these initiatives do not appear to be complementary, or to be exchanging knowledge with each other. Managing Authorities should also be encouraged to learn from each other and be open to external experts, notably in highly specialised areas such as sustainable energy.

- Rules and procedures relative to the management of ESI funds should be reviewed, simplified and harmonised. Looking at processes from the point of view of potential beneficiaries should be a core principle for the simplification process. Capacity building support, technical assistance and sharing of best practices should be multiplied and made complementary to ensure effective and efficient management of ESI funds by national and regional bodies with this responsibility. Learning from the current period should be utilised to improve and enhance the provision of this support.

The programming and implementation of cohesion policy would also benefit from a closer consideration of the partnership principle and its multi-level approaches, as detailed in the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds. The success of the Covenant of Mayors is a testimony to the great potential opened by multilevel dialogue and partnerships.

- Successful local and regional policies across Europe have demonstrated that applying the Partnership Principle is not merely an ideal, but a necessary approach for effectively managing financial programmes. This principle should be made binding for Managing Authorities and its fulfillment should be evidenced during the implementation period.

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6 Article 5 of the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Structural and Investment Funds. In accordance to the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, the partnership principle “implies close cooperation between the Commission and public authorities at national, regional and local levels in the Member States, social partners and organs-ations representing civil society”.
II. A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE - FOR ALL, AND BY ALL

Complementarity of funding programmes can be achieved through common frameworks and local and regional platforms.

The topics of the Horizon 2020 programme are similar with other centrally managed programmes and are all complementary to the cohesion policy. However, their administrative processes are very different. There are practical barriers to actually realising the combination of funds which need to be addressed if we are to maximise accessibility and realise the benefits of the complementarity of these programmes.

🔹 A common framework and common procedures should be sought for Horizon 2020 and other centrally managed Union programmes in the areas of research, innovation and market facilitation. In order to achieve “coordination and synergies between ESI funds and other union policies and instruments”, the next MFF should support the creation of local and regional investment platforms to aggregate projects, interact with various EU financial programmes and initiatives, and ensure a reliable interface between investors, project developers and citizens.

Financial programmes must be made available for all levels and scales.

It is notable that in moving from the Intelligent Energy programme to Horizon 2020, there was a shift towards favouring activities involving national organisations and a reduction in opportunities for local and regional participants. While this is understandable in terms of achieving quantitatively significant results, we consider that it risks ignoring an important element in action on sustainability. Even in the simpler and more accessible Horizon 2020 programme, the timeframes and requirements for fixed and specific outputs leaves gaps in provision.

🔹 Research and innovation programmes should be specifically structured so as to enable local and regional level activity, and not directed only at the national level. A small projects fund for action on sustainable energy should be established, with quick and simple access for near future actions.

The concrete implementation of clean energy strategies and the rolling out of green solutions also require projects that place citizens at the centre of the energy transition, and that help structure the demand and supply for sustainable energy solutions through raising awareness, the study of social behaviour and the development of local and regional governance frameworks. Financial programmes supporting these projects are also crucial for sustaining the ambitions of local and regional authorities and their agencies, who are playing a decisive role in tackling climate change.

🔹 Financial programmes enabling coordination and networking activities, dissemination and use of knowledge as well as stakeholder mobilisation remain instrumental for achieving the energy transition. The designing of the next research and innovation framework programme (FP9) will need to take these facts into serious consideration.

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7 Such synergies are encouraged both by legal provisions laying down common provisions on the ESI funds and by the ones establishing Horizon 2020.
Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Within the context of the proposed changes within the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and the creation of a specific sub-programme on the Clean Energy Transition, the FEDARENE Board and General Assembly of its members have carefully considered the opportunities that this change presents to Local and Regional Authorities and their energy agencies. While presenting another step change from the previous Intelligent Energy for Europe and H2020 programmes, in which energy agencies have been extremely active and successful, this new programme has the potential to enable the energy transition to be accelerated and ensure our ambitious targets are achieved.

FEDARENE wishes to raise the following key points and annexed amendments (p.3), which are in addition and compliment those points raised in our letter to the Working Party on the Environment of the Council of the European Union:

1. We welcome that the Life Programme will consist of 3 pillars, namely: Climate, Environment and Energy. Given the many multi-faceted aspects of the energy agenda it is vital that Clean Energy Transition activities are maintained and given equal status in terms of the impact of the programme. The energy transition offers - in addition to its climate relevance - also significant economic and social benefits beyond the environmental dimension.

2. While acknowledging that budget negotiations continue, this Clean Energy Transition sub-programme must have a separate budget line which safeguards the investment into the energy transition. Balancing demands across the complementary areas of the LIFE programme is a challenge but for future planning and forecasting regions and energy agencies need to know that support opportunities are stable and within defined budgets.

3. The current indication that the Clean Energy Transition actions will have a budget of €1 billion is of particular concern to FEDARENE. Given the current gaps to target which exist across all aspects of the energy agenda further and increased investment in market development is vital. European Citizens, Industry and SMEs

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1 Recital 9 of the Proposed for a Regulation for LIFE reminds us: “The impact assessments of the Clean Energy legislation estimate that the delivery of the Union’s 2030 energy targets will require additional investments of EUR 177 billion annually in the period 2021-2030. The biggest gaps relate to the investments in buildings decarbonisation (energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources), where capital needs to be channelled towards projects of highly distributed nature.”
need support to make the energy transition happen and transfer solutions from R&D into reality across Europe ("market uptake").

4. Careful consideration of the implementation rules is vital. The current rules which may have worked successfully for the LIFE programme will, in the opinion of FEDARENE, need to be carefully reviewed. The energy sector has particular needs which are different to those of the normal participants in the LIFE programmes (e.g. environmental organisations, NGOs etc.). The energy sector comprises of large industry, a large variety of SMEs, many dynamic public authorities and energy professionals working in energy agencies and other similar organisations. These organisations have collaborated and work effectively and efficiently under H2020 implementation rules and we recommend that the future LIFE programme should integrate successful components of the H2020 programme into its future implementation rules design.

5. Funding rates for the future LIFE programme should be considered carefully. Previous experiences from IEE and H2020 show that, in particular for market up take actions, significant support is required. It is recommended that a minimum support level be set which maximises the impact that can be achieved with the budget available. A rate of 80-100% is recommended as it is the reasoned opinion of FEDARENE that the energy sector will not engage with the LIFE programme without such support levels. In addition to an appropriate overhead contribution rate of 25% is required.

FEDARENE welcomes the opportunity to meet and discuss these issues with a view to be an active contributor to the design of a new LIFE Programme that maximises the ability of citizens and regions to realise the energy transition agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Julije Domac
President

Seamus Hoyne
Secretary General

Christiane Egger
Vice-President

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**FEDARENE (European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment)** is the premier European network of regional and local organisations, which implement, coordinate and facilitate sustainable energy and environment policies. Regional and local agencies, ministries and departments working in these fields are represented in FEDARENE.

**Contact:**
Dominique BOURGES
Coordinator of FEDARENE
fedarene@fedarene.org
Subject: FEDARENE’s Recommendations for an Effective and Inclusive Clean Energy Transition Sub-Programme within LIFE 2021-2027

Dear Representatives in the Council of the European Union,

Local and regional authorities and their energy agencies are striving to accelerate their energy and environmental transition that is a driving force for innovation, job creation, growth, social inclusion and overall territorial development. Within the context of the proposed changes within the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and the creation of a specific LIFE sub-programme on the Clean Energy Transition, FEDARENE carefully considered the opportunities that this change presents to Regions, Cities and their energy agencies.

While presenting another step change from the previous Intelligent Energy Europe and Horizon 2020 programmes, in order to guarantee the vital impact of clean energy related market uptake and capacity building activities, the experience and urgent needs of regions, cities and their energy agencies should be taken into consideration when assessing the future LIFE programme. To this end, in light of the European Parliament’s Legislative Report and ahead of the Environment Council meeting on the 20th of December, the members of FEDARENE reaffirm the following key principles:

1. **Higher and differentiated co-financing rates for Clean Energy Transition**

   Based on feedback from its members and their long-standing experience, FEDARENE recommends a rate of 80-100% for the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme in order to continue attracting active regions and cities, their implementing agencies and the stakeholders involved in sustainable energy related capacity building and market uptake actions. These organisations have been extremely active and successful in Intelligent Energy Europe and Horizon 2020 but will not be in a position to engage with the LIFE programme with funding rates below 80%. Considering the differences of targets and support needs between sub-programmes, a differentiation of co-financing rates amongst the sub-programmes set out in Article 4 is justified and would enable the LIFE programme to reach a larger variety of stakeholders including smaller organisations. Differentiated minimum rates for co-financing should be foreseen in article 17 of the proposed regulation.
2. Inclusion of sustainable energy experts in the LIFE Committee

The present LIFE programme structure has a transversal concern for energy but no specific sub-programme as it will be the case starting from 2021. As approximately 18% of the overall budget of LIFE is proposed to be allocated to the clean energy transition, specific sustainable energy experts will need to be involved from here on in the implementation and advisory bodies of this programme such as the LIFE Committee.

