



Conurbant

SECOND ISSUE

E - NEWSLETTER



**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
WEEK 2013**

CONURBANT -

An inclusive peer-to-peer approach to involve EU conurbations and wide urban areas in participating to the Covenant of Mayors



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.

FESTAMBIENTE Energy Week – Vicenza, Italy

The City of Vicenza, being present at the FESTAMBIENTE Energy Week, organized on 27th and 28th of June 2013 the second edition of the “Conurbant Energy Days”. Festambiente is an Eco-world and made freely available to the crossing of thousands of visitors who annually participate in the Festival.

Festambiente Vicenza is the largest festival of Legambiente in northern Italy. It takes place since 2002 in the magical River Park Retrone, the second city park by extension, immersed and surrounded by the splendid setting of the Berici Hills.

This event is the result of a long collaboration, now over a decade, between Legambiente and other associations Vicenza (Arciragazzi, Cooperative Unicomondo, A.So.C., Cooperative Together, Rete Lilliput, trade unions, etc.) operating in very different sectors to which are then added dozens of other organizations and local authorities, convinced that the creation of a network from the bottom among many reality is a sounding board for projects, campaigns and ideas of all associations allowing to multiply the attention and interest of the citizens life membership.

The experiment "Festambiente Vicenza" is a concrete example of this associative network Vicenza whose purpose is to create awareness among citizens on sustainable lifestyles through experiential strong, but at the same time simple and concrete, with a light and fun approach.

Festambiente Vicenza over the years has taught us that the social, environmental and economic issues need to be addressed simultaneously, because environment, justice, solidarity and peace are values that combine together to make the world a "better". One aspect that has made it unique in the regional Festambiente Vicenza is the wine and food, and km0 not only biological, but also due to ethnic cooperation agreement with migrant communities in the territory.

The Conurbant event aimed at debating over current major topics in the field of energy such as energy efficiency, the promotion of alternative technologies for sustainable energy, resources and energy policies, good practices in the environment protection field and necessary actions in order to combat and reduce the effects of climate changes.

With a conference on 28th of June the Municipality presented the strategy regarding climate changes in Vicenza, best practices in the field of energy efficiency, the use of



renewable energy sources and the on-going and future projects of the municipality looking at its SEAP.



At the conference participated citizens and representatives of local authorities from Vicenza conurbation, involved in CONURBANT which helps Municipalities understand the benefits of making cities cleaner, support Municipalities in developing their Sustainable Energy Action Plans, create sustainable relations between small, medium and large EU cities, show Municipalities that their role for our greener future is crucial and involve local political decision makers and other stakeholders.

Together with the conference, between 25th and 30th of June, in the Festambiente context, there was a permanent stand to

promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Link: <http://www.festambientevicenza.org/dibattiti-e-conferenze.html>

“The Covenant of Mayors: the path, the tools available and future prospects of the most significant energy initiative in recent years” – Padova, Italy

On 24th of June 2013 at the House of Carrara (municipality of Due Carrare) an IEE Conurbant workshop was held on mitigation of climate change within the framework "European Sustainable Energy Week 2013".

The City of Due Carrare - Environment Department, in partnership with the Municipality of Padova and the European project CONURBANT (that supports the Covenant of Mayors initiative), organized a day dedicated to raising awareness about the problem of climate change and EMISSIONS strategies for the reduction of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

The topics under discussion were: “The Covenant of Mayors: the path, the tools available and future prospects of the most significant energy initiative in recent years”.

The day was attended by various speakers who have studied, in addition to political and administrative aspects, the many technical aspects that characterize the choices in the field of energy conservation and renewable energy.



Many municipalities, institutions and citizens participated in the initiative that has been disseminated at European level and had the presence of the new Councillor for Environment of Padova, Ms Marina Mancin.

The City of Due Carrare is finalizing the SEAP (Sustainable Energy Action Plan) with the help of CONURBANT and will shortly sign the Covenant of Mayors.

Common Workshop – Presentation of SEAPs – Alba Iulia, Romania

On 31st of May the Working Group No.3 & Exchange of experience between Alba Iulia Municipality and the Municipality of Due Carrare, Italy was held in the Conurbant partner Alba Iulia Municipality.

