



SUPPORT
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

From learning to transferring knowledge

The third SUPPORT newsletter is in front of you with all the latest updates of the status of project implementation. The project tackling various aspects of energy efficiency measures implementation in nine EU regions has come to a critical point in its first implementation phase. Roles and influences of partners and stakeholders have undergone important changes in intensive learning processes during the last months. What is the meaning and purpose of this?

Project SUPPORT is meant as a two-dimensional knowledge transfer tool aimed to improve capacity of regional stakeholders to influence and use existing policy instruments identified within the project with goals such as higher rate of energy refurbishment of public buildings, better rate of implementation of current plans such as SEAPs, strengthening the SMEs capacities etc. The first phase of knowledge transfer took place as an internal process in which problems and solutions are shared on the level of partnership in order to define an optimal regional framework for developing tailor made action plans that will ensure significant upgrade pathways and specific measures of carbon footprint reduction. The exchange of knowledge between regions with different levels of RES and EE measures implementation was an invaluable experience that was significantly aided by the vast experience of our advisory partner who was able to guide us through the process and to additionally expand the knowledge base. This exchange has materialised in regional background analyses that depict and explain the problems that each region is facing and also presents innovative good practices with high quality of transferability.

Last March, we have organised an intense workshop in Seville as a focal point of the second phase of knowledge transfer. The three-day workshop focused on possibilities of the use of Green Public Procurement, ESCOs and EU funds for financing energy refurbishment of public buildings and it gathered more than 60 participants from nine EU countries. Intensive learning process was carried out through multiple experts' presentations, talks on other INTERREG EUROPE projects but mostly through focus groups which presented many interesting topics and ideas for future events. You'll find more information about these activities which represent pinnacle of stakeholder capacity building of project SUPPORT in the next pages. Enjoy the reading!



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How to help institutional changes in GPP

The first of the focus groups held in Seville, in the Second Interregional Seminar, was all about the issue of Green Public procurement. After an accurate analysis regarding the new rules for the assignment of public procurements carried out by Simone Ricotta, (member of the “Management committee for the implementation of the national plan GPP and for the Development of the national integrated policy strategy of product”), stakeholders and partners listened to a presentation of Pablo Quero Garcia and the one given by Maria Luisa Borra Marcos, focused on which sectors might be interested by these specific and innovative public procurements.

The three focus groups, that worked in parallel session, has tried to answer three fundamental questions:
 Group A: Is there a place for the GPP in the public procurement process?
 Group B: Green procurement in the context of sustainable development at local and national level.

Group C: How to contributes to the institutional change towards a greener Public Procurement?

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The challenge of involving ESCOs

Within the second interregional workshop held in Seville, partners and stakeholders discussed the role and potential os ESCOs. The second day of the workshop and the second session of the focus groups concentrated in particular on this matter and on the challenges ESCOs will be asked to face in the years to come.

CAI introduced the subject defining the economic, financial and technical scopes, referring to those enterprises that operate within the energy field, in particular by identifying contractual barriers and difficulties in the interaction public sector - ESCOs

From this starting point the talk moved in two directions, which represented the two core focus groups: “Financial energy efficiency: ways that work for ESCOs” and “Super ESCO: model of stimulating energy efficiency agenda and possibilities of cross border networking” was discussed in deep.

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From grant vs financial instruments

The third focus group has tried to light up the different points of view on the usage of the funds and the financial tools within the country partners.

The encounter has been opened by Javier Ordonez Mundoz’s (of the Agenex, Extremadura Energy Agency) presentation on the topic “Financial instruments for energy in the programming period 2014-2020”. In the two focus groups, that worked in parallel, the two topics got linked the one to the other due to their relevant interest for the way they affect the country partners’ administrative life.

Focus group A: For what kind of measures do municipalities ask for financial support and what kind of measures are funded by the EU financial instruments? Is there a match or a mismatch?

Focus group B: How attractive are EU financial instruments to municipalities? What makes them attractive?

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Staff Exchanges

Visiting the municipality of Kalmar county

During three intense days in April stakeholders from partners ALEA and EARLP visited the southeast of Sweden and Kalmar county. Day one was about the regional energy- and climate targets and how they were implemented by the



municipalities and the regional council.

The stakeholders found the procurement of 100 % renewable fuel for the regional public transport together with the 15M euro full scale EPC in the municipality of Kalmar as highlights of the day...

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Edessa and Pilea Hortiatis welcome ESS and FAMP

In May Anatoliki S.A. - Development Agency of Eastern Thessaloniki's Local Authorities hosted, as part of the staff exchange program, the Swedish work team of the Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden accompanied by a Municipality of Kalmar representative, and the Spanish group of FAMP accompanied by a Municipality of Cadiz representative.

The visit offered the opportunity for studying the green roof on the Municipality of Edessa City Hall building and exploring school buildings of the Municipality of Pilea-Hortiatis.

In Pilea Hortiatis, visitors saw the photovoltaic panels system which are installed on the first local high school roof and had the opportunity to know more about the Ground heat pump system for indoor heating and cooling.

In Edessa object of the study were the refurbishings that



have interested the City Hall and the Cultural Center buildings.

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Good practices from Europe

Regenerating waters

Wastewaters can be an important part of energy saving by making water treatment plants consume less energy. The Verbandsgemeinde Weilerbach good practice teaches us a brand new approach to this matter. Having noted that 20% of the local communities energy is being absorbed by wastewater treatment and that similar biogas plants could satisfy most of its own energy requirement, these municipalities have decided to modify processing techniques. From 2013 to 2014 the energy demand of sewage treatment plants has been reduced by altering the processing technique from a plant with aerobic digestion to a plant that produces biogas in their sewage sludge treatment process with anaerobic digestion....

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Alba Julia Energy Observatory

The role of the Energy Observatory is to fulfill the need for aggregate energy consumption data at local and regional level, per sectors for territorial-administrative units. Municipalities and energy data providers have signed partnership agreements with ANERGO to facilitate the exchange of energy data between municipalities and energy services providers, public transport, and other sectors. ALEA and ANERGO are currently supporting more than 15 Covenant of Mayors signatories from Romania in the development and implementation of their SEAPs...

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An ESCO history

Guidonia Montecelio, a Municipality of Città metropolitana di Roma Capitale, has experienced the benefit of a public-private partnership through commissioning to an ESCO the replacement of 10.000 older generation lamps in public lighting.

It has been carried out a public tender in order to choose a private partner and, once selected, it managed all the subsequent work stages on its own: from the feasibility study to the actual replacement. The contract lasts 20 years and includes also the maintenance charges...

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Ensuring the diversification of energy

The overall objective of the project is to increase the quality of the inhabitants' lives, sustainable, competitive and sustainable development of Alba Iulia Municipality by diversifying the sources of production, technology and infrastructure for the production of electricity from renewable sources (solar), reducing local CO2 emissions, in line with the conventions and strategic priorities assumed by Romania in relation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the European Union Specific Objectives (SO).

The total project value was almost 2 million Euros and it was financed largely from Structural EU Funds...

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Rome (IT)	Metropolitan City of Capital Rome
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Għawdex (MT)	MIEMA – Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency
Alba Iulia (RO)	Alba Local Energy Agency ALEA
Växjö (SE)	Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden
Sevilla (ES)	Andalusian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FAMP)
Sofia (BG)	Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency
Thermi (EL)	Anatoliki S.A Development Agency of Eastern Thessaloniki's Local Authorities
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