



Conurbant

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

FINAL BROCHURE

Big changes start in small towns



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

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Final Brochure (Final Publishable Report)

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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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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Introduction

There are no doubts that many small towns in the European Union face strong difficulties in energy management and planning. One of the reasons is their lack of skills and resources. Meanwhile, medium and large cities have a higher responsibility related to higher density of human activities to more complicated issues of sustainable land using, planning and mobility.

In the framework of Covenant of Mayors (CoM), CONURBANT project aimed at helping medium and large cities as well as smaller towns in their urban area to address sustainable energy planning issues through capacity building by using peer-to-peer support and training between less and more experienced municipalities.

CONURBANT was a successful project with 15 partners from 7 countries which started in May 2011 within the Intelligent Energy Programme and ended in May 2014.

2. Objectives

The CONURBANT project had four specific objectives that were inter-related and have been identified as critical elements that need to be addressed to support sustainable energy communities (SEC) in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors:

- 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.
- 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.
- To guarantee the institutionalization of sustainable energy policies and to ensure the coherent implementation and political

continuity of SEAPs during and after the project's lifetime.

- To make the results widely available and enlarge the network of energy twin-cities and energy-twin conurbations at EU level.

3. Source of funding

The CONURBANT project was a three-year-project funded within the framework of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme - Contract No: IEE/10/380/SI2.589427-CONURBANT

4. Target groups

There were four main groups of actors involved in the project:

- tutor municipalities that already have gained their experience in addressing sustainable energy issues in their municipalities;
- trainee municipalities (eight project partners) that have few or no knowledge regarding energy planning, including energy efficiency, sustainable transport etc.;
- technical partners that can share their knowledge and experience with the municipalities;
- conurbation municipalities, i.e. urban municipalities in the close proximity to the trainee and tutor municipalities that receive the benefits of the project.

5. Key actors

The main key actors of the project were the ones that were:

- directly involved in peer-to-peer support and training at EU level and local level,
- directly involved at local level in the development and implementation of SEAPs,
- directly contribute to the successful enlargement of the network of energy twin cities across EU.
- Local political decision-makers, including also opposition leaders: have a particularly important role as they are keys for the successful implementation of the SEAPs and for their institutionalization;
- Tutoring cities: peer-to-peer sharing of experience, training, monitoring of Trainee cities;



- Other expert cities in Europe: extra peer-to-peer sharing of experience, good practices, low budget study tours (already organized for other SEC projects);
- Conurbation towns: to introduce the “conurbation approach”, giving territorial coherence and continuity to specific actions those need a larger territorial approach;
- Local technical experts: local support in the implementation of specific activities (GHG emissions inventory, SEAPs development and implementation);
- Local Communities / Forum stakeholders: bottom up creation of the local SEAPs, contribution to the definition of local tasks and local projects and support in the implementation of local actions foreseen by the SEAP.

6. Peer-to-peer approach in SEAP development

In order to reach the project objectives, several peer learning steps were performed:

The first step was the organization of the three centralized training sessions for the trainee municipalities to increase their knowledge regarding CoM, financing possibilities, technical issues like energy efficiency and involvement of stakeholders in form of energy forums. Based on the centralized training sessions, local sessions for conurbation municipalities and also specialists of the trainee municipalities were organized to attract more audience. In total 448 local specialists were trained.

The second step of the peer activities was the creation of the twinning partnership. In the initial phase of the project, each tutor municipality selected four trainee municipalities. Afterwards these municipalities were also split in the pairs. During the project many twinning activities were organized, such as visits of the tutor municipalities to their trainee municipalities, two pair visits when twin trainee municipalities with to study the best practice and regular tutor-trainee check meetings (as part of project meetings).



Conurbant kick-off meeting – 31/05/2014 – Vicenza, Italy



II. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS – STATEMENTS OF KEY PLAYERS

Project partner consortium of the CONURBANT project consisted of 15 project partners from 7 countries. They had different roles and tasks within the project.

Who are they? Where they come from? What were they tasks and roles in the project? How they benefited from the project? What results did they achieve?

Let them tell us...

II.1. Municipality of Vicenza, Italy



The Municipality of Vicenza is an Italian local authority and It collects about 116.000 inhabitants, on a territory that extends for 80,49 km².

The Municipality of Vicenza has about 1.000 employees who work in different units: among these, the Environment Protection Department in collaboration with the European Policies, made up by 9 employees, has got competences in the fields of European networks, European projects, Energy saving, environmental protection (water, air, soil, waste), town twinning actions. In collaboration with the Territory Department, of which the Environment Department is included, has expertise in the area of mobility, public works, private construction. The Municipality has experience in managing and implementing international and transnational cooperation projects, since it has worked with different partners from European and African Countries (with the Environment Department EU projects and the Educational Department EU projects on the 7th Millennium Goal) in the latest 5 years.

The Municipality of Vicenza signed the Covenant of Mayors on 18.11.2011 and approved its SEAP on 14.02.2012, within the

activities foreseen from the the IEE CONURBANT project that the Municipality coordinated.

The Municipality of Vicenza, as coordinator of the Conurbant Project, coordinated all activities in order to achieve the following results:

- 2 centralised training seminars in Vicenza and Alba Iulia (80 technicians and policy-makers trained);
- 2 study tours in Padova and Alba Iulia and at least one study tour organized outside the consortium;
- 8 Trainee Municipalities and at least 40 Conurbation towns trained at local level (120 technicians and policy makers);
- 2 open training sessions organized in Brussels for EU Municipalities (20 participants each, including policy makers);
- Training material made available in 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, 15 stakeholders per meeting);

- Selection of 2 actions per SEAPs and implementation within first year after SEAP (96 actions implemented);
- Monitoring procedures implemented in each conurbation;
- Each Trainee conurbation is audited by another trainee city;
- 1 Strategy shared by all Municipal departments and approved with the involvement of political opposition;
- 90% of SEAPs are approved by Local councils;
- 5 proposals to the ELENA facility to develop investment plans (at least a total of 375 million euros);
- 1 Energy day in 10 project areas every year;



- 10 twin conurbations sign the covenant (50 new signatories);
- Integration of communication actions with existing events and/or organized by other IEE projects.

II.2. SOGESCA SRL, Italy



*Mr. Camillo
Franco
Administrator*

SOGESCA Srl was founded in 1986 to offer environmental consulting services to public Bodies and industrial enterprises. To guarantee the high reliability and continuous improvement of their services, SOGESCA has determined to rely upon their human resources, as they are the variable that mostly characterizes and influences the service provision process. SOGESCA's teams consist of skilled certified experts with a specific client-oriented training in the services and products offered. Engineers, chemists, geologists, biologists, agronomists, architects, economists, social and political science experts provide their competence and are ready to complete it adequately to comply with the complex issues related to sustainable development, safety and quality.

SOGESCA is experienced in the implementation of environmental and

energy management systems in all sectors. SOGESCA has accompanied the high school Liceo Scientifico "Cornaro", Padova to become the first Italian high school to obtain an EMAS registration and it has implemented environmental management systems in several other schools.

SOGESCA is experienced in organizing training courses in the sector of environment, energy and renewable energy sources promoting environmental culture, energy saving practices and involving schools in including these subjects in their educational programmes.

Training courses on RES and RUE have been organized, among other for the Industrial association of the Veneto region.

SOGESCA has also a great experience in working with public and private bodies and developing bottom up approaches such as Local Agenda 21 which is integrated by experience in environmental, quality and safety management systems, waste management, energy audits and Life cycle assessment.

SOGESCA has used the LA21 process for the Energy planning of the Italian provinces of Genova, Parma and Modena. Energy audits have been recently implemented in several Municipalities: Venice, Viadana, Asola, Casalmoro, Redondesco, energy



management system for the Municipality of Venice.

Feasibility plans for the use of biomass (Anaerobic Digestion & Fermentation, Gasification) have been carried out in the past years.

SOGESCA is working with several Italian Municipalities and Provinces on the preparation of proposals to be submitted to the ELENA facility of the European Investment Bank.

SOGESCA is partner of the IEE EGS project focused on energy education in high schools and the implementation of energy management systems in schools.

SOGESCA is partner of the IEE SHEEP project focused on the promotion of efficient energy using products.

Finally, SOGESCA is the technical promoter of the IEE ENERGY FOR MAYORS project lead by the Province of Genova and focused on capacity building for Supporting Structures of the Covenant of Mayors, SEAP development and implementation and integration with the European EN 16001 energy management standard.