3. Recognition of Clean Energy Transition as a new direct objective in the LIFE programme

As clean energy related market uptake and capacity building activities are being moved from Horizon 2020 to the LIFE programme\(^1\), **LIFE becomes a key support instrument for the energy transition in Europe** therefore reference must be made in its legal basis to the article 194 of the Treaty of Functioning of the European Union. This provision of primary law enshrines EU’s competency in promoting energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources and recognises it as a direct Union policy objective with concrete benefits across all sectors including the environment and climate mitigation.

In this regard, the **transition to clean energy must remain referenced in Article 3 paragraph 1 (of the proposed regulation) as a general objective of the programme.** The transition to clean, renewable energy and improved energy efficiency is an essential driver for the mitigation of climate change with co-benefits for the environment and in line with the LIFE framework.

4. Procedural alignment between LIFE and Horizon Europe lightening the administrative burden and encouraging synergies

The move of the above-mentioned clean energy activities to LIFE is yet another restructuring of the original Intelligent Energy Europe programme, implying this time around a sizeable procedural change for applicants. Aligning the administrative procedures of LIFE (at application and implementation stages) with Horizon 2020 would lead to **reduced administration costs for beneficiaries as well as economies of scale for the Executive Agency managing the programmes.** Such alignment would be particularly beneficial for the Clean Energy Transition activities where beneficiaries had become accustomed with the Horizon 2020 processes. The administrative burden for beneficiaries remains prohibitively heavy in the LIFE programme and calls for simplification by following the model of the Horizon 2020 rules and procedures. This would also be consistent with the LIFE programme’s role as a catalyst for the deployment of research and innovation results from Horizon Europe.

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\(^1\) REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013
5. A sufficient budget to achieve EU's Clean Energy targets for 2030 and beyond

As the transition to clean energy becomes a direct objective of the LIFE programme, this must be reflected in its funding allocation. To this end, we support the European Parliament’s proposal to double the current funding for the LIFE+ programme. Any increase in the programme’s overall envelope should keep the same proportional distribution between fields and sub-programmes as in the Commission proposal (article 5 of the proposed regulation) without missing the urgency of funding the clean energy transition where investment gaps remain considerable and needs to effectively transfer solutions from R&D into reality are substantial. Ambitious commitments of local and regional authorities such as the ones mobilised in the European Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy need to be backed by appropriate financial support.

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**Contact:**
Dominique BOURGES
Coordinator of FEDARENE
fedarene@fedarene.org

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2 Recital 9 of the Proposed for a Regulation for LIFE reminds us: “The impact assessments of the Clean Energy legislation estimate that the delivery of the Union's 2030 energy targets will require additional investments of EUR 177 billion annually in the period 2021-2030. The biggest gaps relate to the investments in buildings decarbonisation (energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources), where capital needs to be channelled towards projects of highly distributed nature.”

Launched in 2008, the Covenant of Mayors is the world’s largest movement for local climate and energy actions. The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy brings together local and regional authorities voluntarily committing to implementing the EU’s climate and energy objectives on their territory. This unique bottom-up movement, which started in 2008 with the support of the European Commission, now counts over 7,700 signatories.

In 2015, the initiative took on new objectives: the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy steps up the initial CO2-reduction commitment and includes adaptation to climate change. Signatory local authorities share a vision for making cities decarbonised and resilient, where citizens have access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy. They commit to developing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans for 2030 and to implementing local climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.

Signatory cities pledge action to support implementation of the EU 40% greenhouse gas-reduction target by 2030 and the adoption of a joint approach to tackling mitigation and adaptation to climate change. In order to translate their political commitment into practical measures and projects, Covenant signatories commit to submitting, within two years following the date of the local council decision, a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) outlining the key actions they plan to undertake. The plan will feature a Baseline Emission Inventory to track mitigation actions and a Climate Risks and Vulnerability Assessment. The adaptation strategy can either be part of the SECAP or developed and mainstreamed in a separate planning document. This bold political commitment marks the beginning of a long-term process with cities committed to reporting every two years on the implementation progress of their plans.

The Global Covenant of Mayors is capitalising on the experience gained over the past eight years in Europe and beyond, and is building upon the key success factors of the initiative: its bottom-up governance, its multi-level cooperation model and its context-driven framework for action.

FEDARENE is part of the consortium running the Covenant of Mayors Office, together with 5 other European networks of local and regional authorities: Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, Eurocities, CEMR and ICLEI Europe. FEDARENE participates in defining the strategy behind the initiative and has been actively involved in mobilising regions and energy agencies around Europe, through promotion, a continuous helpdesk, events and seminars, conferences and exchange of best practices.

Provinces, regions and energy agencies are key to the success of the initiative, notably in terms of:
- The promotion they do of the Covenant in their territory;
- Increasing the organisation’s capacities by providing decentralised support on the ground and ensuring tailored interaction with signatories;
- The support provided to signatories including technical assistance;
- Mobilising other stakeholders – such as associations, private companies and universities.

Provinces, regions and energy agencies are key to the success of the initiative, notably in terms of:
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- The support provided to signatories including technical assistance;
- Mobilising other stakeholders – such as associations, private companies and universities.
ManagEnergy is the European Commission initiative for helping regional and local energy agencies to become leaders in the energy transition and to increase sustainable energy investments in regions and cities. The initiative will inform energy stakeholders on the most recent developments in energy efficiency policies and financing opportunities.

The project is based on three pillars: Master Classes, Expert Missions, and Networking Events. The Master Classes consist of tailor-made 3-day programmes in Brussels, delivered by leading energy experts for an audience of senior and management level energy agency staff. They will touch upon several topics through its three modules: market facilitation, project development, financing solutions...

ManagEnergy Expert Missions are customised missions of capacity building for energy agencies and their stakeholders (e.g. local authorities, financial institutions, investors etc.). The missions that will last for three days, will include coaching sessions at the premises of the selected energy agencies. The visiting experts meet with and coach the participants to support the realisation of significant sustainable energy investments.

Annual Networking events will take place in Brussels in order to increase cooperation, knowledge and peer exchange between energy agencies across Europe. Ultimately, these exchanges should raise the skills of local and regional energy agencies in project financing and development. The discussion will focus on new political and legal initiatives, financial services, and technical innovations. Daytime activities will be followed by evening sessions called ManagEnergy Talks. These talks follow the same format as TedxTalks, with short public presentations, and consist of keynote speeches by well-known experts in the field.

The role of FEDARENE in this new phase of the ManagEnergy project is to support the organisation of the various foreseen activities. In addition, FEDARENE seeks to boost the visibility of the initiative by communicating actively on social media platforms.

A year and a half after the official launch of the initiative, ManagEnergy has already connected hundreds of staff of energy agencies through its events. 3 Master Classes took place; 4 Expert Missions, 1 Networking Event & 1 ManagEnergy Talk.
Founded in 2015 by FEDARENE, the Roger Léron Award honours outstanding contributions from individuals to sustainable energy at the regional and local level. The Award pays tribute to the French politician Roger Léron, who was the president of FEDARENE from 1990 to 2007 and who greatly contributed to the sustainable energy field throughout his life.

The Ceremony of the 2018 edition took place on the 10th December 2018 at the Palais des Académies in Brussels. The winner, Andy Bull, spent 30 years in Welsh Local Government and developed many projects on climate change mitigation and sustainable development over the years. He was responsible for the creation of Mid Wales Energy Agency and also worked for Severn Wye Energy Agency.

The Ceremony also acknowledged Gérard Savatier’s and José Rámon Perán’s contributions to sustainable energy, who are tied at the second place. You can find further information about the Award including jury members and eligibility criteria on our Roger Léron web page (www.fedarene.org/roger-leron-award).

In 2019, we will already be celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Roger Léron Award. Applications for the 2019 edition will start soon, with the expectation that it will have the same success as past editions.
Fedarene participates in European projects and initiatives alongside its members and other European organisations. The following projects focus on capacity-building, market facilitation, policy implementation and replication of best practices amongst others.

**C-TRACK 50**

Putting regions on track for carbon neutrality by 2050 – C-track 50 will empower local and regional authorities to develop, finance and implement ambitious sustainable energy and climate resilient plans and actions. FEDARENE’s role in C-track 50 consists in coordinating communication activities.

Website: [www.c-track50.eu](http://www.c-track50.eu)

**PEGASUS**

The innovative approach of PEGASUS (Promoting Effective Generation and Sustainable USEs of electricity) is focused on experimenting a simulation of functioning of microgrids in 7 pilot areas jointly; solutions will be based on concrete situation with real data.

Website: [https://pegasus.interreg-med.eu](https://pegasus.interreg-med.eu)

**PROSPECT**

The PROSPECT learning programme enables peer-to-peer learning in regional and local authorities in order to finance and implement their sustainable energy and climate action plans. The programme builds upon successful financing schemes implemented in cities and regions in the European Union.

Website: [www.h2020prospect.eu](http://www.h2020prospect.eu)

**RELATED**

REnewable Low TEmperature District (RELaTED) provides a demonstrated concept of ultra-low temperature network solution for new district heating systems and the progressive conversion of currently running district heating systems in order to de-carbonize energy supplies in urban environments.

Website: [www.relatedproject.eu](http://www.relatedproject.eu)
MEMBERS’ PROJECTS
LOCAL & REGIONAL ENERGY AGENCIES & COUNCILS

The energy departments of regional and local councils, and energy agencies drive and implement the energy, climate and environmental policies of their regions. As autonomous entities, they elaborate and manage their own plans, acquire experience and knowledge, whilst engaging with local stakeholders. In particular, these entities intervene in the demand and supply side of energy management, development of renewable energy sources, waste management, mobility, air quality and urban development.

