

November 2013



Second Joint IEE e-newsletter



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe
Programme of the European Union

**Workshop Local leadership in sustainable energy at High Level Policy
Conference - 27/06/2013 – Brussels, Belgium, Committee of the Regions**

This workshop consisted of a plenary session for a number of five projects funded by the Programme Intelligent Energy Europe: CONURBANT, LEAP, Covenant capaCITY, ERENET and CASCADE.



This joint event aimed to facilitate and share useful solutions and support available for the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of SEAPs with signatories and potential signatories of the Covenant of Mayors. The event aimed to trigger exchange of experience and to build capacities of local and regional governments representatives and technical staff and to ultimately result into increasing the number of Municipalities signing the Covenant of Mayors and to help them to answer of challenge of energy and climate targets for 2020.

The workshop was organized under the CONURBANT project (www.conurbant.eu). 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 Covenant of Mayors.

Main organizer of this event was Municipality of Vratsa, Bulgaria – partner in the project, with the support of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa, Bulgaria (technical partner in the project) through its Enterprise Europe Network which supported the attendance of speakers from EACI - Ms Vassilia Argyraki, EACI - ManagEnergy, Local and regional energy agencies; Eric Koch - EACI Project Officer (Research funding/ ICT/ Intelligent Energy/) at European Commission.



This was a Joint session with five projects financed under Intelligent Energy Europe Programme to present the lessons learnt from SEAPs development and implementation including examples and good practices, success factors and barriers. In addition to the lessons learnt from the actual development of the SEAPS and implementation activities, it was discussed and presented the impact and effectiveness of the peer-to-peer and mentoring activities undertaken by some of the joint project partners, peer-learning as a method of improving the implementation of energy policies (SEAPs). The event included a session about the new opportunities for funding; the future vision of Elena and Intelligent Energy Europe for the next

programming period 2014-2020. CONURBANT, LEAP, Covenant capaCITY, ERENET and CASCADE projects focus on the key role of local authorities in meeting the European Union's challenging energy and climate targets for 2020 through the delivery of effective local energy leadership. The partners are working to develop and deliver quality Sustainable Local Energy Action Plans. Furthermore, they support the Covenant of Mayors, a high level initiative, through real, manageable and supported actions at a local level.

The projects bridge the gap between essential bottom-up localized action, and the European energy agenda by embedding sustainable energy policy into the operations of municipalities. The focus is on generating the necessary political will, vision and ambition as well as the administrative capacity for local authorities to act as effective energy leader.

The EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), an initiative of the European Commission connects directly with citizens and energy stakeholders at the local, regional and national levels, helping Europe to reach its energy goals and generate new ideas and actions.

This year, EUSEW included a high-level policy conference in Brussels, with an expected attendance of around 4 000 people, more than 900 'Energy Days' events across the Union and the prestigious

Sustainable Energy Europe Awards. CONURBANT project participates for second year in EU Sustainable Energy Week with workshop organized within the project.

Find out more about EUSEW by visiting www.eusew.eu or join the social media: facebook.com/euenergyweek and twitter.com/euenergyweek.

Find out more about the project at <http://www.conurbant.eu>





Interviews with the Mayors of the eReNet Rural Communities

The mayors of **Amyntaio (Mr. Ioakeim Iosifidis)**, **Asenovgrad (Mr. Emil Karaivanov)**, **Judenburg (Mr. Hannes Dolleschall)** and **Sertã (Mr. José Farinha Nunes)** recently opened their cards and talked to us about their municipalities' plans and their experiences from eReNet activities.



Concerning their municipality's vision and future plans, **Mr. Iosifidis** says "Our vision is the gradual entry of RES in the municipality's energy balance till 2020, to signal a significant turn from lignite to a cleaner energy community. This strategy will also support the creation of new employment opportunities in the region, utilizing the community's rural character". In the same direction, **Mr. Karaivanov** notes that "By the end of 2020, we are going to increase the energy efficiency in municipal buildings and domestic industry, while the introduction of energy management within the municipality could not be left out of the whole plan." According to **Mr. Dolleschall**, "Our local ESCO, owned to 100% by the municipality, aims at substituting 50% of the energy currently being sold with energy produced from own RES projects by 2050. I would use the fund to help expand their RES projects." **Mr. Nunes** notes "In the future, we intend to maintain our course, being aware at all times of opportunities like eReNet project. In 2020, we see our municipality accomplishing the objectives that it is committed to, namely the 23% CO₂ emissions reduction."



