

Policy Learning Platform on low-carbon economy

Event Report

Energy Efficiency

17 OCTOBER 2017

Fundación de las tres culturas del Mediterraneo

SEVILLE, SPAIN





Table of contents

1. Participation.....	3
2. Summary.....	4
3. Conclusion.....	12
4. Contacts	12

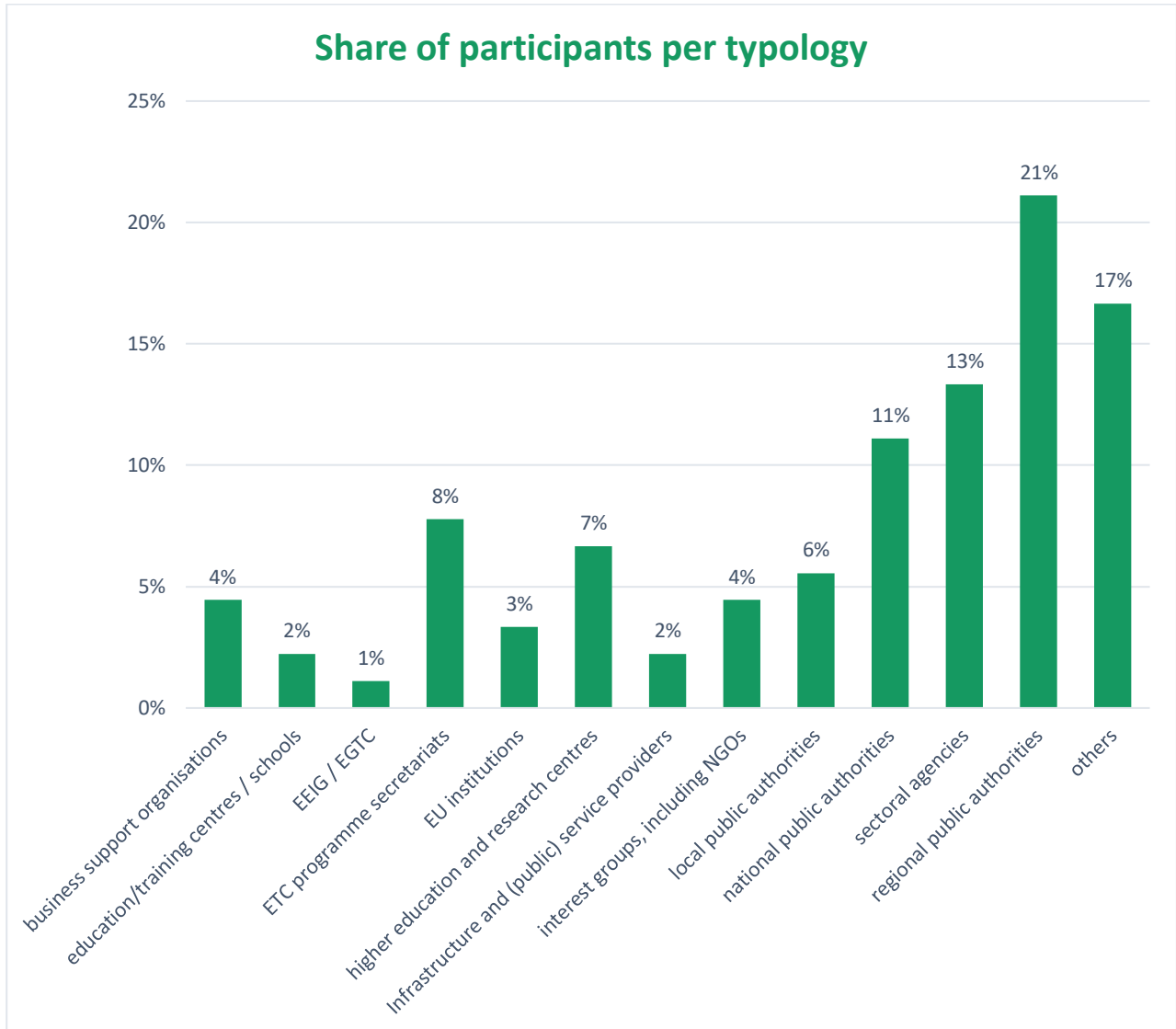


1. Participation

79 participants attended the event which was focused on energy efficiency.

