

# 3 NEWSLETTER AUG. 17

## MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD PARTNER

We have almost reached the turning point of the first part concerning our LOCARBO project; and this also occurred because of our Stakeholders' great involvement and collaborative participation in the activities carried out up to now and that we will live in the current and future Local Living Labs foreseen in the project.

Stakeholders (including civil society) always constitute a very important part in a project, by collaborating for its success and, above all, for the wide spreading on the territories.

Any project manager has the great responsibility to understand who the right stakeholders are and why their needs are important to the success of each project.

Without any doubt, we can consider the stakeholders as the lifeblood of successful project relationships and projects as a participatory process in which different levels of participation play a role in aiming at a successful project outcome.

A stakeholder is someone, outside or inside the

project, having an interest in the outcomes to be reached. Some (such as the steering committee or project team members) are more important to the life of the project by participating in all the lifecycle. Others are no less important but are involved only in parts of the project.

Starting from this point, we understand that participation requirements are not the same for everyone associated with the project. On the contrary, participation expectations depend on the degree of a stakeholder's direct or indirect involvement.



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Because of this, it is vital for a successful project to accurately identify the stakeholders, set participation expectations and communicate accordingly.

Stakeholders usually have an in-depth understanding of the territory and the project partnership goals and objectives and can immediately communicate those messages better than someone with no inside knowledge. They can speak with authority because of their role. Employing stakeholders to help spread useful or strategic news and information can be an important method for reaching new audiences or reinforcing our project position.

Stakeholders have different needs according to different project stages. These needs usually involve communication and understanding how their work contributes to successfully meet project objectives. The project management team can increase the project success probability by influencing stakeholders.

Using stakeholders to express our project messages allows us to expand our messages reach and gives them the possibility of contributing to the overall success and prosperity of the organization with which they are associated.

We trust in our stakeholders to reach our final goal and we thank them for the job they accepted to do with and for us, thinking of the development and the best of our territories and societies.

Enjoy the reading!

Alessandro Attolico  
Lead Partner PM Coordinator



## INTRODUCING THE PARTNERSHIP REGIONS

### Vila Nova de Gaia Municipality Towards a low carbon economy



Vila Nova de Gaia is a municipality (and city) in the Metropolitan Area of Porto in the Northern Region of Portugal with a population of 303,430 inhabitants, a demographic density of 1,794.4 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> and a territorial extension of 168.5 km<sup>2</sup>.

The Vila Nova de Gaia Municipality intends to position itself as a reference in the transition towards a low carbon economy increasing the competitiveness and attractiveness of the territory while improving the citizens' quality of life. The measures implemented over the past two decades covered a broad spectrum of environmental and sustainability domains including energy efficiency policies, land-use planning, sea and river fronts rehabilitation, fiscal policies, urban waste treatment and recovery and water supply and sanitation policies. In 2008, the Vila Nova de Gaia Municipality became a Covenant of Mayors' signatory. The municipality's Sustainable Energy Action Plan

represents a commitment of reducing greenhouse gases emissions by more than 25% by 2020 (regarding 2005).

To achieve this objective, the municipality has adopted sustainable mobility strategies namely the creation and expansion of pedestrian and cycle paths, the construction of electric vehicles charging stations, the expansion of the subway network and the incorporation of biofuels into public transports. In addition, the municipality intends to implement new incentives for the use of electric vehicles with the construction of exclusive parking areas with competitive fees. Since 2002, the Vila Nova de Gaia Municipality adopted the European Mobility Week campaign with the aim of providing a whole week of activities dedicated to sustainable mobility and encouraging behaviour change.

There is one energy producer company at the municipal scale and it produces electricity using biogas resultant from the Vila Nova de Gaia and other nearby municipality's waste treatment. In 2004, the company installed its first generator set of 1,000 kW allowing sanitary water heating and electricity injection on the national power grid. In the associated landfill, there is a Biogas Energy Recovery Centre where electricity is produced from the biogas resultant from the waste disposal and used to guarantee the entire company's heating and cooling needs. There is also a wastewater treatment plant that uses the biogas produced in the wastewater treatment process to suppress its energy needs.