Among all the activities Amyntaio has already undertaken in the framework of eReNet, "...the public consultation strongly facilitated political acceptance of the SEAP by the opposition parties, since the SEAP was accepted unanimously by the municipal council...", **Mr. Iosifidis** says with satisfaction. He continues by saying "...capacity building of the municipality's personnel has been achieved through the participation in the training workshops in Croatia and Germany. Indeed, the participants shared their experiences and assisted in knowledge transfer regarding the Covenant of Mayors". "We are strongly confident that based on the cooperation with eReNet's rural communities and with the support of our citizens, we are going to create a fully green community in a few years, which is going to be in the spotlight, not only in Bulgaria, but EU as well.", **Mr. Karaivanov** states with confidence. "The biomass heating network in our town with at present 8 MW, goal 11 MW, is a big success within the framework of eReNet activities, **Mr. Dolleschall** says with satisfaction. For **Mr. Nunes** "... the progress is sensed at all levels, highlighting a remarkable enrichment of the quality on the available tools at the municipality."



Finally, an advice **Mr. Iosifidis** could offer to other municipalities seeking to develop their own SEAPs is... "Early engagement of the local stakeholders in the SEAP development is considered crucial for the plan's embracement by the public. In addition, the local communities should collaborate towards promoting RES and RUE, while fostering local and regional cooperation through mutual exchange of knowledge and experience." From **Mr. Karaivanov's** point of view "the municipalities should study thoroughly their existing infrastructure and develop a comprehensive system of measures with which the reduction of energy consumption and the promotion of RES are going to be feasible."



According to **Mr. Dolleschall** "...focus should be given on measures which can be realized realistically and practically rather than on large projects for which you cannot ensure long-term financing." and continues, "Start with what you already have and expand it. Try to involve people from different sectors and make sure that information is exchanged between them." **Mr. Nunes's** advice to the municipalities that are developing the SEAP "...is related to the sense of having and sharing a long term vision, due to the measures to be implemented and monitored."



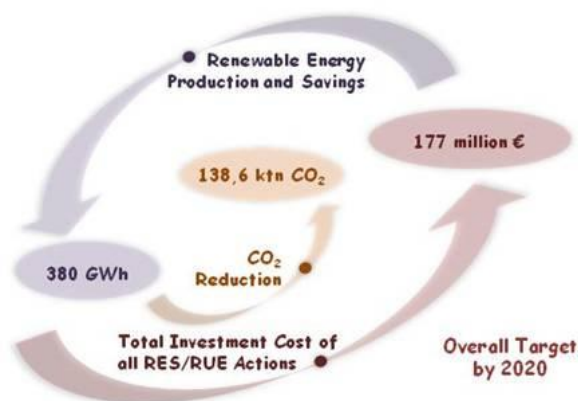
Energy Globe Award

eReNet has been honored with the National Energy Globe Award Greece, as one of the best projects on sustainability!!!

The National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), eReNet Coordinator, received the award certificate for the National Energy Globe Award Greece 2013 during a ceremony held in the NTUA premises, on the 29th of May 2013.

SEAP elaboration and engagement of the local actors in the identification of local needs & priorities

- ✓ Stakeholders' engagement through 5 customized questionnaires for the respective key stakeholders' groups (National, regional, municipal institutions; Schools, universities and citizens; Farmers and Agricultural Producers; Energy agencies, utilities and energy companies; and Planners, developers). Questionnaires were translated and distributed to actors from the above mentioned categories. Over 1.180 filled in questionnaires in total were gathered.
- ✓ The eReNet rural communities have submitted their SEAPs following the eReNet approach for rural communities' SEAPs, in line with the CoM guidelines. All SEAPs have been accepted by CoMO. SEAP commitments of eReNet communities are presented in the Figure.
- ✓ Two SEAP public consultation meetings were realized in each rural community.



Enhancing rural communities' capacities on SEAP development and financing opportunities

- ✓ Elaboration of 2 training workshops on SEAP development, implementation and monitoring, targeting mainly the capacity building of the consortium partners. Implementation of 5 training seminars, one at the country level, targeted to rural communities' personnel and energy agencies.
- ✓ Implementation of eReNet Web Tool for the SEAP development and monitoring, accessible to everyone through the platform <https://erenet-tools.epu.ntua.gr>.
- ✓ Implementation of 10 information days on financing, with the participation of local and regional authorities, interested energy experts and consultants, investors and representatives of relevant funds and programs.

eReNet: Rural but still...sustainable
Visit us at <https://erenet.epu.ntua.gr>

European local government leaders look to Freiburg, Germany, for energy policy inspiration

Over 180 participants representing cities from 18 European countries, including mayors, vice-mayors and heads of public authorities, came together in Freiburg, Germany, to learn from the city's radical efforts to improve energy-efficiency. A [study tour](#) and [workshop](#) were held from 23 – 25 October in the framework of the [Covenant CapaCITY project](#), in collaboration with the [Local Renewables](#) series.



