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Save the date!

10th Anniversary Covenant of Mayors

10 years of Covenant of Mayors Initiative! Over 9200 local authorities taking action from 2008 to contribute to the EU climate and energy objectives!

The 10th anniversary cere-

mony "From Paris to Katowice: Speeding up the transition towards decarbonised and resilient cities" will take place in Brussels on 22nd February. A chance for the Covenant Community to jointly discuss

challenges on investment, multi-level collaboration and mobility, meet the newly set-up EU Covenant Political Board, and capitalise strengths for the next steps. Click here for more updated information. ☀

ShapeEnergy Sandpits in Turin on February 2018

EMPOWERING is a valuable case study within the forthcoming SHAPE ENERGY sandpits, taking place in Turin (IT) on 8-9th February 2018. The event aims at higher integration of Social Sciences and Humanities into energy related projects by:

- reflecting on current direction and task in individual projects;
- generating concrete ideas for increasing impacts on society;
- experiencing innovative methods of interdisciplinary and cross-sector

working within energy projects;

- meeting cross-Europeans collaborators in a stimulating environment and generating future project ideas for progressing energy related topics.

Capacity Building Programs

Signing the Covenant of Mayors means a commitment for the municipalities. Both the decision itself and to carry it through can be an effort with the need for a proper knowledge basis. Therefore, a capacity-building program is created for each region. The programs are meant to address issues that could hinder or delay a municipality from signing the Covenant of Mayors, and point to possibilities on how to reach the targets that are set when becoming a signatory.

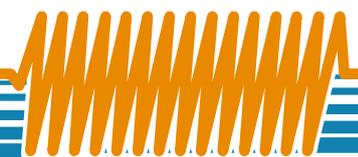
The capacity-building programs will partly consist of

webinars that are common for all regions. Each region also has the possibility to add local information, arrange workshops etc. The information is focused around the themes financing, awareness, adaptation and energy. The financing part includes external funding possibilities, innovative solutions such as green bonds, and how to use procurement as a tool. The awareness part focuses on how to get all stakeholders on board, politicians as well as general public and private companies. The adaptation part is meant to give ideas on how to implement adaptation measures.

The energy part informs on energy efficiency and possibilities for renewable energy.

Each region decides on the target group for each webinar. Possible target groups are politicians, municipal officials (both on decision and execution level) and general public.

The webinars will be recorded and uploaded to Youtube, with a link from the project website. In this way, the information will be available for all municipalities that are interested, also outside EMPOWERING. ☀



European Cities towards the sustainability

SVIM Marche organised on 7th November 2017 in Ancona the workshop “European Cities towards the sustainability. The results of the Study Visits and Transnational Events of EMPOWERING project” (full programme).

The municipality and regional representatives, participating to the European Exchange Program in Malmo (Sweden), Gent (Belgium) and Roman (Romania), presented their respective experience to the LEB Members, highlighting each show-case potential of transferability into Marche Region.

The participants, beyond the European boundaries, were inspired also by the American “Climate Reality Project”, that through the “Climate Real-

ty Training” aims at spreading awareness of the climate crisis and building a movement for solution at international level.

Hence, both projects demonstrated to focus on building capacities, for the access to debate with expert knowledge, towards the transitions to sustainability, lifestyles and human wellbeing.

Moreover, while SVIM Marche staff announced the first draft of EMPOWERING Capacity Building programme, it showed that the project most important prerequisite consisted in supporting communities to investigate stakeholders’ needs and priorities. The participants thus suggested for the forthcoming capacity building initiatives small and local workshops, with simple steps for the successful

implementation of case studies at municipal level.

Finally, the participants were made aware, that Marche region, conceived as socio-energy system, represents a case study for two researches in Social Sciences and Humanities. They both focus on investigating public and stakeholder engagement, social acceptability

of energy system change. The main findings will be part of EMPOWERING capacity building programme in Italy, aiming to indicate, to energy decision-makers and planners, the beneficial assets for collaborations between Municipalities, for sharing of resources and actions aimed at a wider spread of effective SECAPs even at EU level. ☀



Region of Istria LEB - final steps

After establishing Local energy board of Region of Istria (Croatia) at the beginning of 2017, in November during its last meeting, LEB deepen the discussions regarding the new context of Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and the experience of municipalities Labin, Pore, Rovinj, Pazin and Pula as signatories that pledged in April 2016 to reduce CO2 emissions by at least 40% by 2030 and to adopt an integrated approach tackling mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The meeting promoted the exchange of knowledge and good practices, facilitating networking and synergy among municipalities. Their collaboration will allow cities to have access to clean and profitable solutions that are ready to be implemented and will encourage others to join the movement and adopt more ambitious energy policies and environmental targets.

One of the interesting parts of the meeting was dedicated to upcoming Capacity Building Program. Local authorities’ through Capacity Building Program will be offered tailored in-class training and webinars to enhance their strategic planning capacity. Officers from local authorities will be offered practical in-class training on how to set-up, implement and continuously update SEAPs and SECAPs (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans). ☀



Workshop in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, Hungary

During 2017 altogether 7 municipal representatives, mainly mayors, from North Hungary took part in study visits organized in Sweden, Belgium and Romania. The study tours –as part of the successfully implemented Transnational Exchange Program– provided the participants with the opportunity to have first-hand experience of the sustainable and energy efficient solutions, additionally obtain a greater understanding of the strategic planning methods of the municipalities.

In order to share the gained experiences with other municipal representatives, a workshop was organized on the 8th November 2017 in Miskolc. It was open to all regional municipalities, with a final roundtable discussion about the difficulties and barriers to be tackled and possible exemplary solutions to be adapted.

