

VIOLET Newsletter 2

What is VIOLET?

Issues Addressed

VIOLET (preserve traditiOnal buiLdings through Energy reduction) is an Interreg Europe project to preserve traditional and heritage buildings by simultaneously integrating both topics into policy planning, management and monitoring through interregional cooperation. If energy efficient renovation is not addressed in a forward-looking way, buildings that are now a valuable asset to owners will become a burden in the near future. **VIOLET addresses the need for policy change to endorse the objectives of a building culture that is sympathetic to modern requirements of energy usage and carbon emissions, without endangering European architectural heritage.** Given the history of our continent and the EU commitment to achieve energy savings and carbon reduction, the above-mentioned challenges prove common to most European regions. Thus, VIOLET will make an important impact on sustainable development, growth, job creation and preservation of EU cultural heritage.



2030 EU Targets

The EU climate and energy framework sets three key targets for the year 2030: at least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels); at least 27% share for renewable energy; at least 27% improvement in energy efficiency. Given the important proportion of traditional buildings in the EU building stock, reducing energy consumption in traditional buildings will contribute significantly to reaching the 2030 EU targets. In terms of impact on growth and job creation, VIOLET addresses two of the main economic sectors in Europe, focusing on cultural tourism and on ICT .

VIOLET Long Term Vision

Thanks to a set of interlinked activities for interregional exchange, and communication and stakeholder involvement, VIOLET partners have developed 5 Action Plans to improve ERDF and local policy instruments on energy efficiency in traditional buildings.



VIOLET will achieve lasting results with actions related to these key requirements:

- Multisector approach
- Technological and non-technological solutions for energy efficiency renovation
- Application of monitoring tools
- Capacity building
- Communities of Practice (CoP)

Total budget: € 1,300,513.00

ERDF Funding: € 1,089,123.05



What's Inside?

What is VIOLET?	1
Interregional Cooperation.....	2
Good Practices	3
EU WISE Event & Meeting.....	4
Partners & LSGs	5
Contact.....	5

VIOLET in the News

Check out the Dutch National government's expose on the VIOLET project and more in their [Interreg and Climate Initiatives brochure](#).

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European Union
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Interregional Cooperation Event 2018

Interregional Cooperation for Europe's Energy Transition Event

VIOLET, alongside likeminded EU-funded projects with an interest in improved policy for the European energy transition—**REBUS**, **SET-UP**, **BUILD2LC**, **ZEROCO2**, **BIO4ECO**, etc.—engaged in a cross-borders interregional cooperation event this summer to address common challenges and goals related to the energy transition in Europe.



Interregional Cooperation Event for Europe's Energy Transition in Florence, Italy. 27 July 2018.

Co-hosted by the **VIOLET**, **REBUS** and **SET-UP** projects, the interregional cooperation event was held on the 27th of June in Florence, Italy—not coincidentally, a cultural hub and home to many traditional and historical buildings that need special attention when renovating them for energy efficiency. This transnational meeting was created and designed by **Resolvo** and supported by **European Institution for Innovation – Technology (EIfi-Tech)**. The goal of the meeting was to cluster fourteen similar Interreg Europe projects under a single cause—Europe's energy transition—

in an effort to bring synergy and support among represented projects. Featured as an EU-wide Energy Day, an extension of the annual **EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)**, the whole day was a great success and provided amazing opportunities for capacity building of recommended policy changes surrounding energy efficiency in buildings.

Building capacity for better energy governance, establishing innovative funding methodologies to include both private and public investment and directing the focus of policymakers toward renewable energy and grid usage are all common challenges which were identified prior to the interregional cooperation meeting. Using a co-creational approach, the event then offered a variety of engaging panel discussions, keynote speeches and even a competition to challenge project partners to brainstorm and validate solutions to these pressing issues surrounding Europe's energy transition.



Chris Ashe of EIfi-Tech, alongside partners and participants from 14 low-carbon Interreg projects, discussing ways in which they can tackle challenges related to Europe's energy transition.

Business Case Competition

A major highlight of the Interregional Cooperation for Europe's Energy Transition was the **Business Case Competition**—a challenge between 14 different low-carbon projects to come up with the best business case for Europe's energy transition.



Participants, after hearing a variety of business cases presented by 14 different low carbon Interreg Europe projects, anxiously await to hear the winner of the competition.

The aim of the competition was to define actions and prioritise initiatives for the EU energy transition through developing an energy transition roadmap that effectively supports decision-making on a regional level.

During the Business Case competition, project partners broke off into groups for the entire day to define and present their value propositions for Europe's energy transition challenges. In addition to this, the groups focused on three major factors through participative workshops: external forces (i.e. inclusive economic development & growth, access to energy, etc.), user commitment (i.e. how to engage with energy system users and stakeholders) and the mobilisation of key resources (i.e. financial support, stakeholders). After the third round of interactive, insightful workshops, judges were to identify a winner of the competition.

First place of the Business Case Competition went to the innovative thinkers of the **MOLOC** project, while **REBUS** and **BUILD2LC** took second and third, respectively. In reality, all projects were winners as they provide policy recommendations for the energy transition that will ensure progression towards the 2030 targets and beyond.

VIOLET Good Practices — Examples from Partners

The monuments of Middelburg

The Dutch partner **Gemeente Middelburg** aims to be energy neutral by 2045 and to encourage owners of monument buildings to make their buildings energy-efficient. One of the actions for this is to create quick, easy and free permit procedures for energy-saving measures for listed buildings. Meanwhile, the municipality has such a procedure for solar panels and sunscreens. Currently the same procedure is being developed for insulating glass for listed buildings. This is done by researching the different types of windows that are in listed buildings.



During the war a large city fire raged in Middelburg. In the buildings where the fire raged, most windows are renewed after the fire. For the permit procedure, a distinction is therefore made between real historical windows and post-war windows. An inventory is also made of the buildings in which there is still historic glass. That is very special, so it must be retained. These windows can be insulated, but with rear glazing, so the historic glass can be retained. The procedure must be completed in the spring of 2019.



An update from Cyprus

VIOLET partner **Cyprus Energy Agency** is currently preparing the Draft Action Plan for VIOLET in order to evaluate it with their Community of Practice (CoP) at the next partner meeting in Berlin. They have noted some opportunities within the framework of VIOLET based on the previous CoP outputs and other individual meetings they held. One of these opportunities is the **New Directive of the European Parliament**—which amends the Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and the Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency [published on the 19th of June]—as it's the first time the directives address and encourage the energy efficiency in specifically traditional/historical buildings. Another important opportunity for Cyprus, identified on a policy level, is the **2nd Task Force Meeting on Research, Innovation and Competitiveness of the National System of Governance and for Energy and Climate**, which set the Energy upgrading of historic buildings and other special buildings on their agendas (priority areas for research and innovation in the field of energy and climate 2020-2030).



Maria Achilleos of Cyprus Energy Agency presenting the financial incentives for listed buildings and the "Transfer of development rights" from the Town Planning and Housing Department at the last partner meeting. This Good Practice can be transferred, adjusted and implemented in other countries as well resulting in the protection of cultural heritage across Europe.

The Cyprus Energy Agency also presented **Cypriot GP (Financial Incentives for Listed Buildings – Cyprus' case)**, which raised the interest of the project partners and the Spanish stakeholders at the last VIOLET partner meeting in Seville (October 2018). The presentation set the basis for the next steps of the project—on consortium level—as it was deemed that staff exchanges can take place for additional info.

Cyprus has informed some of their CoP members and prepared an announcement to give project updates and present the outcomes of the project meeting, to be available soon in Greek, English and Turkish.

The 4th International VIOLET Partner Meeting & WISE Event

VIOLET partners, along with regional and local administrations and universities, gathered in Seville, Spain this fall for the 4th VIOLET Project Meeting & EU WISE Event. Here, participants presented their Good Practice cases where energy efficiency parameters have been included in Heritage refurbishment works. The goal of the back-to-back events was to analyse European cooperation projects involved in sustainable interventions in a city and building scale.



message shared by partners was that the meeting represented a moment to learn and look for solutions in order to find a right balance between the past and the future of our European traditional and historical building stock.

VIOLET partners and stakeholders were also invited to learn more about the refurbishment work done in **Convento de Nuestra Señora de los Reyes**, where the event took place, through a study tour. Subsequently, the partners took a study tour of the **San Telmo** building, which serves as the headquarters of the Regional Government, to take a look at some examples of integration of energy and protection related matters under the same responsible person. The tour demonstrated how partners could put into practice a multi-sector approach that is consistent with the VIOLET view on enhancing energy efficiency in traditional and historical buildings.



The meeting was organised back to back with the Mid-Term event (**EU WISE event**). Presenters came from not only Andalusia but also each partner region to present good practices from their regions and engage in interregional cooperation. An **interpretation service** (English/Spanish/Romanian) allowed for a full understanding of the complex topics tackled during the day.

More than 110 participants (including members of the regional Communities of Practice—CoP) attended the event. Furthermore, it is worth noticing that the convent that hosted the event, **Convento de Nuestra Señora de los Reyes**, is a refurbished historical building owned by the Andalusian Regional Government and used for conferences and events. The main



Food for Thought



...Contrary to the restoration of monuments, buildings of traditional architecture need to have a continuous and sustainable use in order to keep the building 'alive'. However, not all uses are appropriate for all historic buildings. On the one hand, modern society demands the addition of new technological, sanitary or other installations and amenities, which requires re-arrangement of the interior or addition of space. On the other hand, modern materials and techniques make the restoration process easier and less expensive than in the past. Nonetheless, these alterations often undermine the heritage value of the building and find they key balance is of a major importance...This is where VIOLET comes in. —Cyprus Energy Agency, VIOLET Partner

VIOLET Newsletter 2

VIOLET Partners

Through cooperation among five regions at different stages of development and one expert advisory partner, VIOLET fosters a multisector, integrated planning approach bringing together organisations in charge of energy efficiency and cultural heritage on regional and EU levels.

Map of Project Partnership



Meet the Partners



South-East Regional Development Agency (Romania): The lead partner, an NGO & a non-profit body of public utility responsible for the development policy programming and implementation in the SE Region of Romania.



European Institute for Innovation - Technology: An applied science organisation supporting the adaptations of regions to respond to the fast pace of development, in a variety of sectors.



Cyprus Energy Agency: A non-governmental, non-profit organisation that contributes actively to the conservation of energy resources and the quality of life.



The Public Enterprise for Social Housing and Refurbishment in Andalusia: A Public Housing Service focused on improving and upgrading the public participation and organisation of almost 85k dwellings.



Municipality of Middelburg: A municipality at the southwest coast of the Netherlands (capital of the Province of Zeeland) with 1300 listed monuments.



Local Energy Agency of the Bordeaux metropolis and the Gironde: Alec supports upstream/downstream implementation of policies for energy & climate, offering neutral expertise for local stakeholders since 2007.

Contact:

Nina Irimia
Lead Partner (SER DA)
E-mail: nina.irimia@adrse.ro

Project partner information

Partner	Country	Contact
South-East Regional Development Agency (Lead partner)	Romania	Nina Irimia 0040339732414
European Institute for Innovation - Technology	Germany	Chris Ashe +49 4791 82049-0
Cyprus Energy Agency	Cyprus	Savvas Vlachos +357 22667716
The Public Enterprise for Social Housing and Refurbishment in Andalusia	Spain	Esther Castillo Domínguez-Adame 0034 955 405 385
Municipality of Middelburg	Netherlands	Annet Hannewijk 0031 118 675000
Local Energy Agency of the Bordeaux metropolis and the Gironde	France	Valérie Degrange +33 (0)556 0053 38

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