

## THE POWERTY PROJECT PRESENTS ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR WITH ALTERNATIVES TO OVERCOME ENERGY POVERTY THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGIES

The Public Entity Andalusian Energy Agency (AEA) from Spain, as leading partner of the POWERTY project, together with Public Investment Development Agency (VIPA) from Lithuania have organised the **First Interregional Thematic Seminar** of this project. This seminar has had a **good impact**, with the participation at the **international level of more than 120**

**participants**, who have also valued the event positively (70% of those surveyed rated the event as very satisfactory).

The **main objective of the international seminar** has been to **share good practices** that, in the field of renewable energies and energy poverty, have been developed in the different European regions, and facilitate their replication in other regions. It is a great achievement that **100%** of the respondents who attended the seminar considered the **good practices presented interesting**.

This event, which should have been held in person in Lithuania, was held online on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020, due to mobility restrictions caused by the current pandemic caused by COVID-19. The **first day** focused on the most appropriate **innovative technological solutions to overcome energy poverty through renewable energies** and during the **second day** financing formulas were analysed to facilitate the use of renewable energies by vulnerable groups.



The event was opened by Gvidas Dargužas, representative of Public Investment Development Agency (VIPA) , and the Managing Director of the Andalusian Energy Agency, Francisco Javier Ramírez García.

Gvidas Dargužas commented that energy poverty is getting more and more important during this COVID-19 pandemic because many people have lost their jobs and do not have the best energy facilities (heating, electricity..) at home. For this, the exchange of new ideas presented during the seminar will help to increase the measures to tackle energy poverty.

Francisco Javier Ramírez emphasized the relevance of the POWERTY project and highlighted how **renewable energies are an important tool to overcome energy poverty**, complementary to other welfare measures that have been applied in recent years. He also pointed out that no one should be left out of the clean, safe and fair energy transition promoted by Europe through its different strategies and directives, and therefore the best formulas must be sought to ensure that **vulnerable groups suffering from energy poverty are also protagonists of the energy transition**.

Next, the public entity **Andalusian Energy Agency (AEA)** in Spain presented the main progress of the project and publications available on the [project website](#). AEA also presented the **SWOT analysis** on financing, including the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats detected in each participating region of the POWERTY consortium. As a result of the needs



detected in the analyses mentioned previously, good practices have been identified by partner regions in collaboration with their regional stakeholders and presented during the seminar.

Other partner regions also participated in the seminar, highlighting the **University of Manchester**, an entity that coordinates the **European Observatory of Energy Poverty**, led by **Stefan Bouzarovski**, one of the leading European experts on energy poverty, who presented an overview of the situation of energy poverty in



the European Union and the SWOT analysis of the POWERITY consortium on technologies.

Among other **European entities outside of the Consortium**, the Lithuanian alliance of consumer organizations (LVOA) also took part in this seminar presenting the STEP project in Horizon 2020 on solutions to tackle energy poverty, as well as the European University of Viadrina dealing with renewable energy communities, energy justice and energy poverty.

Stakeholders from different partner regions also presented good practices related to the topic of **technologies**:

- The **University of Huelva** (Spain), represented by its Director of Innovation, presented the work it develops in the field of **solar cookers**, as a complementary alternative to other technologies to overcome energy poverty through renewable energy. In addition to strictly research activities, the University of Huelva has also carried out a campaign of demonstration workshops on this type of technology adapted to different profiles of people.
- The company **Pylondata** (Spain) presented advanced **data management tools** that make it easier for people to collectively and jointly use renewable energy facilities, especially proximity collective self-consumption, which constitutes an ideal alternative for vulnerable groups to also benefit from self-consumption and renewable energy.

- **Stakeholders of AOT** (Poland) presented the development of **modular passive micro-houses** within the framework of a residential program to overcome energy poverty, which includes integrated photovoltaic installations.
- AEELA program (France) presented renewable energy technologies (biomass) in the AAELA project "energy saving accelerator for farmers' homes".

Relating to the **financing** topic:

- The Andalusian company **Quantum Energía Verde** (Spain) presented its financing product "**Alquiler Quantico**", a financing alternative based on the rental of renewable energy facilities, making it easier for anyone to access the benefits of self-consumption without having to carry out an initial investment.
- **Public Investment Development Agency (VIPA)** (Lithuania) presented the study visit through a video and a presentation about the **modernization of apartment buildings and renewable energy sources, financing mechanism.**
- **Buxia Energies** (France) presented Third-party **investment by citizen cooperative.**
- **AOT** (Poland) presented the Polish Government Plans that were introduced in the **Clean Air Program.**

Additionally, as it was a virtual meeting, several videos of interest on matters related to the seminar were presented during the short break, highlighting the explanatory video on the **study visit** in Lithuania about modernization of multiapartment buildings and renewable energy sources, financing mechanism.

Finally, networking was carried out among the attendees during the seminar and the great interest shown by the audience for the good practices and their possible replication in other European countries is also highlighted. In addition, participants reflected on renewable energy technologies, accompanied by financing instruments adapted to vulnerable groups, as the solution to overcome energy poverty.

Two new international seminars will be held in 2021, in which aspects related to the **regulatory framework of renewable energies and citizen participation and social innovation strategies** will be discussed, always taking into account the special circumstances of many of the groups addressed by the project.