Sustainable Regions in Actions

Platform where regional and local actors exchange and learn from each other

February 2014
FEDARENE – the federation

Since 8th June 1990...
Presentation
Objectives
Activities
Structure
Position papers

OUR MEMBERS - Regional and local energy agencies, Regional and local councils

Activities
Forms of intervention
Samples of our members’ best practices

Celebrating our 25th Anniversary in 2015

Address by FEDARENE president Dr. Julije DOMAC
Speech extracts from the 20th Anniversary in 2005
FEDARENE – the federation

SINCE 8TH JUNE 1990...

In the late 1980s, early 1990s, regional actors, encouraged by the European Commission, wanted to assert their role and see its importance in the energy field recognised. Thus FEDARENE - European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment - was created on 8th June 1990 by 6 regional authorities – Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte-d’Azur, Wallonia, Basque Country, Aquitaine and Nord-Pas-de-Calais – who shared an ambition to adopt pro-active regional policies and joint actions for sustainable energy. EU programmes helped kick-start many regional and local energy agencies across Europe, who act as facilitators, some of which became members of FEDARENE.

PRESENTATION

FEDARENE is now the premier European network of regional and local organisations which implement, coordinate and facilitate energy and environment policies at the regional and local levels. A non-profit association, the network counts today more than 65 members from 18 EU and EEA countries. These members are mostly regions and regional or local energy agencies. These levels of governance offer high possibilities for targeted and adapted sustainable energy measures through:

- a greater flexibility than national governments
- the responsibility for many policy areas relating to energy: buildings, transport, industry...
- a more thorough knowledge of the territories covered
- the proximity to citizens

OBJECTIVES

- Serve as a platform for the exchange of best practices to foster replication
- Facilitate the development of inter-regional partnerships and EU projects
- Create a counter-weight to the national governments
- Represent, promote and lobby for the regional dimension in EU energy policy debates with the EU Institutions, EU networks...
- Assist regions in developing their capacity to take action, and in creating energy agencies
ACTIVITIES

- Organise working groups on specific themes (local climate adaptation, local renewable energy production, mobility)
- Keep an up-to-date online database of best practices to encourage replication
- Provide an ongoing information service - in particular on EU policy developments and funding programmes - to our members
- Assist our members in the formulation of project proposals and the creation of partnerships/consortiums
- Promote our members’ activities and disseminate information on their behalf
- Prepare position papers on European legislation and programmes
- Participate in consultations/thematic workshops to represent regions’ role

18 EU and EEA countries currently covered by FEDARENE
STRUCTURE

Fedarene is led by a Board of Directors, presently formed by 16 members of which a President, a Secretary General, 12 Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer. These Board members are representatives of the following Regions/Provinces: North West Croatia (HR), Provence-Alpes-Côte-d’Azur (FR), Berlin (DE), Rhône-Alpes (FR), Oberösterreich (AT), Nord-Pas de Calais (FR), Abruzzo (IT), Ile-de-France Region (FR), Ploesti Prahova (RO), Comunidad Valenciana (ES), Central Finland (FI), Severn Wye (UK), Liguria (IT) Milano (IT), Southeast Sweden (SE), Wallonia (BE).

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Michael GEISSLER
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Berliner EnergieAgentur

Dominique SIMON
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O.O. Energiesparverband

Paulo-Serge LOPES
Vice-President Climate Action,
Nord-Pas de Calais Region

Rolf NYLHOM
Vice-President for Renewable Energy,
Central Finland Region

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Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region

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ARE Liguria

Marc LIPINSKI
Vice-President for Energy Transition,
ARENE Ile-de-France

Thekla HEINEL
Vice-President for climate protections in cities and regions, B&SU

Antonio SORGI
Vice-President for Renewable Energy,
ARAEN - Abruzzo Region

Ulf HANSSON
Vice-President for Mobility and Transport,
Energikontor Sydost

Bogdan POTLOGIA
Vice-President for Renewable Energy,
AE3R

Antonio CEJALVO
Vice-President for Energy Efficiency,
IVACE-AVEN

With the support of: Christian LABIE
Deputy Secretary General
Rhônalpénnergie-Environnement

Board Members 2013-2016
The federation’s most important decisions are taken during an annual General Assembly. Once a year, this meeting also represents the occasion for the members to meet and exchange experiences from their different regions throughout Europe.

The Secretariat of the federation is assured by a Brussels Office, formed by a permanent team.

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Position Paper regarding the Energy Efficiency Directive

The EU through the « Europe 2020 » strategy has given itself ambitious objectives to take up the environmental challenge set by climate change. By 2020, the EU has committed itself in lowering its greenhouse gases emissions by 20%, bringing the share of renewable energy sources of its energy consumption to 20%, and increasing by 20% the energy efficiency rate in Europe. Concerning the latter, the recent studies led by the Commission have shown that the EU will manage, at best, to fulfil only half of its commitment by 2020. To succeed in the fulfilment of the initially planned objectives, the European Commission has published, on the 22nd of June 2011, a new directive proposal on Energy Efficiency which abrogates the directives 2004/8/CE and 2006/32/CE concerning respectively the promotion of cogeneration and energy services.

FEDARENE (European Federation of Regions and Agencies for Energy and Environment) welcomes the European Commission’s initiative to suggest a new directive that aims to promote energy efficiency and reach the EU’s objective. Energy efficiency and the rational use of energy will favour the economic development and job creation and will take up the challenges of EU’s security of supply.

However, some measures planned by the directive are regarded as insufficient by FEDARENE to reach the EU’s energy efficiency objective. Besides, FEDARENE regrets that the directive mentions several times a setting of actions for the promotion of energy efficiency after 2020 without making any concrete proposals and roadmaps towards the 2050’s objective.

In this opinion, FEDARENE, representing the Regions and Agencies in the field of energies and environment, wishes to express its stance towards the directive and to submit a series of proposals considered necessary to reach EU’s energy efficiency objectives.

Key Considerations and Proposals

→ To set from now on national objectives to reach the 2020 EU’s objective – FEDARENE regrets the lack of binding national objectives that would allow the EU to achieve its 2020 objective. The middle term set in 2014 by the directive to define possible binding objectives does not enable to speed up the implementation of the necessary measures to reach the minimum 20% objective. Thus, FEDARENE suggests starting from now without waiting for the 2014 deadline, the definition and implementation of national binding objectives.

→ To include all the final energy use sectors – FEDARENE favourably agrees with the quantified objectives for the public sector and the energy distribution and selling sector. FEDARENE regrets however the lack of objectives concerning other sectors contributing significantly to the GHG emissions such as the transport sector as well as the commercial and industrial sectors which are not part of the EU-ETS.

FEDARENE supports the directive proposal aiming at imposing on the public sector an annual rate of 3% renovation of its buildings and the purchase of high energy efficiency products, services and buildings. This ambitious but necessary renovation objective will only be feasible with the help of financial tools implemented at a European, national, regional and local level and with the promotion and implementation of energy performance contracts and private public partnerships.
Furthermore, FEDARENE suggests the implementation of complementary objectives, including in particular other public sectors such as street lighting and public transport.

- **To strengthen the energy efficiency obligation schemes** – FEDARENE backs up the directive proposal which aims at imposing on energy suppliers a 1.5% saving, based on their annual energy sales.
  However, FEDARENE is strictly opposed to the possibility offered to the Members States to propose alternative substitution measures. Indeed, this could lead to the transfer of the obligations from the private to the public sector, potentially creating an increase of the fiscal endeavour handled by the taxpayers.