“It was inspiring to hear how the city has turned energy into a powerful tool to improve sustainability. The study tour and workshop have provided a wealth of ideas, which can be adapted to our own context.” said Antonio Marco Dalla Pozza, Councillor for sustainability and planning of the City of Vicenza, Italy.

Participants heard first-hand accounts of the challenges faced and solutions found in implementing Freiburg's exemplary energy policies. Klaus Hoppe of the Energy Department and Dieter Bootz of the Department of Waste Management (ASF) outlined how the German city is using its energy policy to reach broader climate mitigation goals.



The green district of Vauban was the first stop on the study tour. A former military base developed into a residential area in the 1990s, Vauban is an internationally known model of sustainable urban planning.

Next was the district of Rieselfeld, a model of ecological housing and the region's largest neighbourhood project. All residences are built as low-energy buildings, and the use of renewable energy and district heating are part of a far-sighted energy concept. Participants also viewed “Buggingerstraße 50”, Germany's first high rise building renovated to passive house standard. It now consumes 78 percent less energy than the original building, with minimal rent increases.

The final stop was a tour of the recycling facilities in the district of Haslach. The city of Freiburg's waste policy is based on strict sustainability principles, and favours waste prevention, followed by waste recovery, and finally, if no alternative is open, ecological disposal.

The workshop, titled 'Procurement and Financing at Local Renewables', took place on the third day of the event, and looked at improving financial access to sustainable energy roll-out, a particularly important topic in a time of widespread financial austerity in Europe.

A great example of collaboration among IEE projects, the event was supported by the [Conurbant project](#) and the City of Freiburg, with the participation of the [LEAP project](#). Covenant capaCITY, Conurbant and LEAP are all co-funded by the European Commission's [Intelligent Energy Europe Programme](#).



For more information, click [here](#).

Online training platform builds capacity of local governments across Europe

This exciting and free online [Training Platform](#) for local political representatives and local government staff has now been launched. It provides local governments with short and easy-to-understand training modules focusing on eight key issues relevant to local energy action planning. The Platform was developed by experts (energy, local governments, and adult education) in the ICLEI coordinated [Covenant capaCITY project](#).



This is aimed at local governments both new to the issue and those already engaged – cities, towns and districts that are busy exploring what local climate and sustainable energy action is all about and what their role could be. Eight topics, presented in modules, outline their relevance to local governments, offering basic guidance, as well as ideas, tips and tools – on how to deal with people, structures, and processes.

The training program helps local leaders and LG staff from different departments to get a sound idea of how to develop a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and provides examples of how SEAPs have worked in practice across Europe. This will enable LG's to explore the options that could work for them and the communities they serve. Mary Unwin a Housing Officer from the UK said "it's great to have a tool that allows me to explore different subject areas and then focus on the module that relates to my area of work, it has been a helpful tool in developing our Council's [Home Energy Conservation Plans](#)".

To enter the platform, please [register](#) and select the topics you want to explore – for example Greenhouse gas inventories, SEAP development, Procurement or Water. You can learn at your own pace as you explore this easy to use online platform.

For more information, click [here](#).

Contact us at: covenant-capacity@iclei.org

CASCADE toolkit now online!

The CASCADE peer-to-peer toolkit on local energy leadership is now available on the CASCADE website:

www.cascadecities.eu

The toolkit offers guidance and support on how to use the four CASCADE peer-to-peer learning and networking methods (peer review, mentoring, work shadowing and study visits) as a tool for improving the implementation of climate and energy policies in cities.

It explains what peer-to-peer learning is, what the benefits from using each of the four CASCADE learning methods are, and how to organise successful peer-to-peer learning visits.



European cities share experiences and solutions



CASCADE launched a European-wide peer-to-peer learning and networking programme in February 2013. It includes more than 20 networking activities in the project's three thematic areas (energy efficient buildings and districts; urban transport; and renewable energy generation and distribution). Experts and officials from 39 European cities will learn from each other through study visits, mentoring visits and work-shadowing visits.

