

# NEWSLETTER SEP. 22

## MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD PARTNER

After more five years of activity, the LOCARBO trans-regional cooperation initiative "New roles of regional and local authorities in supporting the change in the behavior of energy consumers towards a low-carbon economy and counteracting climate change", was among the few applications that were worthy of further development at European level following the V Call of the Interreg Europe Program. In fact, due to the excellent results achieved so far, the Interreg Europe Managing Authority has considered the Locarbo initiative deserving of a further funding of over 300,000.00 euros that served to continue the exchange activity, transposition and capitalization of good practices in the respective territories of competence of the partnership for overcoming the Covid-19 crisis.

The new activity involved the Province of Potenza, leader of the initiative, also in the capitalization of the experiences within its #weResilient and #LaCasadei100Comuni platforms, as a further capitalization objective reached thanks also to the fruitful collaboration with the partners from Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom and Hungary and the support of the United Nations offices and agencies. As well known, the general objective of

LOCARBO is to improve the regional and local governance aimed at orienting the demand for increasing efficiency in the use of energy resources and climate resilience in relation to the surrounding environment through the assessment and the analysis of existing good practices. This must be achieved by implementing innovative strategies for regional/local authorities to support change in the behavior of energy consumers. In this new context, account was taken of how to transfer and adapt the new and/or revisited good practices, identified by the project partners and stakeholders, also considering the new needs due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the modification needs of the political tools and instruments each partner has as the main purpose of this project extension. Thanks also to the development of six Ambition Plans, each partner has to demonstrate relevant national and regional policy improvements to be achieved with regards to these strategic objectives. As the Lead Partner, I look forward to continuing working with our partners with the same skillful and productive collaboration also in view of future new transregional challenges we intend to tackle together.

**Alessandro Attolico,**  
LOCARBO PM Coordinator



## **INDEX:**

**Message from the Lead Partner 1**

**LOCARBO 5th Call – Partners Proposed Good Practices 3**

**LOCARBO 5th Call – Adopted Good Practices by each Partner 10**

**Upcoming events 13**



## LOCARBO 5th Call – Partners Proposed Good Practices

### On Thematic Pillar 1: Supplementary Services and Products Offered by Authorities

#### Province of Potenza – Lead Partner (LP)



#### Province of Potenza as Coordinator for the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Province of Potenza provides strategic guidance and technical support to CoM signatories for promoting decarbonized and resilient territories for its community.

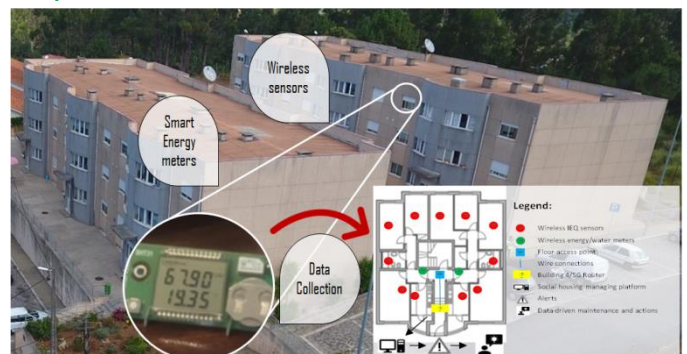
The unexpected “forced” capitalization principles of the low carbon economy due to new habits assumed during COVID 19 pandemic (smart-working, Zero CO2 emission by vehicles being at home, supplies in the immediate vicinity, homemade food, e-learning, etc.) and achieved by Municipalities and Communities during the lock down make us realize that the achievement of certain objectives depends only on our lifestyles.