FORMS OF ACTION

- Advising local and regional decision-makers in defining regional energy and/or environmental and climate policies.
- Supporting local and regional councils in implementing regional energy and/or environmental and climate policies.
- Taking part in innovative EU projects (demonstration).
- Supporting the setting up of projects (community based).
- Providing technical assistance to municipalities.
- Promoting the development of local SMEs (eco-clusters).
- Anticipating the implementation of European legislation.
- Facilitating financing of projects (promoting subsidies from Local and Regional Councils) and initiating local investments.
- Leading awareness-raising campaigns.
- Participating in European and national networks.

All our members present one of their most recent projects in our Brochure. These examples highlight the diversity of their actions, goals, needs and challenges. All the projects are divided amongst six different groups according to their aims. For each article you will find information about the project, an illustration and a contact email.
ENVIRONMENT / REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT

VALLADOLID CITY COUNCIL LAUNCHES RAPID DEPLOYMENT LABORATORY FOR ATMOSPHERIC CONTROL – AEMVA [ES]

The new atmospheric control center is called Rapid Deployment because, if required, it can be moved to any urban location.

This laboratory has the highest capabilities in terms of atmospheric research. Its immediate mission will be to carry out measurements in urban areas, which, not being covered by fixed stations of the control network, need temporary campaigns that indicate the presence of harmful elements. Furthermore, if necessary, the laboratory can be used remotely in emergency situations that occur as a result of environmental incidents.

Any industrial emission of traffic, carries with it a certain level of risk to the health of people. For this reason regulatory standards and control networks have been set up in many cities in the Castile and León region. It is also the responsibility of the authorities to intervene and carry out regular tests to ensure that the quality of air all citizens breathe is maintained at an optimum level.

The Laboratory allows to efficiently investigate almost all of the pollutants known today. Using state-of-the-art technology, it guarantees the accuracy and precision of the data obtained by the network through quality assurance systems.

Contact
Email: aemva@ava.es
Website: www.valladolid.es/es/rccava
Photo credit: AEMVA
AVILA SMART RURAL TERRITORY: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN RURAL AREAS FOR EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICES – APEA [ES]

Avila County Council developed a regional project to provide public services for Avila citizens, making use of information and communication technologies. With the Regional Public Administration’s (Junta de Castilla y León) support, the provincial service of water management and provincial waste service are controlled with nanosensors that, connected to a general platform, provide relevant information and reports on all the parameters needed to offer the best quality and guarantee service.

With all the information the system provides, Avila County Council is able to organize more efficient routes of waste collection and maintain a cheaper and secure water quality control.

Contact
Rafael Perez Nieto
Email: apea@diputacionavila.es
Website: www.apea.com.es

THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL! CLIMATE-FRIENDLY LOCAL POWER GENERATION IN BERLIN HELPS FARMERS IN NEPAL – BEA [DE]

With a new climate-friendly contracting model, the Berlin Energy Agency (BEA) is continuing its successful energy efficiency partnership with the housing cooperative Bremer Höhe in a neighbourhood in Berlin’s Pankow district.

As there was no room in the basements of the listed Wilhelminian style residential buildings, three combined heat and power plants (CHP) based on natural gas were installed in attic heating centres in 2001. Since then, BEA has been delivering the power generated on the spot as so-called BEA Kiezstrom® (neighbourhood power) to the 480 households and shops in the buildings.

After a tender, the contract has now been renewed for another 15 years in 2018, consisting of two components with a special feature:

• CO2 reduction on site: thanks to state-of-the-art technology, the three new CHP units (plus peak load boilers) emit 233 tons less CO2 per year than the previous systems.
• CO2 reduction in Nepal: residual emissions are offset through the cooperation with “atmosfair”, a German non-profit organization supporting farmers in mountain villages in Nepal in switching from burning wood to self-powered small biogas plants. In these very simple plants, cow dung is mixed with water and fermented in a container to carbon-neutral biogas. The project is certified according to the UN’s Clean Development Mechanism.

Contact
Annegret-Cl. Agricola, Division Manager Contracting
Email: agricola@berliner-e-agentur.de
Website: www.berliner-e-agentur.de

Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze (3rd from the left) visits the construction works for the installation of the CHP units in the attic heating centres. Present are (from the left): Michaela Thurai from atmosfair, BEA CEO Michael Geissler, Member of the Bundestag Klaus Mindrup, Berlin State Secretary for Energy Christian Rickerts and Bremer Höhe Board Member Barbara König, ©BEA, Wiedensohler.
NEW ACTIVITIES TO MAKE LIGURIA’S CITIES SMARTER – IRE LIGURIA [IT]

Over the past year, the Government of the Liguria Region and IRE have launched new initiatives to help cities in Liguria with their transition to smart cities. IRE’s expertise is based on its participation to various EU projects focusing on the topic of smart cities: both past ones (FP7 “Transform” on city integrated planning) and current projects such as the ongoing H2020 SCC “UNALAB” and Climate-KIC “SUSHI”.

UNALAB is currently in its second year and aims at demonstrating innovative nature-based solutions (NBS) for water management in Eindhoven, Genova and Tampere. IRE is the technical partner supporting the roll-out of innovative NBS in the city of Genova, in the densely-built and highly populated district of Lagaccio. The SUSHI project focuses instead on making the historic districts of six Mediterranean cities (Lisbon, Valletta, Nicosia, Ptuj, Sassari, Savona) smarter and more sustainable, inclusive and climate resilient, through innovative integrated solutions and social change.

IRE is beneficiary of the project, with the aim of supporting the city of Savona in the planning and development of a smart historic district.

Thanks to IRE’s experience and support, the Liguria Region is currently promoting a number of activities aimed at helping Ligurian cities to become smarter. Among others, it is developing a simple, place-based set of Smart City Guidelines to help local Municipalities in the identification of new solutions to be implemented in districts, also providing information on funding opportunities at EU level. It is also currently carrying out a poll in order to obtain a detailed mapping of local stakeholders with their specific know-how as well as technologies and services to be involved in the smart city process.

Photo: Area in Genova [IT] where the H2020 “Unalab” project is demonstrating innovative nature based solutions. Credit : IRE

Contact
Maria Fabianelli
Email: energia@ireliguria.it
Website: www.ireliguria.it
Target 2020 is an energy efficiency programme aiming to help SMEs reduce their carbon output, improve their sustainability and fund the installation of more energy-efficient equipment. Working across the English counties of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, business energy advisors from Severn Wye Energy Agency analyse clients' bills, conduct an energy survey of the business premises and provide a report recommending the behaviours, fittings and fixtures that could be improved to save energy and reduce their carbon footprint.

For businesses that choose to invest capital in making physical improvements to their premises, 35% of the cost of purchase and installation is funded through a grant provided by the European Regional Development Fund. Grants ranging from £500 to £50,000 have been provided for businesses installing carbon-saving measures, funding everything from renewable technologies to low-carbon specialist manufacturing equipment. The team have supported 300 businesses to date, and awarded over 130 grants.

Thanks to Target 2020, 1200+ tonnes of carbon have been saved. All types of businesses have been involved – everything from tiny village halls to manufacturers who employ hundreds of workers – in the efforts to save energy and the environment. The occasional ‘interesting’ installation such as an EV charging hub or a lift shaft certainly breaks the cycle of lighting and heating improvements!

Photo credit: Severn Wye Energy Agency

Contact
James Clarke
Email: jamesc@severnwye.org.uk
Website: www.target2020.co.uk
“Green Energy Investments” is a regional project managed by the North Sweden Energy Agency. The project has been supporting new business ideas within sustainability and renewable energy in the County of Norrbotten with the goal of increasing their success rate. More than 100 business ideas were submitted by researchers, existing companies and new entrepreneurs. Out of these submissions, the top 10 most interesting ideas were selected. The field of work of those business ideas vary from sustainable construction, wind power and production of solar electricity, biocoal, biocomposites and biogas...

Each idea has been assessed on several parameters such as: technology, sustainability, business and market potential, effects on regional growth, gender equality etc. The assessment was carried out by energy experts, business developers and financial advisors. The 10 selected ideas were invited to participate in a business development process with the goal of preparing them for investments, or in other ways secure funding in order to take the next step in their process. In the end, eight business ideas made it through the whole process and they are now better prepared for their future development.

An additional outcome of the project has been the model configuration as well as the spread of information about the project. Other achievements include an investment guide, a step-by-step handbook, for entrepreneurs and business advisors in other organizations helping new start-up companies with a sustainable approach. The guide covers information and guidance related to most aspects of setting up a new business and implementing sustainability in all aspects, social, financial and environmental. Finally, the project strives to involve regional political decision makers and corporate representatives in the future development of the region’s renewable energy resources.

Contact
Inger E Pedersen, Business advisor
Email: inger@energikontornorr.se
Website: https://energikontornorr.se
At EVE, we see energy service contracts as a useful tool for promoting investment in efficiency and renewables and we will continue working to provide advice and support to any public authorities wishing to develop such contracts.

Since 2011, EVE has been promoting energy service contracts as a useful tool for financing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. This has mainly involved advising Basque public authorities on how to develop energy service projects. Highlights include performing energy audits on facilities that have been contracted out, drafting documents for the bidding process (particularly technical and administrative specifications), providing advice on assessing tenders, and giving support in drafting the final contract. Each year we have made specific non-refundable grants available for the investments covered by the contracts.

