

# POWERTY

## NEWSLETTER N° 4

*Renewable energies for vulnerable groups*



## WELCOME TO THE 4TH EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER

During this fourth semester of the project (from 01/02/2021 to 31/07/2021) the **second and third interregional seminars** took place, which dealt with the topics of regulation and empowerment. This was followed by **meetings with regional experts**, where each European project partner conveyed the information from the interregional seminars to them.

Both for the preparations of the interregional seminar and to ensure the quality of the steps to be followed in the project, **several meetings have been held between the European partners.**

One of the Spanish good practices identified in the framework of the POWERTY project was selected by Interreg Europe to be presented in a specific webinar on jobs and skills for the energy transition.

The 3 pilot actions presented to Interreg Europe by partners of the POWERTY project have been approved and are beginning their implementation. In addition, an agreement is being executed between the Andalusian Regional Government and the University of Huelva to promote solar cookers among the vulnerable.

POWERTY carried out various dissemination actions during the "European Energy Poverty Week".

POWERTY has been presented at the Andalusian Self-consumption Round Table and in a large number of international events, which we will detail later, and has had a great impact on the networks thanks to the second episode of the Polish vlog "POWER and YOU" and the publications on our [website](#), among others.

<b>WELCOME TO THE 4TH EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>SECOND INTERREGIONAL THEMATIC SEMINAR.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>THIRD INTERREGIONAL THEMATIC SEMINAR .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>POWERTY REGIONAL EXPERT MEETINGS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>MEETINGS OF EUROPEAN PARTNERS .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>POWERTY IN THE ANDALUSIAN SELF-CONSUMPTION ROUND TABLE .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>GOOD PRACTICE OF POWERTY SELECTED AS A MODEL BY INTERREG EUROPE.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ANDALUSIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HUELVA TO PROMOTE SOLAR COOKERS AMONG VULNERABLE GROUPS .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>POWERTY PILOT ACTIONS .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Creation and development of an energy and educational community in a vulnerable area (Spain)</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Financing model to develop renewable energies for low income homes (France) .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Photovoltaic hybrid with storage in social housing (Bulgaria).....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>PRESENTATION OF POWERTY TO THE POLISH MINISTRY .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>DISSEMINATION OF THE POWERTY PROJECT .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>FOCUS ON Agglomeration Opole Trusth (AOT).....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>NEXT STEPS OF POWERTY PROJECT .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>POWERTY CONSORTIUM.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>CONTACT.....</b>	<b>27</b>

## SECOND INTERREGIONAL THEMATIC SEMINAR



The [Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energy Environment Agency \(AURA-EE\)](#) organised the Second Interregional Thematic Seminar of POWERTY, together with the support of the Andalusian Energy Agency (AEA), coordinator and leader of the project, on the regulatory framework of the European Union that supports the reduction of energy poverty, in particular the use of renewable energies by vulnerable groups.

This two-day virtual seminar, [8 and 9 April 2021](#), brought together 137 participants from all over Europe.

The first day focused on how the **EU Green Deal** can contribute to increasing the use of renewable energy by vulnerable groups, while the second day discussed ways to **overcome regulatory barriers**. Other European projects shared their experience on **local policies** to promote renewable energy. In addition, several **good practices** were shared at the regional level from POWERTY partners and stakeholders working to address energy poverty. Despite the online format of this seminar, the participants were able to participate in a virtual **study visit**, virtually, to the "[Preau des Colibris in Voiron](#)" (France), a shared house with photovoltaic and thermal solar installations financed by a third party.



## DAY 1: HOW CAN THE EU GREEN DEAL CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASE THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY BY VULNERABLE GROUPS?

**Patrick Biard**, Head of European and International Affairs at AURA-EE, opened the first day of the seminar by presenting its objectives. **Joaquin Villar Rodriguez**, from the Andalusian Energy Agency, lead partner of POWERTY, reminded the audience about the main features of the project.

The European Commission considers energy poverty to be at the heart of the just transition. In the context of the Fit for 55 package, the European Commission is reviewing the Renewable Energy Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Energy Community Directive and the Renewal Wave, and will ensure that the issue of energy poverty is addressed in all aspects. The European Commission has published a [recommendation](#) and guidance document for Member States in order to facilitate the definition and identification of energy poverty and the dissemination of good practices.

**Teresa Aristegui** also emphasised the DG Energy local initiatives such as [EU Energy Poverty Observatory](#) and the European Semester. She concluded by highlighting the importance of Interreg funding and making sure that all EU funding available interlaces effectively.

We had the pleasure to welcome **Katharine Krell**, thematic expert on low-carbon economy for the Policy Learning Platform ([PLP](#)) of the Interreg Europe programme. She explained the usefulness of the Platform for projects of territorial cooperation. The Platform offers online learning possibilities with experts support and policy briefs, and personalised policy advice with peer reviews, and a good practices database where one can find all good practices of the POWERTY partners.

The second session of the day was focused on the **state of the art of the regulatory framework** in the POWERTY partners' countries. Each partner assessed the existence of an energy poverty regulation, the translation of the renewable energy directive and the energy community directive into national law. This session highlighted that only France and Spain have a [national energy poverty strategy](#), a proper definition of energy poverty and a [solidarity fund for energy bills or housing](#). France, Lithuania and Spain have a [national energy poverty observatory](#). France is the only partner country to have [energy certificates dedicated to reduce energy poverty](#). Finally, Bulgaria is the only partner country not to have [subsidies for the energy renovation of housing](#).

**Ryan Weber**, from Nordregio, leader of the [Social Green project](#) (Interreg Europe project), presented its policy [solutions for mitigating energy poverty](#). He highlighted the role of [energy communities](#) as a key concept to tackle emerging technical, societal and economic challenges, the need for bottom-up development solutions and leading organisations to pave the way.

**Roland Tual**, from [REScoop](#), developed their views regarding local [energy communities](#) as a way to reduce energy poverty by granting easy access to renewable energy for vulnerable groups. He demonstrated how EU directives can support the creation of local inclusive energy communities

involving vulnerable groups, and gave some already-existing examples.

