An inclusive peer to peer approach to involve EU CONURBations and wide urban areas in participating to the covenANT of Mayors

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D3.3 – Report on local Municipal energy policy strategies

Work package: **WP3 – Institutionalisation**

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Index

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1 Introduction

The EU has a significant number of Municipalities that have started a path of sustainable energy action planning and policy-making and propose replicable good practices.

The CONURBANT project aims at helping medium-large cities from seven countries and the smaller towns in their urban area, through capacity building using peer to peer support and training between less and more experienced Municipalities, in the framework of the CoM.

In the framework of the project, and previously to the development of SEAPs and peer-to-peer approach, the municipalities are asked for the institutionalisation of SEAPs, which means to make a participated action planning process enter the political sphere of the Municipality and to make the results of the process being approved by the Municipal Council and influence the following policy-making decisions.

The result of this institutionalisation path should be that new policies enter into force and affect the whole Municipal territory involving and directing consumers' decisions, citizens' choices and business strategies.

If a municipality works only on its buildings and its patrimony, there is no chance to reach the 20-20-20 targets to 'go out' and reach out for the territory in a stable and monitorable way, through energy-related local policies with a cross-cutting approach.

Nevertheless, often times, energy-related policies are the results of policy-making decisions taken in different departments of the same Municipality without concertation of even reciprocal information.

In order to avoid this situation in the future and to create the base for an easier inclusion of SEAPs in the policy-making process of partner Municipalities, the aim of the work package 3 is to provide Trainee cities, but also Trainer cities, with a clearer view of the current energy-related policies that exist or that are being discussed at local level, sector by sector, department by department.

After the data and information collection phase done in the two previous tasks of WP3, and according to the obtained answers compiled in D3.2 (a set of 10 reports, one per each municipality partner, of energy related policies), a **Municipal strategy** related to the 20-20-20 targets and the commitments of the Covenant of Mayors is established in the **present report**. In the elaboration of this report it has also been considered the 1st open centralized training session on Baseline emissions inventory for Conurbation cities held in Brussels the 21st of June of 2012 coinciding with the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW).

2 Municipal Strategy development

2.1 General Overview

The main subject of the strategy, built as following an institutionalisation process (according to tasks 1 and 2 of WP3), is how the Municipality can provide an integrated, cross-cutting approach toward energy policy-making through the local forums and the development and implementation of a SEAP.

In order to ensure this, agreements should also be found at local level with the political opposition.

The strategy is based on a holistic approach, targeted on all Municipal departments and aimed at involving the territory as much as possible.

As a result of this process, municipalities should be able to develop strategies and commitments (a sort of political declaration of intents) to be used during the project to guarantee that 20-20-20 policies and programs are developed involving the overall municipality and have deep roots thanks to the integration of institutional policies and programs.

The aim of this report is to serve as a guide for discussion for the municipalities which are in the process of building their Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI) and their SEAP

2.2 Goals

In recent years there has been an environmental and climate change awareness raising and some of the causes which entail the need to develop a Municipal Energy Strategy are:

- The chance to get cheap energy which is essential to the functioning of modern economies;
- The fluctuating energy prices and dependency on imported fuel sources which exert pressure to the communities to think about a sustainable economic development;
- The negative impacts on human health and environment due to the climate change which may bring additional costs to municipal governments.

For a good Municipal Strategy development it is necessary to define the goals expected to be achieved, which are the following:

1. Encourage the development of and use of renewable energy (RE) resources in all sectors;
2. Promote the implementation of energy efficiency (EE);
3. Raise public awareness on climate change and energy efficiency.

To succeed in achieving the goals abovementioned, and in developing the Municipal Strategy, different actions must be considered:

ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AND USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE) RESOURCES

- Encourage and facilitate the development of RES and encourage the development of supporting services;
- Establish an 'Energy Office' as an info hub for the development and promotion of RES projects within the Municipality and the conurbation towns;
- Establish the Municipalities as leaders in renewable energy use and energy efficiency.

PROMOTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY (EE)

- Initiate energy efficiency projects for municipal owned assets;
- Initiate a program to document energy use (if needed) within the Conurbation area and encourage businesses to implement EE projects and procedures;
- Liaison between different departments tasked to improve EE across residential, municipal, commercial, institutional and industrial sectors.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Develop programs that increase the awareness of Climate Chance;
- Develop programs that increase the awareness of energy efficiency

2.3 Steps to follow

The steps which must be followed for a correct Municipal Strategy development, establishing a commitment to increase RE production, promoting EE, giving consistency to the existing strategic, environmental and planning objectives and coordinating municipalities and their own conurbation to improve the environmental results with smaller costs are:

1. Adaptation of the European energy policy to the National context (20-20 objectives adaptated);
2. Identification of the Municipality's direct competences (local level);
3. Identification of the indirect competences (territorial level);
4. Definition of the energy-related actions for each sector.

It should be said that the first step is already done for all the municipalities involved in the Conurbant project and it goes further as all of them have signed the Covenant of Mayors.

For the second and third steps, some possible direct and indirect competences have been listed. The list shown below could be a starting point to begin the development of the Municipal Strategy.