To date, over 60 energy audits have been performed on more than 1,000 public buildings and 100,000 public lighting points, and more than 25 energy service contracts have been signed. Over €15m have been invested in energy efficiency and renewable sources, leading to energy savings of over 4,000 toe. Over €2m of investment aid have been awarded.

Leading projects include complete replacement of public lighting systems with LEDs in the towns of Orozko, Bakio, Leioa, Bermeo, Ortuella, Etxebarri and Ormaiztegi (with a combined population of over 75,000 inhabitants) and the introduction of renewable energy sources such as biomass at Gorliz Public Hospital and solar photovoltaic in public sports complexes in San Sebastian.

Contact
Oscar Puche Ormaetxea
Email: opuche@eve.eus
Website: www.eve.eus
Photo credit: EVE
To overcome the barriers to energy-related investments in the public sector, Upper Austria has implemented the regional «Gemeinde-Energie-Programm» (GEP). Designed to make best use of the strengths found in the region’s small municipalities, this programme supports them in preparing concrete projects.

Municipalities play a crucial role in furthering the regional energy transition. 180 municipalities in Upper Austria have adopted energy action plans with clear targets, many of which require investments. There is a range of funding and financing instruments available both on regional and national levels. However, an analysis carried-out in the context of the EU-funded project Publenef revealed that many municipalities require support for the detailed planning of their investments.

Upper Austria is characterised by mostly small municipalities. These often suffer from a lack of capacities, resources and replicability for such projects. At the same time, their small size results in certain strengths: committed individual staff members can have a big impact, decision making routes are short and there is «power» in the local communities (i.e. energy groups, school groups, fire-brigades, active farmers).

Launched in 2017 and managed by the OÖ Energiesparverband, the GEP programme strives to use these strengths to trigger energy-related projects. It is based on the principles of activation, motivation and provision of technical advice. The programme funds the technical and financial planning of energy efficiency and renewable energy investments, information activities supporting project implementation and the optimisation of installations.

Target groups are reached through a mix of activities tailored to their needs. The most important are personal visits to municipalities to discuss their specific measures on-site, the provision of advice for their investment projects and the organisation of information events & workshops. Efforts are made to specifically reach out to municipalities that are generally less proactive in implementing energy-related projects. So far, nearly 100 municipalities were visited and 55 projects were triggered.

Key achievements
- Energy advice: 118 advice sessions, including 92 on-site visits to municipalities
- Projects triggered: 55 (25 fully implemented by November 2018)
- Investments triggered: 5.5 Million Euro.

Contact
Christiane Egger
Email: office@esv.or.at
Website: www.esv-en.at
www.energiesparverband.at/gemeinden
COMMITTING TO MORE AMBITIOUS CO2 TARGETS AND PLANNING TO BECOME MORE RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN ROMANIA - ALEA [RO]

Alba Local Energy Agency (ALEA)'s priorities, in line with the new Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative, have driven the agency to set itself more ambitious goals such as engaging in its first actions toward the transformation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) into correspondent Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) for several Romanian municipalities.

In this context, 5 Romanian municipalities (Alba Iulia, Baia Mare, Oradea, Sebeș and Târgu Mureș) have already started working on the transformation of their SEAPs into SECAPs benefiting from the support given by ALEA in the framework of the SIMPLA (Sustainable Integrated Multi-Sector Planning - H2020) project.

As partner of the SIMPLA project, ALEA is engaged in leading the harmonization of strategic sustainable energy and mobility plans of several Romanian municipalities. Harmonization means working on complementary areas of sustainable energy plans and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs), exploiting their synergies and thus enhancing their impact.

The harmonization process represents a great opportunity for the upcoming development of SECAPs, in which local authorities need to integrate climate adaptation and mitigation measures in their strategic energy planning. The harmonization process thus provides the ideal chance to update and revise planning tools, looking for connections and synergies in the light of a new set of objectives. At the same time, the transition to SECAP represents an opportunity to introduce harmonisation actions which have been identified as being necessary into the initial SEAPs.

For the last period of time, ALEA has been offering tailored technical advice to the Alba Iulia and Sebes municipalities for the elaboration of their climate change adaptation plans (as part of the SECAPs) alongside the harmonization process between their SECAPs and SUMPs - a novelty at national level.

Contact
Email: contact@alea.ro
Website: www.alea.ro
Photo credit: ALEA
ABRUZZO REGION DEVELOPS THE CLIMATE PROFILE, ATLAS AND ADAPTATION GUIDELINES OF THE REGION – ARAEN [IT]

The process adopted by the Abruzzo Region for tackling climate change challenges has been structured in a number of key documents. The regional climate profile, the climate atlas and the guidelines are amongst the key reports developed so far, which paved the way for the realisation and implementation of the subsequent Regional Adaptation Plan and Strategy. The main objective is to raise awareness of the threat of climate impacts and to put climate change adaptation on the regional political agenda.

In particular, the guidelines contain: the participatory process adopted by the Abruzzo Region for the development and implementation of the adaptation strategy and the results obtained; the climate profile and vulnerabilities of the Region; the first steps toward the regional plan (planning and policy view, top-down and bottom-up approaches, financial resources, barriers to its realization); review of available knowledge and state of the art; evaluation of vulnerabilities and risks. The documents have been developed in consultation with an array of regional, national and European actors and stakeholders.

ENERGY AGENCY OF THE ZLÍN REGION IS SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTING THE REGIONAL SEAP FOR 2015-2019 – EAZK [CZ]

The Zlín Region Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) for the period 2015-2019 was elaborated within the COOPENERGY project and started to be implemented right after its approval by the Council of the Zlín Region in June 2015 with the Energy Agency of the Zlín Region (EAZK) as the coordinating body of the implementation process. The main focus of the regional SEAP is increasing the safety and reliability of energy supply in the Zlín Region and increasing the energy efficiency and renewable energy sources development in the whole area of the Zlín Region which counts for nearly 600,000 inhabitants.

Initiation, coordination and implementation of 440 energy efficiency investments projects of 121 million EUR belong to the outstanding results of regional SEAP implementation by EAZK. The annual savings for the Zlín Region are more than 109 MWh of heat, 18,400 tons of CO2 emissions and 6.5 million EUR for fuel costs. Other remarkable achievements are the organisation of 194 seminars, workshops and conferences for more than 4,650 participants, or the initiation and coordination of bulk energy purchase for Zlín Region organisations, providing them with energy cost savings of 5.1 million EUR.

Contact
Tomáš Perutka
Email: tomas.perutka@eazk.cz
Website: www.eazk.cz
CREATING RENEWABLE ENERGY SCENARIOS FOR THE ILE-DE-FRANCE REGION – IAU [FR]

In the framework of the new energy and climate regional strategy, the Energy and Climate department of IAU, previously ARENE*, has brought its expertise to the elaboration of scenarios for 2030.

Experts from energy distributors, the energy transport network, the national energy agency and ARENE/IAU worked together by testing two modelling scenarios including an ambitious hypothesis on new clean fuels for transport (electric, bioNGV, H2), decrease of energy consumption in buildings thanks to energy refurbishment and energy sufficiency.

An overall doubling of renewables in the Ile-de-France region would lead to: 250 biogas installations, 200 wind turbines, 60 km2 of PV panels, 50 biomass industrial heaters, 25 gasification sites and 20 geothermal deep energy sites. The model is based on a strong involvement of both public and private sectors, from the citizens to the companies, associations and institutions and with closed partnership between cities and the Region. This working group will continue to develop the models in the next years in order to refine the results and support a sufficient, efficient and clean region.

* ARENE is now the Energy and Climate department of IAU (land planning regional institute).

Contact
Marie-Laure Falque-Masset
Email: marie-laure.falque-masset@iau-idf.fr
Website: www.areneidf.org

Photo credit: IAU IDF
Through the «Pollec» program, Wallonia supports municipalities that put in place action plans to reduce energy consumption in their territory and adapt to climate change.

Various municipalities started the implementation of their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) thanks to the financial support from Wallonia for developing alternative financing schemes. As an example, two municipalities have launched “Cooperatives for Social Purposes” on their territory: Mouscron and Herve.

Mouscron, one of the first municipalities to have signed the Covenant of Mayors, started the «Cooperative Energy Mouscron» (COOPEM SCRL) in May 2017. The objective of this Cooperative is to promote the deployment of photovoltaic installations to citizens and businesses of the territory by offering them support for the various steps of their project.

The municipality of Herve was at the initiative of the creation of a cooperative called “Bocagen”. The cooperative participated in the installation of photovoltaic panels on the sports and cultural center of Welkenraedt, a nearby town. One of the objectives of the Cooperative was also to fully fund this equipment by the citizens of the municipality. A participatory audit will then be conducted with building users to raise peoples’ awareness of sustainable development and energy saving.

These two examples show that, through their SECAP, municipalities can be at the initiative of developing local, democratic and sustainable projects.

Contact
Jean Van PAMEL- Service public de Wallonie-DGO4
Email: conventiondesmaires@spw.wallonie.be
Website: Conventiondesmaires.wallonie.be

Photo credit: SPW Wallonia
NEW ELEVATORS FOR THERMALLY REHABILITATED BLOCKS IN BUCHAREST SECTOR 1 - AEEPM [RO]

Eligible buildings are those equipped with a lift and which have been thermally rehabilitated through the programs carried out by Sector 1 of Bucharest.

