



# LOCARBO

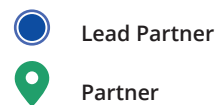
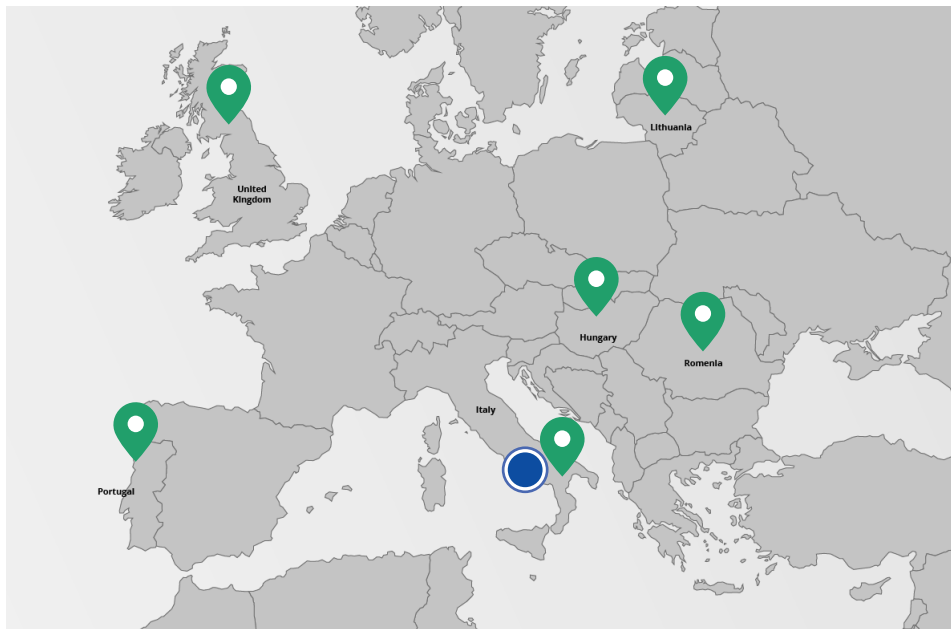
Interreg Europe

Novel roles of regional and local  
authorities in supporting energy  
consumers' behaviour change  
towards a low carbon economy



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund





### **Province of Potenza (IT) – Lead Partner**

Basilicata Region (IT)

Municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia (PT)

Durham County Council (UK)

Kaunas University of Technology (LT)

Hungarian Innovation and Efficiency Nonprofit Ltd (HU)

Municipality of Alba Iulia (RO)



## MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD PARTNER



54 months spent working together. Or rather...60! Yes, because this global pandemic situation tried to lengthen the time giving us just the illusion that we could meet once more in presence to share all the joy, the gratitude, the know-how and these skills that linked us in this special project for so long.

LOCARBO has been unique in focusing its activities on bottom-up initiatives combining and rolling-out innovative practices linked to three strongly interrelated thematic pillars (services, organizational structures and technological solutions).

All 7 partners from Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania and the UK achieved the expected results, even going beyond their possibilities considering the difficult situation of the present time, so developing 7 fully feasible Action Plans with the focus on improving 7 policy instruments (5 ERDF, 2 other funds) and trying to influence EUR 100M in funds, and 3 Pilot Actions in which an Hungarian best practice proposing an EU wide visualisation tool that presents complex energy data in an accessible format has been replicated.

We have been always firmly aware that regional policies on energy efficiency can only be successful if pieces of the puzzle are brought together. And this we have done by involving local stakeholder groups, organizing interregional site visits and compiling a good practice inventory.

Locarbo's main aim was that, with the implementation of such action plans, an enlarged circle of end users could benefit from making informed decisions on energy efficiency and investments would be made using smart technologies, such as in specific actions of climate protection policies aimed at combating climate change.

LOCARBO is an interregional cooperation project for improving low-carbon economy policies, through the support of energy consumers' behaviour change.

It has not been easy to manage and especially finalise such an important project; but we have demonstrated to be highly resilient. Some even say adversity brings potential benefits. "There is nothing better than adversity," said the activist Malcolm X. "Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve the next time." Undoubtedly Coronavirus has affected our last efforts to demonstrate that everything has always been done at the best and for the sake of the community. But we can be proud and aware of having always worked to achieve all the objectives set.

My wish for everyone is that this forced stop can be the starting point of a new magnificent and "normal" adventure of international cooperation and exchange.

*Alessandro Attolico*  
*LP Coordinator*

## OBJECTIVES

To improve policy instruments targeting demand-driven initiatives to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewables in the built environment.

To find innovative ways for regional and local authorities to support energy consumers' behaviour change, enhancing motivation and awareness.

To promote more conscious consumers' decisions on energy efficiency in buildings and investments using smart technologies.

# THEMATIC PILLARS



## **Supplementary services and products:**

Services and products offered by regional and local authorities, such as energy consultancy services to end users and energy ambassadors.



