



Supported by

**INTELLIGENT ENERGY  
EUROPE**



**leap** ||

leadership for energy  
action and planning



**Conurbant**

**FIRST ISSUE**

# **E-NEWSLETTER**



## **CONURBANT -**

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

# FIRST ISSUE

## E - NEWSLETTER

### CONTENTS



PEER - TO - PEER ..... 2

Institutionalisation ..... 2

Training and Study Tours ..... 3

Forums ..... 3

Energy Week ..... 3

Covenant of Mayors ..... 3

## Peer - to - peer

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. This is done by overcoming non-technological barriers through capacity building using peer to peer networking and specific training, to create an environment where medium and large 'less experienced' cities (Trainee cities) can find support at National and EU level from 'more experienced' cities (Tutoring cities) to overcome the difficulties of sustainable energy planning. At the same time, Trainee cities engage smaller Municipalities in their urban area (Conurbation Towns) and involve them in the project activities. The capacity of politicians and staff needs to be developed both at the level of Trainee cities (medium and large cities between 60.000 and 500.000 in.) as well as at Conurbation Municipality level (in general, small towns with less than 15-20.000 in.) to ensure that they can make well informed decisions and can act effectively in local energy action planning. The conurbation approach is proposed in order to ensure continuity and coherence at local territorial level in the planning activities.



## Institutionalisation

The institutionalisation of SEAPs 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 targets in due time. Institutionalisation, therefore, means for a Municipality to use a SEAP 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 sectors/departments of the same Municipalities without concertation or 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 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.





# Institutionalisation

The training programme of Conurbant project focuses on the capacity building of partner Municipalities with less experience.

It addresses the development of capacity in two ways, firstly through community peer-to-peer exchanges on experiences (to gain an insight into working procedures, to improve an understanding of challenges, and to identify potential opportunities) and secondly through a range of more technical / specialised learning opportunities.

The partners are divided in 3 groups plus 1 group of non-partners which is also directly involved in the action:

**1. Tutoring Cities:** they are 2 experienced cities which have already signed the Covenant of Mayors. They are mainly transferring good practices and train other cities; they are also hosting study tours and training sessions

**2. Trainee Cities:** they are 8 less experienced cities which just signed the Covenant. They are so the beneficiaries of the training sessions. Some of them, even if they just signed the Covenant, already have some experience in energy management and this is being used and shared with the others.

**3. Technical experts:** they are energy experts and are supporting tutoring cities in developing and leading the training activities and are supporting trainee cities in the implementation of local activities.

**4. Conurbation towns:** they are small town located in the area around partner cities (11 urban areas, including both Tutoring and Trainee cities). They are being involved mainly in local training sessions but Tutoring and Trainee cities also have budget allocated to allow some them to join one or two centralised training sessions, in fact during the First International Workshop, held in Brussels last June 21<sup>st</sup>, during the EUSEW, all conurbation towns were able to participate with two representatives each.



## Forums

In order for the action plan to be as bottom up as possible, and according to the CoMO guidelines, a participated approach is coming out to be mandatory for the definition of SEAPs in partner areas. Considering the good experience of the coordinator and of the Tutoring cities with the instrument, the Local Agenda 21 approach is envisaged.

The aim is the realisation of **4 local sessions in each of the forums** (one in each Municipality or group of Municipalities) where local projects can concern different item related with the reduction of GHG emissions etc., will be defined. Thanks to the participation of the whole community, the Sustainable Energy Action Plans will include actions concerning both the public and private sectors.