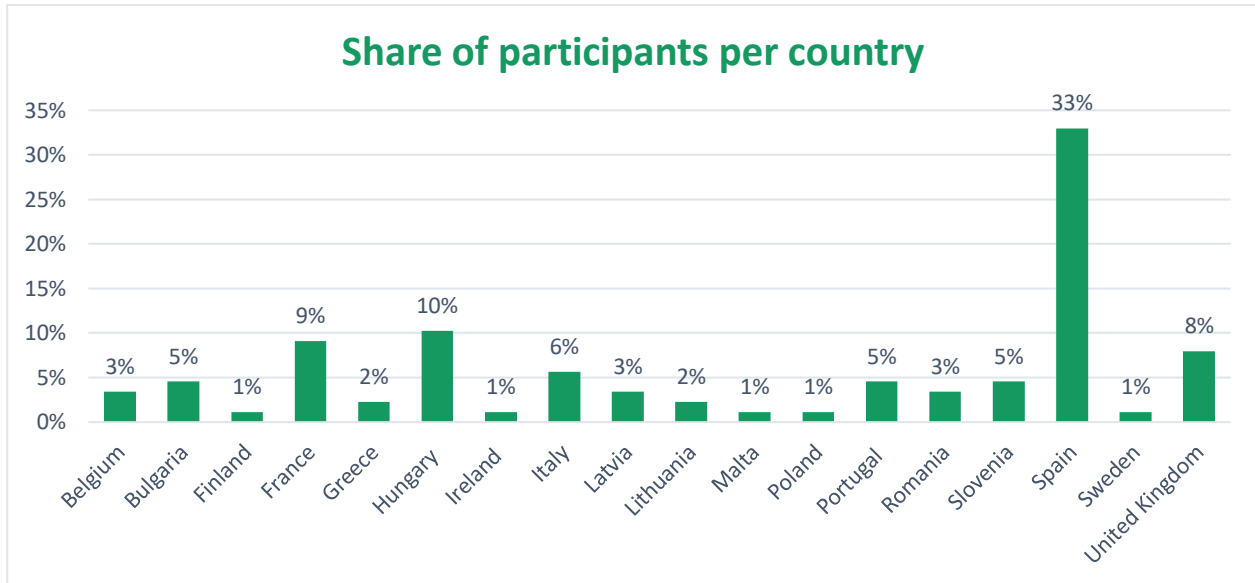
The target audience included people from Interreg Europe project partners, representatives of managing authorities and other policy actors working with energy efficiency (or with resource efficiency coming for Day 2) and has been reached.

The detailed distribution of participants per typology (based on online registrations) is illustrated in the chart below.





Regarding the origin of the registered participants, thirteen member states were represented. A bit more than one third of the participants came from Spain, another third from Hungary, France, the United Kingdom and Italy, and the rest was distributed among the other countries, as shown in the chart below.



2. Summary

The participants had the opportunity to hear about the latest EU-wide developments in the area of energy efficiency, share experiences, collaborate with each other and test the services of the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform.

Ieva Kalnina, Community and Communication Manager facilitated the main transitions in an original and interactive manner that contributed to smoothly guide the participants through the different moments of the agenda, while capturing their attention and creating an atmosphere conducive to constructive debate and networking.



Erwin Siweris, Programme Director at the Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat, welcomed the participants and highlighted the opportunities of sharing good practices and the benefits of interregional cooperation. Afterwards, Cristobal Sanchez, from the Andalusian Energy Agency, stressed that the event was a good opportunity to jointly develop projects.

After this double introduction Luigi Lo Piparo, Thematic Manager on low-carbon economy, presented the Policy Learning Platform, including all its services, and explained how to build an energy efficiency community. The Policy Learning Platform was presented as an operational set of services and



people ready to help target users improve their policies through mutual learning and cooperation, including finding solutions on low-carbon economy and energy efficiency.



Rob Williams, Thematic Expert on low-carbon economy, then presented more in details the Knowledge hub, making an overview of the Interreg Europe projects on energy efficiency, showing thematic aspects of relevance, highlighting interesting approaches, and enticing on possible future developments.



After the interval, four breakout sessions were held, respectively organised as follows:

Topic	Projects presented	Facilitator
Rehabilitating buildings	BUILD2LC, REBUS, VIOLET	Michiel Modijefski, Thematic Expert on low-carbon economy
Consumers behaviour in energy efficiency and self-consumption	ENERSELVES, SET-UP	Ieva Kalnina, Community and Communication Manager
Financial Instruments for renovation and energy efficiency	FINERPOL, EMPOWER, ZERO CO ₂ , COALESCE	Rob Williams, Thematic Expert on low-carbon economy



Energy efficiency in housing	SOCIAL GREEN, CLEAN, GREEN SCREEN	Luigi Lo Piparo, Thematic Manager on low-carbon economy
-------------------------------------	---	--

In every session, one good practice at a time was briefly presented by a project partner, before the facilitator addressed the presenter with some specific questions to highlight for the audience areas of potential interest in the practice presented, as well as the following general questions:

- Do you find this practice interesting?
- Do you think of another approach that could strengthen this practice?
- How could the services of the Policy Learning Platform be of help with the practice presented?

The lunch provided participants with another good moment, not only for indulging on some local tapas, but mostly for networking with each other, with the speakers, as well as with the representatives from the Joint Secretariat and with the Policy Learning Platform’s experts.

After lunch the break-out sessions continued, this time with the participants split in the following three groups.

Topic	Facilitator
Peer review (approx. 10 participants)	Rob Williams, Thematic Expert on low-carbon economy
<p>Given the relatively small number of participants, the facilitator made three examples of how the peer review service could work in practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example one - district heating conversion (Romania) Problem – Bucharest district heating - the system is a large centralised system, parts are in a poor state of repair, residents get heating and hot water included in their rent. The question is what would be the best way to replace this system? Ranging from multiple individual heating systems, to small groups, to larger groups to replacing the whole large system. Problem discussion – Combination of technical, economic, environmental and social issues. Technical – what is technically feasible? What would be the most efficient solution? What are the capital costs of the various options? Are there any other cities / regions that have done this already? Economic and social – Important to consider how could it be financed. Residents are likely to resist any change from what is perceived as ‘free’ to charging – need to look at examples of other cities that have made this switch (could be any utility, not just heat) – ways of convincing residents they are gaining (e.g. cut local taxes, pay as you use for heating and hot water – overall costs come down). Environmental – total efficiency, local air quality issue for multiple boilers, prospects of switching fuel source (common approach to use waste to energy or biomass), Bucharest has geothermal – this is also a possibility (as a partial source) Approach – find peers with suitable and relevant experience. • Example two – solid wall insulation on historical buildings (UK) Problem – It is hard to improve the thermal performance of historical buildings with low thermal quality walls. Problem discussion – need to find experience in countries with similar (historic) buildings (originator is South-West England). Suggested Northern Europe, though the exact approaches to buildings do vary a lot (and over short distances). Also relevant to consider planning constraints (altering historic buildings), also possible to consider community approaches – for example costs will fall if a number of similar houses are improved at the same time. Approach – find peers with suitable and relevant experience. 	



- **Example three – improving EE in shared / multiple ownership condominiums (apartment blocks)**

Problem – how to engage a variety of property owners in communal schemes.

Problem discussion – Need to make a clear economic case. Experience in engagement and community involvement. Several models / approaches are available, many involve peer to peer persuasion. If one community member can be convinced and act as a leader this often works well. Showing working examples (ideally with property owners there who are convinced) is a good approach. Using influencing techniques – e.g. via education – convincing the children of the households is another possible way in.

Approach – find peers with suitable and relevant experience.

Benchmarking (approx. 25 participants)

Michiel Modijefski, Thematic Expert on low-carbon economy

Participants were asked to describe the specific topic in the field of energy efficiency for which they would like to seek examples from other regions and cities by writing it on a post-it note. The topics identified were briefly reviewed and the most frequently mentioned issue was selected as case for analysis: "how to engage citizens and promote energy efficiency and use of renewables at the level of households?" The case was briefly presented by one of the participants.

Then the group was split in two in order to further discuss the issue and identify whether solutions are implemented in their Operational Programmes and/or what practices could be of interest to help improve the policy issue.

The outcomes of the discussion were then shared with the whole group.

Elements to be considered when trying to increase (household) engagement include:

- Energy performance data that will allow insight into the energy performance of households on an individual level, but also at district or city level. The possibility to measure and even benchmark energy performance can help trigger a response.
- Examples are required on which data can be used, how these data can be collected and communicated and by whom.
- Identification of measures to improve energy efficiency of households differentiating between measures targeting the behaviour and technical measures (systems and building).
- What measures are available, which are potentially cost-effective, how are these identified, by whom, how is information made available, what are the costs of opening up information? Access to benchmark information that can help compare measures is important to help answer these questions.
- Financing options and the need for an institutional/regulatory framework that is both stable and flexible. What financial incentive schemes are being used? There are hundreds of incentive schemes (many temporarily ones); how can house owners and/or investors be better informed about financing options? How to target low-income households? Changing EU funding rules were viewed as creating uncertainty for investments due to changing rules (with each programming period) and at the same time were also considered too restrictive, making it difficult to use EU funds to provide energy efficiency subsidies. Regulations prevent the wider scale introduction of 'distributed generation' in several member states.
- Policies and measures that respond to the above-mentioned needs and issues and help increase (household) engagement and increase energy efficiency include:
- Promote data collection on energy use on household level as well as on district or city level. Providing private consumers as well as public authorities insight into energy consumption helps to create awareness and can trigger actions to increase energy efficiency or use of renewables.
- Case studies, such as the 'Central energy and financial monitoring scheme' in Maribor, Slovenia from the EMPOWER project, are a good example.
- Nationwide smart metering schemes are being rolled out in several Member States. Online tools to benchmark energy consumption are available in many countries. The association or



endorsement from an official source, such as the government or a watchdog, provides greater credibility of benchmark data.

- Good practice examples such as the 'sustainable construction programme in Andalusia' (PICSA) identified in the BUILD2LC project combines various good practices, including amongst others the provision of benchmark data on energy consumption, the identification and comparison of potential energy saving measures, as well as training of local builders/contractors on energy saving measures.
- Pilot projects and communication on such projects are important for raising awareness by demonstrating opportunities to both consumers and politicians.
- There is a range of financial incentives that authorities can provide to promote energy efficiency and use of renewables. A few examples were mentioned for inspiration, including:
 - property tax deduction, which can eliminate up to 100 % of tax amount for properties, lands and fixed assets used for the production of renewable energy;
 - provision of grants and preferred loans for example to help finance retrofitting of buildings, which might even be income dependent, such as in Greece.
- Revolving funds are a financing option for an innovative use of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Revolving funds provide financing to project developers that wish to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other sustainability measures that generate **cost-savings. Savings are tracked and used to replenish the fund for a next round of investments, thus establishing a sustainable funding cycle while cutting operating costs and reducing environmental impact. One successful example is the KredEx Revolving Fund in Estonia which finances energy retrofitting of residential buildings (Good practice identified in Social Green). Also the PICSA case in Andalusia included the use of a revolving fund.**
- Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) and Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs): various forms exist. One example identified as a good practice in the FINERPOL project is Public Service for Energy Efficiency via a Public Office (Picardie, France).
- A database of (other) EPC good practice examples was also developed in the EESI2020 project funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme.

Bottom-up workshops (about 40 participants)

Ieva Kalnina, Community and Communication Manager

The participation was high and lively. Several topics have been discussed simulating the design and organisation of a bottom-up workshop. Participants themselves selected the topics for the discussion, those being:

- Attracting private funding to energy efficiency measures, and



Chris Ashe
REBUS

“ The 2020 energy targets cannot be met if the private funds are not engaged. New business models are needed to attract private businesses to energy efficiency market. ”

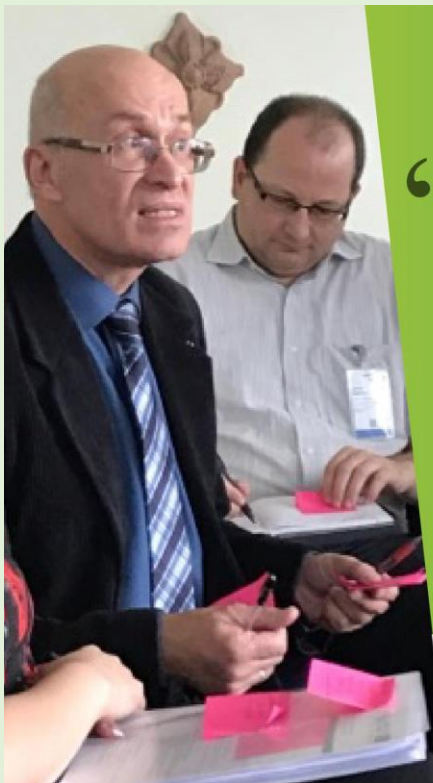
#PolicyLearning #EnergyEfficiency



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



- Legal barriers to implementation of smart grids



Arturas Klementavicius
Kaunas Regional Energy Agency

“ We discussed legal barriers in implementation of smart grids. The first recommendation coming out of our discussion is to introduce neutral metering data processing agencies. Public acceptance of smart grid technologies needs boosting, too. We also need clear rules how to aggregate small residential loads to bigger loads for demand response service. ”

#PolicyLearning #EnergyEfficiency



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund





The participants decided not to split as evenly as they indicated at the time of the online registration, and a majority of them expressed the wish to continue the discussion beyond the originally allocated time, without having to change session. In response to this contingency, the agenda was flexibly adjusted accordingly with a positive outcome in terms quality of the exchanges, but also in terms of overall participants' satisfaction with the solution implemented, as confirmed from the analysis of the evaluation forms.