As a third session, **Patrick Biard** moderated a **roundtable** which discussed how the revision of EU directives can better support the reduction of energy poverty. Participants could react to the above-mentioned presentations in polls. From the discussions, it appears that there is a highly shared opinion that the production of RES for and/or by vulnerable groups can help alleviate energy poverty. NECPs are valuable and effective tools to design and implement energy poverty mitigation measures but, at the moment, they are mainly targeting efficiency measures in buildings. Dedicated indicators should help monitor the implementation of these RES production measures.

Besides, the EU clean energy package establishes a clear link between energy communities and energy poverty. Community energy also enables certain groups of households to participate in the energy transition, who otherwise might not have been able to do so. This opinion is commonly shared amongst the participants. Engaging vulnerable groups in energy communities should be facilitated by measures ensuring that:

- Setting up costs are supported by Member States or regional authorities
- Technical assistance is provided by authorities to address all legal, technical and financial topics

Furthermore, effective technical assistance should be designed in concert with vulnerable groups. One-stop shop solutions at the local level should be supported. The proposal from the European Commission to expand the use of ESCOs and implement solutions enabling to overcome high upfront costs is highly supported and considered as an effective measure to support RES projects by vulnerable groups.

## DAY 2: GOOD PRACTICES TO OVERCOME BARRIERS OF NORMATIVE CHARACTER

The second day of the seminar shed light on local initiatives and good practices to overcome barriers of normative character.

**Francesco Filippi** of the Foundation MUSOL, partner of the [Local4GreenN project](#), of the Interreg MED programme, developed a methodology to define green local fiscal policies to promote RES depending on the local specificities.

Then, the POWERTY partners presented their good practices related to normative. **Noémie Zambeaux** from AURA-EE presented the [zero-rated eco-loan scheme](#) to encourage renewable energy. This good practice allows landlords to get a loan to finance energy refurbishment works for their main residence. Granted by banks, the loan is between €7,000 and €30,000 refundable for 15 years following works.

**Maud Legros**, from the Energy Direction of the French Ministry for Ecological Transition presented the [energy voucher](#) which is an automatic aid to pay energy bills given by the State to 5.8 million of vulnerable households per year in France, based on the income and the household composition.

**Renata Adomavičienė**, from VIPA, presented some [policy changes](#) introduced in Lithuanian legislation in order to make renewable energy easy to use and install, whose aim is to facilitate the installation of small-scale renewable energy source power plans, to extend the legislation related to prosumers of renewable energy, and to foster the use of renewable energy sources.

We had the honour to welcome **Pedro Miguel Mancha Romero**, General Director of Senior Citizens and Non-contributory pensions of the Regional Ministry of Equality, social policies and conciliation, who spoke about elderly energy poverty as a multidimensional problem. He presented the [First Andalusian Plan for the Elderly 2021 - 2023](#) with a budget of more than 164 million euros. This good practice includes 5 strategic lines such as prevention of dependency, attention to dependency, attention to particularly vulnerable elderly people, promotion of good treatment of the elderly and tackling undesired loneliness and energy poverty impacts on four of these lines. One of the programs of the Andalusian Plan for the Elderly focuses on the reduction of elderly energy poverty is influenced by the POWERTY project

**Katarzyna Jasińska**, from AOT, explained [how the local government of the Opole voivodeship has implemented an air quality management system](#) in the public administration through 2 main actions: the organisation and implementation of a unified management system, and increasing public awareness in the field of air quality by enhancing the involvement of local governments, society, NGOs and local entities.

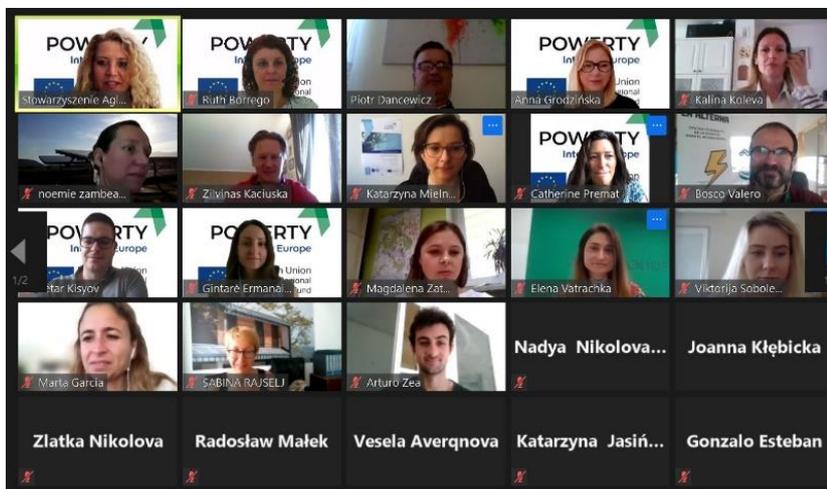
- Link to the Agenda and presentations: [here](#)
- Link to the POWERTY good practices identified: [here](#)

## THIRD INTERREGIONAL THEMATIC SEMINAR



The [Agglomeration Opole Trust \(AOT\)](#) has organised the Third Interregional Thematic Seminar of POWERTY, together with the support of the Andalusian Energy Agency (AEA), coordinator and leader of the project, on **social innovation and empowerment of citizens and local entities**, in particular on how to involve local authorities and citizens to raise awareness about the problem of energy poverty and create systemic solutions beneficial to vulnerable groups. This two-day virtual seminar, on [June 17 and 18, 2021](#), brought together **130 participants** from all over Europe, who have positively valued the event (70% of those surveyed rated the event as very satisfactory).

The first day focused on **social innovation for the energy transition and overcoming energy poverty**, while the second day dealt with the **empowerment of citizens and local authorities**. Other European projects shared their experience on empowering citizens, bioenergy and energy communities. In addition, several **good practices** were shared at the regional level from POWERTY partners and stakeholders working to address energy poverty. Despite the online format of this seminar, the participants were able to participate in a **virtual study visit**, virtually, to [renewable facilities in the province of Opole \(Poland\)](#), which included the presentation of the wind energy panel, as the winning project of the [Warm up your business competition](#), as well as the design of 100% renewable micro-houses or modular houses and finally the most modern installation that uses renewable energy sources at the “Father Sebastian Kneipp Scientific and Research Institute”. The Rehabilitation and Leisure Complex using photovoltaic solar energy. More information in the study visit report (link to the [report](#)).