So far five mentoring, four work-shadowing and 12 study visits have been organised and hosted by CASCADE cities and invited cities: Amaroussion, Amsterdam, Bilbao, Birmingham, Burgas, Eindhoven, Gateshead, Hamburg, Malmö, Mannheim, Milan, Nantes, Stockholm, Terrassa, Venice and Warsaw.

The programme allows cities to exchange experiences and solutions on how to better address key challenges that hinder implementation of climate change and energy policies.



Furthermore, it helps them to improve existing projects and get inspiration for new ones.

More information about the visits can be found on the CASCADE website:

www.cascadecities.eu



CASCADE helps further the climate agenda in cities

'Cities sharing smart, sustainable energy solutions' on 10 October 2013 during OPEN DAYS, was a chance to share the lessons learnt and knowledge gained under CASCADE.

"The city of Birmingham already has ambitious plans when it comes to climate, but taking part in CASCADE's peer-to-peer learning activities has encouraged us to do even more".

This is how Sandy Taylor, Birmingham's head of climate change and sustainability, described his experience as a participant in CASCADE project. He was speaking at



'Cities Sharing smart, sustainable energy solutions', a workshop organised in the framework of the official DG REGIO OPEN DAYS programme at the Committee of the Regions on 10 October 2013.

The head of international relations at Terrasa City Council, Joan Chicón, explained how beneficial CASCADE had been when it came to reviewing his city's sustainable urban mobility plan. Speaking and

exchanging with other city experts who share the same financial, technical and political problems provides a stimulating, learning environment for cities.

The workshop was chaired by EUROCITIES secretary general Paul Bevan who presented the lessons learnt and the knowledge gained by the participants of the CASCADE project.

You can listen to the workshop [here](#).

Leaving LEAP: a legacy in local sustainable energy leadership

The LEAP (Leadership in Energy Action and Planning) project finished in November 2013 with a busy few months in the run up to the final conference held in Dublin by South Dublin County Council partner. With so many events, activities and publications being carried out by the partners, it's impossible to cover them all here (a full overview of the project will be available from www.leap-eu.org), so we have focused on some key elements over the last few months.

Throughout the LEAP project, the annual [EUSEW](#) has become an important highlight in the energy calendar and the events proved to be really useful opportunities for LEAP to showcase partner actions and increase citizen and stakeholder awareness of SEAP action plans. Some of the events were:

Green Cornwall Show - Following the success of Renewable Energy shows in previous years, in 2013 [Cornwall Council](#) held a Green Cornwall Show. The event featured a full range of renewable energy technologies including wind, solar, hydro, marine and geothermal as well as showcasing electric cars and providing free Community Energy Workshops to the public.



Alongside the exhibition, the event in Cornwall had an intense agenda of expert speakers discussing opportunities for business and communities to get involved in promoting local energy projects.

Hans Joachim Wittkowski, from LEAP partner the City of Hagen, who visited the show said:

"During the Green Cornwall Show it was possible to talk to other businesses as there were wood pellet heating system which are also common in the UK. I could get free advice about this renewable energy and its relationship to the legal law and its problems we also have in my city with the users.

While visiting the great exhibition in the tents we could get free planning, building control and architectural advice from the experts at the info booths. I could attend specific seminars exploring the climate and spatial planning situation in the coastal area of Cornwall combined with new problems when water level will rise in future.

Additionally, the unique venue enabled me to see demonstrations of different sustainable build techniques and its combination to the technique of historic old mining industry. Last not least this venue was very attractive in term of the Heartlands' gardens and the art galleries of this world heritage site."



Maribor's Carbon Cube Challenge - The Energy Agency of Podravje (EnergaP) together with the Municipality of Maribor, within the European project LEAP, prepared a campaign '1 tonne of CO₂'. The campaign was held from 28 May to 21 June 2013 on the square, Trg Leona Štuklja in the city of Maribor.

This event was organised to raise awareness with local people about the amount of carbon dioxide which is emitted through energy use by each one of us.

The main aim of the '1 tonne of CO₂' campaign was that people could visualize the size of 1 tonne of carbon dioxide while also drawing attention to the fact that, through better planning and individual decision making, we can all significantly reduce the amount of emissions generated at home, at the workplace, or travelling to work.



On Thursday, 28 May 2013, a cube was placed at Trg Leona Štuklja for one month with useful information about saving energy in people's households.