First the mayor of Bükkábrány

introduced the experiences in Malmö, one of the greenest cities of Europe, highlighting his personal impressions and the exemplary measures that impressed him. The mayor of Hernádnémeti talked about Ghent and how the municipality boosts and supports energy efficient renovations among citizens and enterprises. Then the mayor of Tokaj, described the food policy and the related strategic goals of the city. The last presentation summarized the example of energy planning model in Roman, introduced by the mayor of Bükkábrány. ☀



3rd Andalusian LEB meeting: start point of the last stage of EMPOWERING

Andalusian Agency for Environment and Water concluded its second project year by bringing together the members of the Local Energy Board to continue the dissemination of the transnational experiences in the cities of Ghent, Roman and Ia i. These local workshops are intended to disseminate among municipalities the sustainable city models visited and their main projects, highlighting their strengths and capabilities which can be used for reference and to be adapted to each territory.

The meeting had the participation of the Andalusian Energy Agency which referred the promotion of the transformation of Andalusian cities towards a smart city model where the decarbonisation of transport materializes through the promotion of sustainable mobility

initiatives, mainly particular electric mobility. In this sense, the "Roadmap of electric mobility in Andalusia" and the "Smart Networks" incentive line for the creation of recharging points for electric vehicles in the municipalities, as well as the renewal of fleets of electric vehicles for public services and advice to local entities that provide the Andalusian Energy Agency, which manages the incentives, to apply these measures.

In addition, the Agency has made known the local entities that participate in EMPOWERING the actions promoted for electric self-consumption facilities. These provide greater efficiency by bringing generation closer to consumption and reduce energy expenditure, in addition to avoiding CO2

emissions into the atmosphere if they are carried out with renewable energies.

The conference also was the starting point of the last stage of EMPOWERING focused on the training of municipal repre-

sentatives to develop successfully sustainable energy plans. Throughout 2018, three training workshops will be organized at the Agency's headquarters, dates will be announced soon.



Meeting of the North-East Local Energy Boarding

On November 14, 2017, the 2nd meeting of the North-East Local Energy Board took place in Piatra Neam .

The meeting was organized within the ENERSELVES project, which North-East RDA implements as a partner, and aimed at presenting good practices promoted by partners in Extremadura and South Sweden as well as discussing the preliminary results of the Self-Assessment Report on Renewable Energy Sources (RES) from the North-East Region. At the same time, the LEB members have been consulted on the content of the local actors' Capacity Building Program for Strategic Sustainable Energy Planning, a

program to be implemented within the EMPOWERING transnational project.

This meeting was the first action aimed at identifying the synergies between ENERSELVES and EMPOWERING projects and one of the first steps by which the North-East RDA intends to transform the North-East LEB into a core of action and knowledge in region, in the field of sustainable energy.

Participants were interested in the examples visited by the regional delegations in Spain and Sweden, and the discussions focused mainly on the economic returns for integrated renewable energy investments for the consumption of buildings. The self-assessment report on RES in the North-East Region will include data and information on the RES situation for self-consumption of buildings.



Empowering's Local Energy Board of Region of Central Macedonia

The second LEB meeting of RCM was held on 13th of November 2017. The purpose of LEB's meeting was dual:

Firstly the LEB members, that took part to WP3 activities, deposited their experiences from Agios Dimitrios (Greece), Climate Smart Hyllie and Western Harbour in Malme, the networking meeting in Brussels and the study visit to Ghent, and the activities in Roman and Iasi in Roumania.

The conclusion of all the presentations was the uncontroversial knowledge they gained from the study visits to these countries in the fields of Integrated Energy and Land Use Planning, and how, almost, unable is to adopt them to Greek sustainable urban planning system, because of the great participation and co-creation of the private sector is needed, which is difficult to manage in Greece.

At the second part of the meeting WP5 activities were presented. Effie Korma from CRES mentioned the tasks and aims of supporting SECAPs (updating and drafting), explaining the requirements in order to fulfill the above mentioned target.

Concerning the near future, the RCM LEB's members expect with great interest the sub-contractor of the project, which will support them to SEAP updating and new SEAP drafting in the framework of WP5 implementation.



Starting WP5: Integrated Sustainable Energy Plan & Regional Strategy

EMPOWERING project during the upcoming months aims to provide robust support for the development and the implementation of integrated energy strategies and related SEAPs/SECAPs by municipalities involved in the project and CoM for Climate & Energy Initiative and therefore achieve the new greenhouse gas emission targets, the use of Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency.

The improvement in the skills, gained by capitalizing the experiences and capacity building of WP3 and WP4, of local authorities will be used both in the submission of new SECAPs and in the upgrading of existing SEAPs, while regional authorities will be supported in shaping their energy policy strategy by setting sustainable energy objectives for 2020 and 2030. The EMPOWERING project partners CRES and RISE will provide the technical support on these actions.

More specific:

- By the end of January, the project partners will facilitate, coordinate and support the municipalities, which have expressed their interest to become members of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and provide a report with relevant municipal decisions.
- Taking advantage of the knowledge acquired through previous packages, by the end of April 2018 EMPOWERING aims to support municipalities to update the Baseline Emission Inventory (collect all the relevant territorial and municipal data), in line with JRC methodology, and to revise CO2 emission energy target (SEAP upgrading).
- Concerning the municipalities interested into adhering to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, EMPOWERING project will facilitate the drafting of the Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI), by the end of June 2018.
- Concerning existing CoM members participating into the project, they will be supported to the upgrading of BEI and energy balance, by the end of June 2018.



Partners



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