



SUPPORT
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

SUPPORT at its first turning point

Half of the first phase of the project has passed and it is time to make a first assessment.

SUPPORT, started on January 2017, consists of two phases: the first concerns the project development which deadline is foreseen for the end of June 2019, and the second phase, (that will work to monitor the Action plan identified and defined during the first part) will end on June 2021. So far, the work has been focused on the exchange of experiences and good practices between Public Administration authorities (that provide strategic guidance, technical and financial SUPPORT to the Municipalities for the development of energy policies) and partners - such as Energy Agencies, Metropolitan Municipalities, sector professionals - aiming at developing local strategies and plans for a better and efficient description, coordination and implementation of voluntary tools, for example SEAP or Climate Change Adaptation Plans, for energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies in metropolitan areas. The project's core is the involvement of local actors - through the organisation of three regional workshops – with the aim of sharing the project results, such as the regional background analysis, the good practices and the participatory SWOT analysis. Among the activities that we are pleased to report is the creation of an online questionnaire, translated in all of the country partners' languages which allowed us to gather the opinions of the different countries' stakeholders and to compare the achieved results. Energy efficiency, possibility of financing, sharing of results, good practices, these are the key words that have distinguished the national kick off meeting, followed by a regional workshop and two partner meetings (that have been implemented in the territory of each partner). All these meetings have represented an opportunity to stimulate the dialogue and the confrontation and have led to the drafting of the regional background analysis finalised to the implementation of sustainable energy policies. This newsletter aims at being an informative tool for experts or for those who are simply interested in the issue of buildings' energy efficiency.



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Furthermore we would like that it could represent an opportunity of contact and updating for all of us. From the point of view of the experiences exchange and mutual understanding you are all invited to collaborate to the project, also pointing out interesting topics on the project's focus.

Enjoy the reading!

Recruiting citizens to use ICT for saving energy in public buildings – an article from Georg Vogt & Strahil Birov, Empirica

The use of new technologies to save energy is a challenge. Both internal building users (office staff, teachers or museum staff) and external building users (office visitors, hospital patients, museum visitors) must be convinced in order to achieve long-term changes in behaviour and therefore success. According to the authors, the perception of change by individuals plays a major role. Initial reactions to new developments are often rejection and denial. However, appropriate tools such as individual support and targeted training can help to persuade citizens to adopt new technologies. After an “As-is analysis”, appropriate measures should be developed for the respective building users. These include, for example, the use of a logo for a high recognition value and workshops to disseminate knowledge. According to the authors, such a framework strategy can contribute to the successful engagement of various stakeholders.

The complete paper can be found [here](#).

How to involve stakeholders: a Croatian example

During the first Interregional seminar held in Rovinj on September 2017, “SUPPORT” partners and stakeholder had had the possibility of studying the experience of Labin. In order to successfully awake the interest of the stakeholders, it was necessary to convince them that their current model of use of structural funds is not adequate and to show them how SUPPORT could help. Both goals were achieved with presentation of uniquely successful best practice of structural funds use that currently unfolds in small Istrian City of Labin. This is an example of SUPPORT stakeholder involvement from Croatian project partners that was already transferred to rest of the partnership and has become projects’ best practice in itself.



City of Labin is small city in Istrian region with population just under 12.000 that is widely recognized as most successful community in Croatia in adoption of energy efficiency measures. City, mostly consisting of condominium buildings is

in the process of building refurbishment form 2005, but process was significantly boosted with access to structural funds - in period from 2014 – 2017 63 condominium buildings were refurbished. City with 0,28% of population of Republic of Croatia is responsible for 7% of buildings refurbished by use of structural funds in the country. Around 50% of population was directly influenced by those measures and other energy efficiency measures implemented in the city. How was something like this possible? First of all, use of structural funds was a development of ongoing procedure which was deemed to be of a strategic importance to the community. Building sector is responsible



for 74% of CO2 emissions in the city. Secondly refurbishment model developed by public owned private building management company Labin stan was the reason that that company was named the most successfully building management company in Croatia. Thirdly, project was largely supported by local private company sector which was heavily involved in refurbishment process. Even though this best practice is related to the use of structural funds for private and not public buildings, during its presentation to regional stakeholders several thing became obvious. Sometimes model to be replicated are to be found close thus significantly reducing the complexity of its implementation. It also seemed evident that although most of the complaints suggested in various models of stakeholder consultations were related to the



content of policy document and procedures of calls for funding, there is still room for improvement on the side of the final user within the current model. Finally, essential component of the process is its identification as process of strategic interest to society, both its inhabitants and local government as it is evident from the example of City of Labin which saw structural funds only as an additional tool that can be used to speed up the completion of an already started process. The model of cooperation with stakeholders was agreed on the basis of these conclusions. There is a need to help local communities to address their difficulties in current programming period but also to define strategic interests that could be transferred into the documents of the next one. In Istrian region, project SUPPORT presented incentive for both steps, first in the form of the successful neighboring community and second in the form of participating partner (CEI) able to directly influence the development of policy instrument.