In the first part of the working group the main goal was to present the 4 SEAPs completed, and another goal was to identify and establish 3-4 common actions which were included in the SEAPs in order to implement this actions in a short-term period.

During the workshop were presented the Sustainable Energy Action Plans - SEAPs of the 4 towns belonging to Alba Iulia's Conurbation; funding opportunities for renewable energy projects as well as for energy efficiency projects; legislative framework.

The workshop was also a good opportunity for a useful exchange of experience between the local authorities from Romania, Alba Iulia and the local authorities from Italy, during the workshop being presented successful projects implemented or under implementation in the region Padova - Italy.

The official opening was made by Mr Nicolae Moldovan - City Manager of Alba Iulia Municipality and Mr Florin Andronescu - Director at Alba Local Energy Agency. The workshop was attended by representatives of public authorities, representatives of private consulting companies in the field of energy, representatives of the Agency for Regional Development – Center Region (ADR – Center), and the mayors of the towns belonging to Alba Iulia's Conurbation, which are involved in CONURBANT Project.

Mr Nicolae Moldovan - City Manager of Alba Iulia Municipality together with Mr George Lorincz - Project Manager of the CONURBANT Project talked about “Alba Iulia's experience in the Covenant of Mayors – giving support for the communities belonging to Alba Iulia's Conurbation in achieving the SEAPs”.





Mr Claudio Garbo – Vice Mayor of Due Carrare Municipality, Padova, Italy, talked about "Integrating innovative projects using renewable energy sources and energy saving in Due Carrare Municipality".

Mr Emil Nutiu – President of Energy Auditors for Buildings Association (AAEC) – Transylvania Branch brought into debate financing and legislative aspects regarding energy efficiency in buildings.

During the last part of the meeting were presented several case studies in order to exchange experience between Alba Iulia Municipality and Municipality of Due Carrare, Italy. There were discussed topics such as solutions for energy efficiency and renewable energy production, efficient public lighting and indoor lighting sources (LED).

Several presentations were made during the Working Group:

- **ADR CENTRU initiatives for shaping an energy policy at regional level. Actions and projects for the support of signatories of the Covenant of Mayors;**
- **Geothermal energy and heat pumps used for the centralised heating and cooling systems, public or private - GEORICERCHE SRL Italia + PADOVA 3 SRL Italy;**
- **Solar energy: a way of producing electricity with increased efficiency - SYSTEMSOLAR SRL Italy;**
- **Modernization of interior and street lighting systems using LED technology - ERAL SRL Italia + SC ALDIA SYSTEMS SRL Romania;**
- **A new concept of inner wiring - modern and cheap solutions in civil engineering - Next SRL Italy**
- **IEE Projects for your support as a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors: Covenant capaCITY, Meshartility - Ion Dogeanu – Director of the Agency for Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection - AEEP, Bucharest.**

The event was very successful and it was attended by the City Manager of Alba Iulia Municipality and a number of 41 stakeholders, providing very constructive results.

ENERGY DAYS IN SPAIN – Palma de Mallorca, Spain

Local associations, companies, research centres, non-governmental organizations and local governments disclosed their efforts to promote sustainable energy, on the occasion of the European Week of Sustainable Energy in Spain.

Only in Spain were held more than 130 events throughout the country to mark the Sustainable Energy Week. Some were open to everyone, as the exhibition on renewable energy and energy saving. Others went to a more specialized audience, such as energy PROMISE Day in island homes, which took place on 26th of June in San Cristobal de la Laguna (Tenerife).

With more than 130 organized events, Spain was placed over Italy, that realized 108, over Germany with 38 events, France with 22 or United Kingdom with just 13.

Catalonia was the most active autonomous region and many of its municipalities organized various activities. For example, in the municipality of Sabadell was held the ninth annual Week of Energy and Climate Change.