During Covid-19 lock-down, within the municipalities, it was possible to monitor, account for and record considerable energy savings as a consequence of the lock-down, so reaching the general GP’s objective to

reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate resilience on the provincial territory. GP’s main aims still are:

- Promote policies and focused actions to combat climate changes, to be implemented with the engagement of the Municipalities of provincial territory;
- Provide technical-methodological and strategic assistance to the Municipalities, supporting the development and the implementation of local strategies, plans and actions at a network and wide area level;
- Identify and/or facilitate the location of the resources to support the Municipalities and the Communities for the development and implementation of local strategies, plans and actions;
- Monitor the results achieved, identify and implement corrective actions where necessary (follow up and review).

#### Municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia – Project Partner (PP3)



#### Real-time Hygrothermal condition monitoring on municipal infrastructures retrofit works

The proposed practice has the main goal of including



hygrothermal condition monitoring to the different municipality infrastructures that will go under retrofit work, especially on Social Housing Buildings. The municipality pretends to analyze the data and make conclusions on the effectiveness (on both economic and energetic aspects) of the retrofit work in order to adapt and improve it for future works.

It can be useful, in the recent scenario of pandemic crisis, to help to design the most adequate awareness sessions oriented to the adoption of sustainable behaviors, with a special focus on reducing energy poverty among the households and at the same time guarantee better conditions of internal comfort in social houses.

The proposed good practice is to develop a building management system, which consists on the implementation of equipment on public buildings in order to monitor real time hygrothermal conditions. This would complement the action lines of our municipality's original action plan.

The collected data would be used to adapt the retrofit work to each building and to assist specialists in decision making related to, for example, changes in ventilation strategies and possible implementation of renewable energy systems (for heating or electrical generation). The monitoring plan and subsequent dynamic simulation will reduce performance gaps between the simulated data and the data measured after the renovation takes place.

Originally the rehabilitation process was only meant to follow Energy Performance Directive of Buildings

norms and with the covid-19 pandemic, some doubts arose on the quality of the original municipality planned retrofit work, especially for the social housing buildings. Changes on the occupation and permanence index caused by the covid-19 pandemic (remote work and unemployment rate increase) made us realize that the condition of these households needs to be taken in especial consideration. These buildings occupants, which are economically debilitated, are expected to have these conditions aggravated in order to reach "basic living/working conditions" on their households.

In conclusion, it's essential to know the real conditions of the public buildings to guarantee that the retrofit works result as expected. Beyond the knowledge of the buildings passive and active systems, the habits of the occupants of social housing must be known prior to any renovation work.

The main beneficiaries of the application of this good practice would be the occupants and the municipality, in the long run, with a reduction on energy consumption and overall infrastructure improvement.

### **Kaunas University of Technology – Project Partner (PP5)**



### **Awareness raising on the Energy efficiency among different stakeholders groups**

Energijos Skirstymo Operatorius (ESO) consults on energy



efficiency issues, recommends the latest and most efficient solutions, and encourages electricity consumers to implement measures that would allow them to use electricity efficiently.

In 2020, the International energy company Ignitis group and Energijos Skirstymo Operatorius (ESO) signed an agreement with the Ministry of Energy on education and counselling of energy consumers, which undertakes to educate and advise the population on energy efficiency issues. Another agreement, signed at the end of last year, commits the company to 2030 reduce final electricity consumption by 1.6 terawatt hours. This is what all Lithuanians consume in about half a year.

A survey of the country's population commissioned by the company ESO shows that Lithuanians consider the topic of energy efficiency important. The participants of the survey were asked to evaluate the relevance of the topic from 1 to 5 points - the average evaluation of the relevance of energy efficiency was 3.7. In terms of who should educate society about how to use energy efficiently, two-thirds say 65 percent - the population named energy suppliers.

The company feels a responsibility to communicate and share information with the public about possible solutions to promote energy efficiency. They have set ambitious targets for energy efficiency and its promotion, and they are taking all measures to achieve them accordingly. The goal of reducing excessive electricity consumption is not possible without proper education. It is very important to form a responsible attitude of all groups of society, especially children and

young people, to energy efficiency and to include this topic in the educational process.