- **To reinforce the measures about cogeneration**. – FEDARENE welcomes the measures proposed for the promotion of efficiency in heating and cooling as well as the development of high-efficiency cogeneration. However, FEDARENE considers that some measures could be strengthened:
  Make sure that the national plans as regards cogeneration asked by the Commission include national objectives in coherence with the national binding objectives related to energy efficiency.
  Reconsider at the latest by 2014, the 20 MW power threshold proposed by the Commission determining the fitting of a high-efficiency cogeneration unit for any new or refurbished electricity generation installations allowing waste heat recovery, so as to propose a lower power threshold.
  Propose a reduction of the updating period for the national plans appointed to 5 years by the directive so as to grant a better coherence with the submission period to the Commission of the “additional reports” appointed to 3 years. This shorter period will also enable to strengthen the promotion and implementation of cogeneration system.

- **To highlight and strengthen the role of regional and local stakeholders** – FEDARENE underlines the essential role that the regional and local authorities have to play in the process of preparation and implementation of energy efficiency programmes. Being in charge of the local housing, working, transport or even training policies, they’re in close contact with citizens and the major part of the local players (energy agencies, citizen associations and organizations, economic development stakeholders, administration, professional organizations,...) to work out policies addressing citizens concerns and supporting territorial energy efficiency projects.

  FEDARENE proposes to strengthen the involvement level of the regional and local stakeholders by means of measures encouraging:

  - the Member States to implement a consultation process involving the regional and local players during the definition of the national plans (bottom-up approach), allowing to define national plans in coherence with the objectives and means at a regional level;
  - the regional and local authorities to implement local energy efficiency plans favouring for instance decentralized energy production, public building renovation programmes or sustainable local mobility plans. FEDARENE reminds the importance of the Covenant of Mayors initiative proposed by the European Commission and proposes to include in the directive support and promotion measures (for instance by indicating the support actions to these programmes in the national energy efficiency plans);
  - the regional authorities to support the energy agencies and other local actors for their knowledge and analysis of the true opportunities and barriers to the implementation of energy efficiency measures, for their efforts in raising citizen awareness, for their support in the implementation of local programmes and projects as well as in the training of the local players;
  - the local and regional authorities to implement regional energy and greenhouse gases observatories so as to ensure a better efficiency of the political decisions;
the authorities to support or strengthen the interregional cooperation programmes favouring the transfer of know-how between the regions.

→ **To inform and raise citizens awareness** – FEDARENE supports the measures taken to provide on real time and accurate information to the end customers about energy consumption and billing of electricity, gas and heat. FEDARENE underlines the essential nature of the protection of personal data, the free and easy access to those data for the final user. FEDARENE recommends the deployment of smart metering solutions including tariff based load management functionality. These features will encourage the end customer to reduce its consumption based on an advantageous tariff structure.

FEDARENE reminds the essential role of the behavioural analysis to favour the use and acceptance of those systems. All these measures make sense only if the citizens are trained and aware. As such, FEDARENE regrets that the Directive does not include complementary measures dedicated to citizens awareness raising about energy efficiency.

→ **To strengthen the energy services offering** – FEDARENE agrees with the suggested measures to develop energy services such as the implementation of energy performance contracts. Nevertheless it also recommends the promotion and implementation of a large range of services which are not limited to the implementation of energy performance contracts. Supported by ambitious energy efficiency policies, these services can for instance include the periodic verification of heating and cooling systems, the implementation of thermal regulation systems, etc.

FEDARENE underlines the lack of references about buildings thermal insulation particularly towards energy services and wishes to remind the importance of that type of measures in order to reach the European goal of 20%.

FEDARENE welcomes the suggested measures to remove regulatory and non-regulatory barriers to energy efficiency in general. The FEDARENE would also suggest the definition of specific measures to remove existing barriers to the development of energy performance contracts.

→ **To set up an ambitious energy efficiency training programme for local experts and craftsmen** – FEDARENE regrets that no measures have been planned as part of the directive, to foster the deployment of ambitious training programmes dedicated to local energy efficiency experts and craftsmen. FEDARENE wishes that the Member States would establish energy efficiency training plans and supports the training actions initiated by the local and regional players.

All of those considerations are further developed in the FEDARENE report on the energy efficiency directive proposal.
OUR MEMBERS – Regional & local energy agencies, Regional & Local Councils

ACTIVITIES

The regional and local energy agencies, and the energy department of regional councils, drive the energy 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 INTERVENTION

- Advising regional decision makers in defining regional energy and/or environmental policy
- Supporting regional council in implementing regional energy and/or environmental policy
- 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 the subsidies from the Regional Councils, initiating regional zero rate loans, or ESCO)
- Leading awareness-raising campaigns
- Participating in European and national networks
SAMPLES OF OUR MEMBERS’ BEST PRACTICES

Energy and GHG emissions monitoring ................................................................. 14
Coordinated by FEDARENE - ENERGee Watch network ........................................ 14
RAEE – Rhône-Alpes regional energy agency, FRANCE – OREGES- Rhône-Alpes Energy and
GHG emissions Observatory .................................................................................. 14

Involving SMEs and enterprise in the region ........................................................ 14
OO ESV - Upper Austria regional energy agency, AUSTRIA - Ökoenergie-Cluster promotes
European energy technologies outside Europe ..................................................... 14
Kent County Council, UK - Low Carbon Kent business network .......................... 15
NENET - Norrbotten Energy Agency, SWEDEN - Efforts for an energy efficient and strong
economy .................................................................................................................. 15

Developing innovative financing schemes ......................................................... 15
Berliner Energieagentur, GERMANY – Expertise in Energy Performance Contracting .... 15
Hedmark & Oppland Energy Agency, NORWAY – Energy performance contracting .... 16
eNu – Energy and Environment Agency of Lower AUSTRIA – The Lower Austrian Energy
Efficiency Law (NOE EEG) ...................................................................................... 16
ICAEN – Catalan Institute of Energy, SPAIN – Energy Performance Contracting tendering
programme on Catalan Government public buildings ............................................. 16
Picardie regional council, France – SPEE, first French energy efficiency public service company
................................................................................................................................. 16
Energy Department of Wallonia Region, BELGIUM - Ecopack zero-interest loan for
Renovation works ................................................................................................. 17
Provence-Alpes-Côte-d’Azur regional council, FRANCE – AGIR’ Regional programme for
sustainable actions .............................................................................................. 17
ARENE - Ile-de-France regional energy agency, FRANCE - Energies Posit’IF - Improving energy
efficiency in French condominiums ...................................................................... 18
Province of Milan, ITALY - Energy Performance Contracting for schools with ELENA assistance
................................................................................................................................. 18

Role in the Covenant of Mayors ............................................................................ 18
ALESA - Province of Chieti Energy Agency, ITALY – Territorial Coordinator in the Covenant of
Mayors ..................................................................................................................... 18
ALEA - Alba County Energy Agency, ROMANIA - Main supporter of CoM signatories in Alba County

REGEA - North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency, CROATIA - preparing Sustainable Energy Action Plans

Long-term territorial planning

Nord-Pas-de-Calais Regional Council, FRANCE - The ‘3rd Industrial Revolution’, A J.Rifkin Masterplan towards 2050

Regional Authority of the Usti Region, CZECH REPUBLIC – a view towards 2030

EAZK - Energy agency of the Zlin Region, CZECH REPUBLIC – ENERGY GROUP, multilevel governance for an effective regional energy policy

TEA - County of Tipperary Energy Agency, IRELAND – Award winning eco-village project