In Brussels were awarded the most innovative initiatives in the field of sustainable energy. Among the finalist (with award) was Deputation of Barcelona, among the finalist (without award) were the architectural design of the Madrid headquarters of engineering company IDOM, the hydroelectric power plant of El Hierro island and the energy cooperative Som energia.



Energy Day 'KIDS GO GREEN' in Limassol, Cyprus



The Limassol Public Garden was full with children's laughter and happy screams on Sunday 2nd of June 2013! On the occasion of the International Day for Children's Rights, on 2nd of June 2013, Limassol Municipality decided to organize its 'Green Day' within the Project CONURBANT. That was in the context of the Children's Right to live in a healthy and green environment with as less CO2 emissions as possible.

The event "Kids Go Green" was organized in collaboration with the private company Cypronetwork, the participation of different energy stakeholders and its aim was to raise awareness and educate children and their parents on environmental issues and on the purposes of the Covenant of Mayors.

At the beginning of the event the Mayor of Limassol, the Commissioner for the Environment and the Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights greeted the guests.

At the Green Dot Workshop, the children were happy to create different handicraft objects using recycled materials. The children also increased their knowledge on environmental issues by playing the 'Energy Snake' put up by the Cyprus Energy Agency and they had the

opportunity to experience what sustainable architecture is by visiting the little playhouses built by the Limassol Architectural Movement.

Moreover, the circus team Prits Prats was there to entertain and attract children to the event and the Terra Cypria and Friends of the Earth NGOs participated to disseminate leaflets and flyers about environmental issues. All the activities were coordinated and supervised by the Limassol Municipality Energy experts.

Energy Days Timisoara, Romania 2013 – 18th – 28th of June 2013

This year, the Municipality of Timisoara has organised the 3rd edition of ENERGY DAYS events within the frame of the European Sustainable Energy Week, both as Covenant of Mayors signatory and as partner in the project CONURBANT.

Energy Days Timisoara 2013 were also circumscribed to the GREEN WEEK 2013 event, which was approved by DG Environment of the European Commission (ref.**RO03**), and dedicated to the environment agent AIR, under the slogan “CLEANER AIR FOR ALL” — “CLEAN AIR – Mine, Yours, Ours – Timisoara 2013”

The programme of the Timisoara Energy Days events started on 18th of June, in the “ION CREANGĂ” Children’s Park, with the launch of a painting contest focusing on ENERGY theme and entitled “GREEN ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”. Twenty-two school units participated in this activity, while the contest aimed at bringing together children and teachers from Timisoara and Timisoara Conurbation in an artistic



and educative event meant to contribute to the building of an ecological culture, promoting the best school initiatives in the area of environment and climate protection. Furthermore, the activity also contributed to the development of the civic spirit, of the individual and group initiatives, raising pupils’ awareness to the environment issues and, finally yet importantly, enhanced the participants’ artistic skills and creative thinking.

On 19th of June, at the Multipurpose Hall of the Administrative Palace, the “Energy Forum” took place – “LOCAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGIES”, with the participation of Timisoara Conurbation communities, energy work groups, associations, energy clusters, representatives of companies delivering public services and utilities, other interested parties and citizens. Presentations concerned the development opportunities of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans, the solutions for energetic efficiency, the use of been intensely pondered.

This event, which was attended by 82 persons, ended with the launching of the painting exhibition “GREEN ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT” where the coordination teachers received participation diplomas.



The Forum enjoyed an intense media covering, the papers presented during the proceedings being published both on the Environment Directorate web page and in electronic format, on personalised memory cards, which were given to the participants.

In order to make it possible for a greater number of citizens to participate, the Environment Directorate has organised outdoor events both for children and for parents. Marasesti Street became not only the starting point of the GREEN TRACK, but also the place where a drawing contest on asphalt pavement took place, having as theme energy and renewable energy sources. The contest revealed the fact that the young generation is in close connection to the energy realities of the moment, has the knowledge and the wish to contribute to a change with the aim to save energy and to implement the good practices in the field of energy in the classroom, in their school and in society.



During the holiday, on 24th of June 2013, children and parents alike enjoyed the artistic performance that took place in the Children's Park in Timisoara. The show was acted by professional artists and by the Puppet Theatre with the play "Vasilache and Marioara", which brought in front of the public a moment from the life of two simple people, sprinkled with real life funny goings-on solved in an amusing manner.