As a second step in the implementation of the 2020 Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), Sector 1 in the city of Bucharest is continuing its energy efficiency program for apartment blocks with the replacement of energy inefficient elevators for thermally rehabilitated buildings.

The Bucharest Sector 1 Local Council has approved an investment sub-program for the upgrading of 901 elevators in thermal rehabilitation blocks as a measure to improve energy efficiency. The project is scheduled to start in early 2019 and according to the technical and economic indicators, the total value of the investment, including VAT, is estimated at 107.8 million lei, out of which 17 million lei is the amount allocated for construction and assembly works. A reduction of up to 40% of primary energy consumption is predicted. The expected execution time is 30 months.

Contact
Ion Dogeanu
Email: office@managenergy.ro
Website: www.managenergy.ro

Photo credit: AEEPM
PROMOTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE GREEK ISLANDS: MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS & STREET LIGHTING IN THE SPOTLIGHT! - AEGEA [GR]

In 2018, The Aegean Energy Agency (AEGEA) helped a number of island municipalities to promote energy efficiency locally by maturing projects in the fields of energy retrofitting of public buildings as well as street lighting.

In close collaboration with island-members of the DAFNI Network, AEGEA did significant groundwork and prepared the energy upgrading of:

- 29 municipal buildings in 9 islands – Sifnos, Mykonos, Santorini, Kalymnos, Amorgos, Ios, Lemnos, Psara and Lipsi;
- 40,000 municipal street lights in 10 islands – Lipsi, Psara, Patmos, Kos, Rhodes, Kythnos, Nisyros, Tilos, Lesvos, and Antiparos.

For each island, AEGEA followed a dedicated strategy, performing energy audits and techno-economic analyses in order to come up with the necessary interventions, also in consultation with local stakeholders.

Then, AEGEA helped municipalities choose the best-suited funding instrument. A large part of the work was dedicated to ensuring the overcoming of bureaucratic obstacles and the submission of proposals for calls for funding and loans, issued by the Regional Operational Programmes and Consignment Deposits and Loans Fund.

On top of this, AEGEA is promoting alternative financing instruments like Energy Performance Contracting (EPC), also in the frame of EU-funded STEPPING and HAPPEN projects, in an effort to build trust amongst municipalities and the ESCO market through new cooperation schemes.

For island municipalities, facing limited or no access to technical assistance and expertise but also resource scarcity and budgetary constraints, a direct result of their small population size and scale of economic activities, AEGEA’s support proves fundamental for the realisation of projects with an added-value for the local economy and quality of life.

Contact
Kostas Komninos
Email: info@aegean-energy.gr
Website: www.aegean-energy.gr
Photo credit: Giorgos Konstantopoulos

Left: Energy upgrading of high school, Sifnos island. Right: Energy upgrading of municipal street lighting, Lipsi harbor.
The Prahova County Council started running the project entitled «Extension, rehabilitation, modernisation and endowment of the integrated ambulatory of Ploiesti Obstetrics Gynecology Hospital» with non-reimbursable European funds, through the Regional Operational Program 2014-2020, Priority Axis 8, Operation A.

For the elaboration of the project, the Prahova County Council was supported by AE3R, the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Agency of Ploiesti-Prahova, which carried out the energy audit for the hospital's building and participated in all stages of the project.

The project comprises a series of Energy Efficiency measures to be implemented, such as:

- the thermal insulation of the facades, the terrace and the flooring;
- replacing the exterior windows and doors with high performances ones;
- replacing all lighting fixtures with LED ones;
- installing 180 vacuum tube solar panels covering 75% of the Hospital's hot water consumption.

AE3R actively supports the achievement of national and European targets on energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources, assisting local authorities in Prahova County, Romania, and even abroad.

The overall objective of the project is to increase the accessibility of health services and to improve the health status of the population in Prahova County by providing citizens with conditions that comply with the standards and which are suitable for their needs.

The total value of the project is of about 3,700,000 EUR, out of which 98% represents non-refundable financing, and 2% represents Prahova County Council's co-financing. Through this project, the primary energy consumption will be reduced by approximately 46%, and the CO2 emissions will be reduced by 58%.

Contact
Diana Valentina Vîscan
Email: office@ae3r-ploiesti.ro
Website: www.ae3r-ploiesti.ro

Photo credit: AE3R - the Ploiesti Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital before & after expected rehabilitation
THE INTEGRAL RENOVATION OF PROVINCIAL STREET LIGHTING PROJECT IN THE BURGOS PROVINCE – AGENBUR [ES]

The Society for the Development of the Province of Burgos (SODEBUR) works to promote social and economic development in rural areas of the Spanish Burgos province using different actions. One of the programmes promotes the development of a sustainable territory and the reduction of energy consumption. Within this programme, SODEBUR is developing an ambitious project called the Integral Renovation of Provincial Street Lighting Project (PRIAP).

PRIAP, involved in the Development of the Province of Burgos, is going to replace current street lighting with LED systems in 256 municipalities in the province. The project will have a duration of 36 months, ending in December 2018. It will be financed up to 9,325,694.94 EUR funded by the provincial corporation, and 8,557,500.00 EUR by municipalities, making a total of 17,883,194.94 EUR. The main objective is to reduce energy consumption to approximately 53 M kwh during the 10 years of expected lifespan of the LED technology, and 21 M kg CO2.

Contact
Cristina López
Email: clopez@agenbur.com
Website: www.agenbur.com

A SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND COST-EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTED LIGHTING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROME – AGIRE [IT]

The Energy Agency of the Province of Mantua, AGIRE, is acting as partner of the Life-DIADEME project, co-financed by the EU LIFE Programme and coordinated by Reverberi Enetec, a pioneer company experienced in smart lighting through innovative energy saving solutions.

Diademe aims at establishing a smart and cost-efficient public lighting management system that substantially reduces energy consumption, CO2 emissions and maintenance costs by 30% compared to actual dimming systems.

A new “Adaptive Street Lighting” concept, introduced by the latest edition of CEN-13201, will be installed, tested and validated at over 1,000 new lighting points in the Municipality of Rome, within the “EUR” business and residential district.

Installation is providing innovative sensors modulating public lighting levels, based on both detection and monitoring of noise, traffic and air pollution, ready to evolve in future seamless smart city scenarios.

Project outcomes are generating a significant socio-economic and environmental impact locally, while increasing EU and global level dissemination. Diademe is also contributing to an update of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation policies following stricter emission limits.

Contact
Massimiliano Musci
Email: musci@agiren.it
Website: www.diademe.it
ENERGY CONTRACTING MODEL: ENERGY RENOVATION OF 24 PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN THE CITY OF MARIBOR– ENERGAP [SI]

In 2018, Energap (Energy Agency of Podravje, institution for sustainable energy use) in cooperation with the Municipality of Maribor, has devoted much attention to preparing all the necessary documents for the project “Energy rehabilitation of 24 public buildings in the City of Maribor using the Energy Contracting model”. The project has been prepared and implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Energy Rehabilitation Program for Public Buildings of the Ministry of Infrastructure and includes a Cohesion fund from the financial perspective 2014-2020. In May 2018, the project was successfully presented and accepted by the City Council of the Municipality of Maribor. In October 2018, an agreement with a private partner was signed. The field work will start in February 2019.

The Energy rehabilitation includes primary schools, kindergartens, an administrative building of the Municipality of Maribor, an Ice Skating Hall as well as a Sports Hall. The main purpose of the investment project is the implementation of the necessary measures for the comprehensive energy refurbishment of these buildings. Furthermore, it aims to establish efficient Energy Management with the purpose of functional improvement and increasing energy efficiency, reducing energy costs and maintenance, the management of buildings and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and dust particles.

Within the framework of the project, the boiler houses and indoor lighting will be energetically improved and energy management will be established. In some buildings, the building envelopes and building furniture will be renovated, attic and thermostatic valves will be installed and some specific measures will be carried out according to specific requirements of the building. The main objective, of implementing this project are: reducing energy consumption by 4,978 MWh per year, lowering energy costs by 356,600 EUR per year, reducing current maintenance costs by 115,480 EUR per year and cutting CO2 emissions by 1.157 tonnes per year.

Contact
Email: info@energap.si
Website: www.energap.si
SMART RETROFITTING OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS REDUCED ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY HALF IN VÄXJÖ – ENERGIKONTOR SYDOST [SE]

To move a community towards a sustainable and affordable climate friendly future, a holistic approach is vital. Integrated climate planning in the cities of Växjö and Aarhus enabled the implementation of smart city solutions. The READY project demonstrates a wide variety of combined measures; district heating and cooling, building retrofitting, chargers for electric vehicles, renewable energy installations, energy storage and balancing as well as green business solutions.

Measures for lower energy consumption in buildings

The READY project in Växjö demonstrates that the heat loss of buildings can be significantly reduced with retrofitting by changing the windows, reinsulating and adding heat recovery to ventilation and waste water. Together with visualization in each apartment of electricity, cold and hot water consumption, the smart metering data can make consumers more aware of the effect of their behaviour on the consumption and can be used for automatic regulation of heat consumption. Smart metering data also makes it possible to monitor the state of the low temperature district heating network that has been implemented in Växjö.

