

POWERTY

NEWSLETTER N° 1

Renewable energies for vulnerable groups



#POWERTY

Web

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

Welcome to the first edition of the POWERTY Newsletter

The decarbonisation of the energy system requires that all European citizens can make full use of renewable energies. However, there is a high percentage of citizens with many difficulties to have renewable energy facilities and equipment, in particular the vulnerable groups, including those affected by "energy poverty". These difficulties are motivated by economic and technological issues (renewable energy solutions are not adapted to vulnerable groups), but also by other factors of a social and cultural type, use and owners of housing, etc., which influence the types of solutions that should be used, as well as how to manage them.

The general objective of POWERTY **is to increase the use of renewable energies in vulnerable groups**. This way, thanks to the project, new renewable energy installations will be facilitated to provide safe and clean energy to vulnerable households. In addition, companies supplying renewable energies will be encouraged through the project to offer technological solutions that are adapted to vulnerable groups, activating their corporate social responsibility.



In this way, POWERTY will help **to tackle energy poverty**, promoting vulnerable households with adequate energy supplies, **thanks to renewable energies**. Given the exceptional conditions of these households, social innovation measures will be promoted, based on greater participation, integration and empowerment of vulnerable groups.

The project will develop a complete learning process to facilitate an effective knowledge flow among regions, counting on 6 partners with different complementary expertise and different levels of competences (regional/national) which enriches the transfer of knowledge. More than 50 best practices and almost 50 events involving 60 stakeholders will establish 5 Regional Action Plans covering a population of more than 25 million inhabitants.

The POWERTY project, approved by the European Commission in the framework of the Interreg Europe programme, began in August 2019 and runs until 2023, and counts on a budget of 1.227.226 euros.

This bulletin is the first issue of a six-monthly publication prepared by the POWERTY project team to disseminate the news and progresses of the project during its almost four years duration, as well as to support the renewable energies not only in those countries and regions participating in the project, but also at European level.

In these pages we will review the activities carried out during the first semester of the project, such as the Kick-off meeting held in Seville in September 2019, the first interregional meeting held in Manchester in January 2020 and the various encounters that each of the partners have organised with their own regional stakeholders. We also highlight the presentation of the POWERTY project at conferences and events outside the project.

We hope that you find this newsletter interesting and it contributes to the commitment towards a more sustainable Europe where vulnerable groups are also protagonists in the energy transition.

Seville hosts the POWERTY Kick-off Meeting



The city of Seville (Andalusia, Spain) hosted the Kick-off meeting of the POWERTY project on 12 and 13 September 2019.

Together with the Andalusian Energy Agency, lead partner of the consortium, representatives from the different project partners attended the meeting:

- ✚ Andalusian Energy Agency, Andalusian Regional Governm. (AEA) (ES)
- ✚ Energy Agency of Plovdiv (EAP) (BG)
- ✚ Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energy Environment Agency (AURA-EE) (FR)
- ✚ Public Investment and Development Agency (VIPA) (LT)
- ✚ Agglomeration Opole Trust (AOT) (PL)
- ✚ University of Manchester (UK)

Attendants were welcomed by the General Director of the Andalusian Energy Agency, Mr. Jorge Juan Jiménez Luna. During the Kick-off meeting, the different topics to be developed during the project lifetime were defined, such as:

- ✚ Identify new innovative renewable energy technologies aimed at vulnerable groups, including collective and urban energy systems.

- ✚ New financing mechanisms for renewable energies adequate for vulnerable groups.

- ✚ Improvements in the regulatory framework for renewable energies and vulnerable groups.
- ✚ Empowering of vulnerable groups and social innovation to stimulate citizen participation of these social groups.



As part of this kick-off meeting, a technical visit was carried out to the town of Lebrija (Province of Seville), to present the "Lebrija Solar Wave" initiative of the non-profit company ECOOO (POWERTY stakeholder), in which the Town Hall of Lebrija (local public administration) has ceded the roofs of 11 municipal buildings to house photovoltaic installations. This action stands out for being a collective renewable energy installation, in which clean energy is generated in a communal way, promoting citizen participation and supporting an



economy that is more respectful of the environment and people. In addition, ECOOO has presented other initiatives that it develops, related to the labour insertion of people in a situation of vulnerability, in the renewable energies labour market.