## DAY 1: SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION TO TACKLE ENERGY POVERTY

After familiarising the participants with the rules of the meeting, the floor was given to the AOT Director, **Mr. Piotr Dacewicz**, who introduced AOT and why the POWERTY Project is important to us. **Mr. Joaquin Villar Rodriguez** from the Andalusian Energy Agency (AEA) then spoke about the POWERTY project and the challenges Europe faces in reaching European decarbonisation targets.

After the welcome, the *first session on Social Innovation for Energy Transition* began. **Mr. Piotr Nowakowski** from the National Energy Conservation Agency (KAPE) presented "Development of civic energy in Poland". We found out about PV market in Poland, what is the situation of individual prosumers in Poland and energy communities. Due to the imposed deadlines and the requirements of the European Green Deal, there are many changes in Polish law. We learn about what the Polish government is preparing in the coming months and about the [COME-RES project](#) - Community energy for the uptake of renewables in the electricity sector.

The next lecturer - **Ms. Aura Caramizaru** from the European Commission - presented the "European overview of energy communities". Development of energy communities is a process that began in the 1970s. What is the relationship between energy communities and energy poverty? What energy communities in EU legislation are? We were able to find answers to these and other questions during the presentation.

The *second session on Focus on local authorities* began with the presentation of the Master Plan for Social Innovation of the Seville City Council by **Mr. David Pino**, who emphasized that energy communities should not only be an element of energy savings: they should become a real network within a local ecosystem for transformation and sustainability. He also focused on the cooperative as a good figure for the energy communities.

In the next lecture attendees listened to examples of using new mechanisms of support for housing policy and thermomodernization in the local government policy by **M.Ar. Cezary Czemplik** and **Ms. Katarzyna Przybylska** from the Polish Natural Building Association. From the presentation, participants learnt about the Social rental agency (SRA), especially the model and Habitat Poland's program which includes new solutions for Habitat Poland and how to use SRA in housing, social and energy efficiency policies. Moreover, we also found out about natural, economy communal building system and internal, external economic natural insulation.

The *final session of the day focused on demonstrating citizen participation in energy transition efforts*. The first lecture was presented by **Mr. Dariusz Grabowiecki** from the Provincial Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Opole. He presented the topic "Nationwide System of Advisory Support for the Public Sector, Housing and Enterprises in the field of energy efficiency and RES". Attendees learnt about what are the goals and main activities of the project. Specifically, one of the main activities in the energy consulting project which includes: Building and managing a nationwide network of advisory support, consulting services, preparation and implementation of training for municipal energy advisors, construction and operation of the IT

system, information, promotion and research on the effectiveness of information and promotion activities, monitoring and control of the achievement of the project objectives.

Another presentation on “Community Bioenergy and fostering new links and partnerships” was given by **Ms. Magdalena Zatonska**. She presented [BECoop project](#), which focused on mobilizing citizens around bioenergy initiatives, increasing knowledge and acceptance of bioenergy, especially for domestic heating purposes. Then **Mr. Andrew Hunt**, partner of the [COALESCCE project](#) (Interreg Europe) spoke about “Community owned and led energy for security, climate change and employment”. The project is focused on citizen energy to address energy security, carbon emissions reduction targets and building the local economy. In other words COALESCCE was made to increase the capacity for community based approaches to local renewable energy provision across Europe in order to reduce carbon emissions, increase energy security and tackle fuel poverty whilst driving ‘Green Growth’. The good practices as bio-briquettes, bioenergy villages, apartment block retrofit met with a very positive reception by the participants of the seminar.

The program also featured **Ms. Marine Cornelies** of Next Energy Consumer who presented “the Experience of being an [Ambassador of the European Climate Pact](#)”. The European Climate Pact Ambassadors inform, inspire and support climate action in their communities and networks. She emphasised that protecting the health and wellbeing of citizens is equally important as respecting the climate and the environment. **Mr. Jose Miguel Granados** of COOPERASE presented citizen participation in the Monachil energy community in Andalusia (Spain) and how it works.

At the end of the first day of the seminar, the POWERTY project coordinator from Poland, **Ms. Anna Grodzińska** (AOT), conducted a [networking section](#) using online surveys to check the participants' satisfaction with the seminar and get to know each other better.

## DAY 2: EMPOWERING CITIZENS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES – GOOD PRACTICES

The second day was devoted to good practices of POWERTY project partners in the topic Empowerment.

**Ms. Elena Vatrachka**, from Schneider Electric Bulgaria, presented the good practice about [Sustainable reduction of energy consumption of low-income households through energy advice](#) ([access to the GP](#)). The purpose of this good practice is to empower all to make the most of the energy and resources, bridging progress and sustainability for all citizens in Bulgaria. Its main impact is on engaging communities (volunteer; partner, employees, citizen), raising awareness (training & energy advising), reaching out to the most vulnerable and supporting positive impact on climate.

**Mr. Jakub Mickiewicz**, from Lokalna TV, and **Ms. Anna Grodzińska** (AOT), explained the good practice about [How to make a vlog or interview?](#). Thanks to the presentation of this good practice, participants were shown how to easily run a vlog with a mobile phone and a tripod at their disposal, as well as what mistakes should not be made and how to choose the topics of the talks in order to avoid energy poverty. The host shows how to use the free media (YouTube Channel) with a small financial outlay to reach people who are energy poor and how to record films in unprofessional conditions. The broadcasting thematic vlog "POWER and YOU" (short films) was created by AOT for the inhabitants of the Opole Agglomeration (inhabitants of 21 communes) to fulfill an educational and informative function about energy, giving information about obtaining subsidies for the exchange of heat sources, changes in the anti-smog policy, new legal regulation, renewable energies and so on. The vlog is available in YouTube so the [episodes](#) can be watched or listened to in a convenient place and time.