To the delight of the children, the artists approached examples of good practice in the household, of energy saving, of the impact of human action on the environment, in an ingenious and humorous way. Music, dance, interactive approach and the narrative of the play captured children's attention from the beginning to the end when the dance and the energetic games concluded an extremely agreeable evening for the participating public.

Energy Days Timisoara 2013 could not have taken place without a campaign of awareness raising and of informing the citizens on the practical possibilities which could be used day by day in order to reduce energy consumption in dwellings and at work places as well as in order to save fuel. The saving could be achieved by obeying some simple rules of motor driving in a responsible way towards the environment – what is known as ECO - DRIVING. In the interval 25th -28th of June, the representatives of Environment Directorate distributed informative and awareness raising materials and talked with the citizens. They engaged thus in efficient, active, public communication to make known the municipality's concern for the implementation of Local Strategy concerning the climatic changes and the Action Plan on combating, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate changes.

Furthermore, they voiced the expectations of the local public authority from the citizens, from the civil society in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases. On this occasion, it has been pointed out the fact that the hope to transform the Municipality of Timisoara into a city with sustainable development is possible only with the direct and active implication of the citizens, and of the civil society as a whole. More information on the activities taking place within the frame of Energy Days Timisoara 2013 and of the CONURBANT Project may be obtained accessing the web pages at: www.conurbant.eu, www.eusew.eu and www.dnmt.ro.



All about heat energy process in Salaspils, Latvia
Study tour visit to Sigulda and Cēsis - Salaspils, Sigulda, Cēsis - 28th of June 2013

In „Salaspils Heat” Ltd. inhabitants can make the acquaintance with heat energy process and how they get heat energy to their houses. Specialists of enterprise talk about where they get a heat, how inhabitants can follow of consumption of their houses. Enterprise also talk about their plans how to reduce heat consumption in the future in Salaspils and how to get lower price on heat energy.

Municipality of Ogre - partner of Municipality of Salaspils in CONURBANT project in Latvia organized free study tour by bus to Sigulda and Cēsis, where managers of apartment houses shared in experience about their houses which were renovated and inform inhabitants from Municipalities of Salaspils, Ogre, Ķegums, Iļšķile, Lielvārde about various cooperation possibilities and project solution about house renovation (energy efficiency, including house insulation solutions).



In study tour people were introduced with renovated apartment house in Sigulda, 28 Stacijas street, where was made wall, attic, basement insulation. To reduce heat energy consumption and costs they installed ground heat pump. Renovation and funding carried out energy service enterprise “RENesco” Ltd., who are engaged in

energy efficiency projects in residential apartment buildings. Representatives of enterprises tell about possibilities and benefits, which are if they use their service.

In Cēsis we were introduced with renovated house in 36 Bērzaunes street, where in experience of house renovation shared house manager "CDzP" Ltd. In Cēsis also we were introduced with renovated houses in Viestura street, where was insulated all houses and where was renovating last apartment house in this block. Renovation projects were implemented by citizens' initiative and enterprises of energy services.

Visiting these events people were introducing in costs and benefits if they join to centralized heat net. Also there was a chance to talk with various specialists about possibilities in energy reduce in their properties, when they insulated houses and make renovation in heat system and install ventilation systems.

With Energy day event programme was presented in websites of municipalities of Ogre and Salaspils and in the local newspaper Municipality of Salaspils.

<http://www.ogre.lv/?page=0&doc=11182>

<http://www.salaspils.lv/salaspils-vestis/68-novads/novads-aktualitates/582-energijas-diena-par-to-ka-razojam-un-terejam-siltumu>



Energy Days in Vratsa and its Conurbation towns – Vratsa, Bulgaria

Energy Days were organized in Municipality of Vratsa and all conurbation municipalities, participating in the project CONURBANT. During these days there were held a lot of interesting events.

