



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



SUPPORT ACTION PLAN

Part I – General information

Project: SUPPORT

Partner organisation: **Alba Local Energy Agency - ALEA**



Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): -

Country: **Romania**

NUTS2 region: **RO12 Centru**

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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- **Other regional development policy instrument**

Name of the policy instrument addressed:

The Energy Masterplan of Alba County

(currently refreshed into The Energy Strategy of Alba County 2018-2023)

ACTION I
<i>Type of action: Implementation of new projects</i>
Implementing new capacity of ANERGO Energy Observatory to support local authorities in Alba County in energy and climate data collection; the use of the dedicated online database will enhance energy management and planning for sustainable energy and decarbonisation at local level
<i>Implementation timeframe: 2019-2021</i>

The background:

Energy data availability as well as its access poses difficulties for Romanian LAs when it comes to sustainable planning activities. During the SUPPORT Regional Workshops organised in Romania discussions revealed that the lack of accurate quality energy data alongside with issues related to data ownership, commercial sensitivity needs to be overcome in order for them to figure out where energy efficiency measures need to be implemented. Alba Regional Energy Observatory - ANERGO experience was presented by ALEA as a tool to help in tackling these difficulties.

ANERGO was initially set-up in the framework of the DATA4ACTION (H2020) project whose main goals were to identify ways to improve the access of public authorities to energy data for a better implementation and a better monitoring of energy plans as well as to set up a Regional Energy Observatory. ANERGO had already been offering support to local authorities in the region regarding energy data collection and sharing for the elaboration and implementation of their SEAPs. However, the stakeholders discussed the necessity of its further development in order to become a real support in overcoming the barriers LAs face in accessing energy data and fit even more into energy planning needs.

Interregional exchange of experience (event, best practice case) that influenced Action I					
<i>Name and short description of the good practice</i>					
1	The Regional Energy and Greenhouse Gas Observatory of Rhône-Alpes (OREGES) The Observatory makes available precise and shared data on the regional situation in terms of energy and climate in the region to energy partners and the general public. The National State, the Regional Council, other actors (energy production, transmission and distribution), the local energy advisory structures share a certain amount of specific data by using two operators: RhôneAlpenergie Environnement and ATMO Auvergne-Rhône - Alps. The data produced by the Observatory is freely accessible on their own website.				
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<i>Good practice contributions to the current action</i>					

	Input was offered in the future shaping of ANERGO especially in what the structure (energy and climate) is concerned and the way the members in the Observatory network share energy related data.	
2	Title SMIV - monitoring and verification platform for implemented energy efficiency measures	
	<i>Description of the experience exchange event (source of the good practice)</i>	<i>Interreg Europe SUPPORT partner (provider)</i>
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	<i>Good practice contributions to the current action</i>	
	SMIV, an existing web platform on energy consumption in Croatia allows users to monitor and verify implemented energy efficiency measures. It gave an insight of the future development regarding the technical part of the data structures to be collected by ANERGO namely the use of the bottom-up methodology, the future structure of the registry data base for ANERGO.	

Implementation measures (Action I)

Implementing new capacity of ANERGO Energy Observatory to support local authorities in Alba County in energy and climate data collection; the use of the dedicated online database will enhance energy management and planning for sustainable energy and decarbonisation at local level

1	Extension of ANERGO capacity in order to enhance specific energy data collection and multisectoral analysis by identification of the specific energy consumption indicators by domains based on collected data which will be accomplished by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating current energy database structure; • Identifying the areas, territories and levels that lack the calculation of required indicators; • Identifying the missing input data for indicator calculation and propose new channels for gathering missing data. 	Semester I
	Extension of ANERGO capacity for elaboration of the annual energy consumption inventory at county level on sectors of energy consumption and related indicators, including public utilities, as foreseen in the Energy Strategy of Alba County (the regional policy instrument addressed): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating the last reports issued by ANERGO and identify the required types of data and software (including GIS) for developing new, updated reports; • Evaluating new demands and types of updated energy evaluation services for municipalities (as part of their sustainable energy planning) and begin the process of elaboration the requested types of reports (map-based, diagrams, and in the form of Covenant of Mayors BEIs and MEIs. 	Semesters I-III