SOGESCA SRL has offered its technical support to the municipalities involved in the CONURBANT Project for the Italian Consortium for the development of the Emission Inventory Tool, the organization of the Local Forum (involvement of the stakeholders and citizens) and development of the SEAP. SOGESCA has developed emissions inventories for all the 9 municipalities of the Italian consortium involved in the project,



with the help of the technical staff of the administrations involved. All emission inventories have been produced using real

data of energy consumption, thanks to collaboration between Local Authorities and Utilities dealing with the distribution of electricity and heat that operate into the respective municipalities. The Emission inventories were presented to stakeholders and to the citizens of each of the municipalities involved, encouraging the participation in the formulation of the SEAP also by representatives of the private sectors.



The collection of the actions proposed by citizens and stakeholders who participated in the local forums, has allowed the formulation of SEAP which include actions as close to reality, with a high degree of verifiability, implementation, measurement and monitoring. All 9 SEAP developed by SOGESCA in cooperation with the local governments involved have been approved by the respective city councils. Each of the SEAP approved contains detailed information for each municipality on the energy consumption of public and private sectors, description of land, description of the actions and strategy of lowering consumption, energy savings / energy production, costs of each action and quantification of reducing e Working with real data on the retrieval of consumption in both the public and private sectors allows you to make sufficiently detailed analysis and to adopt energy efficiency measures easily measurable and monitorable emissions into the atmosphere for each action.



II.3. Municipality of Padova, Italy



Mrs. Daniela Luise-Director of Informambiente Padova



Mr. Michele Zuin-Project Junior Manager

The area of the Municipality of Padova presents a surface of 92,8 square Km. The resident population is approximately 210.000 inhabitants.

The Municipality of Padova runs a specific office called Agenda 21 Office: it is the place where working groups generated to discuss on specific issued develop an action plan on the dealt subject. The working groups are formed by all the stakeholders of the city.

All aspects relates to local sustainability - and to help at a local level to fulfil the goals stated during the Agenda 21 document of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Conference - can generate a Working group

In June 2011 the City's SEAP was approved by the Council: we commit to cut almost 21% of our 2005 emissions to 2020, working on the following 5 thematic areas:

1. New zero CO2 energies
2. A greener and more efficient city
3. Smart services and systems, smart grids
4. A city that moves better
5. A low emissions economy
6. Adapting to a changing climate

As an expert city the Municipality of Padova acted with the role of Tutor to 4 of the Consortium cities: Vicenza, Palma de Mallorca, Osijek and Limassol. In a cross cutting "tutoring – mentoring" methodology, the Municipality assisted the cities throughout their twinning meetings ad in all the phases that brought to the creation of local SEAPs. It audited the cities and conurbation small municipalities to get the necessary information to better guide the process to finalize SEAPs.

Moreover the Municipality of Padova coordinated the consortium works related to

the Institutionalisation of SEAPs. The institutionalisation of SEAPs means to make the 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 institutionalization 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 in a long term perspective.



If a Municipality works only on its buildings and its patrimony, there is no chance to reach the 20-20 targets in due time. Institutionalization, 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.

Conurbant cities, through this process, have now more chances to render energy policies in general more compatible with long term views, avoiding the risks related to political changes.



II.4. Municipality of Alba Iulia, Romania



Mr. Nicolaie Moldovan
City Manager of Alba Iulia Municipality

Alba Iulia Municipality has a population of 63 000 inhabitants and is situated in the central part of Romania.

The communitarian development along with the creation of conditions for economic and social progress for the whole community is one of the main objectives of the Alba Iulia Municipality.

Our city, The Other Capital, bears a heavy name in the history of Romania due to the important historic events which have left their mark on the city. Alba Iulia is a city of national importance and it was nominated in 2012 as a European Destination of Excellence, by the EDEN program administered by the European Commission.

The City Hall of Alba Iulia Municipality benefited during the period of the past few years from the financial support of the European Union and implemented European projects with a total value of more than 150 000 000 Euros, while being the most important investor in the city during the last five years. Alba Iulia Municipality is focused towards the transformation of the city into a “green city” by approaching its resources in a rational and long-term way in order to ensure a competitive, inclusive and sustainable energetic future. Therefore one important priority is the outlining of energy efficiency measures along with the rationalization of energy consumption through development projects in energy, transportation and environmental protection. For Alba Iulia Municipality there are several key objectives for the sustainable use of natural resources which are aimed to ensure a high level of environmental protection and public health, the availability of natural resources for future generations, effective contribution to the stability and prosperity of the economic and social system, as well as limiting the use of resources to reduce its impact on the environment.

The City Hall of Alba Iulia Municipality signed the Covenant of Mayors which is the 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.

Moreover Alba Iulia Municipality developed the Sustainable Energy Action Plan which aims at reducing the environmental impact of the urban activities, increasing the quality of public utility services, increasing economic competitiveness in order to transform the city into a “green city”.

Pursuant to the provisions of this Strategy and as a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors, Alba Iulia Municipality already materialized several investment projects aimed at improving the environmental conditions in the city. We were the first local authority in Romania to build a production capacity of renewable energy using photovoltaic and solar panels through the project Ensuring the energetically sustainability of 4 public institutions, by producing electrical energy using the captive solar potential by assembling, operating and interconnecting with the national Energetic System of 1714 photovoltaic panels, with a cumulated installed power of 257 kW which now is reflected in the bills of gas and electricity with an economy of 80.000 euro per year.

Alba Iulia has one of the most modern urban public transportation in Romania (in 2013, the Public Transport Society of Alba Iulia won the IRU Bus Excellence Award for best bus operator in Europe), 85% of schools and kindergartens are thermally insulated, over 17 hectares of urban green areas were landscaped in the last two years and more than 15 kilometres of bicycle routes were constructed, 90% of the city is connected to



the sewage system and a new wastewater capacity is currently under construction. Therefore another initiative conducted by Alba Iulia Municipality is the modernization of the public lighting on several streets of the city. Furthermore The Romanian Association for Recycling with the support of the Alba Iulia Municipality opened a new branch in our city in order to ensure the disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment in

In this project we were the leader for one work package dedicated to training sessions and study visits, and a tutoring city for four project partners. It was honourable for us to have the possibility to collaborate with project partners with which we had the chance to exchange knowledge and useful information for the feasibility and the materialization of energy investment projects.

As leader of Work Package 2 and Centralised training and study tours Task, Alba Iulia Municipality was focused during the project on developing the capacity building of partner Municipalities with less experience.

Work Package 2 addressed 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.

Within the Centralised training and study tours Task, Alba Iulia Municipality was the

an environmentally friendly way. These are just a few initiatives implemented in Alba Iulia and were previewed in the city SEAP.

CONURBANT was a good opportunity for Alba Iulia to refine its SEAP content, and to prepare and submit for funding new projects, a very promising source being the next financial perspective of the European Commission for the period 2014 - 2020.

organizer of centralized training session and hosted the study tour.

Furthermore Alba Iulia Municipality was tutoring city for Arad, Timisoara, Salaspils and Vratsa which were Trainee cities. During the realization of SEAPs for the Trainee cities and for the towns within their own conurbations, Alba Iulia Municipality provided support and shared their experience in developing and implementing their SEAPs.

In order to achieve the objectives of mentoring and twinning activities, the representatives of Alba Iulia Municipality involved in the Conurbant project made several study visits to the Trainee cities situated in the area of responsibility assigned to Alba Iulia.

We were the first city from the consortium that completed the SEAPs of the towns belonging to the Alba Iulia conurbation, all four have been completed in the summer of 2013, and two of them were already accepted by the EC.

II.5. Municipality of Osijek, Croatia



Mrs. Mira Lizačić Vidaković
Senior expert

Osijek is the fourth largest city in Croatia with a population of 108.048 according to the 2011 Census. It is the largest city and the economic and cultural centre of the eastern Croatian region of Slavonia, as well as the administrative centre of Osijek-

Baranja County. Osijek is located on the right bank of the river Drava, 25 kilometres upstream of its confluence with the Danube, at an elevation of 94 metres.

Situated at the intersection of important traffic routes Osijek is well connected with all capital cities in the region by major highway and railway routes, river port and airport, and by cherishing firm and friendly relations with



its 10 Sister Cities all over the Europe it continues its tradition of a friendly and open European city.