Partners introduce POWERTY in their respective regions

During the first six months of the POWERTY project, each partner has organised a meeting of regional scope in order to promote the project to agents and entities linked to the field of renewables energies and energy poverty in their respective countries or regions. From these meetings, the working groups will be set up by the participating entities, who will offer their expertise in the development of a Catalogue of Good Practices and in the design of a regional Action Plan.

Andalusian Energy Agency (AEA)

On 30 January 2020, the Andalusian Energy Agency, lead partner of the project, met in its main offices with the Andalusian stakeholders, made up of almost 40 entities of different types, and characterised by their multidisciplinary, complementary and open character: public authorities, business sector (Andalusian cluster of renewable energies and other associations), consumers associations and renewable energy cooperatives or other similar organisations, research centres,

distributors and providers of energy, financial institutions (social - sustainable banking) and experts.



The meeting was chaired by the Managing Director of the Andalusian Energy Agency, Mr. Jorge Juan Jimenez Luna, who conveyed to participants the importance of their participation "in an ambitious project to the extent that, together with targets for the renewables energies, we also intend to facilitate the use of renewable energies among the vulnerable groups".

During this first meeting of the group of Andalusian experts, Mr. Jorge Juan Jimenez Luna highlighted the role of Andalusia as lead partner of the POWERITY

project and the fact that "this leadership is the result of the efforts we are making at the international level and, specifically, in the European Union, to exploit synergies and opportunities linked to the priorities of Andalusia on energy".

This technical working meeting with stakeholders, in addition to presenting the project and detailing the role that the stakeholders will assume in the POWERITY project, served to know first hand the initiatives and good practices that are already being developed, or that plan to be developed in the future. The meeting was also an opportunity for participants to reflect jointly on the weaknesses, threats, strengths and opportunities (SWOT approach) associated with POWERITY and the issues addressed by this project, and on the state of the art of renewable energies and vulnerable groups in Andalusia. It was also a suitable forum for the stakeholders themselves to meet in person, and to detect possible collaborations and synergies.

Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes Energy Environment Agency (AURA-EE)

The Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes Energy Environment Agency (AURA-EE) held their first regional stakeholder meeting in Villeurbanne, France on 6th February 2020, with a total number of 11 participants, including local energy agencies, R&D institutes, social landlords and national housing networks. During the meeting, participants contributed to the SWOT analysis and to the good practices (Scottish example on collective self-consumption, in terms of social innovation create a network of warning systems,...) on the 4 main topics of the project. It was decided to launch a call for expressions of interest, in order to identify local authorities interested in the subject of energy poverty in the region. As the government plans to increase electricity by 5% every year, it would be interesting to look ahead and see whether fuel poverty is still mainly due to heating or whether electricity is taking on an increasingly important role. This is in order to determine whether the priority in the short and medium term is focused on electricity consumption or on heating.



Energy Agency of Plovdiv (EAP)

The Energy Agency of Plovdiv (EAP) held the first regional stakeholder meeting on 30th October 2019 in Sofia which gathered more than 20 participants from various stakeholder groups, including: the Public and private sectors and NGOs. Namely representatives from the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the Sustainable Energy Development Agency and the Agency for Social Assistance, together with the NGO sector - Active Consumers Association, Friends of the Earth - Za Zemiata, Center for Energy Efficiency – Eneffect, Sofia Energy Agency.

The following key aspects were discussed with the stakeholders during the meeting: aims, goals, methodology of the POWERTY project; the need for new mechanisms and policies to tackle energy poverty; energy poverty definitions; energy poverty indicators, levels and statistics for Bulgaria; energy poverty assessment approaches; energy poverty measures at EU and National level; good sustainable practice in EU; opportunities for improvements and new policies in the national context.

The event was coupled with a presentation on the innovative energy awareness educational platform to decrease energy poverty (<http://www.project-idea.eu/>), where the Energy Agency of Plovdiv is a project partner and facilitator at local level.

The Agglomeration Opole Trust (AOP)

On the 22nd of November 2019 the first Stakeholders meeting was held in the seat of The Agglomeration Opole Trust, with a total of 11 participants. During the meeting, the main

objectives of the POWERTY project and the tasks to be fulfilled were presented to the regional stakeholders. A discussion on good practices from project partners also took place, including one GP from Poland. Participants in the meeting included: Krapkowice Municipality, Murów Municipality, Dąbrowa Municipality, Walce Municipality, Dobrzeń Wielki Municipality, Turawa Municipality, Popielów Municipality, Ozimek Municipality; the Opolskie Centre for Economic Development, the Regional Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Opole and ATMOTERM Company.