	<p>Development of ANERGO climate and energy database at county level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating the climate adaptation action plans already developed at local level in Romania; • Tracing key characteristics of these climate adaptation action plans for Alba county region and other regions in Romania to determine some of the specificities for each region; • Developing the main set of climate-specific indicators to be built on, leading to the generation of a new ANERGO service type: Regional Climate Adaptation Maps that will cover many municipalities and provide essential data for the Covenant of Mayors Climate Adaptation Action Plans in the region. 	Semester III
2	<p>Extension of the ANERGO network with additional local authorities in Alba County engaged in sustainable energy planning to support and consolidate the regional effort for energy planning, as envisaged in regional policy instrument. The network will offer a platform to facilitate experience exchange activities in energy planning. It will also involve additional stakeholders in the process: energy planning facilitators, renewable energy solutions providers, etc.; cooperation agreements with municipalities and data providers will be signed; the process is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first step in this process is the updating of Memorandums for Cooperation with municipalities including the new energy and climate objectives for 2030 of the municipalities (Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy signatories); • Updating the current content and timeframe of agreements with regional energy data providers and proposing new agreements with key data providers (with less emphasises on energy suppliers and more on energy distributors); • Proposal of new ANERGO agreements with climate data providers; • Setting up public page/group for better representing energy stakeholders; • Promotion of ANERGO services for municipalities at national level (as part of regional workshops, conferences, web articles, ad campaigns). 	Semesters II-III

Involved actors

Service providers	Beneficiaries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALEA • Energy planning facilitators in Alba County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities in Alba County and possibly from other regions • Alba County Council
Costs	Financing sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff costs - 7500 € • Costs for acquiring climate data – 1500 € • Costs related to the organisation of workshops and dissemination events – 1000 € • IT costs (hardware and software) - 2000 € • Travel and subsistence costs – 500 € 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAs own budget • ALEA own budget • Alba County Council budget
Total necessary budget estimated	13700 €

Performance and monitoring indicators (end of implementation timeframe - ACTION I)		
No.	Description of the indicator	Target
1	Number of new and enhanced tools and reports produced by ANERGO Energy Observatory.	5
2	Number of new local authorities' members in ANERGO network which will monitor the local energy consumption, priority action of Objective 2 "Promotion of modern energy management" of Alba County Energy Strategy.	4
3	Number of good practice examples (on the ANERGO database) for supporting local energy planning, a priority action of Objective 2 "Promotion of modern energy management" of Alba County Energy Strategy, action which proposes the creation of reliable annual local energy consumption databases.	3

ACTION II
<i>Type of action: Implementation of new projects</i>
Extending Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative in Alba County by increasing the number of CoM signatory municipalities and by fostering their transition from SEAPs into SECAPs
<i>Implementation timeframe: 2019-2021</i>

The background:

The Regional Background Analysis showed that both in the planning phase and in the implementation phase a common difficulty is the lack of qualified staff in energy field within local authorities. Moreover, the lack of existing planning models with proven capacity pose further barriers for LAs who often seek guidance from existing documents. ALEA as official Covenant of Mayors supporter, put forward the idea of building capacity of LAs' staff by promoting CoM methodology and by creating a data base platform with technical solutions and available model action plans among other support documentation. Promotion of CoM initiative would also be ensured showing the advantages of being a signatory municipality. Moreover, it would facilitate the extension of CoM initiative leading to more widespread sustainable energy planning activities throughout the county.

Alba Local Energy Agency as Covenant of Mayors official Support Agency in Romania and Alba County Council as Territorial CoM Coordinator have endorsed the CoM initiative since early after its launch in 2008, more than 10 municipal SEAPs were submitted from Alba County. The new

CoM targets of sustainable energy, climate adaptation and decarbonisation are key part of the regional policy tool for sustainable energy planning.

Interregional exchange of experience (event, best practice case) that influenced Action II					
<i>Name and short description of the good practice</i>					
1	RES and CO2 targets in Kalmar County. The role of a regional SEAP The regional planning tool (SEAP) for sustainable energy in Kalmar County as part of the Covenant of Mayors initiative has surpassed expected targets (20% of CO2 reduction by 2020) due to smart policy improvements in regards with the use or renewable energy and biofuels in public and private sectors				
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	<i>Good practice contributions to the current action</i>				
	Using key aspects observed at the Sweden project partner is a good starting ground to promote locally to municipalities in our region and to Alba County Council (during presentations, workshops) the benefits of adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors initiative and the use of SECAPs as tools for developing sustainable energy projects, also contributing to the decarbonization of Alba County in the following years				
2	ENERJ Joint Actions for Energy Efficiency An Interreg MED modular project aims at increasing and improving the coordination of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP's) and other relevant energy plans in order to achieve national and European objectives of Energy Efficiency in public buildings by using innovative collaborative instruments to gather useful data, fostering cooperation among local authorities on wide-scale Joint actions, promoting public-private ventures.				
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	<i>Good practice contributions to the current action</i>				
	Following the activities of the ENERJ project it was envisaged that the creation of a web platform containing EE measures already implemented by the municipalities, methodologies, guidance on financing strategies, collection of financing schemes (etc), would foster good collaboration among municipalities and would ensure promotion of existing practices increasing knowledge of LAs in the energy field.				