## Energy Week

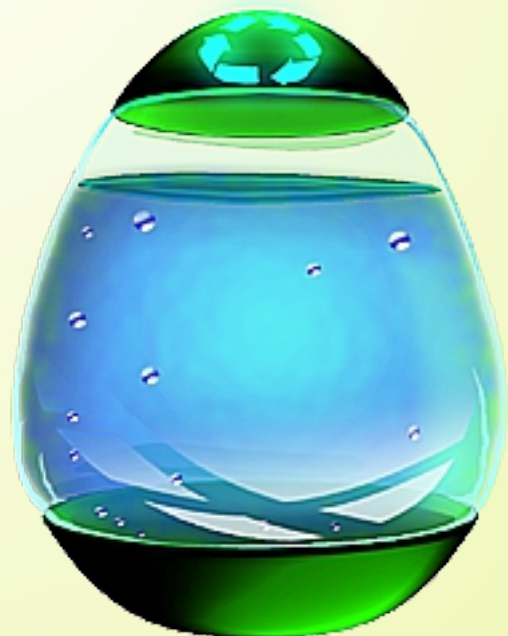
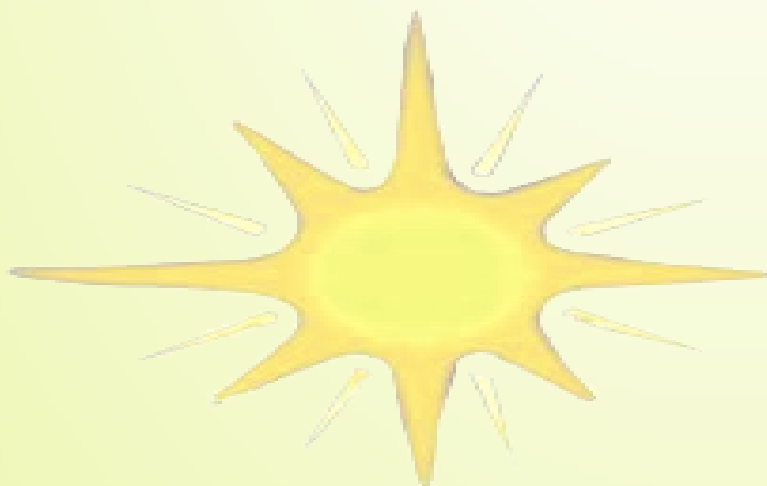
International and local public events were held in Brussels and in each city partner. Energy days were organized with great interest and good results. On June 21st 2012 the Conurbant project proposed to the European public its 1st International Workshop that took place in Brussels as one of the events organised for the EUSEW 2012.

The workshop was successfully attended by 110 participants, that followed the speakers presentations with lively interest, having the chance to share different IEE and other European projects experiences in matter of towns networking on the way toward the Covenant of Mayors goals.

The Conurbant partners gave the chance to their conurbation towns representatives to participate with them to this workshop, so politicians and technicians coming from Italian, Spanish, Croatian, Cyprian, Latvian, Bulgarian and Romanian small towns had the great opportunity of learning by sharing the experiences of joining the Covenant of Mayors of other small towns as Copparo (Italy) or Bydgoszcz (Poland).

## Covenant of Mayors

Covenant of Mayors - mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories. By their commitment, Covenant signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO2 reduction objective by 2020. Trainee municipalities and Conurbation towns under the project Conurbant also signed the Covenant.



## Contact us :

Municipality of Vicenza, Italy - Coordinator  
Mr. Umberto LAGO, Comune di Vicenza, Italy  
E-mail : [politichecomunitarie@comune.vicenza.it](mailto:politichecomunitarie@comune.vicenza.it)  
Tel : +39-0444-221321  
<http://www.comune.vicenza.it>

## Partnership :

Sogesca s.r.l, Italy  
[www.sogesca.it](http://www.sogesca.it)

Municipality of Padova - Italy  
[www.padovanet.it](http://www.padovanet.it)

Municipality of Osijek - Croatia  
[www.osijek.hr](http://www.osijek.hr)

Municipality of Palma - Spain  
[www.palmademallorca.es](http://www.palmademallorca.es)

Municipality of Limassol - Cyprus  
[www.limassolmunicipal.com.cy](http://www.limassolmunicipal.com.cy)

Municipality of Arad - Romania  
[www.primaarad.ro](http://www.primaarad.ro)

Municipality of Timisoara - Romania  
[www.primariatm.ro](http://www.primariatm.ro)

Municipality of Alba Iulia - Romania  
[www.apulum.ro](http://www.apulum.ro)

Municipality of Salaspils - Latvia  
[www.salaspils.lv](http://www.salaspils.lv)

Municipality of Vratsa - Bulgaria  
[www.vratza.bg](http://www.vratza.bg)

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa - Bulgaria  
[www.cci-vratza.org](http://www.cci-vratza.org)

Ekodoma - Latvia  
[www.ekodoma.lv](http://www.ekodoma.lv)

Stratagem Ltd. - Cyprus  
[www.stratagem-ltd.com](http://www.stratagem-ltd.com)

Albea Transenergy S.L. - Spain  
[www.albea-transenergy.com](http://www.albea-transenergy.com)



Supported by

**I N T E L L I G E N T   E N E R G Y**  
**E U R O P E**