DIRECT COMPETENCES (local level)	INDIRECT COMPETENCES (territorial level)
Sectors	*Sectors*
1. PLANNING	1. PLANNING
2. HERITAGE	2. SERVICES and RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION
3. SERVICES and RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION	3. MOBILITY
4. MOBILITY	4. INTERNAL MANAGEMENT (staff, training, supplies, etc.)
5. INTERNAL MANAGEMENT (staff, training, supplies, etc.)	5. COMMUNICATION
6. COMMUNICATION	6. COOPERATION

2.4 Development

According to the data and information gathered during the institutionalisation phase (task 2 of WP3), and taking into consideration the sectors considered at local and territorial level, it is possible to define the energy-related actions for all the sectors as follows:

2.4.1 Urban planning with environmental criteria

It is necessary to include environmental sustainability criteria in urban planning. Depending on the characteristics of the urban planning, the municipality may promote a more or less efficient energy model. For this reason, it is important to link the environmental studies with the urban planning. The jurisdiction of the local councils and territorial departments should have capacity to influence on the urban development.

Planning tools considering energy savings:

- Elaborate the **Sustainable Energy Action Plan** (SEAP). This plan should include actions in different fields:
  - Buildings, equipment and other facilities and industries (municipal buildings, tertiary buildings and their equipment and facilities, residential buildings, municipal public lighting, and industries and small and medium sized enterprises);
  - Transport (municipal fleet, public transport, private and commercial transport);
  - Local electricity production (hydroelectric power, wind power, photovoltaic, combined heat and power);

  - Local district heating and cooling or combined heat and power (heating district plan, combined heat and power);
  - Land use planning (strategic urban planning, transport and mobility planning, standards for refurbishment and new development);
  - Public procurement of products and services (energy efficiency requirements and standards, renewable energy requirements and standards);
  - Working with the citizens and stakeholders (advisory services, financial supports and grants, awareness raising and local networking, training and education).

- Establish the objectives and strategic lines to reduce emissions through energy efficiency (**Climate change strategy**).
- Analyze the current needs and introduce the actions to be taken to save energy in street lighting (**Master plan for street lighting**).
- Carry out an **energy audit of public lighting and inventory of lights** in order to introduce significant savings in energy consumption.

Planning on renewable energy production:

- Incentives to increase energy savings for citizens by means of RE production;
- Public lighting with solar panels and photovoltaic plants;
- Plan for the construction of PV plants on roofs of schools and preschools facilities.

Planning on sustainable mobility or emissions reduction in transport:

- An urban mobility plan is a basic planning tool to enhance sustainable and efficient transport modes for the municipality. In the same way an urban mobility plan should be defined within the conurbation area, at a provincial level.

Planning on better waste managing:

- "Door to door" collection system: to collect waste, with the objective of increasing the percentage of recycled waste and therefore reduce the GHG emissions associated to waste treatment;
- Management by sorting, implementation of selective collection, implementing composting station, and implementation of methane capture in the site of old landfill;
- Establish a waste tax-free for citizens and industry, aimed at reducing waste production.

Planning on waste water treatment:

- Reduction of water consumption and rain water management plan.

Planning on sustainable development in industrial areas:

- Promoting tree planting in industrial areas, offering money, tax reductions or waste fees reduction as incentive.

Planning on forestation and green areas:

- Increase surface and the quality and functions of green urban areas;

- Prevention and rehabilitation of damaged green areas;
- Promoting tree planting.

It should be emphasize that it is necessary to coordinate and connect the different departments and sectors, maybe with the help of a **specific administrative body** who should coordinate the policies of the municipalities in the same area. Therefore, it would be possible to reach greater results in public policies of the area. The lack of human resources in small cities is also a problem; consequently training and education are necessary as well.

2.4.2 Environmental management tools for controlling

Adoption or use the Local Agenda 21 as a guiding source:

The Local Agenda 21 is a planning and management tool based on public participation with the aim of improving the environmental and socioeconomic sustainability of the town.

Adoption or use the GPP as a guiding source:

Adoption of tools for greening purchases:

- Defining criteria for green procurement;
- Incorporation of energy criteria into technical specifications;
- Contracting Energy Services Company (ESCO);
- Appraisal of green energy criteria in the public bid.

Adoption or use the EMAS as a guiding source

Adoption or use the ISO14001 as a guiding source

Adoption or use other certified management systems as a guiding source

2.4.3 GHG data management

It should be required to have some systems to measure the level of GHG and emissions. It could be at national or local level.

2.4.4 Communication

There are different ways to get people involved and raise awareness, some of them are:

- Public discussions or gatherings;
- Public education (in schools, seminars, etc.);
- Mass media (TV, radio, newspapers, internet, etc.);
- Any other services or media (interactive, leaflets, booklets, etc.).

2.5 Implementation

To be able to achieve all the objectives of the Municipal Energy Strategy and to be successful with the implementation it is necessary:

- To assign human resources for climate and energy-related issues,;
- Training of a specific administrative body for climate and energy-related issues;
- Defining the intern processes to follow and objectives to involve all the employees;
- Establish an annual monitoring of the climate and energy policy;
- Update the action plan regularly;
- To allocate a specific budget for climate and energy-related issues.