**Ms. Gintarė Ermanaitė-Žalė** (VIPA) defined the good practice [Change of legislation to foster building renovation program which include vulnerable groups](#) ([access to the GP](#)). This good practice presented how the support program has been implemented and what problems it encounters, as well as what benefits can be obtained and why it is so important in Lithuania. Additional benefits to foster the program are: Providing interest rate subsidies (result based), providing additional grants to final beneficiaries, including additional grants for RES installment (result based, funded from Climate change fund and state budget), covering monthly instalments for low income households (covered from municipalities funds) and providing technical support financing long term financing.

**Ms. Noémie Zambeaux** (AURA-EE) presented the [Autonomous Building for Citizens \(ABC\) demonstration](#) good practice ([access to the GP](#)) consisting on the first autonomous building in Grenoble (France) in a new innovating district next to international companies (CEA, Schneider etc.). The residence is composed of 62 social housing units owned by Grenoble Habitat, a local public company, social landlord, builder and real estate developer, and designed and built by research and development teams of Bouygues Construction. This project is a sustained implementation by local authorities and government.

**Ms. Ruth Borrego Andrade** (AEA) presented the good practice [An installing solar panels insertion company whose employees are people at risk of exclusion by ECOOO](#) ([access to the GP](#)). She showed who is involved in this initiative and highlighted the results of this good practice. The creation of the first company (HAZ SOLAR) of photovoltaic installers coming from insertion companies compounds by people on risk of exclusion, hiring of 6 people in vulnerable situations with a view to their professional training and their insertion in the labour market, from 6 photovoltaic installations in single family homes to 46 installations, the total installed power amounts to 100kW (80% for residential use) and high degree of customer satisfaction both in terms of the quality of the installation and for the human treatment of the team members.

**Mr. Bosco Valero**, MUTI Association, presented the [Alumbra Energy community and its project](#)

“Energy at the school” awarded by the Greenpeace Hackathon ([access to the GP](#)) and participants learnt about how the school community is able to achieve energy savings that they are invested in the school itself and how children can also learn how to save energy in their own home during the lessons on the environment and responsible energy consumption, collective self-consumption, vulnerability and the right to energy for families from school and gradually from all over Arroyomolinos de Leon (Huelva, Spain).

Next, **Ms. Eleni Kanellou**, coordinator of the [POWERPOOR project](#) (Horizon 2020), spoke about “Empowering Energy Poor Citizens through Joint Energy Initiatives”. POWERPOOR leads the way in:

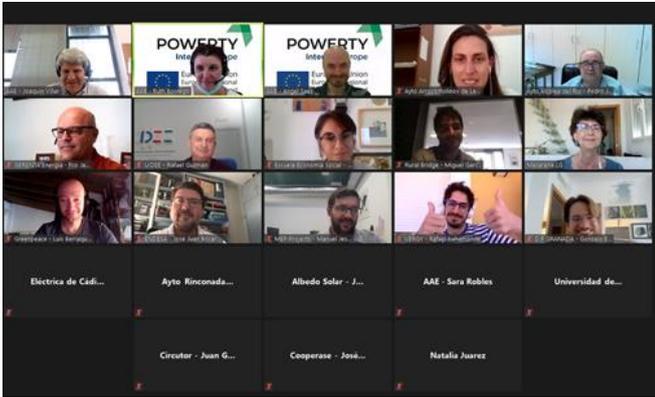
- Supporting - energy poor citizens to implement energy efficiency interventions and participate in joint energy initiatives, through the development of POWERPOOR support programmes and tools, to alleviate energy poverty.
- Facilitating - citizens’ behaviour change towards energy use and uptake of energy efficiency measures through experience and knowledge sharing, as well as through joint energy initiatives and citizen engagement campaigns targeting groups of consumers in energy poor communities.
- Promoting - energy community projects / alternative financing schemes and assisting citizens to pursue funding opportunities (e.g., energy communities, energy cooperatives & crowdfunding).

- Link to the Agenda and presentations: [here](#)
- Link to the POWERITY good practices identified: [here](#)

## POWERITY REGIONAL EXPERT MEETINGS

During the **meetings of regional experts**, each European partner of the project transferred the information from the interregional seminars to these experts. These encounters are detailed below:

## • Andalusian Energy Agency (AEA - Spain)



On [July 13, 2021](#), 50 experts attended the fourth meeting of POWERTY regional experts, organised by AEA, where they were informed about the interregional thematic seminars held online, and in particular about the **exchange of good practices carried out and the study visits shown**. Likewise, the Andalusian **pilot action**, approved by Interreg Europe, on the **creation and development of an energy and educational community in a vulnerable area**

(Torreblanca in Seville) was presented.

A specific section focused on **energy communities** as a fundamental figure to bring renewable energy closer to the most vulnerable groups that suffer from energy poverty. During this session, the needs of stakeholders that are in the process of creating an energy community or similar projects were analysed using the SWOT tool.

An Andalusian group has been created to share information on active energy communities with various stakeholders (city councils, companies, promoters of energy communities, etc.).

## • Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes Energy Environment Agency (AURA-EE – France)



On [July 8, 2021](#), 8 experts attended the 3rd POWERTY Regional Expert Meeting (online), organised by AURA-EE to inform stakeholders about the approval and launch of the pilot project and discuss the activities of the POWERTY project.

During this meeting three topics were discussed.

The first was on **good practices** from France and the partner regions shared during the second and third interregional seminars. Régis Largillier, from the

HOPE Chair, added to the good practices, outlined a work in progress on a local energy circuit, to equip supermarkets with photovoltaic modules and deliver the energy surplus to the people of the neighbourhood who are vulnerable to energy poverty.

Then, discussions focused on the implementation of the **pilot action**, recently approved by Interreg Europe, which consists of the **implementation of a financing system with citizen**

companies for the production of renewable energy, to develop renewable energies in low-income households.

Finally, the development of the **regional action plan** was discussed so that it is ready by the end of July 2022.

## • Energy Agency of Plovdiv (EAP - Bulgaria)



On [July 5, 2021](#), 30 experts attended the third POWERTY regional expert meeting, organised by EAP, which took place face-to-face in Velingrad, as the COVID-19 restrictions at this time allowed for its implementation, as part of a joint event with the [POWERPOOR project](#) where the POWERTY project was presented.