EC Net, DENMARK – Partner in eco-village project with Tipperary Energy Agency

AMET – County of Timis Energy Management Association, ROMANIA – launched its Energy Masterplan in 2013

Capacity-building activities

FAEN – Principality of Asturias Energy Agency, SPAIN - Energy Counselling Programme

AEMVA - Valladolid Municipal Energy Agency, SPAIN – Implementation of environmental management systems in teaching centres

Örebro Regional Energy Agency, SWEDEN – E-learning tool for stores staff

East Sweden Energy Agency, SWEDEN - E-BOOST: students reporting for companies

Mälardalen Regional Energy Agency, SWEDEN – Partner with WWF to strengthen and develop the Swedish participation in Earth Hour City Challenge

AMEMM - Energy Management Agency of Maramures County, ROMANIA – assisting the municipality of Baia Mare with its energy management programme

County of Harghita Energy Management Agency, ROMANIA – peer learning and exchanging with other EU regions

Implementing energy efficiency measures

ARE Liguria - regional energy agency of Liguria, ITALY - Technology multiservice in region’s hospitals

AE3R - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Agency Ploiesti - Prahova, ROMANIA - First Green Certificates of Romania

Developing Renewable Energy Sources in the region

EVE - Basque Country Energy Agency, SPAIN - Innovative ocean energy pilot project

REGEA - North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency, CROATIA - I can have solar collectors too!
CEA - Energy Agency of CYPRUS – *Photovoltaic net-metering in the Mediterranean region* ......................................................... 25
EAP - Energy Agency of Plovdiv, BULGARIA – *facilitating the establishment of bioenergy market in the region* ............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 25
Skåne Regional Energy Agency, SWEDEN - *Partner in a biomethane for transport EU project* .................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................... 25
Central Finland Regional Council, FINLAND – *Expert in renewable bioenergy* ................................................................. 26
APEA – Province of Avila Energy Agency, SPAIN – *Municipal biomass district heating systems* .................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................... 26
IVACE-ENERGY – Valencian Institute for Business Competitiveness, SPAIN - *Regional Wind Energy Plan* .................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................... 26
VALBIOM – association for VALorisation of BIOMass, BELGIUM – *partner in EU projects Biogas Regions and its successor Biomethane Regions* .................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................... 27

Engaging various local stakeholders ................................................................................................................................. 27

SWEA - Severn Wye Energy Agency, UK – *Energy savings in prisons* ................................................................................................. 27
EAP, TEA, ESS and SWEA agencies – *‘Energy Neighbourhoods’ contest for citizens* ............................................................... 28
B&SU mbH Berlin, GERMANY - *European Energy Award® (eea) for municipalities* ............................................................... 28
Jersey State – *Development of Jersey’s Energy Plan and the role of Domestic Sector intervention* .................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................... 29
EREN - Ente Regional de la Energía de Castilla y León, SPAIN - *Sustainable mobility plan for the workers of EREN’s building* .................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................... 29
ESS - Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden Ltd, SWEDEN – *‘Be a Smart Traveller’* ................................................................. 29
Coordinated by FEDARENE - ENERGee Watch network

ENERGee Watch

Eleven FEDARENE members are also member of ENERGee Watch, the European network of regional GHG emissions and energy data Observatories. This initiative derives from the INTERREG IVC project CLIMACT Regions which identified in 2012 more than 20 regional GHG and energy observatories, some of which decided to join forces in this platform to better share experiences and methodologies in monitoring. Indeed, monitoring regional and local energy and GHG emissions data is the first and foremost, crucial, step towards identifying priority areas of intervention and thus defining regional and local energy and climate strategies (including SEAPs - Sustainable Energy Action Plans) which are relevant to the context.

www.energee-watch.eu

RAEE – Rhône-Alpes regional energy agency, FRANCE – OREGES- Rhône-Alpes Energy and GHG emissions Observatory

Established in 2002, OREGES - the Rhône-Alpes Energy and GHG emissions Observatory embodies the regional ambition to provide the general public, communities and other energy stakeholders with a monitoring and information tool. The Observatory’s steering committee is co-chaired by the State and the Rhône-Alpes regional council, and funded by the National Energy Agency and the regional council. The technical work is conducted by two structures: the regional energy agency (RAEE) since 2002, later joined by Air Rhône-Alpes (the regional air quality monitoring structure) in 2009.

http://oreges.rhonealpes.fr

INVolVING SMEs AND ENTERPRISE IN THE REGION

OO ESV - Upper Austria regional energy agency, AUSTRIA - Ökoenergie-Cluster promotes European energy technologies outside Europe

The Ökoenergie-Cluster is the network of renewable energy and energy efficiency companies in Upper Austria, managed by the energy agency of Upper Austria (OO Energiesparverband). It currently counts more than 170 partner companies, which have a combined annual turnover of more than 2.2 billion Euros and employ more than 8,900 people. One of the activities of the cluster is to support the internationalization and export activities of the partner companies. After having successfully established market activities in many EU countries with the support of the cluster, manufacturers of renewable energy equipment have started export activities to North and Latin America.

Christiane Egger, OÖ Energiesparverband and manager of the Oekoenergie-Cluster, signs a Memorandum of Understanding with María Paz de la Cruz Sepúlveda, CEO of the National Renewable Energy Agency of Chile, to support the market entry in Chile of companies from Upper Austria

www.esv.or.at
Kent County Council, UK - Low Carbon Kent business network

Kent County Council works with businesses in Kent to support them to cut their costs, reduce their carbon footprint, take advantage of opportunities in the low carbon market and adapt to inevitable climate change. Support is delivered through the Low Carbon Kent business network. The low carbon market includes businesses who have green products or who are operating in an environmentally sound manner. A recent study estimated that the market could contribute up to £1 billion to the Kent economy, employing between 17,000 and 25,000 people. The network aims to bring these businesses together across Kent, supporting them to grow and become more resilient, creating jobs and increasing the economy of Kent. The network is currently being funded by the European Union and is free to join.

www.kent.gov.uk

NENET - Norrbotten Energy Agency, SWEDEN - Efforts for an energy efficient and strong economy

Since 2005, NENET has worked with SMEs in Norrbotten County to improve their energy efficiency, both for a lower carbon footprint and reduced energy bills – it’s a win-win situation. Between 2009 and 2011, NENET led such a project, with co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund, the Swedish Energy Agency, the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, Norrbotten County Council, Luleå and Piteå municipalities. IESN resulted in:

- Follow-up of 19 SMEs energy audits, showing that 35 of the proposed measures from the audits were carried out, as well as 25 additional own measures of the SMEs
- Over 85 visits to these SMEs asking for advice on energy efficient enterprise based on their experiences

www.nenet.se/

DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE FINANCING SCHEMES

Berliner Energieagentur, GERMANY – Expertise in Energy Performance Contracting

The Berlin Energy Agency (BEA) has a renowned, long-standing and strong experience in EPC, both in Germany and Europe, since 1995. It is leading the EU project ‘European Energy Service Initiative towards 2020 target’ – EESI 2020 (2013-2016), which is developing EPC pilot projects in nine large European cities and metropolitan areas to define EPC standards and to transfer lessons learned across Europe. EESI 2020 is the follow-up project to ‘EESI’ (2009-2012), which was led by BEA as well. In the framework of these initiatives, BEA has also been managing the European Energy Service Award (EESA), which honours best practice examples from all over Europe.