A press conference was held alongside the unveiling of the cube and a series of parallel activities about CO₂ emissions, energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources were held over the month. For example, the City of Maribor provided advice to citizens on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources and held a public lecture for the citizens of Maribor about Climate change and sustainable energy use. This event also had involvement from other organizations with their own programs around improving energy efficiency.

It is hoped that by holding events like this which help raise awareness about energy use and make it more tangible for people to understand that we can help impact on the decisions they make at work and at home.

Workshop in Brussels - Diane Smith, European Projects Manager for the TCPA, led a workshop in Brussels showcasing LEAP as part of the EUSEW conference, '*Local leadership in sustainable energy*'. This event brought together several IEE funded projects, including Conurbant, Covenant CapaCITY, eRenet and CASCADE, to share learning and best practice being developed around embedding sustainable energy solutions at the local level. The discussion focused on ways of learning from each other, both across the partnerships and also through peer-to-peer working, mentoring, and workshadowing.

Linking Spatial Planning and Energy Planning in the Delivery of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs: A LEAP case studies paper)

Spatial planning has a crucial role in the SEAP process and as part of the LEAP project, the TCPA developed case studies from three of the LEAP partners – Southampton, Hannover and Zagreb - to illustrate the importance of linking spatial planning and energy planning. The Southampton case study illustrates the development and expansion of a district heating network; Hannover's 'zero:e-park Am Hirtenbach' highlights the sustainable energy opportunities of new community, and in Zagreb the Borongaj university campus, a major mixed use development, has been planned to meet 20-20-20 energy targets enshrined in the ZagrebPlan.



The three case studies illustrate differing aspects of the relationship between urban development and energy planning, from district wide energy projects to embedding renewable energy technologies in large-scale urban extensions. They also show the variety of differing institutional, cultural and policy contexts of the three partner nations. However, it is possible to identify four common themes that played a significant role in the successful integration of energy and spatial planning in these projects.

These include:

1. Strong political leadership and support for the project
2. Effective and inclusive cross departmental working

3. Effective and integrated policy frameworks at regional, city and masterplan scales
4. Effective and transparent public/private partnerships and funding streams

The objective of this paper is to briefly summarise the experience of three case studies drawn from the partner organisations and to suggest a number of common elements which are significant in the successful integration of spatial and energy planning. You can read the full case study paper [here](#).

Q & A with Diane Smith, European Project Manager at the TCPA, lead partner for LEAP

What are the key transferable lessons from the LEAP project?

Institutionalisation of SEAP development and implementation is a key factor for the achievement of the 20-20-20 targets. Local authority departments must work together to ensure that their SEAPs are realistic; can be implemented; are technically and economically viable, and that they have the support of the community. Through LEAP, we demonstrated the strength of inter-departmental working on energy savings; the value of working together, and identified innovative ways to engage with the stakeholders and citizens.



What was the biggest challenge for the LEAP partners?

There is no doubt that strong political leadership is crucial to the success of sustainable energy planning within a local authority. By signing the Covenant of Mayors there is a public commitment to this process but in reality, Mayors change, the political will shifts and other pressures comes to bear. Therefore the biggest challenge is to sustain the political commitment from one administration to the next. By embedding planning for sustainable energy into the policies and practices of all departments, the institutionalisation process makes a major contribution to the cyclical development and delivery of sustainable energy.

Are there other lessons from LEAP?

The process of peer-to-peer working, mentoring and work-shadowing proved to be an invaluable resource for all partners. This 'hands-on' way of working enabled partners to discuss in detail the challenges (and successes) of their SEAPs.

Gone, but not forgotten! LEAP holds a final conference in Dublin

By taking part in the LEAP project, South Dublin County Council (SDCC) has produced a countywide Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) which underpins a wider energy programme being carried out by the Council. The Council has also signed up to the Covenant of Mayors.

To mark the culmination of the LEAP project, SDCC hosted a one day national conference on Thursday 10 October titled, 'Energy Planning for Local Authorities: Irish & European experiences to date. An audience of local authority, private sector and NGO experts in energy gathered at the conference to hear about emerging best practice in energy planning by local authorities in Ireland and across Europe. The opportunities available to local authorities by engaging in EU projects, such as LEAP., were also highlighted. There were a range of expert speakers from Irish local authorities, European local authorities, the Covenant of Mayors, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the City of Dublin Energy Management Agency (CODEMA). All the LEAP partners from across Europe were in attendance and used the opportunity to share their final learning and best practice from the project.



Further information on the conference is available at www.southdublinenergy.ie