Public Investment Development Agency (VIPA)

On 14th of November 2019, the Public Investment Development Agency (VIPA) organised the first breakfast meeting with their regional stakeholders to inform them about the POWERTY project. For VIPA, Justinas Bučys, the expert of the POWERTY project team, presented the 4 main topics: Technological innovation of the Renewable energies for vulnerable groups; Developing new funding mechanisms for vulnerable groups; Legislative changes / improvements to the objectives of the POWERTY project; Involving vulnerable groups in the use of renewable energy sources. During the meeting, a participatory brainstorming with all stakeholders took place in order to discuss about main needs, barriers/constraints and possible solutions/best practice concerning the First topic, Technological innovation of the Renewable energies for vulnerable groups. The following regional stakeholders participated in the meeting: Representatives of Ministries: Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania – Ramūnas Šveikauskas ; Ministry of Social Security and Labor – Svetlana Kulpina, Kristina Tumienė; Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania -Virginija Pilipiene; Representatives of companies: VŠĮ Atnaujinkime miestą - Evaldas Bračiulis, Elvyra Platūkienė; Knowledge Agencies: Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania – Gabriela Kuštan; Lithuania Solar Energy Association – Vitas Mačiulis; Lawyers: Stašaitis & partners lawyers – Eglė Pranckūnienė.

Manchester (UK) hosts the first interregional meeting of the POWERTY project



This first interregional meeting of the POWERTY project took place in Manchester, UK, 16-17 January 2020, hosted by the University of Manchester (UM).

This meeting focused on the exchange of good practices among partners, as well as several activities related to the four topics of the POWERTY project: (i) New innovative renewable energy technologies, (ii) New financing mechanisms for renewable energies, (iii) Improvements in the regulatory framework and (iv) Empowering of vulnerable groups and social innovation.

Partners also had the opportunity to learn for the first time the current state of art of renewable energies and energy poverty in each region, as well as the main barriers, needs and opportunities presented by each particular region, which will facilitate the creation of joint initiatives of bilateral cooperation among different partners and participating regions.

During the meeting in Manchester, partners of the POWERTY project also realised a study visit to the Aaben housing complex, developed by the One Manchester Housing Association. One Manchester is Manchester's largest not-for-profit and non-governmental provider of housing and community services. One Manchester currently own more than 12,000 homes in central, south and east Manchester. The Aaben is a new development of 105 homes, all available for market rent. The development is a mixture of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and 3 bedroom townhouses. All apartments are heated, and hot water is provided, via air source heat pumps that are located on the roof of the development. During the site visit, the partners had an opportunity to observe the pumps in action, and talk about the technical and social challenges associated with managing the development with representatives from One Manchester. The visit highlighted the multiple benefits of innovative renewable energy installation for a social housing provider like One Manchester, as well as the financial, technical and social difficulties associated with the process. One of the main discussion points was that engagement and discussion with residents prior to the introduction of new forms of energy generation is crucial to the successful deployment of the infrastructure.



During the site visit, the partners had an opportunity to observe the pumps in action, and talk about the technical and social challenges associated with managing the development with representatives from One Manchester. The visit highlighted the multiple benefits of innovative renewable energy installation for a social housing provider like One Manchester, as well as the financial, technical and social difficulties associated with the process. One of the main discussion points was that engagement and discussion with residents prior to the introduction of new forms of energy generation is crucial to the successful deployment of the infrastructure.

POWERTY in international events

POWERTY is presented in the INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE COP25. The Andalusian Energy Agency, lead partner and coordinator of the POWERTY project, has presented the project at the UN Climate Change Conference COP25 in Madrid, in the SDG Pavillion of the United Nations, last 5th December 2019, as part of a workshop on energy poverty and climate change.

The Institute for Energy Saving and Diversification (IDAE) and the Ministry of Ecological Transition (representing the Spanish Government), as well as different entities that are a reference in the fight against energy poverty in Spain, and that have innovative experiences

in shared self-consumption, energy rehabilitation, energy management or social policy, with the aim of tackling energy poverty and climate change, also participated in the workshop, organised by ECODES (POWERTY stakeholder). These entities are Ecoserveis, ENDESA, Red Cross and Naturgy Foundation, as well as ECODES.