One of the focuses of the City of Osijek is the introduction of innovative methods into energy management - energy savings via energy efficiency (EE measures in public and residential and business buildings). Having in mind significant role of energy efficiency management and its impact on environment preservation as well as the expectations regarding its impact on the growth of economy as well as the improvement of the overall quality of life the City of Osijek has been undertaking steps in order to promote energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy sources. A considerable number of projects has been implemented in order to educate and capacitate local governments and businesses for greater use of energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy, and also to stimulate the general public to take steps in this direction. In order to set conditions for greater appliance of EE measures and RES, as well as demonstrating EE activities on demo buildings the City of Osijek has successfully used the EU funds and has undertaken significant measures in order to achieve the goals set by Europe 2020.

City of Osijek was task leader in WP4 for Deliverable 4.5. – Report on working groups. All working groups under this project were conducted successfully but with slight differences between the partners in organizational concept of the groups. Groups were used to discuss issues in SEAP development as well as to promote Covenant of Mayors initiative.

City of Osijek had encouraged four conurbation towns to sign the Covenant of Mayors and start developing their SEAPs, as well as to work with us on achieving the goals set by the project and learn from bigger municipalities on coping with climate changes and ensuring sustainable development.

SEAP for the City of Osijek and four Conurbation towns were successfully developed and uploaded to CoM page. Joint measures for ELENA proposal were also decided on.

City of Osijek was a City Trainee in this project and was peered with the City of Limassol, Cyprus. With them we established great connection and were in contact throughout whole project implementation sharing the ideas and good practices as well as discussing faced difficulties in SEAP development. Both of us had the difficulty of gathering the right data to calculate exact energy consumption and level of CO2 emission, as well as finding the right measures to include in SEAPs. Also, there was, in the end, the problem of finding the best models of financing of measures provided in SEAP.

Our Tutoring City was Padua for whom as our mentor and guide we have only words of praise. Padua helped us to define the possible means of financing the SEAP measures and gave us their examples of good practice. They guided both Limassol and us through the process of development of our action plans and finding the best measures for its implementation.

In conclusion, our experience in participating in the “peer-to-peer” model of cooperation was awarding. It strengthen the bond between the cities and made our coping with difficulties and staying in focus with our goals much easier because we were controlling and helping each other and in some way were positively competing with each other. From the insight in each other’s work we had the possibility to learn not only from our achievements but also from our mistakes.

The bond that was developed between all of the partners on this project will surely result with a partnership on future projects, preferably those regarding the implementation of SEAPs developed under this project.



II.6. Municipality of Palma de Mallorca, Spain



**Mr. Roland
Bahon**
*Environment
Technician*

The city of Palma de Mallorca joining the project signed the Covenant of Mayors, Municipal Plenary unanimously, in December 2010.

In order to extend participation in the Covenant of Mayors to small municipalities and foster relationships with the major towns of the same urban area emerged the CONURBANT project within the program Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE).

CONURBANT contains the commitments of the Covenant of Mayors 20% reduction in CO2 emissions through the implementation of at least 20% renewable energy, an increase of 20% energy efficiency, along a temporary period ending in 2020. In this context, it must be a baseline emissions inventory to the municipality and a Sustainable energy action plan (SEAP).

Palma de Mallorca is involved in the CONURBANT project as a trainee city. Its role is to achieve the formation of an urban area with small and medium population size towns, which can transmit the expertise and means to achieve the objectives to the Covenant of Mayors. This knowledge has been previously transmitted by the two Tutoring cities (Padova and Alba Iulia) within the project towards the other training cities.

In summary, then, it is a feedback between training cities and tutoring cities and between these last ones and the municipalities of small and medium population size from their respective metropolitan areas.

The project is leaded by Environment, Infrastructures and Territorial Coordination Area. This area gets in touch and works with others main implicated areas and public companies like: Urbanism, Mobility, E.M.T.

(Municipal Transport Company), EMAYA (Municipal Water and Sewage Company), etc.

Municipality of Palma participated in the project as trainee municipality. During the project Municipality of Palma implemented the following activities:

Consortium Management - The activities carried out concerned:

- Participation in Management Meeting n. 1 (Vicenza, Italy)

Palma was represented by 2 people during the three days of the meeting. Palma prepared presentation for the meeting.

- Participation in Management Meeting n. 2 (Alba Iulia, Romania) - Palma was represented by 1 person during the three days meeting.

- Meeting in Brussels

- Organization and participation in meeting (MM6) Palma.

Training and Study Tour - The activities carried out concerned:

- Participation in Centralised Training Session n.1 in Vicenza and Padova and n.2 in Alba Iulia.

- Organization and participation in 2 training session at local level with all conurbation towns around Palma.

- Participation and preparation of contents for the meeting in Cyprus: training and study tour.

- Training session in Freiburg.

Institutionalization - The activities carried out concerned:

- Preparation of common tools for collecting data and information which will be useful to define the Municipal strategy in the following tasks.

- Establishment of previous contact with the municipalities in the conurbation in order to inform the start of process

- Two training workshops in Brussels

Development of SEAPs and peer-to-peer approach - The activities carried out concerned:

- As a prelude to the preparation of emission inventory has been made 29 visits to municipal buildings energy assessment.

- Development of BEI.

- Development of strategies and tools to involve all municipal departments in implementing the Covenant of Mayors project and execution of CONURBANT.
- Development of SEAP
- Organization and participation in 4 local forums at local level.
- Organization and participation in 3 working groups, one of three with international participants.
- Participation in one peer-to-peer audit (Palma-Vicenza).

Implementation of SEAPs - The implementation of SEAP in Palma has not yet started.

SEAP has not been approved until moment because, in compliance with a regional law on environment impact, we must pass the procedure of integrated environmental

assessment. This procedure will delay more than 6 months the approval of the SEAP

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The monitoring tools have been prepared according to the activities of each WP.
- Evaluation Centralised training activities for Trainee Municipalities and study tours.
- Palma selects the actions of the SEAP to be implemented.

Communication, Dissemination and Networking activities - The activities carried out concerned:

- Provide materials to CCIV and CVI for leaflets and website creation.
- Future contacts with other projects and possible future partners
- Organisation of Energy days and other events

II.7. Albea, Spain



*Mrs. Mònica
Rivera
Associate
director*

Albea is an independent consulting firm specialized in identifying possible financial mechanisms for supporting the implementation of sustainable development strategies.

Albea assists its clients, public or private, to identify and use the instruments and programmes best suited to their specific funding needs.

Initially Albea focused on design, implementation and evaluation of sustainable development policies adapted to customers' demand. The firm has since developed a specific expertise in financial engineering which is currently its core business while still providing tailor made services on a turnkey basis.

Its integrated financial engineering approach is a guarantee of quality and success when we support and assist sustainable development projects.

Albea proposes following consultancy services:

- Definition of strategies and action plans together with project management assistance
- Search and identification of best suitable funding schemes
- Proposal writing and coordination of national and international projects
- Training
- Evaluation
- Benchmark and return of experience

Albea can join in at any phase of a project, from diagnosis to project implementation, provide evaluation services related to public policies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, or apply tools such as European Energy Award (eea®) and SEAP (Sustainable Energy Action Plan).

Albea assists local authorities and businesses in their search for the most adequate financing schemes, in assembling technical and economic proposals: reformulation of ideas, synergies, business plan and analysis of the projects' viability, partner search, proposal writing, comparative analysis of the different options or any other supplementary analysis.



ALBEA has offered its technical support to the Spanish municipalities involved in the CONURBANT Project. Palma has also received its technical support for the development of the Emission Inventory Tool, the organization of the Local Forum (involvement of the stakeholders and citizens) and development of the SEAP, which is still awaiting the city council approval.

ALBEA has also led the monitoring and evaluation of the project activities in order to

improve the quality of the work done and introduce the opportunity for a constant improvement of the results. ALBEA has also evaluate the role of tutoring municipalities in the light of the implementation of the peer-to-peer approach towards trainee cities and between trainee cities, and the role of larger cities in the implementation of the Conurbation approach involving smaller municipalities in the same urban area.

II.8. Municipality of Limassol, Cyprus



Mr. Demetris Theotis
Head of Health and
Environment Department

Limassol is the second largest city in Cyprus with a population of 235.330 (2011). It is also the largest city in geographical size and the biggest municipality in the island with 101.000 inhabitants. The city is located on Akrotiri bay. The stretch of land which is included in the boundaries of Limassol Municipality is 34,87 square kilometres.