Implementation measures (Action II)

Extending Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative in Alba County by increasing the number of CoM signatory municipalities and by fostering their transition from SEAPs to SECAPs

1	<p>Creation of a database platform on ALEA website (technical solutions, pilot projects, best practices) with free access for all interested parties. The platform will act also as a document repository where model documents (ex. Model action plans for sustainable energy) can be shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating the current list of project stakeholders to determine the main sources for valuable resources related to the scope of SUPPORT project and for consolidating the regional policy instrument for energy planning; • Communicating with selected stakeholders and gathering relevant resources (action plans, strategies, technical reports, fact sheets, etc.). 	Semesters I-II
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting-up a public webpage on ALEA website for regional stakeholders involved in SUPPORT project and all interested parties, dedicated for resource dissemination and sharing, structured by domain of action or by targeted sector; • Uploading and organising the relevant resources and creating an easy-to-follow structure for page visitors; • Promoting the resources dissemination page on local and regional events and on social media. 	Semesters II-III
2	<p>Workshops and presentations on the framework of Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (2030) initiative, considering that CoM initiative expansion at regional level is identified as a key point in regional policy tool, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the advantages of being a Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy signatory (reduction of energy consumption and CO₂ emissions, climate adaptation) and building on the common regional effort as mentioned in the updated Energy Strategy of Alba county (the regional policy instrument addressed by SUPPORT project); • Organisation of dedicated CoM workshops or CoM sessions as part of other relevant dissemination events organized by ALEA and by participation with presentations in local and regional events. This action will consolidate on the current CoM promotion effort made by ALEA at local level, expanding it as frequency and addressability, aiming for a larger audience at regional level; • Enhancing the provision of technical support and services for municipalities for SECAPs elaboration and monitoring, by making use of new updated CoM technical guidelines and own expertise, strengthening the official CoM supporter for municipalities role assumed by ALEA; • Offer specialised advice on achieving the CoM 2030 objectives by evaluating local context and considering regional trends of climate, RES potential and sustainable energy policies at regional and national level. 	Semesters I-III

Involved actors	
Service providers	Beneficiaries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALEA • Energy planning facilitators in Alba County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities in Alba County and possibly from other regions • Alba County Council
Costs	Financing sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff costs – 7400 € • IT (resources storage, new needed software) – 1100 € • Costs related to the organisation of dedicated CoM events – 2100 € • Travel and subsistence costs – 600 € 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alba County Council own budget • LAs own budget • ALEA own budget
Total necessary budget estimated	12400 €

Performance and monitoring indicators (end of implementation timeframe - ACTION II)		
No.	Description of the indicator	Target
1	Number of presentations and workshops related to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative	5
2	Number of new and existing CoM 2020 municipalities - signatories of new CoM 2030 initiative in Alba County	3
3	Number of local authorities in Alba County that submitted a new SECAP - CoM 2030 objectives, including Climate adaptation Plan	3
4	Number of additional public officers supported in CoM framework	30

ACTION III
<i>Type of action: implementation of new projects</i>
Implementation of an energy saving campaign in important public buildings by using the Save@Work concept to energy saving in the workplace.
<i>Implementation timeframe: 2019-2021</i>

The background:

Taking into account the fact that 12% of the EU housing stock are either publicly owned or occupied coupled with the fact that almost 40% of final energy consumption can be attributed to buildings, the Save@Work concept represents a proven good practice case to engage the public sector in getting involved into energy saving actions. Public authorities often engage in climate friendly initiatives, in their endeavour to set an example the proposed concept can lead them to demonstrate that they are climate conscious employers.



In Romania, specific energy consumption is high, especially in buildings (both public and private). There are several causes for this situation such as: the actual state of buildings, the use of outdated equipment for energy production/consumption, the lack of users' knowledge in energy saving and energy efficiency. This issue needs to be addressed to by actions that inform and raise awareness among citizens not only at home but also in their workplace.

In this respect promoting energy efficiency, rational use of energy, ICT solutions for energy saving among employees is essential to change behaviour and contribute to the overall goal of energy saving by rational use of energy.