BEA and European Commissioner for energy G. Oettinger at the 7th European Energy Service Award

www.berliner-e-agentur.de
Hedmark & Oppland Energy Agency, NORWAY – Energy performance contracting

The Inland Norway Energy Agency works intensively to reduce the energy consumption of buildings, in a region where the cold climate makes it a key issue. Since 2011 13 of 48 municipalities have signed energy performance contracts. Inland Norway Energy Agency have taken a key role in both the start-up of the process of procuring EPC and the negotiations of the contracts. The municipalities have reduced their energy consumption by 25-30% and as such improved the economic situation of the municipalities significantly. The energy agency’s role in the process has proven to be crucial for the decision to enter into EPC-contracting.  

www.energirad-inlandet.no


The NOE EEG came into force in 2012. Main actions are on the one hand the assignment of energy agents and on the other hand the establishment of an energy accounting system for each community. Energy agents must be educated in energy efficiency with an at least 40-hour training course. By now already 530 Communities (more than 90 %) assigned energy agents and 450 Communities are using the online energy management system provided for free by Lower Austria. eNu (Energy and Environment Agency of Lower Austria) performed 11 training courses in 5 major regions; more that 3,000 buildings are recorded in the database by the end of 2013. With this for the first time huge amounts of energy consumption data are collected and evaluated in communities in Austria which provide the basis for strategic decisions and boost energy efficiency.


Aligned with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) objectives the Catalan Government is committed to pull the demand on energy services market. To do so, increasing Catalan Government buildings pool energy performance by means of EPC tendering is a strategic action. It is focused not only to reduce energy costs, but also to promote EPC approach to the whole Catalan building sector. About the 60% of the whole number of Governmental buildings are suitable to implement an EPC: sports facilities, museums, hospitals, universities, office and residential building pools are main targets. First tenders have been completed and a series of projects are already in the pipeline in order to achieve 4.4% energy cost reduction by 2014 and 15,2% energy cost reduction by 2020.

www.gencat.cat/icaen

Picardie regional council, France – SPEE, first French energy efficiency public service company

The Picardy region is engaging in the energy transition by launching the very first French energy efficiency public service company, with a specific management system, named “SPEE”. This new public service company will rely on a network of existing local energy information points, to become a reference. It will be experimented for three years, under which it will support the renovation of 2,000 buildings. It has the ambition to be an instrument to combat fuel poverty by providing financial aid to households who do not have access to ordinary bank credit. The experimentation phase is financed with the EIB’s support. The initiative is moreover expected to create 650 jobs in the buildings sector.

On 15 November 2013, the President of the Region, the vice president for Climate and Energy, the Region Prefect and the Director of the French national energy agency present the SPEE initiative.

www.picardie.fr/
Energy Department of Wallonia Region, BELGIUM - *Ecopack zero-interest loan for Renovation works*

EcoPack is a package for Walloon households wanting to improve the energy performance of their home through renovation works. It consists of:

- A zero-interest loan between 2,500 € to 30,000 €,
- Additional premiums (deductable from monthly repayments),
- Variable repayment period based on income,
- No notary deed or fees,
- Taxable income max. household of € 93,000 for the base year,
- Advice to decide on the most relevant works to undertake,
- Available to homeowners, landlords and tenants.

Wallonia homeowner getting personalized advice on the Ecopack

http://energie.wallonie.be

Provence-Alpes-Côte-d’Azur regional council, FRANCE – *AGIR* Regional programme for sustainable actions*

AGIR (Action Globale Innovante pour la Région) - programme was launched in December 2006 by the Provence-Alpes-Côte-d’Azur Region, with a total budget of €70 million over 4 years: 2007-2010. It was renewed as AGIR + for 2010-2012. Its objective was to increase the involvement of regional stakeholders in energy issues, through 2 kinds of actions:

- ‘Call for Projects’, selecting the best projects of companies, associations and local authorities, to strengthen the renewable energy/energy efficiency sectors (studies, assistance to resource centres,...);
- Permanent actions targeting citizens who make investments in renewable energy technologies, for example the ‘Renewable Energy Cheque’ which grants €300 for photovoltaic installation, €1,500 for a wood boiler, etc. The regional government has issued more than 15,000 cheques amounts to more than €30,000,000 for investments.

On 6th Nov. 2013 took place the 7th annual AGIR Forum with the Vice-President of the Region to Sustainable Development, Energy and Climate, and the Regional Councilor responsible for Housing, where they awarded 26 municipalities for their commitment to sustainable development.

www.regionpaca.fr/
ARENE - Ile-de-France regional energy agency, FRANCE - Energies Posit’IF - Improving energy efficiency in French condominiums

Energies POSIT’IF is a Société d’Economie Mixte (SEM) aiming to increase the number of energy retrofits of condominiums in the Ile-de-France region. A SEM is a type of public private company used by French local authorities to manage urban development projects, particularly energy related ones. It is funded by public and private finance but there is no public private contract. It operates on the competitive market and bears the commercial risk. This allows public authorities to keep control of the political objectives while benefitting from private management and co-financing. It is effectively a public ESCO. POSIT’IF was set up in 2013 with the support of the Ile-de-France region, Caisse de Depots et Consignations (French financial organization part of the government institutions under the control of the Parliament), Caisse d’Epargne (French semi-cooperative banking group).

Province of Milan, ITALY - Energy Performance Contracting for schools with ELENA assistance

Thanks to the “Energy Efficiency Milan Covenant of Mayors project”, designed with the financial support of the ELENA technical assistance facility, 98 public buildings, mainly schools, located in the Province of Milan are set to benefit from energy efficiency improvement measures. The measures will be implemented in the 16 municipalities that have signed the Covenant of Mayors. The province of Milan – which is one of the Covenant Territorial Coordinators - has awarded the implementation of this first Energy Performance Contract to a Consortium made up by four ESCOs, namely Olicar, Carbotermo, Evolve and PrimaVera. The total contract value amounts to €90 million entirely invested by the Consortium, which will be granted a loan from the European Investment Bank, covering 75% of the investment cost. The contract spans 15 years, guarantees 35% reduction of final energy costs, 5% of which will translate into budgetary relief for the municipalities.

ROLE IN THE COVENANT OF MAYORS

ALESAs - Province of Chieti Energy Agency, ITALY – Territorial Coordinator in the Covenant of Mayors

The work of Chieti energy agency has led to investment of over EUR 90 million in energy efficiency in this rural region. Through a series of energy efficiency, energy management and transport upgrades, the Province of Chieti now aims to achieve a 25 % reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020. Located in the Abruzzo region, the Province of Chieti had already signed the Covenant of Mayors as a Territorial Coordinator, where it commits to assisting signatory cities in devising their Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). Here, local energy agency ALESA stepped in, designing and developing over 100 SEAPs for municipalities in the Province.

ALEA - Alba County Energy Agency, ROMANIA - Main supporter of CoM signatories in Alba County

ALEA provides technical assistance and coordination to Romanian Covenant of Mayors signatories to prepare and implement their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs), as part of the broader ‘Alba County Energy Master Plan’. In practical terms, ALEA’s assistance is multi-faceted. The Agency identifies and mobilizes the stakeholders involved in the SEAP preparation, development and implementation; it provides technical support for creating Baseline Emissions Inventories and energy
consumption databases; it helps in the drafting of SEAPs; it runs information, communication and educational campaigns, and it works hand-in-hand with the public authorities during the implementation of their SEAP. Currently ALEA is working with 10 municipalities which are in different phases of their SEAPs:

- Elaboration phase: Teius, Pianu
- Evaluation phase: Sintimbru, Ighiuc, Bergin, Avrig
- Implementation phase: Alba Iulia, Aiud, Zlatna, Ciugud

All the agency’s ongoing IEE projects support CoM signatories in different domains (green procurement, urban mobility, nZEB, raising awareness among citizens).