FAMP. Meeting for the cooperation with the Andalusian Energy Agency

The Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces had a meeting on January 15th, 2017 with the Andalusian Energy Agency exemplifying Inter-institutional Cooperation in the local efficiency field. In the meeting, a presentation of the SUPPORT project was made, with its general and specific objectives and in what activities related to the project the participation of the Andalusian Energy Agency would be an added value. Among the different activities, the importance of the participation of the Agency in the Interregional Seminar of the SUPPORT project to be held in Seville between March 14-16, 2018 was highlighted, and the Regional Background Report that was submitted for the project was presented, as well as the good practices that had been included in it, broadening the conversation towards new possibilities related to networks or instruments managed by the Agency itself: REDEJA (Andalusian Government Administration Energy Network) and CESEA (Evaluation and Energy Monitoring Andalusian Center). In addition, these good practices may be visited by the people



who will be involved in SUPPORT staff exchange, which will take place during the first half of 2018. People from the Andalusian Energy Agency as experts, would explain and transfer the good practices to those interested.

This meeting meant an additional element to promote cooperation between different institutions interested in improving local efficiency measures such as the Andalusian Energy Agency and the Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces.

50 Bulgarian companies received European funding for energy efficiency

The total value of the contracted funds under the Operational Program "Innovation and Competitiveness" exceeds BGN 1.5 billion (€767 mln).

A total of 50 Bulgarian companies received EUR 94.1 million to improve their energy efficiency. The total value of the contracts awarded by the Ministry of Economy under the Procedure "Enhancement of energy efficiency in large enterprises", part of the Operational Program "Innovation and Competitiveness", is BGN 195 million (€99.7 mln), with BGN 100.7 million (€51.48 mln) being co-financed by the companies themselves .



"It is remarkable that when we officially launch the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of Europe we are also launching the latest projects for the modernisation of the Bulgarian companies through European grants funding," said Alexander Manolev - Deputy Minister of Economy. He wished the beneficiaries to complete successfully the projects that symbolically start today and make them even more competitive not only on the Bulgarian but also on the European and world market.

In addition to investing in new, more energy-efficient equipment, 85% of the contracts (42) are planned to introduce and certify energy management systems according to the internationally accepted standard BDS EN 50001 (Energy Management Systems) / EN ISO 50001. 30 of them will introduce automated systems for monitoring and controlling of energy consumption. Another 35 of the Beneficiary Beneficiaries are planning to build up waste heat recovery systems. The implementation of these activities is expected to help businesses to better plan and manage energy efficiency and their energy resources.

Source www.economic.bg

SUPPORT – Best-Practice from Rhineland-Palatinate

Energy efficiency is a topic many municipalities in Rhineland-Palatinate are looking at. Public funding programs are important to realise respective measures. In the funding period 2014-2020 only one municipal project is funded under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF RLP) until now. In the previous funding period there has been no particular focus on energy efficiency in Rhineland-Palatinate. But since many other funding programs exist in Germany good municipal approaches in the field of energy efficiency in the public building stock could be realized. The Kommunalrichtlinie is a very popular funding program with municipalities in Rhineland-Palatinate. Between 2008 and 2017 municipalities in Rhineland-Palatinate received funding for 1042 projects, including the development of climate protection and energy strategies and the employment of climate protection managers. Until summer 2017 a number of 163 municipalities wrote energy and climate protection strategies. There are around 70 energy and climate protection managers hired by local authorities to implement these strategies. Therefore Best-Practices can be found all over Rhineland-Palatinate.

One of them is the community association Weilerbach. The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Weilerbach was introduced to the project partners as a Best-Practice concerning energy efficiency measures in the public building stock and using funding programs. This article will give a summary of this practice funded in the Environmental Innovation Programme of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

The energy demand of the sewage treatment plant was reduced by altering the processing technique and through other efficiency measures. The goal of the project was to convert the treatment process to anaerobic stabilisation with high-load digestion and post-digestion. The biogas produced can be used by means of a combined heat and power unit (CHP). It is, furthermore, intended



to minimise power requirements by optimising process control and using high-efficiency motors.