On 26th of June at 22:00 Municipality of Vratsa turned off the facade lighting of several landmark buildings in the city. A lot of institutions, museums, galleries, administrative buildings, restaurants, hotels and citizens also gave their contribution to this initiative - continuation of the "Earth Hour" - the largest global campaign dedicated to tackling climate change.

The project team prepared a lot of materials to disseminate the project activities and to increase the number of municipalities, joined the Covenant of Mayors.



The Deputy Mayor of Vratsa awarded the prizes of the winners in the drawing competition "For cleaner environment", another initiative during the Energy Days. The competition involved a total number of 83 drawings of children from the kindergartens in the Municipality of Vratsa. Organizers awarded the best three drawings and gave gifts to everyone.



Vratsa District Administration also participated actively in the celebration of the European Sustainable Energy Week from 24th to 28th of June 2013 with preparation of newsletter with useful information about the projects and programs for funding energy efficiency measures and sustainable energy development with the emphasis on these which are essential for the business.

Traditionally Municipality of Krivodol participated in the "Earth Hour" - the largest global campaign dedicated to

tackling climate change. This year it happened on 26th of June 2013.

Drawing competition entitled "For cleaner environment" was held in the summer reading library in Krivodol. All children showed creativity and imagination, participated with pleasure and truly enjoyed while painting. They received leaflets with measures to reduce energy consumption and were rewarded with colouring books.

Children from the holiday workshops of Municipality of Oryahovo participated in the celebration of Energy Week in the period 24th to 28th of June 2013. The young artists expressed their opinions through their paintings on the topics "What is the sun" and "To love and protect our nature". The most original ideas were awarded with special gifts.

This event was held under the aegis of the European Commission and the slogan "One small step from you, one giant leap for Europe." The initiative includes a series of local events organized under topics related to energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions.

Municipality of Kozloduy organized information campaign during the Energy Days 2013. It was held on 27th and 28th of June 2013. The municipality administration spread practical tips for reduction of energy consumption in the households. Municipality of Kozloduy joined the Covenant of Mayors on 26th of July 2011.



On 18th of June, Municipality of Mizia which joined the Covenant of Mayors in 2011, organized an information initiative related to the Energy Days.

Experts from the "European Programmes and Projects" department from Municipality of Mizia made presentations about the project "CONURBANT" for citizens, municipal experts, and members of NGOs and presented different ways of saving energy, as well as the investment project "Construction of a plant for production of biogas in the city of Mizia". They gave flyers with practical tips for saving energy to all participants of the meeting.

The Mayor of Mizia presented to the public his commitment to the objectives of the European Union for reduction of energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions with 20%, informed them about realized energy efficiency projects in the educational infrastructure and investment projects for the construction of renewable energy sources.

Energy Days in Mezdra 2013 were aimed at different target audiences: students, pupils, all residents of the Municipality of Mezdra. There were organized a group of participants who visited the HPP in the village of Brusen.

These initiatives included also drawing competition and distribution of flyers with tips for saving energy.

All events during the held within the EUSEW were widely disseminated in media.



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
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Contact us :

Municipality of Vicenza, Italy - Coordinator
Mrs. Federica Fontana - European Policies Officer
E-mail : politichecomunitarie@comune.vicenza.it
Tel : +39-0444-221321
<http://www.comune.vicenza.it>

Partnership :

Sogesca s.r.l, Italy
www.sogesca.it

Municipality of Padova - Italy
www.padovanet.it

Municipality of Osijek - Croatia
www.osijek.hr

Municipality of Palma - Spain
www.palmademallorca.es

Municipality of Limassol - Cyprus
www.limassolmunicipal.com.cy

Municipality of Arad - Romania
www.primaarad.ro

Municipality of Timisoara - Romania
www.primariatm.ro

Municipality of Alba Iulia - Romania
www.apulum.ro

Municipality of Salaspils - Latvia
www.salaspils.lv

Municipality of Vratsa - Bulgaria
www.vratza.bg

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa - Bulgaria
www.cci-vratza.org

Ekodoma - Latvia
www.ekodoma.lv

Stratagem Ltd. - Cyprus
www.stratagem-ltd.com

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