

POWERTY

Main conclusions of the exchange of good practices and the results of the study visits during the first semester

Renewable energies for vulnerable groups



1 Main conclusions of the exchange of good practices.

Partners have been particularly active and willing to collaborate to obtain the maximum benefit of the interregional cooperation from the very first moment. The project meetings in Seville (September 2019) and Manchester (January 2020) provided a key opportunity for learning and knowledge transfer on how energy poverty is understood and addressed across the various stakeholder organisations and regions involved in the project. Through communication with the project partners we managed to exchange insights and practical know-how on all aspects of energy poverty – from the drivers of the problem, to the policies for addressing it, the methods for detecting it, and its consequences on human well-being, health and economic development.

In this sense and although a limited peer-to-peer exchange has occurred, given that all major exchange events are scheduled in the forthcoming months, a very good platform for ideas and good practice exchange has already started to build up. Thus, some partners have already expressed their interests in some GP presented in the Manchester meeting. PP3_EAP, for example, has expressed their interest in some GP presented from PP5_VIPA, such as the “partially owned or rented virtual net-metering model available for the prosumers in Lithuania”, which according to PP5_VIPA possess a high possibility to be replicated into the Bulgarian legislation.

In addition, the role of the University of Manchester as an advisory partner in the learning process should be highlighted. This organisation also leads the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV), a vast network of over 150 experts and practitioners working on energy poverty in Europe and beyond. They used insights and knowledge developed within this network – particularly the formulation of indicator frameworks and good practice models – to develop the advisory inputs.

Finally, the high involvement of the partners is equally reflected in the configuration and excellent participation, in general, of the regional stakeholders, since the project aims to involve them at the highest level.

2 Study visits

Two study visits have already taken place during the first semester of the project:

- **Study visit, 12-13 September 2019: Andalusia (Spain), organised by AEA**

In the framework of the Kick-off meeting of the POWERITY project held in Seville, Spain on 12th and 13th September 2019, the Andalusian Energy Agency, as lead partner of the project, organised a study visit which was attended by all partners.

The objective of the study visit was to learn more about the works developed and implemented by the non-profit company ECOOO (<https://ecooo.es/>), member of the Andalusian stakeholder group.



Previously to the study visit, in the offices of the Andalusian Energy Agency, ECOOO, represented by Genevova López, presented their initiative to partners about renewable energies and vulnerable groups, as well as other works they are involved in, and their collaboration with labour insertion bodies which make it easier for

vulnerable groups to enter the renewable energy labour market.

In this sense, partners realised the project's first study visit to a collective photovoltaic solar energy installation in the town of Lebrija (province of Seville), promoted by ECOOO. This initiative, called Ola Solar de Lebrija, has installed collective PV solar energy installations on the roofs of 11 municipal buildings in Lebrija, ceded by the Town Hall (public schools, a day centre for the elderly, a fire station, a sports centre, etc.). The highlight of this initiative is that it is a collective renewable energy facility, in which renewable energy is generated in a way which promotes citizen participation and supports an economy that is more respectful of the environment and people. POWERITY project partners visited one of these installations, on the roof of a school, accompanied by Conrado Gonzalez of ECOOO.

- **Study visit, 16-17 January 2020: UK, organised by the UM**

During the meeting in Manchester, 16th-17th January 2020, partners of the POWERTY project also realised a study visit to the Aaben housing complex, developed by the One Manchester Housing Association. One Manchester is Manchester's largest not-for-profit and non-governmental provider of housing and community services. One Manchester currently own more than 12,000 homes in central, south and east Manchester.



The Aaben is a new development of 105 homes, all available for market rent. The development is a mixture of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and 3 bedroom townhouses. All apartments are heated, and hot water is provided, via air source heat pumps that are located on the roof of the development. During the site visit, the partners had an opportunity to observe the pumps in action, and talk about the technical and social challenges associated with managing the development with representatives from One Manchester. The visit highlighted the multiple benefits of innovative renewable energy installation for a social housing provider like One Manchester, as well as the financial, technical and social difficulties associated with the process. One of the main discussion points was that engagement and discussion with residents prior to the introduction of new forms of energy generation is crucial to the successful deployment of the infrastructure.