Interregional exchange of experience (event, best practice case) that influenced Action IV					
<i>Name and short description of the good practice</i>					
1	Save@work Practice case; project funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme				
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Event name: Interregional Seminar, Gozo, Malta March 2019	Energiekontor				
	<i>Good practice contributions to the current action</i>				
	The Swedish practice case offers data on how to involve public authorities staff working in public office buildings to actively take part in the campaign to promote energy saving behaviour in the workplace. Also, the mechanism of the campaign was presented giving an insight of the steps to be followed, the tools to be used, the main results and the lessons learnt from the different partners involved in the project.				

Implementation measures (ACTION IV)	
<i>Enhancing the success rate of LAs submissions of project proposals for funding under ROP by proposing improvements of Priority Axis 3.1</i>	
1	<p>Setting up the campaign to reduce energy consumption in an important educational public building in Alba Iulia through rational use of energy by employees by changing energy consumer behaviour, but also involving the students as building users in the campaign. The identified building targeted for this action is the one belonging to National College "Horea, Cloșca and Crisan" of Alba Iulia, a representative educational institution at local level.</p> <p>One of the main tasks that is dealt with in the 1st semester is ensuring the involvement of the main stakeholders and beneficiaries. ALEA will involve HCC College and Alba Iulia Municipality decision makers to get their active involvement and commit to enrolling the actions. Moreover, the identification of the energy team and energy expert from among the college staff are of crucial importance as they will be trained in energy saving; one of their main responsibilities will be to implement the energy efficient measures identified.</p>
	Semester I

<p>2</p>	<p>Creation of support tools for participants</p> <p>To evaluate the building energy saving potential, an energy audit/evaluation will be carried out by ALEA in order to determine the baseline energy profile of the building (data that will be evaluated will consist of building constructive specifications, energy consumption (electricity and natural gas) that will ultimately lead to the determination of the building's energy profile).</p> <p>Once the auditing is done, main directions will be set for the energy saving actions. These will be aided by the use of smart metering equipment and smart monitoring systems that support the energy monitoring process also raising awareness of the building users in real time. For this reason, the most suitable identified equipment will be procured following the national public procurement procedures and they will be installed on the premises.</p> <p>Learning documentation and tools tailored for the specific building and its users will be elaborated which will be later used in the training course but also as saving tips during the measure implementation phase for the building users.</p>	<p>Semester I</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Organization of training sessions on rational energy consumption for the participants.</p> <p>The courses have as main purpose to enhance knowledge on how to save energy in an office building mainly by changing energy consumer behaviour. The course will be provided to the energy expert as well as the energy team - a group of representatives from the target building who will propagate the concept of 'energy-aware building user'.</p> <p>The training will be structured into 3 meetings according to the approached subject matter: saving electrical energy, saving thermal energy, other energy saving possibilities in buildings at work; also they will be trained on how to use the monitoring equipment and smart applications.</p> <p>During the training course which will have a prominent proactive approach, the trainers and the trainees will together propose energy saving measures in the proposed building.</p>	<p>Semester I</p>

4	<p>Implementation of the energy saving campaign whose aim is to reduce energy consumption in the National College "Horea, Closca and Crisan" of Alba Iulia building through rational use of energy by employees as well as the students as the building primary users. The reduction in energy consumption is achieved mainly by changing the behaviour of the energy consumers.</p> <p>The campaign activities that are to be implemented during a period of 12 months consists of implementation of identified energy saving measures and energy consumption monitoring. ALEA and the energy team will track the monthly results; the progress regarding energy saving and its respective carbon emission reduction will be demonstrated by elaborating on-line consumption trends and progress data.</p> <p>All energy related findings will be processed and later reported using a newly developed capacity of ANERGO Energy Observatory specially designed for this purpose.</p> <p>Moreover, during the enrolling of the campaign ALEA together with Alba Iulia Municipality will set up events in order to disseminate ongoing results; namely (a) peer meetings with HCC Energy team and peers from other high schools in the city having also the purpose to convince more people working in similar public buildings to start saving energy by changing behaviour at their workplace; (b) dissemination events to show the progress of the implementation of the pilot action to the larger audience.</p>	Semester I-III
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Involved actors	
Service providers	Beneficiaries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALEA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Horea, Closca and Crisan" National College Alba Iulia • The Municipality of Alba Iulia • Alba County Council
Costs	Financing sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisational costs: 800 € • External expert costs: 3100 € • Staff cost: 12000 € 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERDF funding (SUPPORT project budget)
Total necessary budget estimated (€)	17700 € (including indirect costs)

Performance and monitoring indicators <i>(end of implementation timeframe - ACTION IV)</i>		
No.	Description of the indicator	Target
1	Percent of reduced energy consumption for involved buildings	9 %