Limassol became one of the most important tourism, trade and service-providing centres in the area. It is renowned for its long cultural tradition and is home to the Cyprus University of Technology. A wide spectrum of activities and a number of museums and archaeological sites are available to the interested visitor. Consequently, Limassol attracts a great number of tourists, mostly during an extended summer season to be accommodated in a wide range of hotels and apartments. A large marina is currently being constructed in Limassol. The town is also a hub for a numerous offshore companies. Limassol is the largest port in the Mediterranean transit trade and has historically strong links with the nearby countries such as Lebanon Israel.

Activities within the project implementation:

- Participated in all project meetings.
- Organized and participated in the 4th Management Meeting.
- Participated in all training seminars.
- Organized and participated in two local training sessions.
- Signed the Covenant of Mayors.
- Involved the conurbation towns.
- Supported data collection for the energy baselines and SEAPs.
- Organized and managed three energy forums.
- Supported decision making about SEAP measures and actions.
- Organized and managed three conurbation working groups.
- Organized two Green Energy Festivals in Limassol.
- Prepared all necessary project reports.



II.9. Stratagem Energy Ltd., Cyprus



Mr. Panos Antoniadou
Project Director

Stratagem Energy Ltd is an independent energy research group based in Limassol, Cyprus.

We are committed to work towards sustainable energy development, providing support to Local and Government authorities, SME's and larger private companies, Universities and other Research Institutions in the fields of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources.

Stratagem Energy has been funded by various organizations in the European Union such as EACI (European Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) to participate in projects supported by the IEE Programme (Intelligent Energy Europe).

We have been appointed as the Internal Strategic Consultants for the "Business Act" under the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEB) in Limassol.

Stratagem Energy Ltd is also the consultant of Limassol and its surrounding Municipalities for planning, designing and developing its

SEAP (Sustainable Energy Action Plan) that will reduce the CO2 emissions by 20% by 2020.

The main role of Stratagem as a technical partner was to provide technical support to Limassol Municipality on all project activities and especially in the development of the SEAPs to Limassol Municipality, Kato Polemidia Municipality, Mesa Yitonia Municipality and Yermasoyia Municipality.

After several meetings with the Municipalities and the signing of the Covenant of Mayors by them, Stratagem prepared four Baseline Emission Inventories.

Following the finalization of the BEIs, the measures and actions of the SEAP were designed using valuable information and suggestions from Municipalities personnel during the Local Energy Forums and the Local Working Groups.

Finally, four SEAPs were prepared, finalized and uploaded on the Covenant of Mayors website.

Stratagem also:

- Prepared all necessary project reports and participated on all project meetings.
- Participated in all project training seminars, local training sessions, energy forums and working groups.



II.10. Municipality of Arad, Romania



Arad is the capital city of the Arad County, straddling the Mures River and occupying parts of two historical provinces of the Western Romania.

The city has a population of 147,992 inhabitants, making it the 13th largest city in Romania and the third largest in the Western part of the country.

Arad is the most important trans-European road and rail transportation junction point in Western Romania, included in the 4th Pan-European Corridor that links Western Europe to South-Eastern European and Middle Eastern countries.

Arad is a city of impressive buildings and architecture, with many of the most important sights located along the broad tree-lined main boulevard. The city has a rich cultural and historical patrimony, offering to its visitors a real out-door museum of architectural styles specific to the XVIII, XIX and XX centuries.

Arad owns one of the few Vauban style strongholds in Europe, a fortification system built on the left bank of the Mureş River at the order of the Habsburg Empress Maria Theresa, in the 18th century. The Fortress of Arad is currently a military base, but the municipality plans to give it a touristic destination after complex restoration works.

Arad has a rich history and a vivid cultural life and is a candidate city for the title of Cultural Capital in 2021.

Arad is proud to have a State Philharmonic Orchestra and Quire and a Concert Hall known for having the best acoustic in this part of Europe, the Classical Theatre "Ioan

Slavici" and the Puppets Theatre, organizing important national and international festivals, four art galleries, a museum with such sections as archaeology, history, natural sciences and arts, as well as a county library owning 500,000 publications, among which 22,000 rare books.

Arad has two universities, a state and a private one and about two dozen high schools.

The City of Arad is a member of The Strasbourg Club, and a founding member of the club's Green Energy Committee, of the Covenant of Mayors, the AVEC (Alliance de Villes Européennes de Culture), the UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) and the European Social Network.

In June 2010, the Local Council approved the participation of Arad to the project and the adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors. The Adhesion Form to the Covenant of Mayors was signed on 13 September 2011, followed by the participation to the Covenant of Mayors signature ceremony (Brussels, 29 November 2011).

Arad municipal representatives understood from the beginning of the project that, in order to achieve the ambitious goals related to the development and implementation of SEAP it is important to create a strong and determined team and to involve decision makers, politicians, technicians and stakeholders in this long term process.

In addition to the Conurbant project management team, the local council appointed the Work Group for the Development and Implementations of SEAP, composed of 31 members: representatives of the municipality (elected officials, executive managers, heads of departments, experts) representatives of the main local utilities companies (district heating, electricity, local transport, gas supply, waste management), of the Environment Protection Agency, the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, universities, school inspectorate.

Work groups for the development and implementation of SEAPs have been



appointed similarly in the conurbation towns Lipova, Pecica, Nădlac and Sântana (5 – 7 members).

In the framework of the project, Arad offered support to the conurbation towns for adhering to the Covenant of Mayors and for developing their SEAPs:

Four conurbation towns have been informed, instructed and supported step by step by the Municipality of Arad and have all signed the Covenant of Mayors in 2011, being now among the 65 Romanian signatories: They have also received organizational support (for appointing their own work teams as well as informing and instructing them), support for the BEIs (to assess existing reference data for each conurbation town; to define the targets for emission reduction, to select the priority actions and measures) and support for the development of SEAPs (to establish SMART actions with the view of reducing CO₂ emissions for each relevant sector).

The SEAP for Arad describes 50 well defined measures to reduce CO₂ emissions per capita

by 23% compared to the baseline year 2008 until 2020. It was approved by the Local Council of Arad on 14th August 2012. On 5th June 2013, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission officially informed the Mayor of Arad that the SEAP of Arad has successfully passed the full analysis, meeting all the six criteria and therefore has been accepted and has been made visible on the Covenant of Mayors website.

The SEAPs for the conurbation towns were all drawn up in 2012 – 2013. The periods from the appointment of the work teams to SEAPs approval varied from 9 to 14 months

Local Energy forums were very useful in the development of SEAPs: during these forums it was for the first time when local administration and representatives of various other groups met and discussed on energy bearing in mind a common purpose and a common course of action. Involving large groups of participants offered the possibility to generate ideas for projects and measures, both “traditional” and innovative.

II.11. Municipality of Timișoara, Romania



*Mrs. Iudith Bere –
Semeredi Counselor –
Environment Directorate –
City Hall of Timișoara*

Located at 571 km from the capital city of Bucharest, Timișoara is the largest city in Western Romania. The city is the capital of Timiș County, being the second largest in the country. According to the 2011 Census, Timișoara has 319,279 inhabitants.

The Growth Pole Timișoara comprises 15 smaller communes, which form Timișoara Conurbation. The metropolitan area amounts to 365,777 people spread across 1,070 km². The municipal area of Timișoara occupies 130 km².

Timișoara is the main economic, social and cultural centre in Western part of Romania.

The city's location near the border with Hungary and Serbia, enabled Timișoara become a multicultural and economic hub among the three neighbouring countries.

Timișoara's position, between West and East, at the interference of the most important tourist flows, creates great opportunities, towards some of the most attractive destinations in Europe (Budapest–270 km, Vienna–478 km)

Timișoara is well connected to transport and communication infrastructures. It has access to 2 European roads: E70 and E671 and to an international airport, the second largest in Romania. Also, Timișoara has access – through the Bega Canal - to the Pan-European Corridor no 7, Danube – Main – Rhine.

Trade holds an important share of local economy, in addition to industry, with production sites that cover several sectors from electronics, chemical, automotive to telecommunication, which brings 30% of the



overall revenues in the region. From an economical point of view, Timișoara is now an important pole of Romania, occupying the second place – after Bucharest - in economic results.