The conversion of the former treatment process to anaerobic sludge stabilisation is aimed to achieve an energy self-sufficient operation of the WWTP. In the future, no electricity or fuel will be needed from external suppliers. From the beginning this project was intended to serve as a model to demonstrate that an energy self-sufficient operation of medium-sized sewage treatment plants can be made possible by making the greatest use possible of the energy savings potential and optimising the biogas yield. The biogas generated is fully utilised in a CHP unit and converted into electrical power and heat. The process change at the Weilerbach WWTP has reduced the external supply of electrical power by approximately 312 MWhel/a and achieved a level of self-sufficiency of up to 80 %. The energy self-sufficiency targets have thus been partially achieved and are still being pursued. As a result, the CO₂ emissions have been reduced by approximately 181.4 tonnes CO₂/a since the new system went into operation in 2015. In comparison to the reference year of 2014 this means a reduction of approximately 73%. At the same time, sludge production has been lowered by approximately 44 % and the volume of chemicals required for sludge conditioning by approximately 36.8 %, so that the costs for sludge disposal have also been reduced. Altogether the conversion of the treatment process has led to a reduction of the annual costs by approximately €150,000. There is also a positive cost effect for the citizens as the waste water price will stay low and it is lower than in the surrounding communities.

The Weilerbach WWTP was introduced to the SUPPORT project partners as a Best-Practice and was chosen to present as a Best-Practice to INTERREG Europe Policy Learning Platform. The Wastewater Treatment Plant has been offered as a destination for the planned staff exchange in 2018. Project partners and their stakeholders are invited to have a close look to the plant and talk to the staff about experiences with the practice to see if they can transfer this practice to their region.

Staff Exchange

In order to create an open and shared way of working among all partners and stakeholders involved in "SUPPORT", a staff exchange will start in a few weeks.

All results of these sharing activities will be presented in the next newsletter.

Here we have a synthetic summary of the best practices proposed:

Site	Location
<p>Energy efficient sewage treatment plant</p> <p>Heat supply: Efficient local heat supply with renewable energies (local heating networks)</p> <p>Measures at the building site: passive house construction in schools and kindergartens</p> <p>Best-Practices in RLP: a combination of different topics</p>	<p>Germany</p>
<p>Programme for Enhancing the Energy Efficiency in Alba Iulia: Energy efficiency in 4 public buildings, Alba Energy Masterplan, drafting and implementation, smart city initiative</p>	<p>Romania</p>
<p>From SEAP to reality, municipal APC project, Energy recovery and geothermal heating, Renewable energy, production and use for transport and buildings</p>	<p>Sweden</p>
<p>Meeting in the regional authority. Plans and Programs for promotion of Low Carbon Economy (SEAP Burgas region)</p> <p>Pilot project "Smart lighting pillars" and Sollar trees, equipped with WIFI, measurement of environmental and noise parameters, video surveillance. Charging stations for smart devices. Visit on the spot.</p> <p>Visit and presentation of Eco Exposition Center "Flora" in Bourgas: functionality, aesthetics and economy, facts and figures</p> <p>Visit to the modern heating plant "Meden Rudnik", Burgas</p>	<p>Bulgaria</p>
<p>Energy Renovation and Rooftop photovoltaics (up to 10 kW) in Schools and Municipal Buildings</p> <p>Real Time Energy Consumption Monitoring of Public Buildings</p> <p>Green Roof in a City Hall</p> <p>RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES (PVs, Ground Heat Pumps) & ENERGY SAVING APPLICATIONS in Public Buildings</p>	<p>Greece</p>
<p>Urban regeneration with development of pedestrian areas in downtown // Programs that promote sustainable mobility and Low Carbon Economy (SEAP Velez de Benaudalla)</p> <p>Urban regeneration with development of cycle routes between municipalities // Programs that promote sustainable mobility and Low Carbon Economy (SEAP La Rinconada)</p> <p>Sustainable Construction Promotion Program (PICS): Promoting actuaciones that boost energy saving, improvement of energy efficiency and use of renewal energy on buildings located in Andalusia, through economic incentives to citizens, companies and entities that promote investment on rehabilitation works, refurbishing and efficient installations.</p>	<p>Spain</p>

BUILD2LC Project: Increase of the energy rehabilitation of buildings in order to reduce energy consumption and enhance policies to favour the creation of a market of specialized companies in this sector.

REDEJA. Andalusian Energy Network. An instrument created to promote within the Andalusian Administration principles of energy savings and diversification and to implement renewable energy installations in its buildings. It was created with the aim of obtaining energy and economic savings in various public centres, in many cases higher than 40%, through a specific, coordinated and effective management of the energy bill of the Andalusian Government.

CESEA is a unique instrument in Spain, managed by the Andalusian Energy Agency whose main function is the real-time monitoring of the supply of electricity in Andalusia, with the aim of improving the quality of energy services in the autonomous community. It also analyzes the information received from the electricity sector and the situation of the Andalusian electricity infrastructures, so that supply risks can be anticipated and future needs detected in the network, with a view to guaranteeing and improving the quality of supply.