The main objective of PowerPoor is to support programs / schemes for energy poor citizens

and to encourage the use of alternative financing schemes (eg establishment of energy communities / cooperatives, crowdfunding). PowerPoor will facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge, as well as the implementation of small-scale energy efficiency interventions and the installation of renewable energy sources, increasing the active participation of citizens.

The joint event aimed to provide an arena to share knowledge on energy efficiency and renewable energy, **share good practices and train mentors to activate energy-poor citizens through joint energy initiatives, counting on renewable energy.** During the event, Mr. Petar Kisyov, representing EAP, presented the POWERTY project, providing information on its methodology, goals and actions. He also shared some of the good practices identified during the course of the project that are replicable and can be applied on the local ground.

The event also brought together several key experts, part of POWERTY's group of key stakeholders, but also mentors, who will become activators of energy-poor households.

## • The Agglomeration Opole Trust (AOT - Poland)

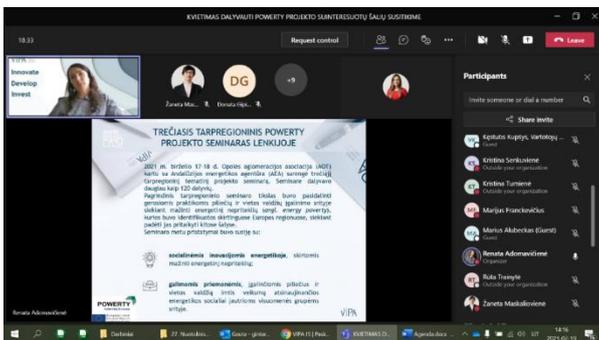


On [July 23, 2021](#), 30 experts attended the third meeting of POWERTY regional experts (online), organised by AOT to report on the **good practices presented at the last two interregional thematic seminars of the POWERTY project.**

The meeting also featured a study visit to the most interesting investments in the renewable energy

sector in Opolskie Voivodeship and an interview with Mr. Dariusz Grabowiecki, Head of the Energy Advisory Team of WFOŚiGW in Opole, who presented changes in the "[Clean Air](#)" Program and information on the "My Electricity" project, thanks to which they will finance the purchase of electric cars.

## • The Public Investment and Development Agency (VIPA - Lithuania)



On [July 19, 2021](#), 15 experts attended the third POWERITY regional experts meeting (online), organized by VIPA, to inform stakeholders about the **second and third interregional thematic seminars** held online and to discuss **the activities of the POWERITY project**. In addition, stakeholders participated in the **discussion / brainstorming of the good practices and ideas of the Lithuanian**

### action plan.

During the meeting, Ms Rūta Trainytė from ALCO updated the information on the [STEP project](#) (Solutions To Address Energy Poverty), which deals with **creating a network of energy advisers**. For now, The Alliance of Lithuanian Consumer Organisation (LVOA) has finished the training of social workers, and doing tests to obtain certificates of energy consultants. There are expected to be about 90 trained social workers. Ms. Rūta Trainytė asked representatives from the Ministry of Social Security and Labor to communicate with LVOA and perhaps to begin to participate more in this project.

During the meeting it was agreed that meetings like this really help the different institutions that are working with the issue from the social, legal and social perspectives in Lithuania.

The Ministry of Social Security and Labor, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of the Environment and the Lithuanian Alliance of Consumer Organizations participated in the meeting. Further participation will be ensured through upcoming stakeholder meetings, regular consultations, local meetings, and participation in different events.

## MEETINGS OF EUROPEAN PARTNERS

All POWERITY partners took part in the following meetings in order to prepare for the second and third online interregional thematic seminars and the steps to be followed during this semester:

- **Coordination meeting** on [February 23, 2021](#) that took place during the “**European Energy Poverty Week**”. In this meeting, the partners were informed of the approval of an **additional 6-month extension of the project due to COVID-19**, the progress report of the last semester was reviewed, the good practices identified were analyzed, especially regarding regulations, and reported on the webinar on the “pilot projects” to request from Interreg Europe and the second interregional thematic seminar was planned by AURA-EE.
- **Coordination meeting** on [March 25, 2021](#) and April 6, 2021 to prepare the **second interregional thematic seminar** organized by AURA-EE, with the support of AEA, and on [April 20, 2021](#), [May 19, 2021](#) and June 16, 2021 to prepare the **third interregional thematic seminar** organized by AOT, with the support of AEA.
- **Steering committee meeting** on [July 8, 2021](#), attended the **steering committee meeting** where the **progress report** of the last semester and the preparation of the next one were reviewed, the **next steps to follow for the project** were analysed (action plan and bilateral meetings) and a **presentation was made of the pilot actions** approved by Interreg Europe by the Spanish (AEA), French (AURA-EE) and Bulgarian (EAP) partners. At this meeting, the partners were informed of the **modification of the “Application Form”** including the 3 approved pilots.

## POWERTY IN THE ANDALUSIAN SELF-CONSUMPTION ROUND TABLE



On [March 9, 2021](#), the Andalusian team of POWERTY (AEA) has become part of the “**Energy Communities**” **working group of the Andalusian Self-consumption Round Table** that focuses on the promotion of energy communities and collective self-consumption, to facilitate the transition of citizens from consumer to producer, and a main actor in the energy system. POWERTY brings the social nuance and leaves no one behind.

More information about the Andalusian Self-Consumption Round Table in Spanish: [here](#).

## GOOD PRACTICE OF POWERTY SELECTED AS A MODEL BY INTERREG EUROPE



On [April 29, 2021](#), Ruth Borrego (AEA) and Laura Ramos (ECOOO non-profit company) presented to more than **300 attendees**, one of the good practices identified in the POWERTY framework, on the topic “Empowerment”, the training plan for photovoltaic solar installers designed for people at risk of social exclusion in the

webinar "Jobs and skills for the energy transition" of the Interreg Europe Learning Platform (PLP).

Check the good practice [here](#) and the webinar [here](#)

## AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ANDALUSIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HUELVA TO PROMOTE SOLAR COOKERS AMONG VULNERABLE GROUPS



On [May 29, 2021](#), the Andalusian Regional Government and the University of Huelva (POWERITY regional expert) joined forces within the framework of the POWERITY project to promote **solar cookers** as one more measure that adds to overcoming energy poverty through the **dissemination of this type of technology among vulnerable groups and educational environments**.