Over 20 partners from public bodies, consultants and businesses

The READY project (2014-2019) was launched under the FP7 Programme, now administered by Horizon 2020, as a Lighthouse project. The consortium consists of more than 20 partners from Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, France and Austria.

Contact
Stefan Olsson
Email: stefan.olsson@energikontorsydost.se
Website: www.smartcity-ready.eu
KSSENA, the Energy Agency of Savinjska, Šaleška and Koroška Region, offered support to the Municipality of Celje in the process of deep energy renovation, from project preparation and design to the implementation of proposed measures. The goal of the project is the energy renovation of buildings in order to make them compliant with sectoral legislation, guidelines and rules. The measures presented are optimal solutions, carefully selected and defined according to the current state of the buildings. The energy saving potential and the sense of comprehensive energy renovations were carefully defined, so the presented data has been the basis for the decision to finance deep energy renovation through energy performance contracting.

The proposed list of buildings for deep energy renovation, consists of buildings where potential energy savings are the highest, according to the amount of investment. An important selection criteria was also the use of the building. In most cases they are used by educational institutions, and thus have a particularly profound effect on increasing the awareness of the need to save energy.

The final selection of the eight buildings was defined based on the offer of the selected energy contracting company. In this process, KSSENA was responsible for carrying out the energy audits and a pre-feasibility study.

The Municipality of Celje then published a public tender to search for the energy renovation contractor with the energy contracting instrument. Two candidates applied: Energetika Celje, d. o. o. and Petrol d. d. and the best bidder - Energetika Celje, d. o. o. - was selected through a competitive dialogue.

An initial offer was the basis for amended and expanded energy audits as well as amended investment programs. Total investment costs for deep energy renovations are 4,054,573,16 EUR, and financial sources are split among: Private partners' budget, such as the Energetika Celje, d.o.o. and the Municipality of Celje, ELENA grants for preparation of investment documentation and Ministry of Infrastructure of Slovenia (EU and national funds).

Contact
Boštjan Krajnc
Email: boštjan.krajnc@kssena.velenje.eu
Website: www.kssena.si
DYNAMIC LIGHT – TOWARDS DYNAMIC, INTELLIGENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENT URBAN LIGHTING – MENEA [HR]

The project is a how-to-do demonstration of how a city can get an energy efficient lighting, starting from the idea to the analysis, Geographic Information Systems data mining, strategy development, financial models, procurement rules, implementation and evaluation. This goes hand in hand with a pilot demonstration of investments to increase the acceptance of energy-efficient lighting among end users and town planners, improving the quality of dynamic light and adapting it to social needs.

SCHOOL’S OUT FOR FOSSIL FUELS IN YOUGHALARRA - TIPPERARY ENERGY AGENCY [IE]

In 2017, Youghalarra National School, in association with Tipperary Energy Agency, carried out several energy saving works to reduce their energy bill. The national school received grant funding through the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland’s Better Energy Communities Scheme and invested a total of 84,800 EUR. The following work was carried out on the school:

• a new heating system was installed;
• upgrades to the windows;
• installation of external wall insulation;
• a ventilation system with full heat recovery was installed to maintain a constant temperature in the building.

The new heating system included an air to water heat pump with a zoned control management system, which alone greatly reduced the energy consumption of the building.

12 photovoltaic panels were also installed on the building’s roof to offset the energy load of the school even further. The work which was carried out will greatly reduce the school’s energy bill.

Tipperary Energy Agency were involved in the project from the beginning, managing it throughout. Principal Brian Russell said ‘The pupils notice a big change, the classrooms are warmer and the damp smell is gone.’
The Andalusian Energy Agency, together with the Andalusian Government, launched the Table for Self-consumption in Andalusia to promote the development of self-consumption in Andalusia and the change of consumers to Andalusian electricity prosumers. This action contributes to facilitating the fulfilment of the objective of self-consuming 5% of the electricity generated with renewables established in the Energy Strategy of Andalusia 2020.

The main objectives are:

- improving the development of an appropriate self-consumption framework;
- disseminating the viability of self-consumption facilities;
- facilitating the change from consumers to prosumers;
- improving the training of the business sector.

The table is constituted to facilitate coordination between the Andalusian administration and the business sector and, at the same time, as a tool capable of specifying priority actions to encourage the development of self-consumption facilities in Andalusia.

Therefore, high-level commitment of the participants and technical work will facilitate the development of priority action lines.

- **Working Group on Administrative Procedures**: focuses on the improvement and streamlining of the procedures to implement self-consumption facilities and its legalisation.
- **Working Group on Communication**: disseminates among Andalusian citizens the advantages of self-consumption.
- **Working Group on Training**: improves the training offer for companies and installers concerning the specificities and current framework of self-consumption.
- **Working Group on Municipalities and Self-consumption**: aimed at bringing self-consumption to all Andalusian municipalities.

**Contact**

Marisa Borra  
Email: atencionalciudadano.aae@juntadeandalucia.es  
Website: www.agenciaandaluzadelaenergia.es
FOSTERING SOLAR DISTRICT HEATING PROJECTS IN AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES: AN ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCK FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE REGION – AURA-EE [FR]

Integrating solar thermal energy into rural and urban district heating and combining it with other renewable sources optimizes the operation and provides a cost effective solution for large-scale renewable district heating networks. Implementing such projects requires the involvement of a large variety of stakeholders, from regional policy makers to network operators, local authorities, interest groups and market developers.

From Policy to Market: a multi-stakeholder approach supporting renewable district heating

In the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, the energy agency Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Énergie Environnement (AURA-EE) collaborated with the Regional Council and the National Solar Energy Institute to develop a multi-stakeholder policy and capacity building programme supporting the market adoption of solar district heating projects in the region.

The region counts 180 district heating networks and the programme estimated the potential of Solar District Heating (SDH) development on existing District Heating and Cooling (DHC) at around 500,000 m² of panels. Three major SDH installations are in operation in the region.

Check out AURA-EE’s video ‘SDH solaire thermique dans les réseaux de chaleur’ on their Youtube Channel!

Contact
Email: patrick.biard@auvergnerhonealpes-ee.fr
Website: www.auvergnerhonealpes-ee.fr

Photo credit: AURA-EE
The Catalan Government, together with the Catalan Institute for Energy (ICAEN), has created a Task force to boost photovoltaic (PV) self-consumption in Catalonia in order to make the PV self-consumption easily accessible to the citizen. The main goals are:

- **Facilitating joint action and the coordination** between the different stakeholders involved in self-consumption: public administrations, companies of the PV sector, professional and consumer associations, distribution system operators (DSOs), electricity purchasers, manufacturers and distributors of PV components, etc.

- **Overcoming the main existing barriers:** administrative procedures, urban planning and municipal regulations that prohibit or restrict PV on buildings, grid connection, lack of training of installers, etc.

To achieve these objectives, the Task force is organized in different Working Groups (WGs), which have the following goals:

- **WG1 – grid connection:** clarify and reach an agreement, in the framework of the current legislation, between the PV companies, the DSO and the Catalan Government, about the technical specifications and procedures for the grid connection of PV self-consumption installations.

- **WG2 – public administrations:** propose measures to harmonize and simplify the municipal permits.

- **WG3 – communication:** carry out actions to disseminate PV self-consumption, mainly among citizens.

- **WG4 – grants:** design the grants for PV storage systems in households.

Grants for PV storage systems in households have been given and different communication activities have been carried out: social media campaigns, web information, leaflets, etc.

Agreements in relation with the grid connection procedures and technical specifications have been taken and a model of municipal ordinance to simplify administrative procedures and promote PV self-consumption is being prepared.

**Contact**

Francesc Vidal  
Email: icaen@gencat.cat  
Website: http://icaen.gencat.cat

Photo credit: ICAEN
DISTRICT HEATING WITH BIOMASS IN THE VALENCIA REGION – IVACE [ES]

A central heating network or District Heating is a hot water supply system for sanitary and heating uses (and in some cases also refrigeration), providing its services to different buildings from one central plant. The heat produced in this plant is delivered to the users for consumption through a network of pre-insulated and buried pipes.

The District Heating project with biomass boilers developed by the Municipality of Todolella (Spain) was awarded during the National Energy Awards organised by the Spanish Association of Energy Agencies (EnerAgen), of which IVACE is a member. This system is the first one with these characteristics in the Valencia region.

This initiative helps domestic economies, since savings related to tariffs of diesel fuel accounts for around 60%. This also means an increase in value of the properties which adopt this heating system.

Contact
Germán Cuñat
Email: info.ivace@gva.es
Website: www.ivace.es

Photo: Two boilers of the District Heating with biomass project in Todolella (Valencia). Credit: IVACE

ENERGY POTENTIAL ONLINE MAP - RÉGION SUD PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D’AZUR [FR]

The situation in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur has shown two recurring obstacles to the development of renewable energies (essentially photovoltaic) for several years:
• small land availability for large-sized projects (photovoltaic parks on the ground, wind farms, etc.);
• the knowledge and mobilisation of the actors for installations on buildings (photovoltaic panels on roofs).

This, together with changing usage and data needs, led the Region to work on the topic of dynamic mapping and the integration of real-time data applied to energy. Since the second half of 2017, the Region has been working on the launch of an “Energy potential online map” as a tool for mobilising territories and businesses by facilitating the identification of roofs and land most suitable for the deployment of renewable energy.