Focus on: University of Manchester

The Department of Geography at the University of Manchester was delighted to host the second POWERTY project meeting. We are a major research-intensive institution, located within the largest single-site university in the UK. The University of Manchester employs over 12,000 people and has over 40,000 students. It lists 25 Nobel Prize winners among its alumni.

At the Department of Geography, POWERTY is primarily co-ordinated by the People and Energy Programme within the Manchester Urban Institute. This group has extensive experience (over 20 years) in researching energy poverty and justice, energy efficiency, and transitions to sustainability across Europe and the world, via more than 40 projects (total value >15 million Euro) funded by international organisations, national governments, charitable bodies and the private sector. Among other initiatives, PEP currently co-ordinates the EU Energy Poverty

Observatory, and the COST Action 'European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation'. We are currently also heavily involved in the STEP IN Horizon 2020 project that seeks to address energy poverty via living labs (<https://www.step-in-project.eu>). Stefan Bouzarovski – PEP's lead – was pronounced an 'Ordinary Hero' in the EU Protects Campaign (https://europa.eu/euprotects/content/prof-stefan-bouzarovski-0_en).

PEP has a long-standing record in providing advice and input in the development and formulation of energy efficiency, social inclusion, renewable energy, urban planning and regional development legislation and policy for government ministries (e.g. UK, US, Balkans, Netherlands, China, Kazakhstan, South Africa etc), international bodies (European Commission, World Bank, International Energy Agency, United Nations) and advocacy groups and think tanks (French Institute for International Relations, Mediterranean Political Ecology Platform etc). PEP has also been involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of energy, urban development, environmental sustainability and social inclusion projects (both research and practice-orientated) across the world. It has extensive dissemination and public engagement experience, in the form of article and report writing, editing duties and social media work.

In PEP, energy poverty is conceptualised as a wider urban and regional phenomenon – moving beyond the triad of incomes, prices and energy efficiency that is dominant in most traditional policy and scientific understandings of the issue. We see energy poverty primarily as an expression of how social and economic life is organised across our cities and countries, and which groups and places are recognised by politicians as deserving of energy policy support, development and subsidies. Our input within the POWERTY project will be primarily in terms of helping frame energy poverty measurement approaches, identify good practices to address the challenge, develop the methodology for interregional seminars and SWOT analyses, and exchange knowledge through our vast international expert and stakeholder network.

Find out more about us at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSrehZP76_E

Our twitter feed is at @uompep and @stefanbuzar.

Consortium

PROJECT LEADER



Agencia Andaluza de la Energía
CONSEJERÍA DE HACIENDA, INDUSTRIA Y ENERGÍA

SPAIN: Andalusian Energy Agency



**Auvergne
Rhône-Alpes**
Énergie Environnement

FRANCE: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
Energy Environment Agency
(AURA-EE)



BULGARIA: Energy Agency
of Plovdiv (EAP)



POLAND: The Agglomeration
Opole Trust (AOT)



LITHUANIA: The Public
Investment and
Development Agency (VĪPA)



UNITED KINGDOM: University of
Manchester – EU Energy
Poverty Observatory (EPOV)

Contact

POWERTY Project Coordinator

Andalusian Energy Agency - Joaquín Villar - joaquin.villar@juntadeandalucia.es

This is the first edition of the POWERTY biannual newsletter. If you do not want to receive the POWERTY newsletters, please reply to this email writing "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union under the Interreg Europe programme. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Andalusian Energy Agency and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union or of the Programme's management structures.

The Interreg Europe programme of the European Union is an initiative of territorial cooperation for the period 2014-2020 which aims to encourage cooperation between regions of the European Union. The aim is to help European regions to design and implement regional policies and programmes more effectively, particularly Growth and Jobs programmes of the European Structural Funds and Investment, but also programmes of the European Territorial Cooperation, through the exchange of experiences, knowledge and best practices between stakeholders of all European regions. The programme has four thematic objectives: research and innovation, SME competitiveness, low-carbon economy, the environment and resource efficiency. The Interreg Europe programme covers the entire territory of the European Union, Norway and Switzerland.

POWERTY is part of the Interreg Europe programme (www.interregeurope.eu), with a total budget of 1.127.226 euros, and co-financed with European Regional Development Fund up to 83,7%.