Timișoara is well recognised as a main high level education area, with very good reputation Universities, cultural facilities, but also for its beautiful historical buildings in the old part of the city. With a rich heritage and diversity, Timișoara is a strong cultural hot spot of Romania.

Timișoara Municipality has signed the Covenant of Mayors in 2010 and developed the "Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan to fighting, mitigating and adaptation to climate change in the City of Timișoara". Participation to CONURBANT project, is considered as a great opportunity.

During the project framework, Timișoara as Trainee Municipality was interested and highly involved to attract as much as possible new signatories to the Covenant of Mayors initiatives, forming Timisoara Conurbation. 16 smaller towns from Timisoara Growth Pole and Timis County signed the Covenant of Mayors initiative and participated to the specialized trainings, elaboration of the BEI and preparation and development of SEAPs. Following the activities within the 16 local energy forums and working groups, with a participation of more than 300 participants, the Conurbation towns developed SEAPs using the CoM's Guidelines. The "peer to peer" approach among the project partners, and the support offered by the more experienced municipalities, has led to the completion of eight SEAPs, covering a population of 40,156 inhabitants with a clear CO2 target reduction of 17,441 tons of CO2. An overall amount of 28,039,100 EURO was estimated as investment to complete the implementation of SEAPs actions. All SEAPs developed were approved by Local Councils and certain actions and measures were already implemented. The Conurbation towns committed themselves to implement actions that should result in reduction of CO2 emissions, in energy savings, reaching EE targets and the best possible use of RES.

CONURBANT Project allowed experiencing the importance of the well-organized local energy forums and working groups' role in the SEAPs development and implementation process. The success depend on how the stakeholders and partners are convinced to join the forums and working groups, on how the communication is tailored and adapted to each categories and how the networking was coordinated and improved, in order to reinforce partnerships and create new ones. Organizing roundtables were well-evaluated by participants and appreciated for the possibilities to exchange ideas in a friendly atmosphere.

Also, we learned that good communication is one of the key roles of success. It is important to build credibility and visibility, in the specific field of energy policies. For this purpose, Energy Days and energy focused events represent a good opportunity to step out of patterns and to address to the citizens, an important partner for SEAP implementation. Creating synergies among different EU and national level funded projects activities at national level is definitively a success factor for the internal activity improvement. In the next period other eight SEAPs will be finalized and Timișoara Municipality SEAP will be re-evaluated.

Funding the measures and actions included in the SEAPs remain the main challenge of the local authorities.

Timișoara Municipality and Conurbation towns are members of Romanian Covenant of Mayor Club and cooperate to achieve the ambitions goals of meeting and exceeding the EU target of 20% CO2 emission reduction by 2020.



II.12. Municipality of Salaspils, Latvia



Mr. Mareks Kalniņš
Head of Technical Section

Salaspils is situated in central part of Latvia on the right coast of Daugava, on Ropazu plain of Viduslatvija lowland. Municipality is bordering with the city of Riga, and Municipalities of Stopini, Ropazi, Ikšķile and Kekava. Salaspils is the part of Riga planning region and is located in the agglomeration of capital city Riga.

District is situated in economically advantageous geographical position. The transportation infrastructure of the municipality and proximity to Riga cause that Salaspils has been developing as a logistics center. It is crucial that it is crossed by national and regional roads and rail. In order to develop Salaspils as logistics center it is planned to implement the railway project "Rail Baltica" in this case Salaspils would be a significant product transfer station - Salaspils would be the place in where the "Rail Baltica" will intersect the Riga - Moscow railway line.

Despite the fact that in Latvia is a decline trend of population in recent years, Salaspils region's population has been increasing and is highest among other municipalities around Riga. Population growth has occurred mainly due to the mechanical increase, as more and more people choose their place of residence in Salaspils because of the geographical location, infrastructure, transport facilities and the quality of educational services. Here is also must be noted that the municipality of Salaspils is in leading position in making the dialogue with the community, actively involving them decision-making processes. In 2012 Salaspils municipality was recognized as 2nd most creative municipality in Latvia in medium size category of municipalities for using so-called co-responsibility approach in

inclusion activities in addressing major challenges of municipality.

Salaspils has been positioned as a science city – in the municipality are situated four scientific institutes - Institute of Biology of University of Latvia, Latvia State Forestry Research Institute "Silava", No organic Chemistry Institute of Riga Technical University and Physics Institute of University of Latvia. In Salaspils is also a former Salaspils nuclear reactor of Chemical Physics Institute of University of Latvia. It is planned in its territory would be established the National Cyclotron Centre, which would become irrelevant science centre in the Baltics. There is strong cooperation between local and scientific institutions, which is directed to aim that Salaspils would be formed as a "smart" city, where have been developed innovative methods, business centres for young people, modern and environmentally friendly companies. Since 2012 there has been introduced tradition to celebrate the Science Week, which is organized in order to familiarize the society with scientific institutions situated in Salaspils municipality. In Salaspils municipality are several attractive tourism objects such as the National Botanic Garden, Dole Island and the Daugava museum, Salaspils Memorial, etc.

In Conurbant project lifetime was successfully developed Sustainable energy action plan (SEAP) for our municipality and for other 4 involved conurbation towns (Ikšķile, Ķegums, Ogre, Lielvārde) and all of these SEAP's were accepted by local councils. In the SEAP's we were put actions what we must do for short, middle and long term to reach 20% CO₂ emissions reduction till 2020. SEAP's were



elaborate together with our technical partner EKODOMA. When we elaborate our SEAP's there was some encountered challenges with data collection for Emission Baseline inventory, because some data what are older than 5 – 10 years were not collected in our municipalities and all of data were not collected in one place. In project lifetime were organized local training sessions for local inhabitants, municipal specialists and other stakeholders. In these sessions were widely discussed about measures and activities what we must do to reduce CO2 emissions. Also there were organized forums and training sessions between conurbation towns where also we discussed about measures and activities mentioned above and also we exchange with good practice what we were done in other project in energy efficiency (public and residential buildings, street lightening etc.) Good experience and exchange of good practice in energy efficiency and project implementation we obtained when we participated in meeting in partner countries and in peer-to-peer actions.

In our municipality and conurbations towns were organized Energy days where inhabitants and stakeholders were introduced with energy supplier companies and the services they provide. In Energy days we visited other municipalities where we were introduced with their good practices in energy efficiency. In general Energy days were organized to inform stakeholders in energy efficiency activities what we want to do in our municipalities and what inhabitants can do themselves in own properties to reduce CO2 emissions and improved environment in their properties. In future we will continued implement measures and activities to reduce CO2 emissions what we were write in our SEAP's. Also we were continued to inform inhabitants and stakeholders about energy efficiency and other measures to reduce emissions and to improve environment in our region.

II.13. Ekodoma, Latvia



Mrs. Marika Rosā
Project manager

Ekodoma was founded in 1991 with a simple mission: apply energy efficiency and renewable energy sources to achieve economic development and environmental protection. Everyone in our company believes that sustainable development is based on energy efficiency first and then on a sustainable energy supply. We are now a leading Latvian engineering consulting company. We provide services within the fields of energy efficiency,

renewable energies, environment and economy with due emphasis on the social, legal and administrative framework. Since 1991 we have been involved in more than 1000 projects. We have a track record of success stories. Ekodoma is always at the forefront of energy efficiency services developments. We continue to develop and think about new products of our own, or in partnership with other strategic partners.



In CONURBANT Ekodoma had a role of technical advisor for Salaspils municipality to assist in development and implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans for Salaspils and also for other four Conurbation towns:

Ogre, Ikšķile, Kegums and Lielvarde. Moreover Ekodoma was leading also one of the work packages and contributed to the peer to peer activities.

II.14. Municipality of Vratsa, Bulgaria



*Mrs. Ralitsa Geshovska-
Chief expert Investment
projects*



*Mrs. Stanislava Peeva-
Senior expert Operational
programmes*

represents the municipality and organizes the implementation of the municipal budget. In fulfilling their obligations mayor is assisted by four deputy mayors.

Municipality of Vratsa has created a Centre for services

Municipality of Vratsa is located in the north western part of Bulgaria on an area of 679 sq. km. It covers parts of the Danube plain and the Fore Balkan. The municipality consists of a town and 22 villages. Vratsa is the administrative centre of the municipality of Vratsa and Vratsa district. The average altitude of Vratsa is 410 meters.