## **Innovative cooperation models:**

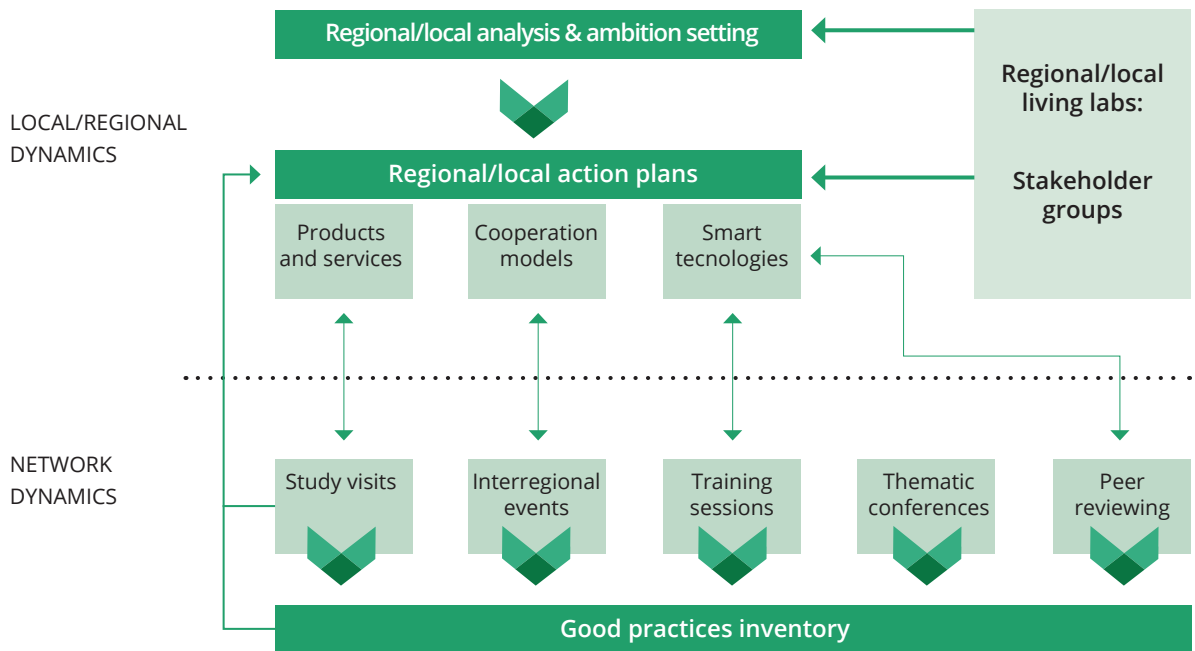
Cooperation models based on Local Energy Communities, composed of economic and civil actors cooperating on energy efficiency and renewable energy, oriented to foster an active involvement of stakeholders, especially energy consumers.



## **Innovative and smart/technologies:**

Supporting the replication of smart technologies, such as energy management systems and smart meters in regions/countries with lower penetration rates and systematically collecting and analysing data and feedback information in order to support evidence-based policy making.

# STRUCTURE



### RESULTS

The Province has achieved 70% of stakeholders directly involved in LOCARBO benefitting from Structural Funds financing for project implementation.

Within the pilot action and connected with the new Covenant of Mayors, Energy Transition and Climate Change policies have been integrated in the provincial territory through a Smart Tool (the VPPP good practice) based on a structured process of raising awareness at citizens' and political level.

The Province has also produced and distributed a Sustainability Rule Book to high schools in its territory, so enhancing students' capacity to understand current Energy Efficiency related issues and policies, providing them with up-to-date knowledge and competences.



### FUTURE STEPS

Future steps will be taken in the direction of capitalizing the actions carried out within the pilot action and the #weResilient provincial strategy, as a basis for concrete climate mitigation policies at local level, considering a wider vision of tackling environmental challenges and economic recovery from COVID-19.

Starting points will be to disseminate pilot action results to the schools of the territory and to provide assistance, in a structured and coordinated way, to all provincial stakeholders, to help them benefit from Structural Funds financing to implement projects and initiatives on the topics of low-carbon economy, climate neutrality and the European Green Deal.





## Basilicata Region

### RESULTS

A tool kit on pre-commercial procurement (PCP) in the automation building has been realized and has been introduced to 30 local authorities in Basilicata Region, where the PCP was almost unknown and had never been used.

This new instrument can now be used to obtain answers to a proved and justified need for sustainable innovation, thus contributing to the transition to a regional low-carbon economy.



### FUTURE STEPS



Beyond LOCARBO, there is the need to widespread the relevance of low-carbon economy, to promote more conscious consumers' decisions on energy efficiency in public and private building, and to show ways for regional and local authorities to support energy consumers' behaviour change, enhancing motivation and awareness.

The tool kit represents a starting point to be capitalised to obtain calls for proposals oriented to a higher level of efficiency in the environmental policies of the Region, in full coherence with the political ambition of the Region to promote the transition towards a low-carbon economy.

## Municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia

### RESULTS

Two social housing neighbourhoods have been retrofitted using funds from the ROP, achieving a reduction of 423,617.65 kWh/year in energy consumption.

Other 13 projects have also been granted financial support through the targeted policy instrument and are currently awaiting the signing of public procurement contracts to be initiated.



### FUTURE STEPS



The implementation of the remaining 13 retrofitting projects will result in a total reduction of 1,303,840 kWh/year in useful energy consumption in buildings under municipal management.

A political committee will be implemented for the discussion of energy policies, and the establishment of energy management teams, responsible for the promotion of sustainable practices in municipal buildings' daily routines.

Hygrothermal data collected from 7 social housing dwellings and the results of two surveys conducted with social housing residents and workers in municipal buildings within the implementation of Vila Nova de Gaia action plan will be useful to feed discussions among stakeholders within the political committee.

## Durham County Council

### RESULTS

The Council has influenced the revised guidance on PA4b Output C1 (number of enterprises receiving support).

The revised guidance clarifies that any support to an SME could be counted as compliant provided that it is contributing to the improvement of energy efficiency, including dedicated support to individual SMEs by means of background work.

This revision has been instrumental in setting up the North-East Business Energy Efficiency Support (BEES project, now called BEST). 119 energy audits have been completed in SME's under BEST.

The project has a total value of £1,341,000, including ERDF and match spend.

The Virtual Power Plant pilot action in Hungary has been transferred to UK Government Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy.



### FUTURE STEPS

Durham County Council has started a new Interreg Europe project called SMEPower.

The aim is to ensure that public policy for the low carbon economy is better adapted to the needs of non-energy intensive SMEs, thus enabling them to be a key driver in the low carbon shift at European level.



#### Targeted Policy Instrument

ERDF Operational Programme 2014-2020 | North East Operational Programme

## RESULTS

By simulating renovation processes and communicating good practices and monitoring results to the community (potential beneficiaries), awareness-raising has been promoted on benefits of renovation and procedures to qualitatively foster renovation processes.

In 2019-2020 period, 365 modernization projects were implemented in Lithuania and approximately 43,680 households increased their energy efficiency class.



## FUTURE STEPS

Investment in energy efficiency improvements in old multi-apartment, residential and public buildings will continue.

Close to 1,000 apartment renovation projects will be launched in the near future.



## Hungarian Innovation and Efficiency Nonprofit Ltd (Mi6)

### RESULTS

Through the facilitation of communication between the managing authority of the targeted policy instrument and market level stakeholders, EDIOP-4 calls have been re-developed to further suit real market needs.

Through these policy instruments, eligible support by successful EDIOP-4 applicants reached EUR 165,200,000.

211,124.016 GJs of energy savings have been accumulated by local Hungarian SMEs in the flagship Virtual Power Plant Programme (VPPP), through the realisation of project investments.

This equals 4.8 megawatts of power plant capacity saved solely by SMEs.

Pilot projects of Mi6's VPP Programme have started to be implemented in three LOCARBO partner regions (Durham, Potenza and Alba Iulia) to help gather, award and disseminate Energy Efficiency Best Practices.

These pilot programmes gathered 3.5 MW power plant capacity equivalents (153,360 GJ) of energy savings.

30,447.82 tonnes of Carbon-dioxide emission have been saved in Hungary, while 22,919.72 tonnes of GHG have been saved within the three pilots.



### FUTURE STEPS

It would be beneficial that a Policy Instrument could be formulated to better help the household segment and their investment needs.

During LOCARBO, Mi6 came to the realisation, that the VPPP approach can be implemented in the household segment, thus Mi6 aims to help the managing authority of EDIOP and the local financial market to create solutions to better help these sporadic, individually low cost, but high risk household level energy efficiency projects in the next two years.



#### Targeted Policy Instrument

Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme (EDIOP) 2014-2020

## Municipality of Alba Iulia

### RESULTS

Prior to LOCARBO project, local stakeholders were reluctant about the thermal rehabilitation of their public buildings as they did not understand the benefits and the process of implementation of this type of project.

The following institutions have applied for funding after good practices being presented to them during LOCARBO meetings and due to active participation of ROP managing authority experts in these sessions.

- Alba Gendarmerie County Inspectorate building (project value: EUR 468,000);
- Alba County Emergency Hospital (project value: EUR 3,190,000);
- Alba Iulia decided to rehabilitate 11 educational institutions and to use integrated monitoring and control systems in schools. The municipality have won one project for the rehabilitation of the Sports High School (EUR 1,346,255.21).



### FUTURE STEPS

Under the Action Plan for Sustainable Energy and Climate (PAEDC 2030) of Alba Iulia Municipality, over 350 individual projects have been proposed for analysis. Only a part of these projects can be financed within the current and the following programming period, so the municipality will need to prioritize those projects that are of greatest importance for its strategy.







Low-carbon  
economy



## Contacts

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