REGEA - North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency, CROATIA – preparing Sustainable Energy Action Plans

Covenant of Mayors is a response of the advanced European cities to the challenges of global climate change, and also the first and most ambitious initiative of the European Commission. REGEA has urged many Croatian cities and municipalities to join this initiative and implement and monitor Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) as key documents and prerequisite to join the CoM. Based on collected data of energy consumption, SEAP identifies and provides precise and clear guidelines for the implementation of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and environmentally friendly fuels projects at the town level, which will result in reducing CO₂ emissions by more than 20% by 2020. By 2013, not only has REGEA prepared SEAPS for 23 cities Croatian CoM signatories but shared its knowledge by preparing SEAPs for SE Europe capitals – Sarajevo (BiH), Skopje (FYORM), Podgorica (MN) and Tirana (AL).

LONG-TERM TERRITORIAL PLANNING

Nord-Pas-de-Calais Regional Council, FRANCE - The ‘3rd Industrial Revolution’, A J.Rifkin Masterplan towards 2050

The Nord-Pas-de-Calais regional council has contracted the renowned American economic and social theorist Jeremy Rifkin and his TIR Consulting Group LLC to create an ambitious “Third Industrial Revolution” roadmap to transition the region into a new sustainable economic paradigm by 2050. J.Rifkins’ transition paradigm highly bases itself on technological solutions. The TIR masterplan of Nord-Pas-de-Calais is a collaborative effort, bringing together government officials, CCI, business leaders, academicians, and civil society organizations from the region. This masterplan, with its high visibility and high basis on technological solutions, is the first of its kind in France.
Regional Authority of the Usti Region, CZECH REPUBLIC – a view towards 2030
The Usti region has an energy policy with a focus towards 2030 already. It focuses on: maximizing heat savings in buildings within the residential, commercial, state and municipal sectors; maximizing the efficiency of energy-consuming appliances and power distribution systems; and to reduce losses in distribution lines. The measures integrate security of supply and economic and social development. These will include the quality insulation of family houses and non-panel multiple-dwelling houses, the replacement of environment unfriendly heating for low-emission biomass-fired boilers and efficient heat pumps, as well as construction of the new houses with passive energy standards.

EAZK - Energy agency of the Zlín Region, CZECH REPUBLIC – ENERGY GROUP, multilevel governance for an effective regional energy policy
The Energy Group of the Zlín Region was established in 2013. It is a group of stakeholders and experts from various sections of the energy sector of the region including energy suppliers, waste management stakeholders, environmental experts as well as municipal and regional politicians. The main aim of the group is to update the Sustainable Energy Action Plan of the Zlín Region for the period 2015 – 2020. The particular aims set by the Energy Group are to streamline the cooperation between the public and private sector in the area of heat supplies from the central heating systems, increase of the energy efficiency in the building sector and an effective RES utilization in the area of the Zlín Region. This activity is part of the newly started EU project COOPENERGY in which EAZK is the only Czech partner.

The Zlín region energy working group, 2013

TEA - County of Tipperary Energy Agency, IRELAND – Award winning eco-village project
SERVE is a CONCERTO project (EC initiative within FP7) where the aim is to demonstrate that the energy-optimisation of districts and communities as a whole is more cost-effective than optimising each building individually, if all relevant stakeholders work together and integrate different energy-technologies in a smart way. SERVE is one such pilot demonstration project, focusing on the region of North Tipperary, Ireland. The sustainable energy actions it implemented there included: energy upgrades for existing dwellings, installation of renewable energy heating systems, development of an eco-village in Cloughjordan and the development of a district heating system. The Cloughjordan eco-village won the 2013 Gold Prize of the UN Liveable Communities Awards, in China, also known as the ‘Green Oscars’. The TEA & partner organisation have built on the success of serve and have retrofitted over 1500 fuel poor houses, installed several more large biomass boilers and a community Windfarm since 2011.

Inhabitants of the award-winning Cloughjordan eco-village show their enthusiasm and pride

www.kr-ustecky.cz
www.eazk.cz
http://tea.ie
EC Net, DENMARK – Partner in eco-village project with Tipperary Energy Agency

EC Network is a Danish company of energy consultants and planners, established in April 2000, with a worldwide network of contacts with other energy experts. It has been a partner in various EU projects with different members of FEDARENE such as SERVE, with the Tipperary Energy Agency. EC Network’s main role in the project was to lead the data monitoring of energy savings achieved in the concerned buildings.

www.ecnetwork.dk

AMET – County of Timis Energy Management Association, ROMANIA – launched its Energy Masterplan in 2013

Timis County Energy Management Association has initiated the drafting of the Energy Master Plan for the region, where the potential for geothermal energy and other renewable sources was examined, as well as continued its activities in awareness-raising, energy certification of buildings, provision of advice to municipalities and citizens.

www.amet.ro/

CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

FAEN – Principality of Asturias Energy Agency, SPAIN - Energy Counselling Programme

FAEN assists municipalities of the Principality of Asturias with energy management issues. These actions resulted from an agreement signed with the regional Industry and Energy Ministry, the Federation of Asturian Councils and FAEN in 2005. From 2005 to 2012, different buildings from 68 municipalities were analysed by FAEN technicians, with the help of a 100% grant from the regional ministry. The results obtained show a 22% reduction in energy bills, proposed investments of €13M, the potential to reduce the municipality expenses by €1.8M each year, CO2 emissions cuts of 12,900 tonnes per annum. Based on this work, a good practice guidebook has been developed, and various training sessions have been set up for municipalities. FAEN conducted this action in the form of energy audits with the main objective of reaching most of the regional councils.

Principality of Asturias - Municipalities studied

www.faen.es

AEMVA - Valladolid Municipal Energy Agency, SPAIN – Implementation of environmental management systems in teaching centres

Valladolid City Council has signed the Covenant of Mayors, and AEMVA has been supporting them with its new commitments: installation of biomass boilers in buildings with electric air conditioning, fitting in energy efficient light bulbs, installation of photovoltaic systems in municipal buildings (schools, civic centres, offices,...). Workshops have been held to disseminate energy saving measures, both for citizens and technicians. Valladolid welcomed the delivery of the National EnerAgen Awards 2013. These awards honour the best energy efficiency and renewable energy actions and become the meeting point of energy management agencies of Spain. This year in May, saw the inauguration of an automatic bike rental system with 28 lending points and 260 bicycles. 2,990 people are already actively using it.

www.aemva.org
**Örebro Regional Energy Agency, SWEDEN – E-learning tool for stores staff**

Stores often have a high energy consumption (freezers, refrigerators, lighting, ventilation) and store managers are aware that energy costs are affecting their profits. However, their staff would have difficulty finding time to attend trainings outside of their working hours. Thus, a project launched by the regional energy agency in the Örebro region is developing an e-learning tool to allow staff to learn about energy efficiency in a simple, flexible and inspiring way: from home and at their convenient time.

[www.regionorebro.se/energikontoret](http://www.regionorebro.se/energikontoret)

**East Sweden Energy Agency, SWEDEN - E-BOOST: students reporting for companies**

Through E-BOOST, students from Linköping University, in collaboration with Sweco Systems, and the energy department of East Sweden, offer companies in the region of Östergötland an inventory of their energy use. This is a win-win system, as it offers students the opportunity for a more practical application of the theory they study, and companies receive a report for a small cost presenting them with their energy savings potentials and measures proposals. The report’s quality is checked and assured by the international engineering consultancy Sweco Systems. Businesses in the region of Östergötland have discovered that there are many hidden costs from energy ‘leaks’, which are important to keep track of to save money and reduce related GHG emissions.