The Vila Nova de Gaia Municipality has promoted an amendment to its Municipal Tax Regulations to encourage the construction of class A+, LEED or BREEAM certificated buildings, as well as other sustainable construction voluntary certification systems. The municipality and associated stakeholders implemented free technical training and awareness sessions open to the population in which the most recent technical solutions for buildings' energy rehabilitation were presented, as well as the existing incentives to their energy performance improvement and the nZEB and Passive House principles.

The Vila d'Este social housing rehabilitation project led to the improvement of the buildings' energy performance through measures such as thermal insulation, glazing improvements and the introduction of shading elements allowing significant improvements in the municipal built architectural heritage and in the population's quality of life. Social inclusion and professional promotion actions were also developed for the resident population. An extensive programme was also initiated to ensure that all municipal schools and sports equipment follow the nZEB and CO<sub>2</sub> Zero principles.

The Sustainability Observatory, which was implemented in Vila Nova de Gaia and other associated municipalities, is a web-based platform that allows real-time monitoring of the energy consumption in several municipal equipment constituting a management tool that promotes data collection, analysis and integration generating relevant information for policy making.

Since 2016, the municipality integrates the LOCARBO project, under the Interreg Europe programme, targeting buildings' energy efficiency by helping

regional and local authorities change energy consumer's behaviour through supplementary services and products, innovative cooperation models and smart technologies. The project's action plan basis will be the development and improvement of the Sustainability Observatory, with the stakeholders' involvement.

## **Durham County Council** **A carbon corporate strategy**



Durham is a county in North East England with a population of 859,600 inhabitants, a demographic density of 321 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> and a territorial extension of 2,721 km<sup>2</sup>.

The Durham County Council Carbon Management Plan is a corporate strategy involving all Service departments working to integrate carbon reduction and energy saving into every aspect of council business to help deliver more efficient services. Its main purpose is to provide a coordinated approach to reducing carbon emissions and to ensure that the issues are addressed at a corporate level.





The Carbon Management Plan is the principle document within Durham County Council that details how the Council will reduce carbon emissions from its operations and sets out the Council's objectives and aspirations for reducing carbon emissions from its buildings, fleet and operations. It builds on the work already delivered since the plan was launched in 2010 and covers the period up to 2020 and will assist the Council in achieving a number of corporate objectives, primarily by:

- Reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impact of climate change by helping with the outcome of 'making the Council, homes and businesses more energy efficient'.
- Reducing carbon emissions from the Council's own buildings, land and operations by 40% by 2019/20 from a 2008/9 baseline.
- Delivering energy projects with long term financial savings for the authority.
- Assisting other projects and teams to deliver carbon and energy savings in their own programmes and work.

An effective and focussed Carbon Management Plan will help the Council deliver more efficient services and help the authority towards its ambitions of a low carbon County Durham.

Durham have introduced a wide range of energy reducing initiatives to its public buildings including over 800 kW of Solar PV, biomass boilers to some of its educational establishments, a 100 kW micro-hydro scheme linked to the city leisure facilities and boiler optimisation technology to suitably appropriate buildings. A whole building energy assessment has been undertaken on all main offices and leisure

centres, with a programme of works delivered afterwards specific to each building. Performance monitoring of these technologies is also a high priority for the authority, in order to maximise their output and highlight unnecessary areas of energy wastage.

Coupled with these projects are the Schools Carbon Reduction Programme, which engages with over 200 schools throughout the County, and internal energy efficiency behaviour programmes like The Big Switch Off and Eco-Champions schemes, which aim to target and educate staff in good office practices.

Currently being explored, is the viability of adapting Battery Storage Units to the existing Solar PV installations in public buildings and the feasibility of a District Heating Network to other potential areas across the city.

Durham are no strangers to EU projects of this nature and have also worked on other energy related schemes such as:

- URBENERGY: an URBACT project offering an innovative sustainable model for improving energy efficiency (EE) and optimising renewable energy sources (RES).
- RENERGY: an INTERREG IVC project to develop more efficient energy policies at local/regional level in an inclusive integrative approach.
- REBUS: an INTERREG Europe project using interregional exchange to promote the renovation of public buildings, saving energy and public resources.

...as well as other non-energy related projects such as, Stephanie and Erasmus+.