Access the video on how to create your own solar cooker: [here](#).

## POWERITY PILOT ACTIONS

In the framework of the COVID-19 measures taken in 2020, the Interreg Europe program opened the opportunity for projects to request funding to carry out pilot actions related to the project theme and inspired by the exchange of good practices carried out so far.

Of the 5 regions participating in POWERTY, **3 pilot actions** have been presented (AEA-Spain, AURA-EE France and EAP-Bulgaria), all of which have been approved on [June 24, 2021](#). Here are more details about the pilot projects which will run until the end of March 2022.

Access to the information on pilot actions: [here](#)

- Creation and development of an energy and educational community in a vulnerable area (Spain)



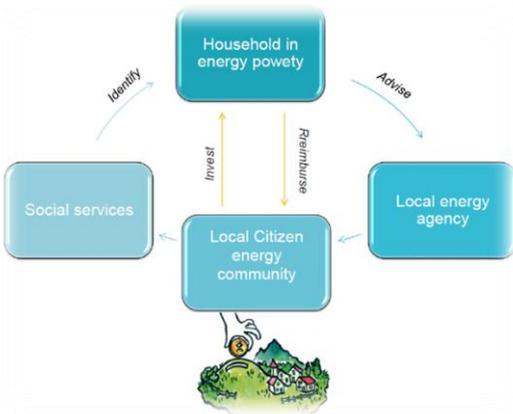
The pilot action aims to **test the creation and development of an energy and educational community in the «Torreblanca» neighbourhood in Seville**. This neighborhood has been classified by the Andalusian Regional Government as a disadvantaged area and is included as such in the Andalusian Regional Strategy for Cohesion and Social Inclusion.

This pilot consists of the installation of collective photovoltaic self-consumption in two educational centers in the area that supply energy to the centers and part of it is directed to at least ten vulnerable homes located less than 500 meters from the centers, as established by the Royal Decree 244/2019. For this, there will be support assistance for the development of the community of the type: Legal, social and technical. The results of said assistance will be shared with anyone interested in promoting energy communities in vulnerable areas.

The goal is to allow vulnerable groups affected by energy poverty to have access to renewable energy, saving on their electricity bills, and thus alleviate energy poverty, while promoting energy culture by integrating an educational and social dimension, such as learning in energy matters that contributes to the decarbonisation of the energy system. This pilot contributes to making the vulnerable citizen the protagonist of the energy transition.

- Financing model to develop renewable energies for low income homes (France)

The pilot action aims to **test a model energy service contract (ESCO) between energy communities and vulnerable households located in rural and urban areas to install renewable energy in such households**. At the same time, different renewable technologies will be tested.



This pilot consists of experimenting renewable energy solutions in a sample of ten households in two types of territories: a rural area and an urban area. It will be carried out in association with a "local energy and housing agency", that supports households in a situation of energy vulnerability and helps them to carry out energy saving works, but does not have investment solutions in renewable energy to propose. Also, the "citizen energy communities" that already exist in these two territories, and that have already developed photovoltaic citizen projects, but that do not specifically address vulnerable groups.

The goal of the pilot is to experience the feasibility of the energy community, which will be the owner of the renewable energy facility, taking on the investment in renewable energy equipment on behalf of the vulnerable household and reimbursing itself on the basis of a rent paid by the home based on the energy savings obtained by fossil fuels. Equipment, such as solar panels for hot water and photovoltaic or wood-burning boilers, could be transferred to the home for free once they have been paid off.

- Photovoltaic hybrid with storage in social housing (Bulgaria)



The pilot action aims to **test innovative hybrid photovoltaic installations plus a battery energy storage system as a possible solution for social households to achieve a significant part of renewable self-consumption and thus lower electricity bills** and contribute to the decarbonization of the energy system and stability of the grid.

This pilot consists of the installation of 3 photovoltaic installations of approximately 30 kWp with a storage capacity of up to 40 kWh in the homes of social consumers.

The goal is to significantly reduce your electricity bills, improve comfort (heating / cooling) and get out of the vulnerable situation.

## PRESENTATION OF POWERTY TO THE POLISH MINISTRY

On [April 15, 2021](#), the Polish partner (AOT) had the opportunity to present the POWERTY project to the Ministry. The main objectives of the project, the partners, information on the exchange of good practices and the creation of the Vlog "POWER and YOU" related to bringing measures to citizens to overcome energy poverty were presented.

The meeting was attended by approximately 185 participants, coming from different regions and institutions in Poland, where the main objectives of the Interreg Europe, Interreg Europe Central and Interreg Baltic Sea Region programs were discussed in the current perspective, as well as in the future programming for 2021-2027.

## DISSEMINATION OF THE POWERTY PROJECT

### • VLOG "POWER and TY" in Poland

On [February 9, 2021](#), the Polish partner (AOT) has reproduced its **second episode** in the Vlog "POWER and TY" dedicated to the possibilities that the inhabitants of Opole (Polish region) have to obtain financing to replace heat sources by other ecological ones, including heat pumps. From January 2021 to the end of June 2021, Opole residents (citizens and housing communities) can apply for financial support under two currently available programs:

- "Ecological Opole replacement of heat sources with more ecological ones for the city" implemented with the participation of EU funds from the Operational Program Opolskie Voivodeship Regional for 2014 2020 Action 5.5 Air protection.
- "Clean air breath for Opole" funded from the city of Opole budget.

These aid programs are aimed at increasing the use of renewable energy by people living in energy poverty.

Access episode # 2: [here](#)

### • POWERTY in the European Energy Poverty Week

**European Energy Poverty Week (last week of February)**, commemorates the third and last of the extraordinary cold waves that swept through Europe in February 1956. During that month, Europe endured exceptional frosts and intense cold for almost one month, completing the harshest winter in Europe since records exist. Therefore, POWERTY wanted to have a presence during this week with the celebration of various events, such as:

- **Coordination meeting** among the partners on [February 23, 2021](#).
- The University of Manchester presented the **results of its research on energy poverty in the private rental sector** at an online event on [February 24, 2021](#), for the ENPOR project, mentioning the POWERTY project.
- The Bulgarian partner (EAP) participated in a **radio interview** on [February 26, 2021](#), the POWERTY project on the "Austrian" radio on the situation of energy poverty in four countries, including Bulgaria.