[http://energiost.se](http://energiost.se)

**Mälardalen Regional Energy Agency, SWEDEN – Partner with WWF to strengthen and develop the Swedish participation in Earth Hour City Challenge**

One of the Energy Agency’s primary missions is to enhance and develop municipalities, municipal companies and SMEs through energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy. The Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC) is a year-long competition among cities to promote renewable energy and prepare for climate change. Mälardalen Energy Agency is supporting Swedish municipalities participating in EHCC and providing feedback on implementation, in partnership with WWF – the World Wide Fund for Nature. The good practices will be highlighted internationally to inspire replication in Sweden and elsewhere. The project contributes to the municipalities work with the transition to 100% renewable energy and efficient energy systems and to increase public participation in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint.

[www.energikontor.se](http://www.energikontor.se)

**AMEMM - Energy Management Agency of Maramures County, ROMANIA – assisting the municipality of Baia Mare with its energy management programme**

The municipality of Baia Mare intends to become a model in energy management. The steps towards an energy sustainable city involve the creation of an energy unit, of an information database for energy planning, the development of a Municipal Energy Efficiency Programme, and communication with the public. The municipality lacks the human resources to put the above actions into practice, therefore it has turned to the Energy Management Agency Maramures (AMEMM) for support. The Agency is carrying out the definition, implementation, monitoring, and updating of the Municipal Energy Management Programme to help the municipality achieve its goals. As an example, 40 public buildings are currently undergoing energy efficiency retrofitting.

[www.amemm.ro](http://www.amemm.ro)
**County of Harghita Energy Management Agency, ROMANIA – peer learning and exchanging with other EU regions**

Harghita Energy Management Agency is currently involved in various EU project partnerships addressing a variety of issues, exchanging experiences with partners from many EU countries: Green Twining – a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of public authorities in institutionalizing sustainable energy policies into their operations; South East Europe programme - a project on solar thermal energy market exploitation; Energy Ambassadors – a project to address fuel poverty; Active Access - a project on green mobility.

**IMPLEMENTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES**

**ARE Liguria - regional energy agency of Liguria, ITALY - Technology multiservice in region’s hospitals**

The project "Innovative systems for energy efficiency in the Liguria hospital sector" aimed at studying and implementing new forms of management and innovative technologies (thermal insulation, cogeneration and CCHP) that could allow a reduction and a rationalization of the energy consumption in the hospital sector of Liguria. At the beginning ARE Liguria drew up the guidelines for energy efficiency in the hospital sector (adopted by the Regional Administration in September 2002). Afterwards a Call for Tender was launched for the Ligurian local health enterprise, addressed also to the ESCO, for operations of innovation, efficiency and routine-emergency maintenance guaranteeing at their own risk the economic sustainability of the operations. In the same period ARE Liguria actively contributed to the foundation of the Liguria Energy Consortium for electrical energy and gas purchasing in the liberalized market. Now the Consortium counts 97 members from to the Public Administration, 80 of which are Municipalities.

**AE3R - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Agency Ploiesti - Prahova, ROMANIA - First Green Certificates of Romania**

The agency has supported and advised the Floresti City hall in obtaining Green Certificates for the electricity produced from photovoltaic panels mounted on a school gymnasium and a cultural centre. The City Hall has already obtained the Electricity Producer License from ANRE (Romanian authority for energy regulation) and these are the first Green Certificates obtained in Romania from the electricity produced by photovoltaic panels. The agency will advise other institutions in Romania so that they are also able to take part in Green Certificate schemes.
EVE - Basque Country Energy Agency, SPAIN - *Innovative ocean energy pilot project*

The Mutriku Wave Power Plant produces 400,000 kWh of electricity annually from the breakwaters of the Mutriku harbour. Located in the Bay of Biscay in the Basque Country, the 296 kW plant is owned and operated by EVE – Basque Energy Agency. It became operational in November 2011 with an investment of €6.4 million, partly funded by the European Commission. Its output is sufficient to power 100 households and will result in annual savings of 400 tonnes of carbon emissions. The project won the 'Outstanding International Achievement in Green Energy' award from the Scottish Council for Development and Industry in December 2011. Oceanic wave energy remains largely untapped globally, with potential for an estimated 1.8TW of capacity. Innovative wave power projects such as Mutriku are likely to spur investments in similar developments worldwide. Due to increasing interest in the facility, EVE, in collaboration with the municipality of Mutriku and the tourist office, has launched a service of guided tours to visit the Wave Power Plant for schools, tourists and professionals in the energy and marine industry.

Visit of the Mutriku Wave Power Plant  
[www.eve.es](http://www.eve.es)

REGEA - North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency, CROATIA - *I can have solar collectors too!*

The project "I can have solar collectors too" was conducted in three north-western Croatian counties: Karlovac, Krapina-Zagorje and Zagreb County, and represents the first project conducted in this area which provides subsidies directly paid to citizens for using solar collectors. The project was implemented by the North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency (REGEA) in 2009 and was financed by the Environmental protection and energy efficiency fund, as well as the County budgets. Today the project has become one of the most recognized RES projects in Croatia, with a high interest and response from citizens, becoming a national programme and spreading into other areas such as the City of Zagreb, Međimurje County, Konavle County and other Croatian counties. The main results of the project, which saw the installation of 1200 household solar hot water systems by 2013, include:

- significant energy savings (estimated at 5000 MWh per year).
- reduction of CO2 emissions (estimated at 1600 tonnes per year).

The project received international recognitions like the ManagEnergy Local Action Award 2011 and European Solar prize award 2012. 

[www.regea.org](http://www.regea.org)
CEA - Energy Agency of CYPRUS – Photovoltaic net-metering in the Mediterranean region

The energy agency of Cyprus is currently involved in a Mediterranean project on photovoltaic net metering: PV-NET. Indeed, net metering may be a very good energy policy for the promotion of renewable electricity as it offers the possibility of measuring and managing the electrical energy consumed in buildings by subtracting the energy produced by the installed PV system. Net metering does not require any subsidies / grants, without compromising the interests of consumers and electricity utility companies, who can sell the energy produced at a reasonable price. PV-NET will implement pilot PV net metering systems in the project partner countries such as Cyprus. The pilots will be analyzed, taking into account local conditions and strategies for energy pricing, in order to develop the most optimum PV net metering model, which will be replicable in each region. Already energy authorities of the participating countries have shown interest in the exploitation of the project results and possible adoption of the results of the project.

EAP - Energy Agency of Plovdiv, BULGARIA – facilitating the establishment of bioenergy market in the region

EAP supported the creation of a pilot bioenergy region in Bulgaria to facilitate the establishment of bioenergy market in the Bulgarian target region and the country. EAP developed the first pilot Biomass Action Plan (BAP), identified measures and assessed scenarios to set up adequate bioenergy targets for Bulgarian municipalities and regions. Most of the BAP measures were successfully integrated into sustainable energy plans of three municipalities. A Pilot Biomass Utilisation Action Plan 2020 of a selected target region has been developed. As a result, biomass heating systems were installed in seven public and private buildings and one factory. The total installed capacity of the biomass installations is 3 580 KW; more than 8 500 tons CO2/year were saved; the new capacity for production of pellets is 3 380 tons per year, wood coal’s is 1 460 tons per year, wood chips’ is 1 200 tons per year. Moreover, the first biofuels quality testing and certification laboratory in Bulgaria is being established by the Energy Agency of Plovdiv; feasibility studies are being conducted on the establishment of a Biomass Logistics Centre (different production scopes and bioenergy potential); a pilot 0,5 MW biomass heating project to supply 3 public buildings is in motion. Also, a network of stakeholders has been developed and a pipeline of identified biomass related projects is there to ensure the continuation of project activities.

