



DOSSIER

6th Interregional Event in Riga, Latvia

18-19 February, 2020





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Introduction

Interregional learning and exchange of experiences are at the heart of the Interreg Europe programme. The FIRESPOL project develops this approach through Interregional Events. There are 7 Interregional Events (IE) scheduled during phase 1 of the project. The first IE combined with kick-off meeting took place in Badajoz (Spain). The second Interregional Event was held in Lublin, Poland in January 2019. The third Interregional Event was held in Split, Croatia in May 2019. The fourth Interregional Event was held in Waterford, Ireland in July 2019 and the fifth Interregional Event was held in Hessen, Germany in October 2019. The events were organized by the respective partners. The sixth Interregional Event was held in Riga, Latvia in February 2020. It was hosted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.



Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia



Summary: 6th Interregional Event in Riga, Latvia - 18-19 February, 2020

The 6th Interregional Event of the FIRESPOL project – “Interregional Learning Workshop and Study Visits” took place on February 18 and 19, 2020 in Riga, Latvia.

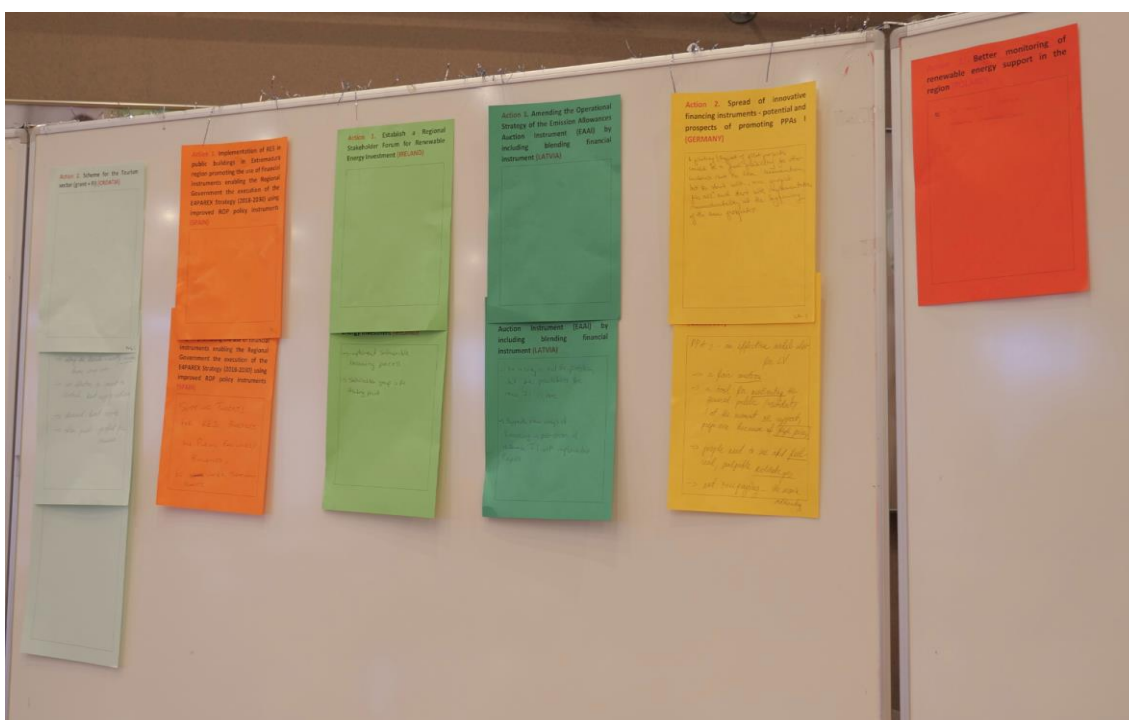
The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and took place in Riga, the capital of Latvia. Project partners and their stakeholders from six European countries (Spain, Croatia, Poland, Latvia, Germany and Ireland) took part in the Interregional Event.

The Deputy State Secretary, Sandis Cakuls, welcomed the delegates to Riga by saying that the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development is happy to be part of the Firespol project that gives an opportunity to learn from other partners’ experiences and provide each partners’ contribution on how to facilitate development of the renewable energy sector. The renewable energy is widely recognized as an important aspect to reach climate neutrality and adapt to climate change.

The first day of the meeting began with a Steering Committee meeting, where representatives of the project lead partner, Extremadura Energy Agency (Spain), informed about the progress and results achieved so far. The progress report, project finances, communication and planning issues were discussed. Particular attention was paid to the draft action plans developed by each partner. The lead partner commented on each action plan that was further discussed with the other partners and possible solutions to improve the plans were discussed.