After another interval, the functioning of the Expert Helpdesk was simulated with the Thematic Manager and the two Thematic Experts from TO4 present. Questions gathered from participants both during the day (on the questions wall) and from the audience were answered.

The questions concerned the following issues:

- Possibility for the Platform to communicate about sustainability in a way that it contributes to change people's behaviours and practices;
- Possibility to get an unbiased assessment of energy efficiency solutions;
- Possibility for the Platform to leverage project results;
- Possibility for the Platform to organise meetings more often during the year on narrower topics (including at EWRC);
- Possibility to receive information regarding approaches from other countries on wind farms;
- Possibility to receive information about what to do when technology developments advance faster than legislation can follow;
- Possibility to provide information about good practices to improve access for consumers to market information on energy suppliers;
- Possibility to receive information from the Platform regarding good practices in dealing with the negative effects of switching to renewable energy sources/energy efficient practices (e.g. job losses, price accessibility to technological developments).



A panel discussion facilitated by Rob Williams followed, gathering representatives from the Joint



Research Centre (Isabel Seigneur), the European Builders Federation (Ann-Cathrin Rönsch), and Euroserveis (Aniol Esquerra Alsius). The panellists responded to the following questions:

- What are the key challenges for the next few years?
- What can the public sector do to help speed the uptake of innovation (related to EE in buildings)?
- What have they heard today that they think is most transferable?

Ann-Cathrin Rönsch highlighted the use of energy efficiency obligation funds and link to local installers in the Picardie Pass Good Practice. Isabelle Seigneur emphasised that energy is one of the most commonly selected priorities. The S3 platform can help projects find other regions that have selected relevant priorities – a good place to look for good practices and ideas (and potential implementation partners / examples in the future). The panellists also agreed that local authorities can help innovation by offering a demand for the technologies. Aniol Esquerra Alsius finally added that the most commonly requested issues for advice concern green procurement and understanding energy bills.



Luigi Lo Piparo made the closing address, during which Venelina Varbova, Thematic Manager on Environment and resource efficiency also briefly illustrated the programme of the second day of the event, focused on resource efficiency.

Finally Ieva Kalnina thanked the participants and invited them to continue to the networking reception.

On the whole, the venue was structured and arranged in a way that well suited the needs of the organisation in all its moments.



3. Conclusion

The Policy Learning Platform B2B event on Energy efficiency provided a precious opportunity to find out more about the objectives of the Platform, the services it provides, and the people who are operating it.

Key conclusions focused on the following points:

- Energy efficiency policies should capitalise on synergies with existing measures and correlated policy fields (policy-legislation-knowledge).
- There is a clear need for targeted energy efficiency solutions focused on individual sectors. At the same time, the search for solutions should explore cross-approaches (approaches crossing different sectors) and not be restrained to linear ones.
- There is a need for deeper capacity in designing and using funding instruments.
- Energy consumption data can help consumers change their behaviour and become more energy efficiency.

The **follow up actions** could include:

- As soon as the new workplan for 2018 is available, inform the target audience about it, stressing all opportunities for interaction (i.e. events, publications, topics to develop, initiatives of interest);
- Provide examples of Community members having successfully used the Platform services;
- Further promote the collection of good practices for the database;
- Keep consolidating and expanding the Community;
- Enhance the ongoing interaction with Community members;
- Consider switching from today's predominantly supply-oriented approach to a more a demand-driven one, where Community members can inform the Platform about their needs and the Platform responds by offering a tailored mix of services.

4. Contacts

The persons in charge of the main organisation of the event are listed here below:

- Thematic Manager on low-carbon economy: Luigi Lo Piparo (l.lopiparo@policylearning.eu)
- Thematic Experts on low-carbon economy: Michiel Modijefski (m.modijefski@policylearning.eu), Robert Williams (r.williams@policylearning.eu)
- Community and Communication Manager: Ieva Kalnina (i.kalnina@policylearning.eu).