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IN BRIEF...

Empower project is active

EMPOWER, an interregional project aiming to reduce carbon output by dynamically monitoring energy efficiency in buildings, hit the ground running since it kicked off in January. The five-year, 9-partners project was approved for a grant of €1.90 million by the Interreg Europe Programme late last year.

The partnerships of 9 European regions including the Southern Regional Assembly, are working together to share experience, solutions, and good practice to develop and deliver better public policy to reduce carbon emissions and innovative use of financial instruments. Joint activities, such as peer review, good practices identification and study visits will feed into the development of 9 Regional Action Plans aimed at enhancing their low carbon policy instruments. The partners have been busy with the first set of activities, including a kick off meeting in Slovenia in January 2017 and a Peer Review event in Venice in March 2017. The Peer Review event brought together key stakeholders from the partner regions to get ideas on how to improve regional policies and review the planned improvements to the targeted policies.

Running until 2021, the project will benefit building users, decision-makers, SMEs in the energy sector, and investors by applying cost-effective energy monitoring to reduce energy demand, using new technology, and improving how various decision-makers work together on low carbon policy. EMPOWER is part-funded by the Interreg Europe Programme through the European Regional Development Fund, and led by the Energy Agency of Podravje (Energap)

in Slovenia. More about the EMPOWER project you can read here www.interregeurope.eu/empower.