According to the area, the Municipality is on the 16th place in the country. From a total of 679 sq. km - 370 sq. kilometres of them are agricultural lands and 117 sq. kilometres are forest and fields. Climate is mild continental. In the town there is good infrastructure and communications.

Some important rail and road corridors of national and international significance pass through the municipality. Vratsa is at the crossroads of two major European corridors - № 4 and №7.

According to the latest census conducted in 2011 the population of the Municipality is 73 894 inhabitants and in Vratsa town - 60 692.

The municipality is governed by municipal council and the mayor. The Municipal Council sets development policy and discusses matters of local importance. It is constituted of 37 advisers. One of its powers is to define the amount of local taxes collected by the municipal administration. The Mayor is an executive authority. The mayor manages and controls the municipal administration,

and information of citizens that provides services with regard to the regional planning, civic status and municipal property.

Municipality of Vratsa is known for Vratsa Balkan, Ledenika cave, Vratsata, Okolchitsa peak, linked to the death of the legendary poet and revolutionary Hristo Botev with its golden and silver treasures of Mogilanska mound and village Rogozen and the oldest alphabet in the world. Combination of unique natural resources and rich cultural and historical heritage establishes Vratsa and its region as a serious cultural and tourist centre of the North-West part of Bulgaria with high potential for all year tourist development in its different forms.

Municipality of Vratsa was a task leader in WP2 for Deliverable 2.4. – Report on open centralised sessions. The 2nd open training session “Local leadership in sustainable energy” was held in Brussels, Committee of the Regions, on 27th June 2013, in the framework of the High Level Policy Conference during EUSEW 2013. The main organizer of the joint event was Municipality of Vratsa with the support of Chamber of Commerce Vratsa and five projects, financed by Intelligent Energy Europe programme, and more exactly: CONURBANT, LEAP, Covenant capaCITY, ERENET and CASCADE projects.



Municipality of Vratsa organized and the 5th project partner meeting on June 26th 2013, the day before the International Joint Workshop. For the meeting and the second open centralised session in Brussels Municipality of Vratsa prepared a lot of materials for dissemination: notebooks, pens, umbrellas, bags, etc.

Municipality of Vratsa was a Trainee municipality in the project Conurbant and was peered with the Municipality of Salaspils, Latvia. The first peer to peer meeting was held on the 8 of November 2012 in Salaspils and Riga. The second peer to peer meeting was held on the 20th of March 2014 in Salaspils and 3 conurbation towns. We had the possibility to monitor the activities undertaken under the implementation of SEAPs.

Municipality of Salaspils visited the Municipality of Vratsa and 3 conurbation municipalities on 3th of April 2014 in order to do the audit under our SEAPs. Good experience and exchange of good practice in

energy efficiency and project implementation we obtained when we participated in meetings in partner countries and in peer-to-peer actions.

Municipality of Vratsa succeeded to involve 5 conurbation municipalities to sign the Covenant of Mayors. Also 6 SEAPs had been elaborated, approved (by the local municipal council) and submitted to the Covenant of Mayors. The SEAP of Municipality of Vratsa was approved by CoMo on 16.04.2014.

Municipality of Vratsa organized two local training sessions at the end of 2011, 4 local forums (Municipality of Mizia, Municipality of Oryahovo, Municipality of Vratsa and Municipality of Krivodol) in 2013 and 3 working groups in 2013.

Municipality of Vratsa and its 5 conurbation towns organised annual energy days in 2012 and in 2013.

In the future we will implement measures in our SEAPs in order to achieve the goals for reduction of energy consumption and CO2 emissions.

II.15. Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa, Bulgaria



Mrs. Iliana Philipova
Executive Director

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa was established in the autumn of year 1991 by a general constituting assembly. It was registered with Vratsa District Court of Justice on 17.11.1991. In 2001 it was re-registered under the Law on non-profit legal persons in public interest. It has started its

effective operation in the end of year 1991. It is an independent regional structure of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. CCI-Vratsa is a host structure of Enterprise Europe Network and Europe Direct centres.

The mission of the Chamber is to promote the development of a favourable economic environment for business development and to promote its work.

OUR MAIN GOALS ARE:

- To support, promote, represent and protect the economic interests of our members;
- To stimulate export;
- To enhance companies' entering the European Markets;
- To promote and attract foreign investments for the region and local SMEs;
- To acquaint the local authorities with the standpoint of our members;
- To encourage and support start-up of new business;
- To assist the local Labour Office and encourage companies to open new working places

The CCI-Vratsa is based on the principles of voluntary participation and membership, autonomy and self-financing. It works in close cooperation with local authorities and other non-government organizations as well as with NGOs, CCIs and business support structures from abroad. The structure of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa, with its regional offices established in the towns of Lom, Berkovitsa, and Botevgrad comprises more than 1000 companies - both private and state owned.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa participated as technical partner in the CONURBANT project. During the project implementation CCI Vratsa was Leader of the Work Package 7 – Communication, Dissemination and Networking. Its tasks were to provide project activities and results with a high visibility at local, regional, national and European levels as well as to promote and support the Covenant of Mayors initiative and capitalize on synergies with other relevant projects and initiatives.

At the beginning of the project CCI Vratsa established PR and dissemination office which aimed collection of project information and results from all project partners and dissemination of this information on local, regional, national and European levels. PR office was active during the whole project duration. CCI Vratsa elaborated

communication strategy and prepared design of communication tools in order the corporate identity of the project to be created at the beginning of the project.

During the project CCI Vratsa implemented the following tasks:

- Elaboration of Dissemination and Communication Plan
- Support to CVI for the project website
- Mailing list with subscription for receiving of regular project updates
- Collection of information about dissemination of the project from all project partners – articles, participation/organization in events, organization of Energy days, other dissemination events and activities
- Participation and dissemination of the project on national/ European events, fairs, working groups, etc.
- Elaboration of 2 project leaflets
- Elaboration of 4 e-newsletters
- Elaboration of project final brochure
- Support for increasing the number of Municipalities signing the Covenant of Mayors
- Technical support to Municipality of Vratsa in all project activities, especially in organization of its local forums, trainings and working groups
- Technical support to Municipality of Vratsa in organization of International workshop in Brussels and media coverage of the workshop.



Final Conference within the CONURBANT project - 24/04/2014 – Osijek, Croatia



III. SUCCESS STORIES

During the project implementation there were many occasions when the partnership felt it had reached a corner stone, that a particular sustainable energy action had a tremendously positive effect or that the dialogue with stakeholders had reached a new level of understanding and commitment.

Below are presented some success stories shared by the project partners within the Conurbant project or their energy projects adding value to the Conurbant project hoping they will serve as an inspiration to other cities across Europe beginning their adventure with sustainable energy communities, SEAP development and peer-to-peer approach.

Freiburg, October 2013 – Joint Study Tour



The most successful story for the coordinator point of view was the interaction with other IEE projects. Starting from the first Joint Meeting in Brussels, in March 2012, with the coordinators of LEAP, CASCADE, Covenant CapaCity and ERENET till the Joint International Workshop organized again in Bruxelles during EUSEW 2013 with the other 4 projects leaders, passing through the organization of two Joint Study Tours (one in Freiburg on October 2013 and the other in Padova and Vicenza on April 2014), the spring of synergies was a great opportunity of improving knowledge and capacity building for all, small and medium cities.

In fact 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 Conurbant and LEAP projects.

“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.

The workshop, titled ‘Procurement and Financing at Local Renewables’, took place on the second 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.

Moreover Over 40 participants from 14 European countries came together in Padova and Vicenza, Italy, to learn from the city's efforts on implementing local sustainable energy actions. This study tour was held on 16-17 April in the framework of the Covenant CapaCITY project, in collaboration with Conurbant project.

Local governments and representatives from their associations heard first-hand accounts of the challenges faced and solutions found in implementing energy and climate policies in these two cities. Among the participants several experts, who offered their expertise in supporting capacity building of local policy makers and technical staff across Europe within the framework of the project.

“I am delighted to see that the collaboration between Conurbant and Covenant CapaCITY continues after the success of the Joint study



tour at Local Renewables in 2013” said Antonio Marco Dalla Pozza, Councillor for sustainability and planning of the City of Vicenza, Italy, “it was our pleasure to show and present some of Vicenza’s best practices, such as the “VELOCE” (Vicenza Eco Logistics City Center) and we hope it provided participants with ideas, which can be adapted to their own context”.