## THE 3<sup>RD</sup> PROJECT EVENT – KAUNAS, LT



### **Kaunas welcomed the 3<sup>rd</sup> LOCARBO Project Meeting**

Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) and the city of Kaunas (LT) were the host organisations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> LOCARBO project Steering Group and Thematic Working Team (TWT) meetings, on 13–14 March. The new partner Alba Iulia Municipality (Romania) was warmly welcomed by the partnership.

The 2-day intensive agenda integrated a set of sessions for the partners and stakeholders, including site visits, the 2<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder café with local stakeholders, a good practices fair and roundtable discussion, and the TWT meeting linked to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee meeting.

Site visits to a renovated apartment building (erected in 1975 and renovated in 2015) and a renovated residential quarter in Riomeris Street (2016-17) that were subjected to integrated energy rehabilitation and urban renewal actions, and a visit to the KTU pole dedicated to energy

and sustainability research covered the site visits programme.

Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder Café, a group of distinctive projects and experiences on buildings energy efficiency was presented, with a view to get the stakeholders' involvement and the exchange of ideas.

The 1<sup>st</sup> day ended with a roundtable discussion of good practices related with Thematic Pillar 2 "Innovative Cooperation Models" and the presentation of the main findings of the partners' regional analysis.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, an internal partnership meeting was held to discuss technical, financial and communication management issues.

# LOCAL LIVING LABS

## Basilicata Region and Province of Potenza



On 30 March the Province of Potenza, together with the Regional Managing Authority, organized the first Local Living Lab (LLL) meeting.

Stakeholders were invited to share their experiences on energy efficiency and residential and social solutions:

- Regional Agency for Social Housing (ATER of Potenza): Experimental Residential Construction Intervention for 18 Housing.
- Basilicata Regional Energy Agency (SEL): Implementation of the Basilicata Region energy policies.
- Province of Potenza: Energy Lab.
- Righetti Higher Education Institute, Melfi (PZ): School for Efficiency.
- Municipality of San Chirico Raparo (PZ): A biomass plant proposal.
- Municipality of Melfi (PZ): the Melfi 2.0 call for incentives aimed at improving the energy class of residential buildings through the renovation of buildings and/or the installation of energy-generating plants from renewable sources.

The Basilicata Regional Authority listed the regional policies aimed at a low-carbon economy in line with the Europe 2020 strategy while the Province of Potenza mentioned the Covenant of Mayors on Energy, set up in 2012, thanks to the synergy with the SEL, and the Ecological Safe Schools project.

A roundtable discussion, under the scientific coordination of the University of the Basilicata, highlighted the importance of synergies among institutions, governments (at all levels), science, technology, academia, professions, social groups and communities.

Stakeholders were greatly fascinated and committed to engage actively in proposing and realizing some pilot actions with the Province of Potenza's coordination. This is in line with the Province of Potenza's vision of awakening local leadership in territorial governance issues.

## Vila Nova de Gaia Municipality



On 21 April, Vila Nova de Gaia organized the second LLL meeting gathering 11 participants, including research institutes, regional regulatory bodies, business/enterprise organizations,

## LOCAL LIVING LABS

regional associations and technical employees from the Vila Nova de Gaia Municipality and municipal enterprises. The overall objective of this meeting was the sharing of data and experiences, as it was the starting point for the action plan elaboration.

The importance of the project was demonstrated by the fact that energy consumption in the services, housing and transport sectors in the municipality is above the national average, although overall per capita energy consumption is below this reference.

Among the possible activities to include in the action plan, the implementation/consolidation of real time energy consumption monitoring systems was highlighted as a mean to measure project results and allowing the use of alerts to the reduction of corrective actions in equipment/systems.

Another possible action identified was the piloting of methodologies and technologies (existing but not applied) in each class representative buildings, namely in a municipal swimming pool, a sports pavilion and a social housing building. The dissemination of the results (comparisons, ratios) at an international level would be a basis for attempting to influence support entities and legislation, namely in the building energy certification area.

### Durham County Council



On 5 April, Durham organized a LLL meeting, involving representative stakeholders from local, regional and national energy related agencies and providing an overview of the recent partner meeting in Kaunas, Lithuania.

Project Manager Ian Bloomfield explained that the Kaunas meeting had involved a study visit to a district heating scheme and housing project, although as 60% Kaunas population live in apartment blocks, their situation is quite different to that in Durham.