## • POWERTY as a model for the exchange of experiences in the EmpowerMed and STEP-IN project

On [May 18, 2021](#), Petar Kisyov (EAP) presented the POWERTY project to exchange experiences with the partners of the EmpowerMed project (addressing energy poverty in the coastal areas of Mediterranean countries, with a particular focus on women, gender and health) and the STEP-IN H2020 project (Living Labs network across Europe to define policies to reduce energy poverty).

During the stakeholder event, Petar Kisyov highlighted the need to facilitate new renewable energy facilities to provide clean and safe energy to vulnerable households through the enhancement of public policy instruments at the regional level in each partner region. He highlighted POWERTY's methodology to achieve those goals.

## • POWERTY in conference on health, savings and comfort with efficient buildings



On [March 10, 2021](#), Joaquín Villar (AEA) presented a section on "Energy poverty, opportunity for energy rehabilitation" in the conference "Health, savings and comfort with efficient buildings" in which what was learned from the POWERTY project was presented.

## • POWERTY in the University of Seville – Faculty of Architecture

On [May 11, 2021](#), the Spanish partner (AEA) presented to the students of the subject "Environmental Construction and Sustainable Technologies" of the Degree in Fundamentals of Architecture at the University of Seville some of the European projects that it is developing and leading to position the region as a benchmark in the energy sector. Specifically, Ruth



Borrego presented the POWERTY project on energy poverty and renewable energies together with the [EXCESS project](#) (positive energy buildings) and the [IMIP project](#) (healthy building materials: cork and wood).

## • POWERTY at events on energy communities

POWERTY has been presented at the following 3 events on energy communities:

- On [May 14, 2021](#), the Spanish partner (AEA) presented the POWERTY project in the Feria Natura, in person, at Malaga, specifically in the "**Energy Communities: Sovereignty Energy Citizen**" event, in which Angel Saez (AEA) spoke about the promotion given to these communities in Andalusia and participation as leading partner of the international consortium that develops the POWERTY project. The AEA is promoting energy communities of the region through its participation in the working group on this matter constituted in the Andalusian Round Table of Self-consumption, and as a possible alternative to support vulnerable groups affected by energy poverty, in the framework of POWERTY.



- On [June 14, 2021](#), the Spanish partner (AEA) presented the POWERTY project at an online meeting on energy communities, within the cycle of talks-colloquium "**Renewables in the Granada Geopark: opportunities and threats**", organised by the Local Development Groups of the Altiplano de Granada and Guadix Region, together with the Sustainable Tourism Association of the Granadinas and the Platform Participación Altiplanos Granadinos, in which Ángel Sáez (AEA) addressed the role of public administrations in promoting energy communities, as well as the existing regulatory framework. In addition, he presented the main actions that the AEA is developing in the field of energy communities, specifically, within the European POWERTY project on renewable energy and energy poverty.



Two energy communities that are being developing in Andalusia, and which have been recognized with different awards at the national level, participated in the day: Energy Communities of [Almócita](#) (Almería) and [Río Monachil](#) (Granada).

The meeting ended with a cooperative work among all the attendees.

- On [July 1, 2021](#), the Spanish partner (AEA) presented the POWERTY project at the face-to-face meeting on energy communities organised by the School of Social Economy in Osuna (Seville), which promotes the project "Cooperative Energy Communities" from the innovation and values of the social economy and with the premise of collaboration and the exchange of experiences and knowledge between representative entities of the social economy and other knowledge agents.



Ángel Sáez (AEA) addressed the role of public administrations in promoting energy communities, as well as the existing regulatory framework. In addition, he presented the main actions that AEA is developing in the field of energy communities, in particular, within the European POWERTY project for renewable energy and energy poverty.

Two energy communities that are been developing in Andalusia, and which have been recognised with different national awards: [Alumbra Energy Community](#) in Arroyomolinos de León, Huelva and [Monachil Energy Community](#) in Granada. The [EKIOLA initiative](#) of the Basque Country will also participated.

The meeting ended with a cooperative work space among all the participants.

## • POWERTY in the Relay of TOMORROW project

On [June 24, 2021](#), as part of the closing of the training in analytical and collaborative tools for agents of change who wish to contribute to the transition of sustainability in the cities of the [TOMORROW project](#), Ruth Borrego (AEA) and Inés del Real (Msc. Sustainable Development Utrecht University) presented the application of 3 of these tools applied to the POWERTY project:

- **System demarcator:** Tool to define the limits of the analysis of a system. The need to consider, in addition to geographical, institutional and sectoral limits of the project, a new limit, the social one, due to the importance of vulnerable groups in POWERTY and its definition, was highlighted.

- **Multilevel perspective:** Tool to easily identify tensions and challenges in the relationships between elements in a system. It has been used to analyse a measure to be considered in POWERITY's Andalusian Regional Action Plan: the promotion of energy communities.

3. MULTILEVEL PERSPECTIVE





Action: "Promotion of energy communities (ECs)"

LANDSCAPE	REGIME	NICHES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate change as a driver for clean energy (RES)</li> <li>- Vulnerable households (energy poverty) increased to 1.5 million in Andalusian region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directive EU 2018/2001 &amp; Directive EU 2019/944 create an overarching framework on energy communities</li> <li>- RD 244/2019 promotes the collective self-consumption</li> <li>- Lack of citizens trust (sun tax &amp; unfulfilled promises regarding incentives during 2018)</li> <li>- Financial mechanism for ECs currently under design</li> <li>- Lack of technical and professional expertise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Andalusian pilots on associations cooperatives transitioning to EC: EC of Arroyomolinos de Leon (rural)</li> <li>- Andalusian pilots on energy cooperatives transitioning to EC: EC of Monachil (urban)</li> </ul>



- **Four levels of governance:** Tool to reflect on what is currently happening in the system, helping to diagnose the activities that different actors in a system (including local authorities, citizens, companies, knowledge institutions and NGOs) participate in, in relation to sustainability transitions. The different levels at which interventions are needed to implement a measure in the Action Plan, namely the promotion of energy communities, were explained.

