



LEEWAY Project Newsletter #2

September 2023 - February 2024



1st STUDY VISIT IN EMILIA ROMAGNA REGION

The 1st international Study Tour of Leeway - Interreg Europe Project, took place between Bologna and Ravenna in Emilia-Romagna Region from 28th to 30th of November.

A two-day event that combined on-site visits and workshops, showing to the project partners initiatives and good practices linked to energy communities in the regional area. During the study tour, partners involved some stakeholders in order to share and exchange experiences to be disseminated at local level.

The on-site visits included the "Marconi" Airport of Bologna, the CAAB Centro Agrialimentare of Bologna, the "Pratopascolo" factory of Tozzi Green Spa of Mezzano (RA) and the biomethane production plant of Caviro Spa in Faenza (RA).





EVENTS BY OUR PARTNERS

On September 18, 2023, members of the LEEWAY International Working Group on district heating gathered online for the second exchange meeting. **Participants from Germany, Italy and Belgium discussed the need to understand more on the legal, contractual and technical requirements related to district heating grids in their countries** as a first step in the process towards stimulating renewable energy communities on district heating. All the project partners are identifying relevant key points from technology, business and the legal field that are important for the REC topic.

On October 19, 2023, the LEEWAY project was introduced at the [RECAH - Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub](#) - event "**Empowering Italian RECs**" held in Bologna, Italy, and coordinated by the Emilia-Romagna Region. The initiative was a chance for technical experts and policy actors to gather and discuss topics related to **Renawable Energy Communities** in Italy. Through **presentations, panels** and **Q&A** sessions the participants presented the current normative frame, policies and funding, exposed the benefits of creating a REC and shared some good practices of existing communities at regional and national level.

On October 2023 Pfaffenhofen has embarked on municipal heating planning for 2023, which plays an important role in creating sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions in the heating sector. It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and at the same time ensure a reliable and cost-effective heat supply. The project office Energielenker Projects GmbH is supporting the municipal administration in drawing up **the municipal heat planning for Pfaffenhofen, which can support house and flat owners in their decision-making processes regarding their future form of heating**. The planning results will be available next year and will provide information on whether, for example, a connection to district heating is or will be possible at the place of residence.

On November 8, 2023, PP2 **Emilia Romagna Region organized a Regional Seminar during "Ecomondo" Fair in Rimini**. During the event, the main measures to support the RECs implemented by the Region were described and the second Notebook for the Energy Transition "Main legal models for the establishment of renewable energy communities" was presented by ART-ER. The Notebook describes the general characteristics of the main models currently recognized by the Italian legal system with which it is possible to create a REC. The first part of the event was followed by speeches from some of the winners of the regional tender for the promotion of RECs in Emilia-Romagna Region, and the first experiences of the birth of Energy renewable communities in the regional territory were described.

On January 11, 2024 **the second PAFundDU information event on heating took place in Pfaffenhofen. The focus was on how heating costs can be saved and whether your own building is suitable for a heat pump**. The city and municipal utilities will also be providing information about the heat contracting programme and the new regulations on replacing heating systems in the Building Energy Act, which aims to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and protect the population from rising oil and gas prices. Citizens were informed about the new regulations for switching to renewable energies when installing new heating systems.

On January 17, 2024, **the LEEWAY project joined forces with the Housing Department of the City of Roeselare to host an information session on renovation, energy and sustainability for syndics of apartment buildings**. The seminar was attended by 19 participants who were introduced to the principles of energy sharing and energy communities and how they can be applied in apartment buildings. In addition they learned about the heat map of Roeselare and the potential for sustainable and collective heating solutions.

On January 18, 2024, **in the multimedia hall of the Croatia Insulanus Museum in Prelog, the first dissemination event was held as part of the LEEWAY project**. The event was an opportunity to present the objectives of the project and the actions carried out in the first semester. The Town of Prelog will use new insights gained as part of this project to revise its Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan from 2020. Twenty-five people from 17 institutions attended the event.



THE FLEMISH GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT IN SETTING UP REC

Setting up energy communities can be a difficult challenge. By supporting them in the development and start-up phase of concrete projects, more energy communities should be established in the Flanders. **Therefore as from 2024, the Flemish government will support initiators through the Technical Assistance Hub (TEAH) project.**

Within TEAH, 12 technical Assistance Hubs will be established in the Flanders in 2024 and managed by the regional intermunicipal communities and the Energy Houses. **Each Assistance Hub will support a group of cities and towns within a region. The Assistance Hubs will pass on knowledge to local authorities, citizens, OCMWs, SMEs, schools and associations, and provide them with action-oriented guidance.** This will be tailor-made to resolve bottlenecks that may be of an energetic, technical, economic, legal, communication or organizational nature. The Assistance Hubs will also provide insight into well-working examples and how to scale them up, so that others can replicate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

KEY – The Energy Transition Expo, from the 28th of February to the 1st of March, 2024, the benchmark event in Southern Europe, Africa and the Mediterranean basin for the **renewable energy** and **energy transition market** will take place in Rimini. Emilia-Romagna Region will have a stand within the expo area and will host interesting workshops and talks. Also Leeway project will be part of it, involving all key regional stakeholder and guests coming from different countries!

The second International Study Visit will be organised in Belgium, by PP3 - City of Roeselare, on June, 4th, 5th and 6th. During the three days, partners will have the occasion to discover and speak about the different energy communities in Flanders: the district 'Verzonken Kasteel', the MIROM incinerator facility, the municipality of Eeklo.



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