

COUNCIL REVIEW

JOURNAL FOR CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS

CLIMATE CHANGE IRELAND ADAPTS WITH STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

MAYO SCOOPS 'COUNCIL OF THE YEAR'
TITLE AT LAMA AWARDS 2018

DUBLIN PUTS FLOOD PROTECTION
PROJECT IN PLACE

AILG PRESIDENT CAMPAIGNS TO
GET A FAIR DEAL FOR COUNCILLORS

REBUILDING & REGENERATION - UPDATE ON LATEST SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

WHEN SCIENCE MET BUSINESS

The Southern Regional Assembly will host an event 'When Science Met Business' on Friday 8 June at Waterford Institute of Technology, in association with the Babson College Entrepreneurship Research Conference, to provide a forum for researchers and industry to explore potential mutually-beneficial collaborations.

The Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) is currently managing a six-year €500m Regional Investment Programme (2014 to 2020), which is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Irish Exchequer with Sustainable Urban Development, and co-funded by local authorities.

A core objective of the programme is to strengthen the innovation dividend for the region. Fostering and supporting collaboration between science and industry is key to improving our innovation standing among the regions of Europe and internationally. Past programmes supported the provision of infrastructure and the increase in the numbers of researchers employed in the R&DI third level sector.

The primary focus under this programme is to improve the competitiveness of the regional economy. This will be achieved through a number of routes, including the Science Foundation Ireland's research centres where scientists and engineers are linked in partnerships across academia and industry to address crucial research questions.

Enterprise Ireland's Commercialisation Fund plays a crucial role in supporting the creation of technology based start-up companies and the transfer of innovations developed in higher education institutes and research performing organisations to industry in the region.

SRA's event is held in association with the Babson College Entrepreneurship Research Conference (BCERC) at Waterford Institute of Technology, to showcase exemplar projects and also to facilitate industry/research engagement.

The half-day event – one of the Assembly's #EUinMyRegion events for 2018 – will include a series of talks and market-place activities where attendees can hear from and meet with researchers and key programme actors.

Details will be posted on www.southernassembly.ie and SRA's social media accounts. The event is free of charge but registration is necessary.

EUROPEAN PARTNERS

Running until 2021, EMPOWER involves a grant of €1.9m, which is part-funded by the Interreg Europe Programme, through the European Regional Development Fund.

This five-year project involving partners from nine countries throughout Europe (including the Southern Regional Assembly on



Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union



European Union
European Regional Development Fund



Tionól Réigiúnach an Deiscirt
Southern Regional Assembly



BABSON

the Irish side). The project will focus on improving public policy in the areas of energy monitoring and exploring innovative financing of energy projects in each partner region by 'sharing solutions for success'.

The partnership is working together and learning from the experiences of other European regions to enhance public policy. This shared learning is achieved through a peer review, exchanging and adopting good practices and study visits, with the final aim of developing nine Regional Action Plans to improve low

carbon policy around Europe.

EMPOWER partners are currently embarking on the next phase of the project. Each partner has reviewed their public policies and determined potential improvements through a peer review event held in Italy last March.

Good practices from each region have been explored and each partner has selected three practices relevant to their policies. The theory is that these good practices can be “adopted” and “imported” by partners to improve their policy.

The current project phase – Study Visits is well underway, with five of the nine study trips already taking place (including the visit to Ireland). Study visits provide an opportunity for partners and stakeholders to experience first-hand good practices and to engage with those directly involved in implementing the good practices.

IRELAND'S GOOD PRACTICES

EMPOWER's Irish partner – the Southern Regional Assembly –



Participants at the EMPOWER Study Visit in Cork.

with the assistance of Cork City Council and Cork Institute of Technology, hosted a very successful study visit on 6-7 February, with participants from Ireland, Germany, Spain, Slovenia and Poland.

The purpose of the study trip to Cork was to learn more about successful energy monitoring programmes currently being rolled out in Ireland. The programme managers responsible for implementing the successful Irish examples generously shared their experience and expertise with participants during the visit including:

- SEAI – Public-Sector Reporting & Monitoring Programme.
- OPW – Optimise Power @ Work Campaign.
- Waterford Institute of Technology – Practical demonstration of wireless sensors for monitoring
- Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) – Nimbus Centre, currently monitoring and measuring the impact of energy efficiency improvement measures on their buildings.
- Green Finances
 - Energy Efficient Mortgages – Irish Green Council on Energy Efficient Mortgages
 - Mobilising Financial Centre Towards Energy Efficiency Financing – Sustainable Nation Ireland

The Irish study visit was very interactive, with great participation from attendees who were keen to ask questions and find out more. The visit afforded an opportunity for Ireland to showcase the great work done here in energy monitoring, on an international stage. The Southern Regional Assembly looks forward to learning good examples and practices from European partners over the coming months.

This will be another very busy year for EMPOWER, which will focus on holding the remaining study visits and transforming lessons learned into action plans. Two thematic technical workshops will be firstly led by Almada on energy monitoring and, secondly, by Saxony Anhalt on innovative financing of energy projects.

For more information about EMPOWER visit www.interregeurope.eu/empower

EMPOWER
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Running until 2021, EMPOWER involves a grant of €1.9m, which is part-funded by the Interreg Europe Programme, through the European Regional Development Fund.