Spain

300 photovoltaic systems for 300 schools: the most extensive solar energy exploitation system of Italy.

Energy efficiency of the Metropolitan City headquarter: an example of a virtuous exploitation of resources

Italy



ENERGY NETWORK



The Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy: Implementing SE(C)APs and maximising synergies with the National Energy and Adaptation Strategies

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy continues to be the most important initiative to promote climate protection and sustainable development at the local level. On November 30, 2017 the state of art of the Covenant of Mayors was debated in the council chamber of the Metropolitan City of Rome Capital. The two central points of the day were the integration of adaptation measures in the SECAP, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans and their implementation.

Alessandra Sgobbi of the Directorate General for Climate Action, DG Climate, in her speech, illustrated how to integrate the EU Adaptation Strategy into local and regional climate policies, with an emphasis on cities and local governments as key actors in the transition to a low-emission and resilient

Alessandra Antonini of the Covenant of Mayors Office in Brussels described latest developments in financing actions for Italy, showing the national and European programs in charge and emphasizing the urge for cross-cutting approaches for local governments in planning and implementation of the SE(C)AP. In the second part, in the middle of the afternoon session of the workshop, there were the next steps to make the Covenant of Mayors a success. Patrizia Giancotti of the Environment Department of the Metropolitan City of Rome Capital in her speech - From SEAP to SECAP, problems and solutions - illustrated the current situation of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans in the Municipalities of the Province of Rome, reporting the critical issues encountered in the processing of monitoring and highlighting the need for coordination between the Ministry



economy, with positive economic impacts. Eugenio Morello of the Polytechnic of Milan presented the integration of mitigation and adaptation as an intelligent strategy for local sustainable development, introducing the concept of climate design to investigate and improve the physical and spatial structure of the built environment, emphasizing the importance of a continuous and reactive planning model for the prevention and monitoring of the territory.

of the Environment, the Region and the Metropolitan City. The Metropolitan City has supported roughly 40% of the local governments that are part of its territory in their CoM activities and spent more than one million euros during these activities. All reports are available in [download](#) on the website of Climate Alliance Italy

EMPOWER – Best practice from study visit in Sweden.

Parallel to the SUPPORT project the Swedish partner Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden is working in another Interreg Europe project “EMPOWER”. The purpose is energy efficiency and to monitor energy consumption. During two intensive days two delegations visited the Kalmar county for meeting decision makers and see some of the fine examples of energy monitoring in the region. The participants were very pleased with the examples and some of the lessons learned was the way of thinking and consciousness of people in matter of energy save. The participants were also impressed by the passion and the motivation with which the decision makers in Sweden do their work.



Read more about the study visit here: www.interregeurope.eu/empower/news/news-article/2509/study-trip-in-kalmar-county/

ENERJ – Local Conference “Mobilize funds and know-how to save energy and money”

On February 13th, 2018, Città Metropolitana di Roma Capitale (CMRC), in Palazzo Valentini in Rome, was hosting mayors of municipalities, Energy managers and operators to explain the chances offered by the project ENERJ, financed by the Interreg MED program.

The day was organized in 2 sessions: the local conference in the morning, coordinated by Climate Alliance - Italy in which have been presented Italian good practices for the realization of SEAPs and joint actions for the



energy efficiency of the building stock; in the afternoon session (focus group), coordinated by Cras Srl, during which the local stakeholders discussed the tools and the economic sources for the implementation of the SEAP interventions.

More than 50 people took part in the event, representing local authorities, research bodies, companies and associations from the environment and energy sectors.

During the morning session, CMRC offered a brief presentation of the ENERJ project highlighting the role that stakeholders will play in the development of project activities.

Afterwards Climate Alliance presented a series of good practices in Italy of SEAP and joint interventions for energy saving. Professor Sergio Zabet (Politecnico Milano University) presented in detail the ELENA project of the province of Milan which involved the energy

efficiency of many schools in the municipalities of the Milan area.

Finally there has been a focus on the opportunities offered by the PSR FEASR (Regione Lazio) call to promote the procurement and use of energy from renewable sources for self-consumption.

The Focus group, held in the afternoon for technicians and energy managers of the Municipalities, concerned the development of Action Plans for the implementation of Joint energy efficiency actions in public buildings.

First of all the web platform and the ENERJ database for the census of the energy characteristics of the public building was presented to the public.



There was also an in-depth analysis of financial opportunities in terms of energy efficiency for local authorities in Italy (AzeroCO2) and the tools for joint actions such as Energy Performance Contract and Public Private Partnership agreements.

At the end of the day, a debate was held on opportunities and critical issues encountered in the implementation of the actions for Energy Efficiency.