Skåne Regional Energy Agency, SWEDEN - Partner in a biomethane for transport EU project

The Skane regional energy agency is participating in BIOMASTER - biomethane for transport - a project co-funded by the IEE programme. The project intends to prove that biomethane for transport can be an operational and viable option in spite of the regulatory and fiscal barriers that hamper its replication. A key ambition of the project is to focus on biomethane grid injection. The goal is to bridge the knowledge and operational gaps fragmenting the biomethane chain and to establish local alliances of stakeholders to foster open dialogue and stimulate investment in the biomethane market. The project addresses the entire production chain and will treat new commodity options, the total production potential, deployment options, and regulatory, organizational and financial hurdles.
Central Finland Regional Council, FINLAND – Expert in renewable bioenergy
In the energy and environment sectors, the Regional Council of Central Finland works in close cooperation with the local universities, research institutes and companies. Central Finland has over the past years successfully developed local renewable energy sources, in particular forest bioenergy. Year 2012 renewable energy counted 68% of regions own energy production and 44% of total energy consumption (this number includes traffic). The region has actively distributed the bioenergy knowledge with the help of various, EU funded projects, e.g. BalticClimate, funded from Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013; BIOCLUS , funded from FP 7 and BERST (bio-economy regional strategy toolkit), funded from FP7.

CKEA - Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency, IRELAND - Regional Biomass Business Development
The Regional Biomass Business Development (RBBD) project is part of the EU project “Bio-En-Area” (ERDF, Interreg IVC). It aims to look at particular aspects of the biomass heating supply chain. These particular issues have been highlighted due to their common regional issues and also relevance to Regional Action Plans (where they exist). The RBBD project will focus primarily on private forestry and large scale heating projects, with a focus on three areas: producers groups, installers/clients, district heating. All three focus areas will produce policy inputs in each region to help support the future development of biomass in each region.

APEA – Province of Avila Energy Agency, SPAIN – Municipal biomass district heating systems
For a long time, APEA has been working in the Avila Province to develop the biomass resource which represents a good potential in terms of renewable energy and rural development. Studies on forest biomass potential and agrarian potential for biofuels have been carried out across the entire provincial territory. Thanks to forest biomass research, especially under the Biorreg Floresta project (INTERREG), a biomass district heating system was installed in Las Navas del Marqués in 2006, and APEA has since worked with Junta de Castilla y León and several municipalities to install more biomass district heating systems, notably in public schools. All of these actions are showcasing that biomass is a real and smart option to be considered in areas of Spain where good potential exists. Other European projects APEA has taken part in relating to biomass are: PROBIO “Integrated Promotion of the biodiesel chain” and Interreg IVC BIOENAREA “Improve regional policies for bioenergy and territorial development” in the subproject BIOREF “Potential of integral use of energy crops analysis and its importance within biomass action plans”.

IVACE-ENERGY – Valencian Institute for Business Competitiveness, SPAIN - Regional Wind Energy Plan
IVACE-ENERGY has supported the Regional Government of Valencia with the development of its Regional Wind Plan. The Plan covers 15 areas located in the three Valencian provinces. It plans for 67 wind farms producing around 5,500 GW yearly (i.e., approximately 80% of the electricity consumption of the household sector in the Region), avoiding the emission of 2.1 million tons of CO2, and reducing the Region’s dependence on fossil energy. In addition, the Plan includes the creation of an industrial infrastructure. Local economic activity will be boosted through energy plans designed by the promoter companies. The plan also includes a compensation fund dedicated to the municipalities where wind fields are installed. For the year 2011 the amount allocated was 2.8M€, to improve local infrastructures or finance environmental projects.
VALBIOM – association for VALorisation of BIOMass, BELGIUM – partner in EU projects Biogas Regions and its successor Biomethane Regions

Valbiom is an association dedicated to promoting biomass development in Belgium. Due to its expertise, it has been involved through its collaboration with the Wallon Agronomic Research Centre - in two EU projects with various other FEDARENE members: Biogas Regions (2007-2010) and Biomethane Regions (2011-2014).

www.valbiom.be

ENGAGING VARIOUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

SWEA - Severn Wye Energy Agency, UK – Energy savings in prisons

SWEA is leading an IEE project (2011-2014) on energy savings in prisons, delivered in South West England and Wales in partnership with the Prison Service, Energy Saving Trust and Local Energy Agencies. Funding was provided for the project by the Prison Service, Energy Saving Trust and Local Authorities, and the IEE programme. The project is engaging the prison service and its communities in a holistic approach, delivering energy surveys to prisons, offender education, staff training and advice and support to offenders’ families. More than 2000 offender families, 200 prison staff and 50 prisoners received accredited training in sustainable energy which has now been integrated into mainstream training services. The holistic approach of this project in engaging with the whole prison community at the appropriate level is the best route to success in reducing overall emissions within and around the prison. The findings of this project show there is a very good opportunity for many aspects to be replicated in other locations.

www.severnwye.org.uk

ARAEN – Abruzzo region energy agency, ITALY – ‘Energiochi’ contest for school children

Energiochi is an initiative developed since 2004 by the Regional Energy Agency of Abruzzo, now in its 9th edition. It consists in contests, targeting kindergartens, primary, middle and high schools in the 4 provinces of the Abruzzo region. The objective is to raise school children’s awareness on energy issues in their daily lives, and to integrate energy matters in their school curriculums. Pupils are asked to create a piece or project related to energy, using various media. The submitted work is evaluated by a jury and the selected classes and schools in each category (painting, music, film, etc.) are awarded a sum of money to be used on educative activities related to energy or the environment. More than 10,000 students have taken part in the contest and more than 2,000 in the annual award ceremony. Energiochi contributes to the Covenant of Mayors initiative signed by all 305 municipalities of Abruzzo and by the 4 Provinces and the Region as Territorial Coordinators.

www.regione.abruzzo.it/xAraen
EAP, TEA, ESS and SWEA agencies – ‘Energy Neighbourhoods’ contest for citizens

Various energy agencies, such as EAP, TEA, ESS and SWEA, have been involved in organising ‘Energy Neighbourhoods’ (2007-ongoing) in their region. The aim of the Energy Neighbourhood project is to inspire and encourage neighbourhood teams (condominiums) to achieve energy savings by taking specific actions to reduce energy consumption through changes in behaviour only. Seminars and lectures were organized in order to support participants in their efforts and they also received tips and information through newsletter mailings and the project website. The results are inspiring: 500 teams from 8 different countries participated and achieved an average energy saving of 10%. The winning team from Sweden managed an impressive 37% saving through simple and cost effective measures such as using energy saving lamps, disabling the use of standby systems and changing their habits.


B&SU mbH Berlin, GERMANY - European Energy Award® (eea) for municipalities

The European Energy Award® is a programme for planning and reaching energy and climate protection policy goals and measures in municipalities. Acting as a quality management system and certification process, the European Energy Award® establishes interdisciplinary planning and action as well as a process-oriented and long-term energy and climate protection policy in municipalities. Using the European Energy Award® all municipal energy and climate protection activities are systematically determined, assessed, continually checked, coordinated and precisely implemented. A Europe-wide network of experts and regular exchange of information guarantee municipalities’ access to current, specific know-how. Currently more than 1.100 municipalities are taking part in the eea-process. In Europe the following countries are involved in the European Energy Award®: Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy (ARE, ALESCO), Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Switzerland. Morocco has currently joined as well the eea. Model-projects are running in Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine.

EU Commissioner Mr. Günther Oettinger hands over the European Energy Award together with NRW Climate Protection Minister Johannes Remmel in Brussels.

www.bsu-berlin.de
Promoting eco-mobility

Jersey State – Development of Jersey’s Energy Plan and the role of Domestic Sector intervention

“Pathway 2050; An Energy Plan for Jersey” is put forward to stimulate discussion around the challenges Jersey faces in terms of energy use through to 2050, and to begin to map out the policy response needed to meet those challenges. The Plan will be kept under review and take a flexible approach to implementation according to the performance of the actions identified. The need for a resilient and secure energy supply for the island is widely accepted and understanding energy security in the Island context is an urgent and key policy area within the Plan. The Energy Plan also outlines a range of opportunities which could have the effect of providing a stimulus to the local economy. These include considering the impact of new ways of working and living, providing skills and training and new business opportunities which could harness opportunities for Jersey in the emerging global Cleantech agenda.

A fundamental facet of the Plan is the ongoing development and support of The Eco-Active Energy Efficiency service (ESS). This was established in 2009 with a remit to target the socio-economically vulnerable sector of the community by installing a range of energy efficiency measures designed to assist in addressing fuel poverty / affordable warmth. The EES has been developed with advice and support from the UK Energy Saving Trust who now provide accreditation for the services provided. In the 2050 pathway, energy efficiency in the domestic sector is projected to contribute over 30% of total emissions savings to 2050. The target group for the EES will continue to be the domestic sector, but its remit will be extended to provide advice to the ‘able to pay’ sector as well as the socio-economically vulnerable group, and also the industrial and commercial sector”

EREN - Ente Regional de la Energía de Castilla y León, SPAIN - Sustainable mobility plan for the workers of EREN’s building

This mobility initiative has been developed in León (Autonomous Community of Castilla y León, Spain) where EREN has its headquarters. The action was designed as an exemplary solution to the parking problems which arose when the building was extended to include other services of the regional government. The target audience is all employers in the different regional departments settled in EREN’s building. An external environmental consultancy was subcontracted to follow up and monitor the plan, which started with a diagnosis of the workers’ mobility habits was conducted. The Plan is not a closed document but is open to continuous suggestions for its improvement. Other regional and local authorities have shown their interest in replicating this action in their organization and others have already started to replicate the initiative.

ESS - Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden Ltd, SWEDEN – ‘Be a Smart Traveller’

The Energy Agency of south-east Sweden (ESS) has carried out a project called Smart Traveller, aimed at raising awareness on unnecessary car commuting and encourage travelling by foot, bicycle, public transportation or car pooling. The target group of Smart Traveller was commuters from different organisations and companies in Kalmar and Kronoberg. On average, individual car use for commuters of 10 km or less decreased from 49% to 44% in the County of Kalmar and from 45% to 38% in the County of Kronoberg. In the County of Kronoberg the percentage of bicycle commuters increased from 30% to 41%.

www.gov.je

www.energia.jcyl.es

www.energikontorsydost.se
Julije DOMAC, president of FEDARENE since October 2013, & Director of REGEA – the North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency

“I see regions as the building blocks of a grassroots Europe, co-operating with one another across national boundaries, implementing joint projects and identifying common solutions to shared problems. Regions often make that critical step to disseminate European information to the citizens, municipalities and cities, translating it into a language that citizens understand. They bring European policy alive - by providing concrete, local examples for how policies, programmes and initiatives relate to our stakeholders on the ground.

One important framework within which regions take a central role is the Covenant of Mayors initiative, where regions (provinces, counties) can be Territorial Coordinators assisting the signatory municipalities within their territory. These are all reasons why we recognise a crucial role of the regions, with the precious support of their energy agencies and the European federation of these agencies – FEDARENE, which is celebrating its already 25 years of existence in 2015

I would also like to point out that more importance has to be given to the development of collaboration models in sustainable energy planning between regional and local public authorities – what is called multi level governance. This should be recognised in our key policy documents in the future – the Green Paper “2030 framework for climate and energy policies”, for example. In this regard, the lack of expertise and the consequent need for capacity building also need to be emphasised.”

FEDARENE celebrated its 20th anniversary on 14th Sept. 2010 and met with Mrs Bresso – then President of the Committee of the Regions, Mr Hahn – Commissioner for Regional Policy, Mrs Hedegaard – Commissioner for Climate Action, and Mr Potočnik - Commissioner for the Environment.
Here are some extracts from their speeches:

**Mercedes Bresso - former President of the Committee of the Regions ...**

« ...Nous avons le plaisir de fêter le 20ème anniversaire de FEDARENE. Je souhaiterais attirer votre attention sur le titre de ce cycle de conférences: "Think European – Act regional".

Il synthétise à merveille ma façon de penser. Pour surmonter les difficultés auxquelles nous devons faire face, nous avons de plus en plus besoin d'une vision européenne forte, qui aille au-delà des frontières nationales et représente réellement une valeur ajoutée. C'est ici qu'intervient l'action au niveau local et régional: elle doit être le point de départ d'une approche ascendante. Ceci est d'autant plus vrai en ce qui concerne l'énergie et l'environnement... »

**Johannes Hahn - Commissioner for Regional Policy ...**

« ...Some regions have already engaged with this paradigm shift. They are investing in measures that will limit the effects of climate change, and are seeking to restructure their economies towards green growth, taking full advantage of new technologies and their application in the form of new products or services. However, others are not. Some priority areas face delays or suffer from uneven progress across the Member States. This is often due to lack of capacity. Peer reviews and the exchange of good practice within the Fedarene network could be an important tool to redress these weaknesses... »

**Janez Potočnik - Commissioner for Environment ...**

« ...Thirdly, energy savings can come from economy wide reductions in the use of resources and the recycling of waste. Proper implementation of current EU waste policy would deliver 30% of our current 20% Greenhouse Gas target. Similarly, if we process less material in our manufacturing and transport less material around Europe, we will save energy. Regional agencies have a key role in delivery. I am particularly impressed by the work of agencies which offer consultancy services to business to help them reduce their inputs – energy and otherwise...The role of agencies – those close to implementation – in providing ideas and policy stimulus to European and national [energy efficiency] policy is essential... So here's to 20 years of FEDARENE and to another 20 years... »

**Jean-Louis Joseph – former President of FEDARENE ...**

« ...J'aimerais attirer l'attention sur les bénéfices de ces 20 années de coopération et d'échanges interrégionaux qui furent indéniablement riches d'enseignements pour les Régions et les Agences de l’Energie.

...A l’heure ou l’Europe connait une crise économique et sociale sans précédent, la question du rôle et de l’action des collectivités locales et régionales dans le processus de gouvernance européenne est devenue cruciale pour nous permettre de repenser notre manière d’agir et de construire. Cette réflexion est d’ailleurs étroitement reliée à la problématique structurelle du déficit démocratique qui touche l’Union européenne.

... pour conclure, je reprendrai une citation de Michel Delebarre, « c’est de milliers de petits Kyoto locaux dont nous avons besoin ». C’est, en effet, à ce niveau que sont mises en place les politiques de transports, de logements, de travail ou encore de loisir. Il faut donc agir dans nos villes, dans nos provinces, dans nos régions. Nous, responsables locaux et régionaux, nous sommes les moteurs de la mise en place des législations nationales ou européennes, parce que nous travaillons directement avec nos concitoyens et autres parties prenantes locales. »