This online map aims to offer different functionalities at the scale of plots and roofs for the appropriate energies: simulation of the photovoltaic surface that can be installed by roof and associated revenues, identification of the land available for each type of renewable energy, regulatory constraints by zone (historic center, protected area, etc.), classification of plots in planning documents, proximity to energy grids.

This project will join in a single dynamic online map all the conditions applied to each plot in order to let the projects holders choose if specific plots are suited to become sites for the implementation renewable energy projects.

Contact
Valentin Lyant
Email: vlyant@maregionsud.fr

Image credit: Région SUD
When the Karlovac County adopted their Sustainable Energy Strategy in 2009, they were just another small region in the South-East of Europe, heavily dependent on fossil fuels (mostly fuel oil) and without any experience in using biomass (except as fuelwood) despite their huge forest areas. Today, they are an unquestioned leader in biomass utilisation with impressive results, international references, reputation and ambitious plans – this is the GREEN ENERGY project!

The project was initiated by REGEA (North-west Croatia Regional Energy Agency) and it first started with households. Since 2009, Karlovac County is directly supporting the installation of small pellet boilers for family houses. In total, more than 200 families received a capital grant (usually 40-50% of investments) and the total installed capacity exceeded 4 MW.

In 2013, a multi-year program for replacing fuel oil with biomass in schools of Karlovac County started with the installation of the first biomass boiler in Duga Resa (wood chip boiler 300 kW with a 3000l hot water tank). Two new investments – this time applying a heat entrepreneurship innovative model – were made in 2016 for schools in Ozalj and Slunj (250 kW and 300 kW wood chip boilers). In 2018, another school in Duga Resa followed (300 kW boiler with a 3,000 liter heat buffer) and two new schools in Ogulin and Vojnic are already under preparation.

Total investments in school biomass boilers in Karlovac County already reached 1 million EUR so far. New biomass boilers projects are on their way as for eight schools project documentation is already prepared and ready. Biomass promotion is now an activity carried out also in the wider South-European framework as REGEA (as project coordinator) and Karlovac County teamed with their neighbours from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro using Interreg calls.

An encouraging trend is that the Green Energy project motivated Croatian policy makers to perceive the potential economic benefits of sustainable bioenergy, such as increased employment and earnings, regional economic gain and a contribution to securing energy supply among others. This represents a significant policy shift with regards to the old view in which, especially biomass, was viewed only as non-commercial or rural energy source.

Contact
Email: info@regea.org
Website: www.regea.org
The Central Finland Region benefits from biogas production from agro-, municipal and industrial waste streams. Thanks to several investments for biogas plants, production is increasing, and the filling station network is expanding.

In the CIRCWASTE project, Central Finland is focusing on the promotion of biogas for transport use. This project provides information for potential users of biogas. In creating markets, e.g. leasing cars of cities, public transport, or waste collection vehicles, it can provide an outstanding example. This project is a Life IP funded project (2016 – 2023) promoting waste prevention, resource efficiency and recycling of materials.

In this region, biogas is seen as a very prominent way to answer the challenges climate change mitigation brings to transport sector. It is a good example of smart utilisation of waste streams, transforming energy from waste materials to easy-to-use form. The process also enables recovery of the nutrients, especially phosphorus, to be re-used as fertilizer.

Contact
Outi Pakarinen
Email: outi.pakarinen@keskisuomi.fi
Website: www.keskisuomi.fi

Photo credit: Regional Council of Central Finland
ELECTRIC BUS E.CITY GOLD ON TESTS IN MADEIRA AND PORTO SANTO ISLANDS – AREAM [PT]

In December 2017, Madeira hosted an electric bus demonstration developed under the Civitas Destinations Project, co-financed by the Horizon 2020 Programme, with the coordination of AREAM and the partnership of three bus service operators and the Regional Government of Madeira. The test was undertaken with the e.City Gold, a 100% electric urban bus developed in Portugal by CaetanoBus.

The test aimed to evaluate the technical feasibility of the operation of electric buses on the island of Madeira and Porto Santo, and to support local actors in defining a strategy for the decarbonization of the bus service sector.

The demonstration showed that the electric bus is technically feasible, cost-effective and environmentally more favourable in relation to Diesel and natural gas fuelled buses, and have suitable power and torque for the required demand and road slopes in Madeira.

In short, the electric bus saves 86% in energy costs (about 50 EUR/100km) and has 75% less CO2 emissions (about 130 kg CO2/100km) compared to Diesel buses. Over a period of 20 years, it was found that the additional investment compared to a Diesel bus, is recovered in less than seven years.

Contact

Email: claudiahenriques@aream.pt

More information: Watch the video “e.City Gold electric bus experience in Madeira and Porto Santo - Civitas Destinations” on Youtube!
FIELD TEST E-MOBILITY – ENU [AT]

Can a low voltage power grid support one street if all households are using an electric car? A small village in Lower Austria was selected to test the influence of e-cars on the power grid. 18 households got 23 e-cars for their daily use. A simple control technology monitored the voltage in the grid and slowed down the charging process if needed. Within the six weeks tryout the voltage in the grid was never in a critical state and each morning all cars had a full battery. The participants were enthusiastic and used the electric cars for 90 percent of their everyday trips, with a total of 53,000 km in 6 weeks.

In the future, the field test will be extended. In the village Obersiebenbrunn, it will be analysed how e-mobility can be realised in large scale residential buildings; with a focus on charging in underground parking and e-car sharing systems. In a third village called Echsenbach, an intensification of the first field test will be repeated. Winter months will provide insights into extraordinary situations with additional consumption of heat pumps and electric cars.

Contact
Matthias Komarek
Email: matthias.komarek@enu.at
Website: www.enu.at

Photo credit: NLK Burchhart

SUN-ELECTRIC-CARS - JÄMTLANDS LÄNS ENERGIKONTOR (SWEDEN)

An increasing number of private individuals and companies in Jämtland are building photovoltaic solar systems and/or investing in cars recharged with renewable electricity in public or non-public charging stations. In support of this development, and in conjunction with the region’s business community, the SOL-EL CARS project is being carried out during the period 2016-2018.

During the project period, the number of rechargeable cars in the county has more than doubled, from 251 to 525, and the installed solar power effect has increased by approximately 4.6 MW. In addition, the number of public fast-charging stations has increased from 10 to 22, while the number of public charging stations at visitor destinations etc. increased from around 50 pieces to about 120 pieces.

Contact
Jimmy Anjevall
Email: jimmy.anjevall@regionjh.se
Website: solelbilar.se

Photo credit: Jämtlands Läns Energikontor
CASTILLA Y LEÓN COMMITMENT WITH ELECTRIC MOBILITY: FROM THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT TO ALL POTENTIAL USERS – EREN [ES]

Electromobility is one of the main energy efficiency goals for the Castilla y León regional government in Spain. Replacing traditional vehicles in all sectors of activity, private and public, is considered as the most effective tool to reduce the high energy consumption of the transport sector. The Castilla y León regional public administration already owns 20 units of electric vehicles.

The Electric Vehicle (EV) regional strategy in Castilla y León has amongst its main objectives to achieve the incorporation of this clean technology into public transport fleets, seen as the best method to exemplify and probe its benefits. The region shows its commitment to energy saving and environmental protection, as transport accounts for 30% of energy consumption. The selection for the replacement of vehicles is based on an analysis of current fleets, where age and high energy consumption determine a high potential for the substitution of vehicles.

Starting with the acquisition of 4 electric vehicles in 2017, which were rotating through different departments for promotion and demonstration, the current replacement has reached 20 EV and has resulted in growing interest.

Other EV support actions:
- EV driving courses for staff;
- Call for public funds to acquire alternative fuel vehicles;
- Supply a network of charging points: 80 already in operation in 58 regional public buildings and natural protected areas (EU project Moveletur aimed at promoting sustainable mobility in natural areas);
- Around 100 high capacity fast charging stations will be installed in the coming years.

One of the main achievements has been the opportunity to showcase electric vehicles from the regional government, as the best possible support for the EV automotive regional market and manufacture.

Contact
Orlando Redondo Alvarez
Email: eren@jcyl.es
Website: https://vehiculoelectrico.jcyl.es
Photo credit: Boštjan Krajnc
Based on a situation where industry and coal were the main economic activities in the Asturias region, the objective is to achieve a gradual and sustainable transformation of the energy sector in Asturias that additionally enhances the regional industrial activity.

This is why, among other actions, FAEN (the Regional Energy Agency of the Principality of Asturias) is working on the promotion of Electric Vehicles, encouraging the use of more efficient fuels and, in return, expecting benefits such as a reduction of polluting gas emissions, the modernisation and efficiency improvement of the regional energy sector as well as the generation of new jobs.

Recently, FAEN has created a roundtable gathering the main regional stakeholders related to the electricity and car sector (enterprises, associations and other institutions) to promote the use of electric vehicles. In these meetings, different opportunities and possible concerns are discussed.

At the moment, the regional government and FAEN have achieved the development of a basic network of charging points (less than 50km between charging stations), the analysis of the locations and a public-private collaboration for its development. FAEN is currently developing 61 public access charging points. The next steps are: the creation of a Cantabric corridor from the north of Spain to other European connections and the development of a demonstrative project in which an electric vehicle charging station isolated from the grid and with battery storage will be created to find out whether it can be replicated in other places.