“I’m really proud of hosting the CapaCITY and Conurbant Study tour”, said Marina Mancin, Councillor for environment of the City of

Padova, Italy, “Our commitment confirms we’re a front running city in the national context and the confrontation between European cities on mitigation aspects will surely boost our future Climate Action”.

So with this intense synergy that spontaneously born within these projects allowed politicians and technicians to come along together, sharing ideas, knowledge, fears and success stories, encouraging less experienced cities to implement their energy policies management.

Municipality of Osijek organized Final Conference of the project CONURBANT

Final conference of the project Conurbant was held in Osijek, Croatia, on April 24th 2014. We decided to organize it as an event which will give insight to the Europe 2020 targets on climate changes and all the main ideas behind the Conurbant project such as dealing with CO2 emission reduction and SEAP development, being a signatory of Covenant of Mayors, sharing good practices of the tutoring municipalities as well as introducing the concept and results from peer-to-peer approach. Also we had to attract the local public and stakeholders, so we included the topic of Croatian efforts to achieve the Europe 2020 goals. The conference was divided into four thematic sessions.



The first one was about the CO2 emission reduction and energy efficiency in the Republic of Croatia. For this session we invited Ministry of Economy of Republic of Croatia to present the legal framework for achieving Europe 2020 goals in energy consumption and CO2 reduction, the Fund for Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency to give the participants an insight on financing

possibilities for energy efficient development in Croatia and finally the association DOOR from Zagreb to present the SEAP development process. DOOR was chosen because of their experience in SEAP development in the framework of EU funded projects.



The second part was dedicated to familiarising participants with the idea behind the Covenant of Mayors Initiative and to attract the potential new signatories. Mrs Elodie Bossio from the Covenant of Mayors Office in Brussels presented the initiative via video conference. Croatian achievements of CoM signatories were presented by the representative of Croatian Club of Covenant of Mayors Signatories.

The third and the fourth part were exclusively dedicated to Conurbant achievements and partners’ experiences. Results of the project were presented through the project video clip and best practices and experiences were shared by the tutoring municipalities of Alba Iulia and Padua during the third session.

Peer-to-peer approach, project co-operation and possibility of new partnership was presented during the fourth session which was organized as Panel discussion among

coordinator, tutoring municipalities technical partners and trainee municipalities moderated by technical partners from Ekodoma.

We invited not only project partners but all stakeholders from Croatia, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia interested in this topic and also general public. The conference was well attended and in the end gathered 71 participants from project partner municipalities and technical partners, conurbation towns, Croatian public and important stakeholders.

Also, the conference had good media coverage. The clip was made and aired during

prime time news on regional TV station. Regional newspapers and important national, regional and local web portals published articles on it too. Project flyers and other visibility materials were disseminated during the conference.

In the end, we can conclude that we succeeded in organizing a successful final conference which managed to gather all important stakeholders and to attract the public eye and general interest in the project Conurbant and its goals.

A successful International Workshop “Local leadership in sustainable energy”

On 27.06.2013 in the Committee of the Regions, Brussels, Municipality of Vratsa successfully held the second CONURBANT international workshop “Local leadership in sustainable energy”.

The event was organized in the framework of the High Level Policy Conference during EUSEW 2013.



The main organizer of the joint event was Municipality of Vratsa with the support of Chamber of Commerce Vratsa and five projects, financed by Intelligent Energy Europe programme, and more exactly: CONURBANT, LEAP, Covenant capaCITY, ERENET and CASCADE projects.

The event's goal was to increase the number of Municipalities signing the Covenant of Mayors and to help them in the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of their SEAPs in order to answer of challenge of energy and climate targets for 2020.

The first part of the session was dedicated to the lessons learnt from SEAPs development and implementation including examples and good practices, success factors and barriers. In addition the impact and effectiveness of the peer-to-peer approach and how to use it was presented.

Of the second part of the event speakers from the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation in Brussels presented the new financial opportunities - Horizon 2020,



Intelligent Energy Europe, ELENA Facility, Enterprise Europe Network and other schemes as well as their vision for the next programming period. Some best practices were presented by our partners.

The conference passed with great interest and was attended by more than 50 participants. It was structured as open training session for Local Authorities that are interested in, are going to, or have recently signed the Covenant of Mayors and need peer-to-peer support to

implement their technical activities. Participants were more different as compared to the first training session – partners from the consortium, EACI representatives, consult companies, coordinators and representatives from other similar IEE projects.

One of the most important outputs for the second event was the collaboration and synergies between the 5 IEE projects (CONURBANT, LEAP, Covenant capaCITY,

ERENET and CASCADE projects) and the involvement of the EACI representatives as lecturers, too.

Another important output was the presented peer learning tools (peer exchanges, mentoring, study visits etc.) used to help local and regional government representatives and technical staff to deliver effective local energy policies and meet the EU climate and energy targets for 2020.

Organization of forums in Osijek

During development of SEAP it was obligatory to conduct forums on finding the perfect measures that will fit the needs of the city and all of its inhabitants in achieving the goal of reducing the CO2 emissions and energy efficient sustainable society. According to the project schedule we had to do forums for all of our conurbation towns and for the city of Osijek.

Although we thought that the main difficulty will be to get the stakeholders in all municipalities to participate on our events, it turned out that our fears were unfounded. It was also important to establish a good connection with conurbation towns so we can communicate all necessary organizational issues.

We discussed on how would it be the best to organize it and decided to have an informal discussion between all important stakeholders in municipalities as well as to find a good and trustworthy expert who will guide the participants through the process of development of best SEAP measures. To ensure this, we contracted the moderator who had the great experience in dealing with energy efficiency, CO2 emission and SEAP development, but also with moderating this kind of events.

We held five forums in total, one for each conurbation town and one for our city and managed to assemble all important stakeholders from all targeted municipalities.

We invited public and private sector, universities, schools, expert in the fields of topic (energy auditors, engineers in construction, electrical, civil engineering and heating/cooling systems), NGOs, etc. All of them found the topic important and interesting and were glad to give us their input about the best possible measures to be implemented in order to decrease energy consumption and CO2 emission. Politicians and local government officials were also present and actively participated in discussion. All forums had also media coverage.



The result of this model of conducting forums were high attendance rate, fruitful discussion, reconciling the interests of all stakeholders in order to achieve the best possible goal. But the best of all was that the people and their politicians sat down and together decided on the best interests of their hometowns and by that also helped the global fight with climate changes.



SOGESCA supported the municipalities of the Italian Consortium

SOGESCA supported the municipalities of the Italian Consortium in obtaining real data of electricity and heating consumption at local level. Currently in Italy the consumption data for electricity and gas at the municipal level are not public. Thanks to the collaboration with SOGESCA, the municipalities involved in the CONURBANT project were able to obtain

information on the thermal and electrical consumption of its territory in private sectors such as: Industrial, Residential, Commercial and Agricultural. All information on consumption data were provided directly by the distribution utilities responsible for each municipality involved in the project.

Green Festivals in Cyprus

Limassol Municipality signed the Covenant of Mayors with the commitment of reducing CO2 emissions by 20% which equals to 141,126 tonnes of CO2.

Following the signing of the CoM, Limassol Municipality had successfully organized two Green Energy Festivals (one in 2012 and one in 2013) with more than 1000 participants each year. The goal was to disseminate the project activities and to provide valuable information to the public for smart energy use, recycling and renewable energy sources. The event became popular and will be continued even after the Conurbant project ends.



Two actions concerning green areas development are already being implemented by the Municipality.

Energy project in Salaspils

On 27th July 2012 in Salaspils was laid the foundation stone of a new woodchip boiler house construction. Total funding of this project was 1,95 million euro. Project was realized by support of European Union Cohesion fund. Boiler house will be able to provide 7 Megawatt (MW) power, allowing for a partial transition from the use of natural gas to environment-friendly renewable energy sources - wood chips - in heat production.

On 12th December 2012 new boiler house was inaugurated. In new boiler house produce 36% of heat energy what provide to consumers. Other heat energy is extracted from gas boiler house (19%) and cogeneration (45%). Diversification of fuel for Salaspils population means less dependence on imported fuels – natural gas.

After was finished wood chips boiler house in next year (2013) was reduced rate of heat



energy from 60,81 EUR/MWh in 2012 to 56,42 EUR/MWh in 2013.

Energy saved after boiler house was finished is 4744 CO2t/year.

Also in all buildings where heat companies provide heat energy was installed remote meter reading system and all building managers can read this information about heat energy consumptions in Salaspils Heat website.



Implementation of the Energy Management System (EMS) in the municipal buildings – Timișoara

The municipal building stock of Timișoara comprises more than 230 education facilities (kindergartens, schools, high-schools and national colleges), hospitals, art centers, sports-halls, social houses and buildings with administrative offices.

The energy expenditure for all municipal buildings in Timișoara costs the city budget approximately 18 million RON per year (approx. 4 million EURO). The local public administration main objective is to improve energy efficiency in municipal buildings. To this end, rehabilitation and renovation works has been performed in a number of municipal owned buildings. This has included renovation and upgrading of technical installations, hydro-insulation, replacing old woodwork and insulation of roof tops. Further rehabilitation – energy efficiency projects – in municipal buildings is subject to the City Investment Plans for the period 2014-2020.

At local level, the implementation of the EMS in the municipal buildings was the consequence of understanding the importance of measures for EE, especially the need to monitor the potential of energy savings allowed by the rational use of energy and the long-term benefits of investing in energy efficient solutions.

EMS in Timișoara Municipality is an on-line developed tool, where each municipal public building is registered, and it stores information regarding the total volume of

energy consumption, the data from the utility bills, meter readings, number of users, etc.

After the data collection process, the EMS generates reports based on the stored data: energy consumption data, and comparative reports between similar buildings, ranking of the buildings in terms of energy efficiency, etc. EMS is an important instrument that enables the municipality to monitor energy consumption in buildings, to make consumption and budget forecasts, to prioritize the investments towards the buildings in poor condition, to save money through, and raise citizens' awareness of the concept of rational energy use.

In each municipal public building, an Energy Responsible was appointed, trained and empowered with well-defined duties. At the same time, a complete database for each building was realized.

Implementing EMS is an important step in monitoring the measures of the SEAP, in the Municipal buildings, equipment and facilities sector.

Developing an important tool in very short time in a large city is considered as a success. Also, the database will be updated on a regular basis, to enable competition among buildings managers and for benchmarking buildings against each other. It will be also a tool for determining where is the highest potential in terms of energy savings at the lowest cost.

Energy projects in Arad financed under the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme to reduce economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union

Objective 1 of the Thematic Focus Area 4 – “Improving of the environment”

In November 2011, Arad was selected, out of 23 applicants, as one of the 4 Romanian beneficiary cities of the financial assistance granted for energy projects under the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme.

The main objective of the programme is to support the beneficiary cities to structure their energy management approach, generate and prioritise the measures of improving the

use of energy, increase the energy efficiency and reduction of CO2 emissions.

The final objective of the programme is to obtain certification in energy-related activities, as well as the European Energy Award (EEA).

On the 7th of September 2012, Arad signed the Licensing agreement granting for the EEA, The concept of “Energy Cities”, to be introduced in the four selected cities, includes the implementation of 10 investment projects



in energy infrastructure in total amount of 37 million CHF. The Municipality of Arad will implement 2 projects: “Rehabilitation of the transport and distribution network of thermal energy (district heating) in Arad and transformation of thermal substation in Aradul Nou District” (6.273.000 CHF Swiss grant) and “Expansion of public lighting

network in the municipality of Arad and implementation of photovoltaic panels for partial supply” (2.671,50 CHF Swiss grant).

On the 17th of September 2013, the Municipality of Arad signed the Agreement for the assistance granted under the Project Preparation Facility for the projects to be implemented.

Project 3L Less energy, Less cost, Less impact (ELENA) (2013-2016)

The Province of Padova, in close cooperation with the Province of Rovigo and the municipalities of Padova and Rovigo, will provide support to municipalities to prepare joint calls for tenders and to negotiate the terms of the contracts for the individual sub-projects with ESCOs. Joint tenders will then be launched leading to separate contracts with the individual municipalities. The Province of Padova will establish a project Implementation Unit by recruiting 4 new members of staff. In addition, external expertise will be required for energy audits, legal, economic and engineering support in the tendering processes and monitoring of the projects.

The Project covers the provinces of Padova and Rovigo and is organized into two intervention lines:

1. Energy efficiency in public buildings: 646 public buildings are involved, mainly schools, sport facilities and offices.
2. Energy efficiency for public lighting systems: 38 municipalities decided to achieve energy savings by outsourcing the public lighting service through the Project 3L framework: this

could be reduced through a large bulbs substitution with modern technologies and managing the illumination system with remote control devices.

The investment programme will focus on the following sectors:

- Energy efficiency in buildings (646, mainly schools, sports facilities and offices).
- Energy efficiency for street lighting systems (38 municipalities)
- The district heat network of the municipality of Este will be further extended to connect 10 public buildings after their EE renovation (5 schools, 4 sport facilities, the city hall and a public office) as well as other private users. The DH system is currently supplied by heat from renewable energy and high efficient CHP using natural gas and an additional high-efficient CHP plant will be constructed to supply the extended DH network.

Investment to be mobilized:

- 60.4 million €

Expected results:

- Energy Savings 53 000 MWh/year
- High - efficient energy from CHP 17 000 MWh/year

Project “Smart Move in the Metropolitan Area of Alba Iulia”

The project “Smart Move in the Metropolitan Area of Alba Iulia” was a big challenge for our Municipality because it was for the first time in Romania when a PT operator and the local administration introduced the Metropolitan transport. Our Metropolitan Transport System is perfectly functional and it is the first of this type implemented in Romania.

Alba Iulia Intercommunity Development Association for Public Transport was created

in order to manage the public transport in the area. The partners of STP Alba Iulia are: the local administrations of (local councils) of Alba Iulia, Ciugud, Sîntimbru, Întregalde, Galda de Jos, Cricău and Ighiu.

The Metropolitan PT was introduced since October 2012. The project will last at least 6 years (duration of the contract). All the actions of STP Alba Iulia were focused on the



increasing the quality of service and the success of the project.

Since October 2012, after the implementation of the existing local public transport system in Alba Iulia (maintaining the same standards of quality and municipalities in the metropolitan area), the number of journeys made by public transport between Alba Iulia and villages metropolitan areas (tariff zones 2-7) increased by 43% from January to September 2012.

In absolute figures, the number of additional trips per month was 27,300. Calculating per working-day, at least 1,050 additional trips were made per day. It means that about 525 unique visitors per day travelled to Alba Iulia using public transport instead of the car. If we consider an average occupancy of 2.5 persons/ vehicle, it results that at least 210 cars were displaced every day in our city traffic during the peak hours (7.30 to 8.15). This translates into 210 extra parking spaces available per day.

AIDA-TL principle: giving up traditional urban transport planning by focusing on large and expensive projects and the transition to sustainable urban mobility planning by focusing on effective and gradual improvements.

The main advantage of the Metropolitan Transport: provides integrated public passenger transport - interconnected transport services in a geographic area with a

unique service information charge, a single ticketing scheme and single timetable.

The Metropolitan transport system provides for every citizen in the area: freedom of movement, travel conditions similar to those in Alba Iulia for all neighbouring municipalities, unified ticketing and good prices.

Travel passes and tickets are available in the



appropriate tariff zone but also inside the tariff zones below (as price). One can buy a ticket for tariff zone no. 3; he can travel with the same ticket inside tariff zones 2 and 1 and he can make any number of interchanges he needs (during the validity time of the ticket).

Public Transport Company (STP) SA Alba Iulia won IRU Bus Excellence Award 2013 for significant investments in a green and comfortable vehicle fleet accessible to people with special needs, and for its punctual schedule, integrated ticketing system, and customer satisfaction and information policy.



IV. CONTACTS OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

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www.primariatm.ro

Municipality of Padova – Italy

www.padovanet.it

Municipality of Alba Iulia – Romania

www.apulum.ro

Municipality of Osijek – Croatia

www.osijek.hr

Municipality of Salaspils – Latvia

www.salaspils.lv

Municipality of Palma – Spain

www.palmademallorca.es

Municipality of Vratsa – Bulgaria

www.vratza.bg

Municipality of Limassol – Cyprus

www.limassolmunicipal.com.cy

Ekodoma – Latvia

www.ekodoma.lv

Municipality of Arad – Romania

www.primaarad.ro

Stratagem Ltd. – Cyprus

www.stratagem-ltd.com

Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Vratsa – Bulgaria

www.cci-vratza.org

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www.albea-transenergy.com



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