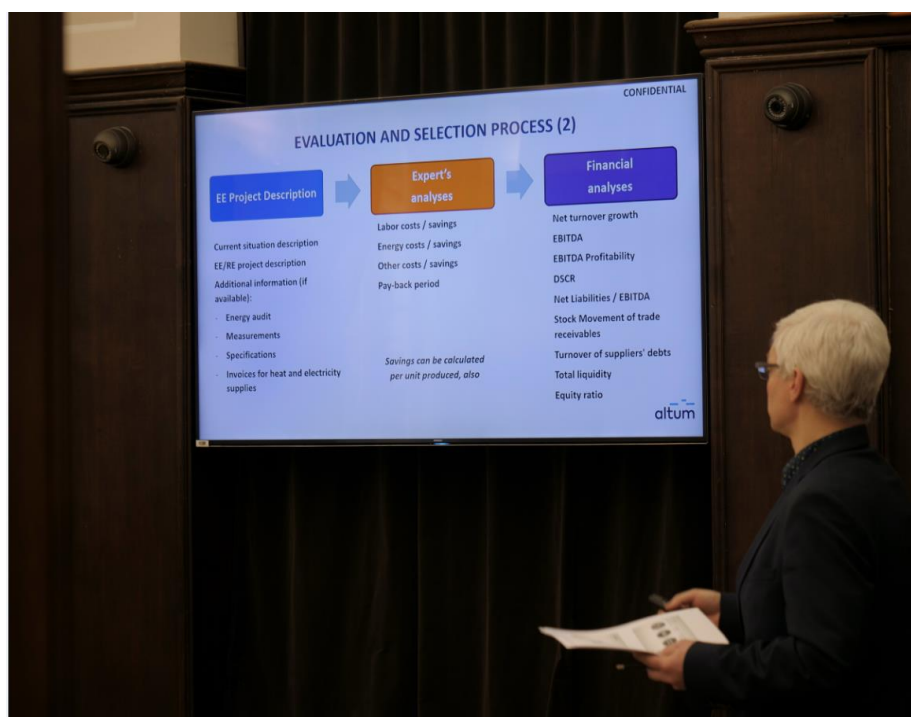
In the second part of the first day a workshop was organized in which partners presented activities included in their regional action plans to promote use of financial instruments to enhance development of the renewable energy sources area. It was followed by a discussion with stakeholders with a special focus on the actions that could potentially be transferred to other regions. The workshop provided an opportunity to learn from other partners, transfer best practices and have new ideas that will help to further improve the draft action plans.





Study Visit I

The second day began with a study visit to ALTUM – a state-owned development finance institution, which offers state aid for various target groups with the help of such financial tools as loans, credit guarantees, investing in venture capital funds, etc. ALTUM develops and implements state aid programmes to compensate for the market's shortcomings that can't be solved by private financial institutions. ALTUM has issued green bonds, providing funding for bankable business projects in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency in order to support sustainability projects in Latvia.



Study Visit II

Second study visit was to *Getliņi EKO*, Ltd. - a company jointly established by the Riga and Stopiņi Municipalities, which manages *Getliņi*, the largest municipal solid waste landfill in the Baltic States. *Getliņi* is one of the most modern landfills in Europe. It is created and developed as a modern and safe waste recycling centre. Since the opening of the sorting plant in the territory on 26 October 2015, biodegradable waste has been used for production of biogas, meanwhile materials and metal products useful for processing have been delivered to companies engaged in the recovery and recycling of these materials.



Study Visit III

The second day was concluded with a visit to Ķeguma HES - Latvia's oldest major hydroelectric power plant. Its construction began in 1936 and the first hydro-aggregate with capacity of 17 MW as the largest plant in Latvia was switched on in 1939. After additional construction works between 1976 until 1979 a new building was established and capacity of the plant increased to 260 MW. Ķeguma HES building complex now also includes the Energy Museum.





AGENDA

FIRESPOL Interregional Event – Latvia Financial Instruments for Renewable Energy Investment

Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th February 2020

Tuesday, 18.02.2020
Steering Committee Meeting & Interregional Learning Workshop Meeting venue: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Peldu street 25, Rīga
8:30-8:40 <i>Welcome and introduction*</i> Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development 8:40-12:40 <i>Steering Committee meeting*</i> Project general information Communication Project Report Action plans
12:40-14:00 <i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 17:00 <i>Interregional Learning Workshop on Action plan</i> Partner presentations: Action plan Discussion with stakeholders
19:30 <i>Dinner</i>



Wednesday, 19.02.2020

Study Visits

09:00 – 10:00 *Study visit to the Development Finance Institution Altum*

10:00 – 10:30 *Travel to Getliņi*

10:30 – 12:00 *Study visit to Getliņi EKO*

12:00-12:30 *Travel to Ķegums*

12:30-13:30 *Lunch*

13:30-14:00 *Travel to Ķegums*

14:00 – 16:00 *Study visit to Ķeguma HES*

16:00 – 16:45 *Travel to Rīga*

17:00 *Dinner*

Media

On 12th February 2020, the national news agency Leta, published a news article about the International Event.

After the event a video was created that was disseminated *via* the *project social network* accounts.