To promote dissemination, the First International Congress of ultrafast charge was organised. FAEN is also the owner of a photovoltaic flower charging point that is being moved to different places in order to show it to citizens at different events.

Contact
María Jesús Rodríguez Dorronsoro
Email: miren@faen.es
Website: www.faen.es

PV flower charging point owned by FAEN. © FAEN
LOCATIONS – LOW CARBON TRANSPORT IN CRUISE DESTINATION CITIES
- REA KVARNER [HR]

The project LOCATIONS – Low Carbon Transport in Cruise Destination Cities, is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund in the framework of the Interreg MED Program. Its goal is to support local public administrations in drafting Low-Carbon Transport and mobility Plans (LCTPs) with measures dedicated to cruise-related passengers and freight flows, helping them to reduce city traffic and to lower the production of greenhouse gases. In line with that objective, the Institution Regional Energy Agency Kvarner supported another project partner from the same city – Port of Rijeka Authority – in developing this document for the Rijeka city area.

The LCTP described the context relevant to this cruise destination: all positive and negative characteristics of locations for the berthing of cruise ships in Rijeka were examined. In addition, the transportation network related to other services and infrastructure important for cruiseship tourism was described. Furthermore, an analysis of the current features and statistics relevant for cruise ships traffic flows between 2015 and 2017 was carried out using three different scenarios. This was the basis for further projections until 2028.

Apart from the general forecast of passenger traffic, the projections considered the forecast of flows, buses for organised excursions, shuttle buses, vehicles for disposal of waste and vehicles for disposal of oily and other waters. Major obstacles impeding the development of Rijeka as a sustainable cruise ship destination were identified, and appropriate measures were devised in order to achieve all desired goals.

Presentation of the project during the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) organized in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, Croatia. © Rea Kvarner

CONTACT
Email: fabio.tomasi@areasciencepark.it
Website: https://locations.interreg-med.eu

TRANSPORT TELEMATICS & DRIVER TRAINING PILOT – 3 CEA [IE]

In 2016, 3CEA managed a pilot transport project, supported by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland’s Better Energy Communities grant programme. There were 12 fleet companies involved in this project, which included the installation of telematics on 326 vehicles across all fleets, and delivery of eco-driving training for the fleet drivers, 371 drivers in total.

The baseline energy consumption of the combined fleet was 96,196,594 kWh along with 28,667,043 km of distance travelled. Measurement and verification of the fleet is carried out every 6-months since the completion in November 2016 and meets IVMVP standards.

A detailed analysis of the results to date (June 2018) shows a 11% savings of energy consumption based on an adjusted baseline fuel consumption of 36,185,583 litres of diesel, equivalent to 1,337,339 litres of avoided fuel usage, 13,599,400 kWh of energy savings and 3,590 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) emission reduction. This greatly surpasses the expected energy savings of 5,717,416 kWh.

The increase in fuel efficiency arises from the reduction in over-revving, harsh breaking and engine idling time by drivers, leading to a reduced energy consumption by fleets.

Contact
Paddy Phelan
Email: admin@3cea.ie
Website: www.3cea.ie

Photo credit: 3CEA
As the consequences of climate change have become increasingly evident, climate adaptation represents an important challenge for municipalities and regions. But climate adaptation is a cross-cutting issue and covers a wide range of specialist fields in a municipality. Therefore, the implementation of adequate administration and implementation structures is key to an integrated proceeding and to taking into account different perspectives and requirements.

B.&S.U. mbH developed the European Climate Adaptation Award (ECA), which is a quality management process and certification system and enables municipalities to integrate climate adaptation into their communal processes and their daily work. The ECA defines four essential process steps, which have to be regularly repeated in order to create sustainable results and a continuous process of improvement:

- The climate impact and actual analysis;
- The climate change policy work programme;
- Project implementation;
- Review, certification and award.

The ECA has been successfully tested with financial support of the Ministries of the Environment of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Free State of Saxony in a pilot project with 12 municipalities and is now available to be implemented by municipalities in Germany.

Contact
Thekla Heinel
Email: bsu@bsu-berlin.de
Website: www.european-climate-award.de
Youth unemployment still runs high in many countries around Europe after the financial crisis – even more so in islands, where seasonal employment is prevalent. CEA’s new project, YENESIS, sets out to solve this problem, ensuring that young people find truly sustainable employment: green jobs!

Youth from islands of 7 countries around Europe will embark on a journey that will take them through training, a field trip organised by the expertise partner in Norway to showcase best practices, an apprenticeship, mentoring, and a local placement. They will be returning to their islands as trailblazers in the four sectors of renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable tourism, and mobility, ready to invigorate the green sector in their home islands. Throughout the process, the participating youth will benefit from mentoring on entrepreneurship to give them a head start in starting their own businesses.

YENESIS benefits from a 2.3 million EUR grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants.

Contact
Savvas Vlachos
Email: info@cea.org.cy
Website: www.cea.org.cy
Within the BiogasAction project, the Danish Technology Center for Biogas has, in cooperation with EUC Lillebælt (a vocational educational institution in Denmark), developed an education programme for biogas operators. The programme builds on an existing education system for process operators and adds specific knowledge about biogas to fit the demand of the biogas sector.

Switching between school and the biogas plant
The student signs an apprenticeship agreement at a biogas plant and shifts between school and working at the biogas plant. The education is focused on four areas: SRO (Industrial Control Systems), the process (energy, environment, cleaning, etc.), equipment (pumps, pipes...), and the system (personal development, teamwork...). It takes 4 ½ years, but it is possible to end the education after 2 years and become a process worker.

What do they learn?
The educational programme teaches the student to monitor, manage and maintain production, which is usually computer controlled and highly automated. The student learns how the equipment works and how to control and regulate the processes that occur in plants. The student also learns how to intervene if production is not running as it should, and how to perform various measurements and quality checks.

Contact
Jakob Lorenzen
Email: jl@dffb.dk
Website: www.ecnetwork.dk
A NORDIC SOLAR POWER SUCCESS STORY - ENERGIKONTORET I MÄLARDALEN [SE]

With visitors from all over Europe, the expo has become a thriving platform for dialogue and latest cutting-edge solar projects.

The Swedish Solar Expo gathers the leading companies in solar power, energy storage and environmental technology as well as building owners and decision makers. Although high up in the north, the region of Mälardalen has amongst the highest irradiation in Sweden and solar power has become one of the landmarks of the city of Uppsala, where the expo is located.

The expo is organised by the Mälardalen Energy Agency and STUNS Energy. In a few years only, it has become one of Sweden’s foremost venues for new environmental technologies with 1000 visitors and over 40 exhibitors from all over Europe. The expo is more than an exhibition; it’s a platform for dialogue as it brings together companies and people from different parts of the society to address the challenges and possibilities in the field and present the latest cutting-edge projects and political trends.

Contact
Email: info@energikontor.se
Website: www.energikontor.se
LIVING LAB FOR OUTDOOR LIGHTING – REA SJEVER [HR]

The first Croatian Living Lab for Outdoor Lighting aims to create an environment in which Partners - manufacturers and distributors of LED-based products, have the conditions to test, compare and promote their products and users can try and evaluate them in the real environment.

Living Lab, situated in a residential area, will enable users (both citizens and representatives of municipalities and cities) to familiarise themselves with products and solutions based on LED technology and to acquire specific information on the advantages and disadvantages of the available products and solutions. On the other hand, manufacturers and distributors will have the opportunity to test and compare their products in a real-world environment showcasing their solutions on the spot and providing additional information to users.

In the future, besides outdoor lighting, Living Lab will also include the integration of communication infrastructure and smart city solutions.

The Living Lab is an open working environment and encompasses four major stakeholder groups who have an equally important role: enterprises, users, (who have an impact on creating the innovation they need), public institutions (with the aim of utilising the Living Lab for faster return on investment) and the scientific research community.

The Living Lab for Outdoor Lighting is supported by City of Koprivnica and managed by the Regional Energy Agency North. The formal opening is expected in February 2019 in Koprivnica, Croatia.

Contact
Regional Energy Agency North
Email: living-lab@rea-sjever.hr
Website: www.reakvarner.hr

Photo credit: REA Sjever
Solar power has many advantages; it is a renewable source of energy, it contributes to decreasing carbon emissions, and it is also a profitable investment. In the business world, more and more enterprises are discovering the potential of using sustainability as a business opportunity where solar power is seen less as a cost and more as a means to increased competitiveness, and a smaller electricity bill.

To promote investments in solar power among small and medium-sized enterprises, a joint project was formed with Örebro county and other nearby regions in East Middle Sweden. The purpose is to increase the knowledge about solar power for the target group as well as other groups which are in contact with the target group.

The project has resulted in investigations, compiled information, e-learning videos and local activities such as seminars and study visits. It has also accomplished plenty of informative material, such as descriptions of role models, trade-specific information sheets, newsletters and an extensive project website. The project has received a lot of media attention; its activities have been brought up in radio, in the newspaper, in websites and in both local and national TV news.

More action is still needed to reach the regional goal for solar electricity production, but it is easy to see that the interest in solar power is growing – a revolution that cannot be stopped.

Contact
Ylva Gullberg
Email: ylva.gullberg@regionorebrolan.se
Website: www.framtidenssolel.se
THANKS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION!

More information? Feel free to contact the concerned member directly by using the contact information provided in the article or contact us at fedarene@fedarene.org