

## Launch of the CLEAN project to improve regional energy efficiency policies

**CLEAN** or **Technologies and open innovation for low carbon regions**, a project funded under **Interreg Europe** programme, has been officially launched in the region of Normandy (France), in a conference hosted by the project partners **Cooperative Les 7 Vents**. Representatives and stakeholders from the 9 partner regions have been welcomed at the *Abbaye aux Dames*, in the city of Caen, on 10th and 11th of October, for the launch event of CLEAN.

The Launch Conference, that has brought together more than 70 energy experts and stakeholders, has provided to the partnership a great opportunity, not only, to present regional good practices supporting the energy efficiency of buildings, but also to exchange knowledge and inspiration for a joint learning to improve regional energy efficiency policies. **Sandrine Mésirard**, Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Department in the Normandy Region, reviewed the Normand context and the expectations from this project, saying that, “the Region of Normandie is particularly looking forward for proofed experiences that could be replicated on its territory”. According to **Florian Guillotte**, Project Manager at Cooperative Les 7 Vents, “in the domain of energy efficiency policy-making, CLEAN can bear a broader visibility to the existing initiatives while giving insights to ameliorate them”.

During the conference, CLEAN partners have held a **‘speed dating / matchmaking for energy efficiency’ workshop**, presenting their regional Good Practices through different round tables. Afterwards, they have selected the most interesting ones and they have agreed to carry out some staff exchanges to further understand what project partners have achieved and ensure the best knowledge share possible. “Through Europe, we can see a lot of the good practices are focused on buildings improvement. Precisely working on this topic, it reminds me -and us all- the way to go. But I’m thrilled and inspired by all these initiatives”, has highlighted **Alain Deffontaines**, Head of the Buildings and Sustainable Development Department in the Normandy Region. Furthermore, **François Xavier Priollaud**, 14th Vice-President in charge of European Affairs and International Relations of the Normandy Region, has concluded that “Normandy Region is happy



and proud to be part of this process, which shows that our idea of Europe and EU is not all about reaching funds, but being a true participant in sharing and innovating together. Concrete things are happening there”.



CLEAN partners have got the opportunity to experience some of the Norman expertise in energy efficiency for buildings through **two study visits**. On the one hand, partners have visited 43 renovated social housings around **Hérouville Saint Clair**, a project with **very low energy consumption**. Between 2008 and 2015, in what was West Normandy at the time, a system called FORES enabled the renovation of 2,935 housing units, meeting the *BBC*

*Effinergie Rénovation* standard. The objective is to achieve positive energy building performance by 2020. To facilitate the implementation of such achievements, it was decided in 2011 that ERDF would support the existing project. These funds have been acquired under Article 7 of the ERDF Operational Program: ‘Support for sustainable urban development’.

On the other hand, CLEAN partners have visited the **Quartier Montmorency** to learn more about **low-energy retrofitted houses**. The area was built after World War II, generally, without any concern for insulation. According to the CLEAN partners Cooperative Les 7 Vents, this area is a good example of how the ‘Normandy Strategy’ policy is implemented with a “trust-chain”. In this area, the proliferation of quality renovations applied to old, low-insulated houses shows how much the Region's support is a booster for the achievement of



the European Union's energy efficiency targets. As of now, the results of these actions initiated by the regional authority show with a deployment of private renovation projects achievements.



The 11<sup>th</sup> of October, the CLEAN partnership has also hold the **second project meeting**. Partners have reviewed the aim, objectives, expected outputs, workplan status and project progress. “The Launch Conference has brought us the opportunity to also discuss about project management and coordination, communication and dissemination activities and exchange our experience by sharing the analysis of the current situation in all partner regions and exchanging views on regional Good Practices”, adds **Ianire Renobales** from ERNACT, Lead Partners of the CLEAN project.

## About the CLEAN project

The main objective of CLEAN is to increase energy efficiency in housing and public infrastructure by an average of 4% by 2022, through technology, open innovation and improved low-carbon policy instruments.

The project will address the challenge of how best to meet EU energy efficiency targets for buildings in Europe’s regions. CLEAN is led by ERNACT, or European Regions Network for the Application of Communications Technology, who is cooperating closely with the following project partners:

- Association of Local Authorities in Västernorrland (Sweden)
- Fomento San Sebastian (Spain)
- Municipality of Iasi (Romania)
- Naples Agency for Energy and Environment (Italy)
- Cooperative Les 7 Vents (France)
- Development Agency of Savinjska Region (Slovenia)
- Regional Council of North Karelia (Finland)
- Region of Crete (Greece)

The 9 project partner regions will work together between 2017–2021 to improve the capacity of their policy instruments to increase energy efficiency.



### **CLEAN milestones in the next 5 years**

Initially, project partners are completing a diagnosis for each region in terms of its situation regarding energy efficiency. In parallel, partners are documenting good regional practices (3 or 4 per region) and organising study visits to further experience partners practices. In that way, CLEAN is trying to identify what needs to be improved for the targeted policy instruments. Finally, on the basis of the results obtained, people will be selected to participate in exchanges between regions to enable them to evaluate in-depth some good practices. This is intended to inspire the regional action plans that will be designed and implemented with the project.

Partners can add their statements to the press release here for the local media.

#### **For further details, contact:**

(Partners to add their contact details here)

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<https://www.interregeurope.eu/clean/>



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