



European
Commission



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
WEEK 24 - 28 JUNE 2013

EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK 24-28 JUNE 2013



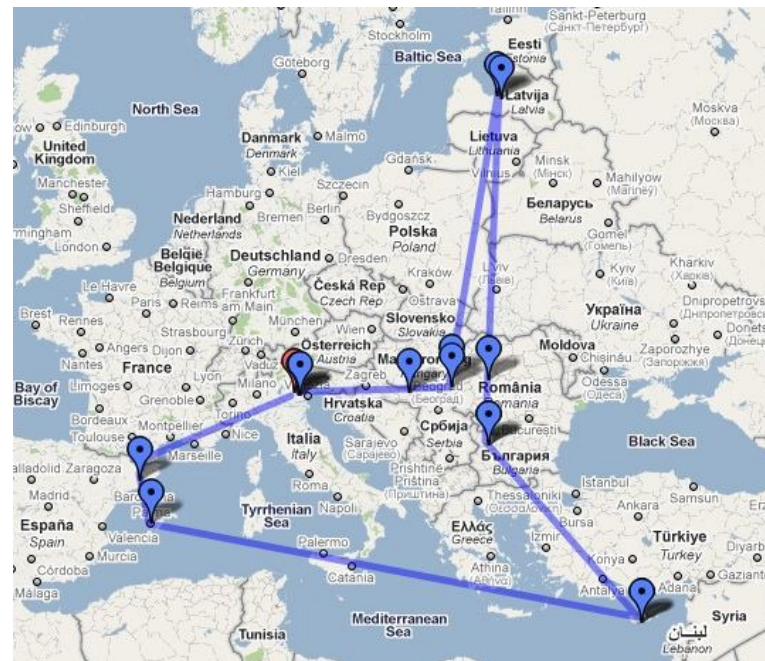
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Energy



European Commission

CONURBANT - An inclusive peer-to-peer approach to involve EU CONURBations and wide areas in participating to the CovenANT of Mayors





The Conurbant project



CONURBANT starts from the consideration that EU small towns face strong difficulties in **energy management and planning** because of their lack of skills and resources, while medium and large cities have a higher responsibility related to higher density of human activities to more complicated issues of sustainable land using and planning and mobility.

The project aims at helping medium-large cities, 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.



Objectives

- 1. To introduce a peer-to-peer approach between medium and large EU cities and involving their smaller, surrounding conurbation towns** and to sustain the role of local governments as political and administrative bodies guiding their communities in the development of sustainable energy strategies
- 2. To develop, implement and monitor SEAPs in all Trainee Cities and Conurbation towns during the project's lifetime** addressing the use of local resources, stakeholder involvement and public awareness-raising in order to embrace sustainable energy planning in a holistic way
- 3. To guarantee the institutionalisation of sustainable energy policies and to ensure the coherent implementation and political continuity of SEAPs during and after the project's lifetime**
- 4. To make the results widely available and enlarge the network of energy twin-cities and energy-twin conurbations at EU level**



The centralised training and study tours



- **2 centralised training seminars** were organised within the first 6 months (80 technicians and policy-makers trained) involving the 8 Trainee Municipalities
- At least **40 Conurbation towns were trained at local level** (120 technicians and policy makers) 2 local training session following the centralised sessions
- **2 study tours** in the two tutoring cities were organised for the 8 partners and one study tour will be organised outside the consortium (Freiburg), before the implementation of the SEAPs, for the 8 Trainee Municipalities and the 40 conurbation towns
- **2 open training sessions organised in Bruxelles** (during EUSEW 2012 - 2013) for EU Municipalities, the first one involving also the conurbation towns

The consortium learnt the importance of developing their capacity building through a range of more technical / specialised learning opportunities





The twinning partnerships

- During the whole duration of the action each Trainee Municipality kept constant contact, through consolidated communication channels such as: reserved area of the project web site, e-mail, video conferences, skype conferences, etc., with its Twin-trainee city, monitoring and reporting the development of the actions in the twin municipality.
- Each Trainee Municipalities and its conurbation towns is audited by another trainee city in order to share and consolidate the mutual path especially in terms of institutionalisation of sustainable energy in the day-to-day operations in cities and SEAP development.
- Each couple of twinned cities meet twice for a mid-term and a final revision of the progress made by the hosting city.

This approach is demonstrating its effectiveness on increasing the opportunities of exchange of experience



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Conurbation working groups

In each partner area, a **conurbation working group** has been set to share information and good practices at local level.

- All neighbouring Municipalities were invited to take part in the working group and were invited to join the CoM initiative.
- In addition the working group worked on the possibility/opportunity **to merge common actions** by involving the municipalities signed up to the Covenant and also Municipalities that have not signed it yet helping them in the elaboration of joint SEAPs





Final Expected results



- Training material made available in 8 national languages and English
- 8 participatory SEAPs in Trainee cities covering a population of ca. 2 million
- 40 participatory SEAPs in Conurbation towns covering a population of ca. 350.000
- 1 local forum set up in each municipality (4 local meetings, 3 thematic sessions, stakeholders involvement)
- Selection of 2 actions per SEAPs and implementation within first year after SEAP (96 actions implemented)
- Monitoring procedures implemented in each conurbation
- All SEAPs approved by Local councils
- 5 proposals to the ELENA facility to develop investment plans (at least a total of 375 milion euros)
- 1 Energy day in 10 project areas every year (2012 – 2013 - ...)
- Integration of communication actions with existing events and/or organised by other IEE projects





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