

MONITORING PHASE – survey

Acronym	ZEROCO2
Index	PG100015
Period	1.4.2018 – 30.9.2018
Name of project partner	Thermopolis
Name of the policy instrument addressed	The Regional Strategy of South Ostrobothnia

Phase 2 is dedicated to **monitoring the implementation of the action plans** in the policy instruments addressed. Project partners should regularly check the extent to which the measures described in the action plans are implemented on the ground and gathering evidence of success.

Project partners should maintain the contact with players involved (stakeholders) through for example: E-mails, phone calls, discussing with them at regional events, etc. Each partner should use the approach that suits his players involved, as there is no common rule for all.

Based on the survey below, an overview of successful implementation of action plans will be published on ZEROCO2 website.

Important: *The implementation of the action plan falls under responsibility of each partner dealing with the policy instrument. The progress made in implementing the action plan is reported back to the programme via progress reports (and based on this survey) in phase 2 (annually) with any necessary explanations if the action plan cannot be partly or fully implemented. But the non-implementation of action plan will not call in question the eligibility of costs related to the Interreg Europe.*

ACTION 1 (as described in Action plan)

Please provide a short description of the action (max 500 character)

The targets in the Regional Strategy of South Ostrobothnia especially in relation to renewable energy and energy efficiency lack depth due to lack of indicators that could be followed. Different types of indicators have been proposed during the project phase 1 to the authority responsible for the Regional Strategy of South Ostrobothnia. The first step was to help the regional authority choose relevant indicators to be included in the Regional Strategy update for 2018-2021. The second step will be to help with the first year of following the indicators.

Please list the players involved (as listed in the action plan) and measures (mail, at regional events, etc.) that you used to reach them?

The main player will be the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia as they are responsible for the Regional Strategy of South Ostrobothnia. Thermopolis, and other players might be Seinäjoki university of Applied sciences, municipalities and such that can provide information and data for the indicators.

The main players required will be reached via emails, phones and face-to-face meetings as needed.

What is the progress made in the implementation of this action planned for your policy instrument?

As stated in the description during the first phase possible indicators were suggested to the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia and from these they chose a few to follow. An initial meeting with the representatives from the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia was held to lay a timeline and discuss how the indicators will be followed for the first time.

The indicators will be followed for the year 2018 or 2017 at the end of 2019. The chosen year will depend on the statistical data available at the end of 2019.



If you succeeded in implementation of this action in to the policy instrument addressed, please describe the nature of the change and if applicable, the amount of funding influenced by this action and how it was estimated.

Initial steps have been taken. Further progress will be made in semester 7.

If you have not succeeded to implement this action plan in policy instrument addressed, please describe the reasons and the progress made so far.

The data for the year 2018 will be available in late fall 2019, so the second step will take place then. If 2018 data is not completely available before the end of the project, then data will be gathered for the year 2017. This will depend on the updating of official statistics and cannot be influenced by Thermopolis.

ACTION 2 (as described in Action plan)

Please provide a short description of the action (max 500 character)
To implement the Regional Program 2018-2021 (a section of the Regional Strategy) a Regional Implementation Plan is created. The Regional Implementation Plan 2019-2020 will be a plan to implement the updated Regional Program 2018-2021. The Regional Council usually asks for expert advice on creating this document. If invited to participate in the expert group, Thermopolis will partake participate in workshops and commenting on different written versions of the paper.
Please list the players involved (as listed in the action plan) and measures (mail, at regional events, etc.) that you used to reach them?
Regional Council and invited expert organisations. The Regional Council will be contacted via email and phone and if invited at workshops.
What is the progress made in the implementation of this action planned for your policy instrument?
The Regional Implementation Plan was approved 28.9.2018 by the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia. Thermopolis influenced in the drafting phase of the Implementation Plan (including feedback, suggestions and recommendations). Feedback was given, for instance, in events which were held by the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia in May 2018.
If you succeeded in implementation of this action in to the policy instrument addressed, please describe the nature of the change and if applicable, the amount of funding influenced by this action and how it was estimated.
<p>The 4th alignment in the approved Implementation Plan include subsectors such as “improvements of the energy knowledge”. This development work will be focused especially on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed energy generation solutions (small-scale, buildings) • Implementations of biogas-related experiments and projects • Exploit digitalization and smart energy systems solutions (e.g. activation, experiments) • Energy efficiency and savings implementations among households (buildings and living), companies and transportation <p>These measures will support the promotion of low-carbon buildings and economies.</p> <p>In addition, it’s stated in the Implementation Plan that 25 % of ERDF funding (on national level) should be allocated to projects that are supporting the transition towards low-carbon economy.</p> <p>Regionally, two new energy-related projects started, from which the other is focusing on renewable energy production, distribution and storing.</p> <p>New projects that meet the requirements of the region (Regional Strategy, Implementation Plan) are designed constantly.</p>

If you have not succeeded to implement this action plan in policy instrument addressed, please describe the reasons and the progress made so far.

ACTION 3 (as described in Action plan)

Please provide a short description of the action (max 500 character)
The Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia has usually invited a team of experts to participate in a mid-term evaluation of the Regional Strategy. Thermopolis hopes to be invited and will participate in the evaluation process and provide ideas for putting the policy in relation to the ZEROCO2 buildings into action.
Please list the players involved (as listed in the action plan) and measures (mail, at regional events, etc.) that you used to reach them?
The Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia has not yet published the timeframe for evaluating the regional strategy, especially the part Regional Programme 2018-2021.
What is the progress made in the implementation of this action planned for your policy instrument?
It is to be expected that the midterm evaluation will start close to the end of second phase of the project ZEROCO2.
If you succeeded in implementation of this action in to the policy instrument addressed, please describe the nature of the change and if applicable, the amount of funding influenced by this action and how it was estimated.
If you have not succeeded to implement this action plan in policy instrument addressed, please describe the reasons and the progress made so far.

ACTION 4 (as described in Action plan)

Please provide a short description of the action (max 500 character)
The Finnish Government is working on reconstructing the structures and responsibilities of Regional Councils. Many tasks currently belonging to municipalities are planned to be given the regional operators. It is estimated that this change will take place in 2021. Before the official change, background work is ongoing. Thermopolis will follow the process closely and try to influence the new Regional Organisation to keep working on energy related issues. This will be done through the actions 1,2 and 3 and possible other actions, if there is an opening for them.
Please list the players involved (as listed in the action plan) and measures (mail, at regional events, etc.) that you used to reach them?
The Regional Council Of South Ostrobothnia and The ELY Center, At regional events, through emails and the actions 1,2,3 and 7 of the regional action plan.
What is the progress made in the implementation of this action planned for your policy instrument?
<p>The Regional Council arranged a meeting (25.5.2018) for municipalities and invited companies to come hear about the ongoing structure change and the preparations that are being made. Matti Alakoskela attended the meeting.</p> <p>There is much debate going-on on the national level. It is possible that the change planned will be delayed.</p>
If you succeeded in implementation of this action in to the policy instrument addressed, please describe the nature of the change and if applicable, the amount of funding influenced by this action and how it was estimated.
If you have not succeeded to implement this action plan in policy instrument addressed, please describe the reasons and the progress made so far.

ACTION 5 (as described in Action plan)

Please provide a short description of the action (max 500 character)

The action relates to the best practice “sustainable municipalities” submitted onto the Interreg Europe policy, learning platform.

In general, “sustainable municipalities” promotes energy efficiency implementations in five different municipalities within the region of South Ostrobothnia. Thermopolis is the coordinator of the “sustainable municipalities” and follow the development of the participating municipalities.

As an action for this action plan Thermopolis will follow the progress of each municipality and use their progress to encourage other municipalities in the region to suite.

Please list the players involved (as listed in the action plan) and measures (mail, at regional events, etc.) that you used to reach them?

Five municipalities (Alavus, Kuortane, Kurikka, Lapua and Kauhava), Thermopolis.

The work with the ”sustainable municipalities” will be continued. The cooperation will include meetings, phone calls and emails.

In addition, new municipalities will be contacted especially via email and phone calls.

What is the progress made in the implementation of this action planned for your policy instrument?

The best practices were presented at the Interreg Europe event in Florence in June 2018.

Energy efficiency agreements forms the framework for “sustainable municipalities” as each of the five municipalities have joined the energy efficiency agreement. Beside the “sustainable municipalities”, Thermopolis started a new project (funded by the Energy Authority) in 2018, which aim is to promote energy efficiency, for instance, in municipalities. This new project promotes the energy efficiency agreements and one of the objectives is to motivate municipalities to join the energy efficiency agreement. “Sustainable municipalities” concept is one of the approach methods, as the concept can be promoted especially for smaller municipalities.

The new period for energy efficiency agreement is 2017-2025, and the municipalities will set their own energy efficiency targets when joining the agreement. In principle, the energy saving objective is 7,5 % / period (2017-2025). In addition, the Government of Finland grants investment subsidies for municipalities that are improving their energy efficiency or promoting energy savings.

The CEO of Thermopolis, Matti Alakoskela, participated in a meeting 27.9.2018, where the representative of Business Finland (organization that grants the funding for investments) presented that since the “awareness raising project” by Thermopolis started, there have been relatively more energy investment subsidy-related contacts from municipalities. Thermopolis operates the awareness raising in three regions (South Ostrobothnia, Ostrobothnia and Central Ostrobothnia).



If you succeeded in implementation of this action in to the policy instrument addressed, please describe the nature of the change and if applicable, the amount of funding influenced by this action and how it was estimated.

Thermopolis will follow the development among municipalities in these presented regions. As a main indicator, Thermopolis will follow how many municipalities have joined the energy efficiency agreement.

In addition, Thermopolis will follow the development of energy efficiency in the “sustainable municipalities”. The indicators from 2018 will be published in spring 2019.

In 2017, there were altogether 25 implementations in the five sustainable municipalities. The energy savings were approximately following: 364 MWh savings (electricity), 187 MWh savings (heat) and 310 m3 (water). Typical implementations are, for instance, lighting changes (LED). Recently, municipalities have been interested in heat recovery solutions, and the impact of this interest will be reported in future.

If you have not succeeded to implement this action plan in policy instrument addressed, please describe the reasons and the progress made so far.

ACTION 6 (as described in Action plan)

Please provide a short description of the action (max 500 character)
<p>Seinäjoki University of Applied Science (SeAMK) is working on building a digital platform for people going to build single family homes. The platform can be used for project control, connecting all relevant companies and officials to the house project. One section in the platform will include helping the builders decide on a heating system for their building. Thermopolis will provide information for the platform during the second phase of the ZEROCO2 project. This will encourage people to take steps towards ZEROCO2 buildings.</p>
Please list the players involved (as listed in the action plan) and measures (mail, at regional events, etc.) that you used to reach them?
<p>SeAMK, Thermopolis contact via email, phone and face-to-face meetings.</p>
What is the progress made in the implementation of this action planned for your policy instrument?
<p>A information package with basic information on different heating systems and small scale electricity generation was written by Thermopolis to be added into the platform SeAMK is developing. Links to find more information were also included.</p>
If you succeeded in implementation of this action in to the policy instrument addressed, please describe the nature of the change and if applicable, the amount of funding influenced by this action and how it was estimated.
<p>Thermopolis has completed their part of this action. SeAMk will continue to work on the platform until the end of the year 2018.</p>
If you have not succeeded to implement this action plan in policy instrument addressed, please describe the reasons and the progress made so far.
<p>The project will end in December 2018, therefore the digital portal will be published in the upcoming weeks / month(s).</p>

ACTION 7 (as described in Action plan)

Please provide a short description of the action (max 500 character)
<p>Energy and Climate Strategy of South Ostrobothnia 2014-2020 is a document in which supports the Regional Authority in taking into consideration energy and climate related issues. Though the strategy was accepted in 2014 the indicators state in the document have not been actively followed. Thermopolis will help the Regional authority with starting to follow the stated indicators. This action is strongly related to Action 1 as some of the same indicators are used in both documents.</p>
Please list the players involved (as listed in the action plan) and measures (mail, at regional events, etc.) that you used to reach them?
<p>The main player will be the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia as they are responsible for the Regional Strategy of South Ostrobothnia. Thermopolis, and other players might be Seinäjoki university of Applied sciences, municipalities and such that can provide information and data for the indicators.</p> <p>The main players required will be reached via emails, phones and face-to-face meetings as needed.</p>
What is the progress made in the implementation of this action planned for your policy instrument?
<p>The Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia did a short review of their Energy and Climate strategy of South Ostrobothnia 2014-2020 in April and May 2018. Thermopolis was asked via email to comment on the indicators, content and need for updating. The comments and analysis was compiled into a report by the Regional Council and will be used as an internal document for evaluating the strategy.</p> <p>The following of the indicators will be completed at the same time as action 1.</p>
If you succeeded in implementation of this action in to the policy instrument addressed, please describe the nature of the change and if applicable, the amount of funding influenced by this action and how it was estimated.
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If you have not succeeded to implement this action plan in policy instrument addressed, please describe the reasons and the progress made so far.
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Other achievements

Could you report on any interesting policy development (even though no policy change was achieved yet)? Please describe.

Territorial Impact

If possible, please describe the impact in the territory (e.g. beneficiaries concerned, results achieved in terms of increased competitiveness or cleaner environment).