## ● POWERITY at other international events

Stefan Bouzarovski from the University of Manchester has represented the POWERITY project at various events as a speaker, moderator or panelist:

- [18/02/2021](#): The right to fair energy
- [24/02/2021](#): Energy poverty in the private rented sector (with Manon Burbidge)
- [04/03/2021](#): Making Decarbonisation Fair' conference
- [15/03/2021](#): Energy evaluation conference
- [16/03/2021](#): Right to Energy Forum
- [15/04/2021](#): International Energy Agency roundtable on smart, resilient and sustainable cities
- [17/05/2021](#): C40 Clean Air Cities Declaration webinar on equitable energy action
- [18/05/2021](#): Transformation towards energy democracy', Green European Foundation
- [18/05/2021](#): Workshop on European Green Deal & Society, E3G
- [04/06/2021](#): Expert Group on the Future of Gas in Europe
- [08/06/2021](#): EU Science Hub Webinar: 'How can we achieve a green transition that is fair?'
- [10/06/2021](#): Webinar on Access to Energy and Energy Poverty, Covenant of Mayors
- [30/06/2021](#): Energy Community Just Transition Forum
- [22/07/2021](#): COP26 Cities and Climate Justice roundtable

## • POWERTY in the press and radio

During this semester, the press appearances related to POWERTY include:

- [22/02/2021](#): The energy renovation of homes helps reduce health costs by up to 4,000 euros.
- [04/03/2021](#): I National Forum of Agencies for Energy Efficiency.
- [05/03/2021](#): "Health, savings and comfort with efficient buildings", new online conference of the Andalusian Energy Agency.
- [31/03/2021](#): Energy revolution: popularizing the connection to the 100% Andalusian Sun.
- [17/05/20201](#): Press release on the second interregional seminar.
- [29/05/2021](#): Junta and UHU join forces in the Powerty project to create solar cookers to fight energy poverty.
- [20/06/2021](#): The citizen takes the reins of the energy transition.
- [21/06/2021](#): Andalucía lidera la formación de comunidades energéticas y publica ayudas para instalaciones agropecuarias.
- [22/06/2021](#): These are (some of) the energy communities that already operate in Andalusia

Press kit: [here](#)

## • POWERTY Website



On the [project website](#) you can consult the information generated:

- News related to your topic, in the [NEWS](#) section.
- Good practices identified in the [GOOD PRACTICES](#) section, which have been included in the Policy Learning Platform database with an assessment by Interreg Europe experts.

- In the [LIBRARY](#) section, the following documents are available:
  - The **good practices guide** in the [GUIDE OF GOOD PRACTICES](#) section that contains more good practices than those shown in the GOOD PRACTICES section since it contains good practices from countries that are not part of the project consortium.
  - The reports of the **study visits** carried out so far in the [STUDY VISIT](#) section.
  - The presentations and material shared during the interregional seminars: [SECOND INTERREGIONAL SEMINAR](#) and [THIRD INTERREGIONAL SEMINAR](#).

## FOCUS ON Agglomeration Opole Trusth (AOT)

The Opole Agglomeration was established under the Agreement on the Establishment of the Opole Agglomeration at the will of 20 municipalities concentrated in the functional area of Opole. On March 19, 2014, the commune of Tułowice joined the Opole Agglomeration Association.



The Agglomeration is currently made up of 23 local government : Opole-town with poviats rights, 8 urban-rural communes, as well as 12 rural communes and 2 poviats. The aim of the created platform for cooperation is to overcome the difficulties and barriers hampering the socio-economic development of the Agglomeration, improve the quality of life of its inhabitants, as well as increase the competitiveness of the Partner communes.

The main areas in which the Partners decided to cooperate have been included in the Agreement. The Opole Agglomeration focuses its activities around the areas of key importance for the partnership members: strategic and spatial planning, economic development and joint efforts to attract investors, transfer of new technologies from Opole research centers to business entities of the Agglomeration, public transport, protection of natural resources, environmental protection, protection flood protection, education, culture, sport and tourism.

The Opole Agglomeration Trust is one of the institutions in Opolskie Voivodeship that distributes EU funds for regional development. In 2014-2020 we signed 73 contracts for many activities for the development of the Opole region. The total contribution of EU funds to all these activities is almost 79,000,000€.

## NEXT STEPS OF POWERTY PROJECT

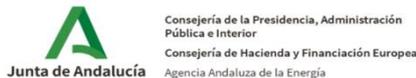
For the next semester (01/08/2021 to 31/01/2022) as a result of the learning process of the four previous semesters, the **Regional Action Plan** of each of the project partners will be developed, which will consist of measures to be developed related to the objective of the project "Renewable energies for vulnerable groups" influencing public instruments and social, cultural and local conditions to favour their implementation and durability.

During the previous semesters, more than 35 good practices have been identified and 4 study visits made during the interregional seminars. As a result of this, each partner has identified good practices to transfer to their region. During the next semester **bilateral meetings** will be held where project partners and stakeholders can learn more details about these good practices and see ways to adapt them to their regions.

For the **learning process** to be effective, sustainable and integrated into regional policy, the active participation of regional experts (**stakeholders**) is a key element. Their involvement will be carried out continuously throughout the project by participating in the bilateral meetings. They will also assume a relevant role in the development, validation and monitoring of action plans, through a governance model under the principles of openness, participation and responsibility, and will also contribute to the dissemination of knowledge generated at the regional level. In addition, some of these regional experts will play a more active role acting as technical expert in mentoring and advising the regions in the implementation of good practices.

## POWERTY CONSORTIUM

### PROJECT LEADER



SPAIN: Andalusian Energy Agency

### PARTNERS



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 (VIPA)



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

## CONTACT

POWERTY Project coordinator

Andalusian Energy Agency - Joaquín Villar - [joaquin.villar@juntadeandalucia.es](mailto:joaquin.villar@juntadeandalucia.es)

**POWERTY bi-annual newsletter. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please respond to this email indicating "CANCEL SUBSCRIPTION" in the subject of the email.**

*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 programmess 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, with a total budget of 1.127.226 euros, and co-financed with European Regional Development Fund up to 83,7%.*

---