Local stakeholders Steven Bowyer and Stephen Macdonald, who also attended the Kaunas meeting, are currently exploring the potential for developing District Heating in Durham City, and were keen to learn from other areas' expertise and best practice in this field.

Steven presented an update to the group on Durham's District Heating work, and highlighted some aspects of Kaunas' approach that could potentially help them. For example, Kaunas use local/equity capital from private finance institutes and non-grant based loans to support their work. Steven is eager to explore the potential for Durham to introduce a similar approach in order to alleviate the reliance on public sector funding.



## REGIONAL AND EUROPEAN NEWS



### **G20 Summit confirms that the Paris Agreement is irreversible**

On 7-8 July, European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker met with other Group of Twenty (G20) leaders for a summit in Hamburg, Germany. This was the first such global meeting following the announcement by the US Administration of its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The summit comes at a time when the impacts of climate change are bringing suffering and damage throughout Europe and the world. The dramatic heatwaves last month that caused deadly forest fires in Portugal and Spain were made 10 times more likely by climate change. France, the UK, Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland were also hit by extreme temperatures, triggering emergency responses to save lives and deal with impacts on transport and power infrastructure. Such extreme weather events could become the norm in the absence of ambitious climate action.

In a joint leaders' communiqué adopted at the meeting, all G20 members including the US agree on the importance of reducing greenhouse gas

emissions, notably through clean and efficient energy systems.

The leaders' communiqué takes note of the US announcement and sets out the common vision of the other 19 members of the G20. The EU is very encouraged that all other members remain wholly united in their commitment to the Paris Agreement, agreeing that it is "irreversible" and pledging to "move swiftly towards its full implementation".

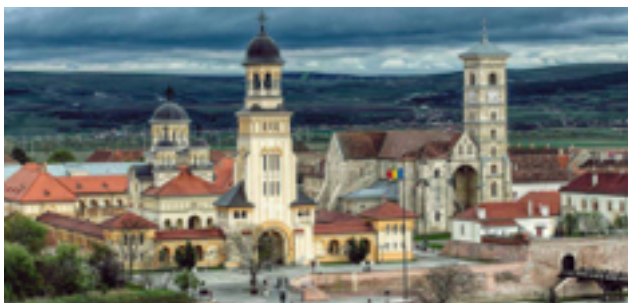
The communiqué also adopts a landmark G20 'Hamburg Climate and Energy Action Plan for Growth'. The action plan underlines the willingness of major economies to pursue and deliver on the Paris Agreement objectives, particularly on: successful implementation of nationally-determined contributions; formulation of mid-centuries strategies; the establishment of an Energy Efficiency Hub; action on climate and disaster risk finance and insurance; a work programme to share good practices on climate change adaptation; alignment of finance flows with the Paris goals; guidance for multilateral development banks; and enhancing the role of non-state actors.

For more information:

[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/g20-summit-confirms-paris-agreement-irreversible\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/g20-summit-confirms-paris-agreement-irreversible_en)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 4th Steering Group and TWT meeting in Alba Iulia – 7-8 September



The City of Alba Iulia (RO) will host the 4th project event on 7-8 September.

The 2-day event programme will include the following parts: a Stakeholder Café, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Site Visit, a Good Practices Fair, a roundtable discussion, an Adaptation Workshop and the TWT meeting linked to the 4th Steering Committee meeting.

The 1<sup>st</sup> day will cover a Stakeholder Café with local stakeholders and a guided site visit to a Public Transport Company and four public institutions, where innovative and sustainable practices are being implemented. Then, a roundtable discussion of good practices related with TP3 “Innovative Smart

Technologies”, a Good Practice Adaptation Workshop and the analysis of each partner’s action plan drafts, will conclude the 1<sup>st</sup> day schedule.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day will be dedicated to the internal partnership meeting, in order to discuss the technical and financial project issues.

For more information:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/locarbo/events/event/1030/4th-steering-group-and-twt-meeting/>

### The European Week of Regions and Cities

**9 - 12 October**

Brussels, Belgium

### Joint event on Energy Efficiency and Resource Efficiency

**17 - 18 October**

Seville, Spain



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund