

POWERTY

NEWSLETTER N°6

Renewable energies for vulnerable groups



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WELCOME TO THE 6TH EDITION OF THE POWERTY NEWSLETTER

During this sixth semester of the project (from 01/02/2022 to 31/07/2022), which closes the first phase of the project, a **bilateral meeting** took place in order to learn more about some of the good practices identified in POWERTY that have the potential to be replicated or are inspiring for implementation in the regions of other European partners and thus influence current public instruments and ensure the promotion of renewable energies for vulnerable groups over time.

Thanks to this meeting and those held during the previous semester, together with the whole learning process carried out during the aforementioned phase 1 of the project (identification of good practices, international seminars, study visits, etc.), the **regional action plans of each of the partners** have been drawn up where measures to be carried out are envisaged and how these measures will improve the existing public instruments in each region.

Meetings of regional experts and dissemination events also took place where each POWERTY partner presented their action plan to regional experts and relevant actors in the development of the measures they contemplate.

It is noteworthy that during this semester the **First International Energy Poverty Action Week (IEPAW 2022) has been carried out and coordinated by the POWERTY team**. This event emerged from the inspiration of the European Week for Energy Poverty held by the Andalusian stakeholder ACA.

POWERTY has been presented in many **international events**, which we will detail later, having a great impact on social media thanks to the publications of the project [website \(in English\)](#), among others.

POWERTY BILATERAL MEETING

A bilateral meeting was held this semester, in addition to the four held during the previous semester, this time in Plovdiv (Bulgaria).

• EAP hosts AEA in Bulgaria



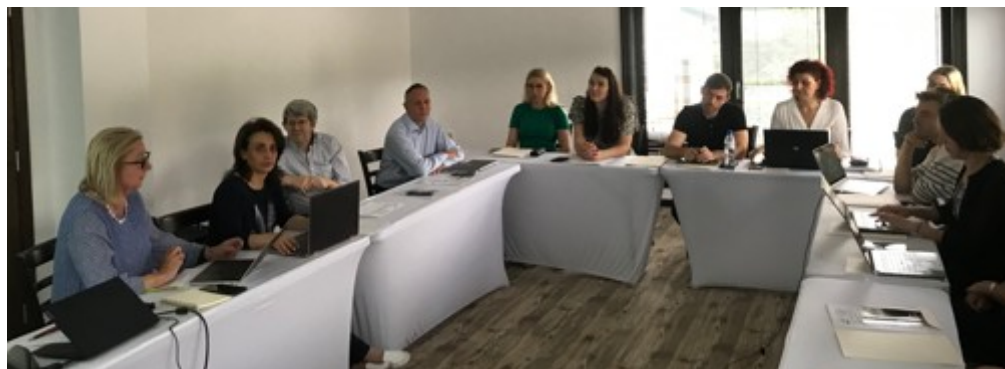
On [14 June 2022](#) the Plovdiv Energy Agency (EAP) received the Andalusian Energy Agency (AEA) in Bulgaria to show them 2 case studies.

Link to **reports on bilateral meetings**: [here](#)

Link to the **guide to good practices** identified in POWERTY (in Spanish): [here](#)

FINAL MEETING OF EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES

On [13 and 14 June 2022](#) the Plovdiv Energy Agency (EAP) received the partners of the POWERTY consortium in **Bulgaria** to present the **regional action plans of** each of the partners and the 3 **pilot projects** completed during this semester.



On [June 13, 2022](#), all partners of the POWERTY project attended the **steering committee meeting** where last semester's progress report was presented, the preparation of the next one reviewed, and the next steps of the project were discussed: presentation of the regional action plans, together with a presentation of the status of the pilot projects approved by Interreg Europe by the Spanish (AEA), French (AURA-EE) and Bulgarian (EAP) partners. In addition, it was informed that POWERTY had been selected to hold **a workshop on energy poverty** at the international event "[EU Week Regions and Cities 2022](#)" that will take place online in October 2022.

REGIONAL ACTION PLANS

The preparation of the **regional action plans** has been completed during this semester thanks to the active participation of regional and national experts from the POWERTY consortium. Here we briefly describe these plans:

• **AEA Plan (Spain)**

The Andalusian action plan will implement renewable energy financing formulas for vulnerable groups, train older people as energy advisors to other elderly people and develop a roadmap to promote energy communities including vulnerable groups. All this thanks to the launch of its pilot in which the energy community “Torreblanca Ilumina”, located in the fourth poorest neighbourhood in Spain, has been analysed from a legal, social and technical point of view.

• **AURA-EE Plan (France)**

The French action plan will develop renewable energies in social housing financed by third parties thanks to the launch of its pilot in which the contractual form for this financing to be carried out by energy communities has been analysed.

• **EAP Plan (Bulgaria)**

The Bulgarian action plan will include the hybrid solution PV+BESS (photovoltaic together with batteries) in the eligible systems thanks to the launch of its pilot in which several hybrid installations in public buildings with social use have been analysed and implemented. In addition, it will plan a new program for the city of Sofia to boost these hybrid solutions as a pilot and will launch it to benefit at least 50 families.

• **AOT Plan (Poland)**

The Polish action plan will analyse energy poverty by creating a methodology for it and will implement 100 % renewable micro-housing for elderly people living in energy poverty.

• **VIPA Plan (Lithuania)**

The Lithuanian action plan during phase 1 of the project has launched a new aid programme, with a fund of 1.8 million euros, aimed exclusively at natural persons in a state of vulnerability to facilitate their benefit from renewable energy. This program will now be monitored and detect improvements to be implemented with the lessons learned from other POWERTY partners in the area of grants, such as the good practices of the programs managed by the Andalusian Energy Agency (AEA).

[Link to Regional Action Plans: here](#)

POWERTY PILOT PROJECTS

• **Spain: Energy and educational community in vulnerable area**

The creation of the Energy and Educational Community “Torreblanca Ilumina” has been supported through legal, social and technical assistance provided by the Andalusian Energy Agency. This has led to the awareness of many people in the Torreblanca neighbourhood, thanks to the workshops carried out and the provision of an energy office to attend consultations from interested people in the neighbourhood. In addition, the installation of photovoltaic panels on the roofs of 2 schools in the neighbourhood is underway, after the transfer of these roofs by the City Hall of Seville, to provide energy to 11 families living in a situation of energy poverty that have been advised and some of them have undergone energy audits.

• **France: Model Citizen Investment Fund Contract for the Development of Renewable Energy for Low-Income Households**

An ESCO model contract has been created¹ for citizen energy communities owning a renewable energy facility to take over the investment in renewable energy equipment on behalf of a vulnerable household and be reimbursed on the basis of rent paid by the household according to the fossil fuel energy savings achieved. Equipment such as solar hot water panels and photovoltaic or wood boilers may be transferred to the home free of charge once it has been paid back.

Analyses have been carried out in both rural and urban areas with the support of the “local energy and housing agency” that supports households in a situation of energy vulnerability and help them to carry out energy saving works but that do not have investment solutions in renewable energies to propose. In addition, with the collaboration of the citizen energy communities that already exist in the rural and urban areas analysed and that have already developed citizen photovoltaic projects but that do not target specifically vulnerable groups.

• **Bulgaria: Hybrid installations of photovoltaics and batteries in buildings for social use**

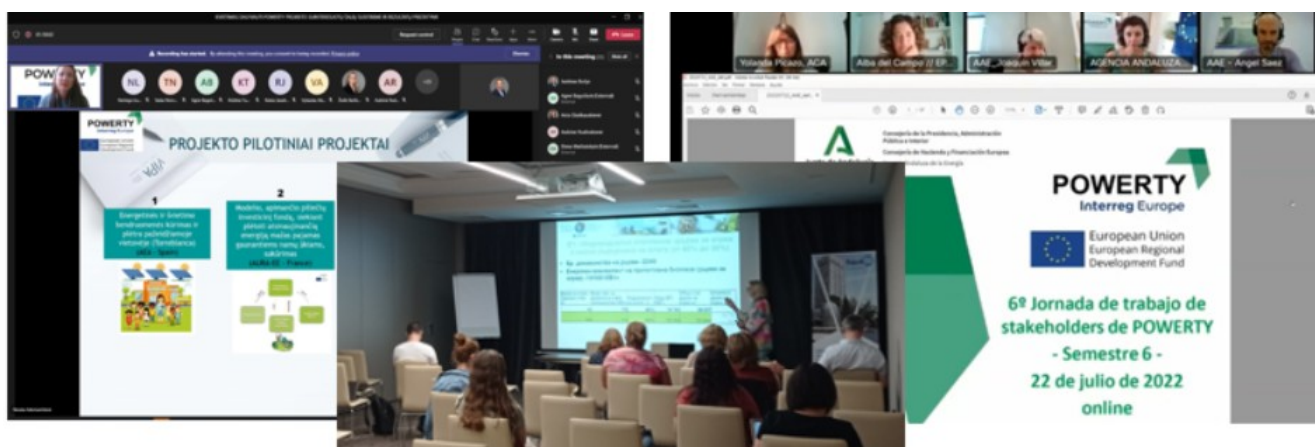
Three hybrid systems consisting of photovoltaics and batteries have been installed in buildings for social use where children and young people with mental disabilities live and develop educationally.

All buildings for social use are owned by the Municipality of Plovdiv and are currently offered to young people and children with disabilities, as a possible solution to alleviate energy poverty.

¹Energy Services Company Organization

MEETINGS OF REGIONAL EXPERTS AND DISSEMINATION

The meetings of **regional experts and the dissemination events of the action plan have been brought together** to increase the impact and synergies among attendees. The **regional action plans** to be carried out during phase 2 of the project (August 2022 to July 2023), together with the states of the completed pilot projects, were presented in the different regions of the POWERTY consortium.



	AEA Spain	AURA-EE France	AOT Poland	EAP Bulgaria	VIPA Lithuania
Day	22/07/2022	07/07/2022	29/06/2022	18/07/2022	20/07/2022
Format	online	online	in person	in person	online
Number of attendees	32	100	24	16	36
Information in English	here	here	here	here	here
Information in local language	here	here	here	here	here

POWERTY LAUNCHES IEPAW 2022

The Andalusian Energy Agency launched the initiative to the University of Manchester, advisory partner of POWERTY, to create an international event on energy poverty, coinciding with the energy poverty week held in Spain every February by the Association of Environmental Sciences (ACA).



Between February 21 and 25, 2022, the **First “International Energy Poverty Action Week” (IEPAW 2022)** was held, dedicating each day to a continent where you can learn about the actions that are being carried out in each of them. A total of 350 international experts have attended.

Specifically, on [February 23, 2022](#), POWERTY participated in the day dedicated to Europe by presenting the Spanish pilot on the Energy and Educational Community “Torreblanca Ilumina” in the fourth poorest neighbourhood of Spain, as well as the modifications to the Lithuanian regulations that have facilitated the expansion of prosumers throughout the country exponentially.

IMPACTS OF THE SPANISH PILOT

On [March 28, 2022](#), the Spanish pilot “Energy and Educational Community Torreblanca Ilumina” was included among the global initiatives that contribute to reducing energy poverty in the [Energy Advisory Poverty Hub Atlas \(EPAH\)](#).



In addition, [on May 27, 2022](#), Torreblanca Ilumina has been awarded by [EnerAgen 2022](#) in category D for better actions to promote and use renewable energies and the efficient use of energy throughout the national territory.

IMPACTS OF THE POWERTY PROJECT

- Check out **our media appearances dossier** [here](#).
- Check our **impact on the TV & radio dossier** [here](#).
- Consult the [website of the project](#), in particular: **Regional action** plans; **Good practice guide**; **Reports of bilateral meetings**; **News & Events**.

MEET OUR PARTNER: PUBLIC INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (VIPA)

The Public Investment Development Agency of the limited liability company (hereinafter, VIPA) is a financial institution established by the sole shareholder the state of Lithuania (represented by the Ministry of Finance) with the aim of financing and promoting sustainable development in the areas of a market failure in the pursuit of profitable activities without maximising profits. In December 2018, VIPA was appointed to act as a national promotional institution, which was granted the right to carry out incentive financing activities.

VIPA provides financial services, implements and manages financial instruments related to public sector investments aimed at improving and developing social and economic infrastructure, and develops public services and projects of public interest. The agency has accumulated competences in the areas of sustainable financing, financing solutions designed to increase energy efficiency and development of renewable energy resources (green energy).

Acting as a national promotional institution (NPI), VIPA established and currently manages 18 active target funds, instruments and initiatives, having raised more than 800 million euros for them. More than 1100 projects have already been funded in various areas of public interest, including the modernisation of multi-apartment buildings, municipal and central government public buildings, modernisation of water management infrastructure and educational institutions, renovation of cultural heritage sites, and modernisation and development of public buildings and other infrastructure.

VIPA key functions:

- implements incentive financial measures from various sources of funding, EU investment funds, actions, funds raised by international financial institutions or the private sector. Implements them directly, through financial intermediaries, investment platforms or other means;
- creates a flow of financially viable projects. VIPA does so not only by advising project promoters, but also by making proposals and providing expert assistance to institutions and bodies, and by initiating actions to improve the investment environment;
- raises private funds to finance projects in areas where financing is inadequate or not optimal under market conditions;
- issues subsidies and subsidies in accordance with decisions on investment areas of state funds adopted by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania;
- participates in the drafting of investment strategies for financial incentive measures and in monitoring the effectiveness and impact of investments;
- disseminates or improves the provision and administration of financial services by initiating or carrying out projects of dissemination of experiences and participating in them;
- performs other functions, which are necessary to achieve the objectives of the NPI.

NEXT STEPS OF THE POWERTY PROJECT

For the next semester (01/08/2022 to 31/01/2023) the **Regional Action Plans** of each of the consortium's partners will be launched and we will inform on their progress through [the project website](#).

POWERTY CONSORTIUM

PROJECT LEADER



SPAIN: Andalusian Energy Agency

PARTNERS



FRANCE: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
Energy Environment Agency
(AURA-EE)



BULGARIA: Energy Agency
of Plovdiv (EAP)



POLAND: The Agglomeration
Opole Trust (AOT)



LITHUANIA: The Public
Investment and
Development Agency (VIPA)



UNITED KINGDOM: University of
Manchester - EU Energy
Poverty Observatory (EPOV)

CONTACT US

Coordinator of the POWERTY project: Andalusian Energy Agency (EAA)

Contact email: powerty.interreg.aae@juntadeandalucia.es

POWERTY's biannual newsletter. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please reply to this email by indicating "CANCEL THE SUBSCRIPTION" in the subject of the mail.

This publication has been carried out with the financial assistance of the European Union under the Interreg Europe programme. The content of this document is the sole responsibility of the Andalusian Energy Agency and in no case can it be considered to reflect the position of the European Union or the management structures of the Programme. The Interreg Europe programme of the European Union is a territorial cooperation initiative for the period 2014-2020 that aims to promote cooperation between the regions of the European Union. The aim is to help European regions to design and implement regional policies and programmes more effectively, in particular the Growth and Jobs programmes of the European Structural and Investment Funds, but also the European Territorial Cooperation programmes, through the exchange of experiences, knowledge and best practices among stakeholders from all European regions. The programme has four thematic objectives: research and innovation, competitiveness of SMEs, low carbon economy, environment and resource efficiency. The Interreg Europe programme covers the entire territory of the European Union, Norway and Switzerland.

POWERTY is part of the Interreg Europe programme, with a total budget of EUR 1 335 118, and co-financed with the European Regional Development Fund up to 83.7 %.