Efficient use of electricity and heat is important for several reasons. In particular, it helps reduce electricity and heat bills. Secondly, with these actions we are making such an important contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The main stakeholders and beneficiaries are educational institutions, companies, various other institutions and society.

## On Thematic Pillar 2: Innovative Cooperation Models

### Province of Potenza – Lead Partner (LP)



#### #weResilient

Province of Potenza has constituted a network of its 100 Municipalities for developing a common sustainable territorial strategy based on community involvement.

The Covid 19 epidemic has strengthened the role of the Province of Potenza in its sustainable territorial strategic action based on the involvement of the communities of the network of its 100 Municipalities to achieve concrete actions aimed at sustainable and safe development. The Province of Potenza outlined the #weResilient strategy for pursuing territorial development through a structural combination of environmental sustainability, territorial



safety and climate change contrasting policies.

Permanent Local Platform aimed at engaging 100 Municipalities, institutions/authorities, stakeholders, major and social groups, communities and citizens will continue to be very active in the Provincial territory enforcing the relationships already created. The Platform has got a multi-stakeholder bottom up approach involving citizens, communities, volunteers, local institutions as well as private sector and any other interested categories. The main goal is to put in place all the actions useful to reach a common sustainable territory thanks to the involvement of the community.

#### **Durham County Council – Project Partner (PP4)**

#### **BEEP 2 WORKING FROM HOME DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN**

Changes made to the operation of the Business Energy Efficiency Project (Phase 2) to enable it to continue during periods of lockdown.

The problem addressed was the changes to working patterns brought on by the pandemic, which social distancing and required all staff to work from home. The immediate challenges identified were those of recruiting SMEs to the project, carrying out on site audits, processing paperwork and personal challenges of remote working. These were addressed in the following ways:

- a. Social media use, which had been building since the beginning of the project, was ramped up to not only remind SMEs of the project but also to provide wider advice, such as checklists of energy efficiency related actions useful for a business

shutting down temporarily. Platforms used included LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and website ([www.beep.uk.net](http://www.beep.uk.net)).

- b. Document processing practices changed to emails, electronic forms and digital signatures in place of face-to-face meetings and 'wet' signatures. A digital in-tray was created to manage the SME forms to ensure compliance with ERDF practices.
- c. Limited and carefully managed site audits were allowed during the majority of the lockdown period, subject to restrictions. These included a written checklist signed by SME, PPE (personal protection equipment), and only visiting site after business hours or if the business was still shutdown.
- d. Team morale was an important aspect to ensure all members of the team were coping with the restrictions imposed by lockdown. Weekly meetings took place over Teams and support was provided where needed. Once activities were allowed outside, staff met for picnics and walks, offering a chance to decompress and chat to each other.

#### **Green recovery task group during COVID**

In line with national ambitions to not only Build Back Better but also Build Back Greener, County Durham Economic Partnership convened a sub group on Green Recovery from Covid which sought to consider how integration between economic and environmental development plans could be better integrated to synergize the benefits they bring.

The problem addressed was the local economy being hit



hard by Covid, and the national government issuing calls for recovery measures that chimed with Net Zero policies within the wider context of expediting and maximizing the economic recovery of the County post-Covid. Activities sought to address the problem of policy being developed in silos, with activities addressing the “green” agenda and activities looking to provide economic development being compartmentalized.

At the time, early in Covid, the national guidance on de-carbonation was contained in the 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, published in advance and in the expectation of a full net Zero Strategy.

The practice reached its objectives through bringing together a dedicated sub group on green recovery and:

- a. Ensuring representation from each partnership on the Boards of the other;
- b. Highlighting ways in which activities which sought environmental improvement could also bring economic additional economic benefit and vice versa and through flexing delivery methods to reach both objectives simultaneously and

Leading to the creation of “off the shelf” projects which could be brought forward in response to forthcoming funding opportunities, the first of which has already attracted funding.

### On Thematic Pillar 3: Innovative Smart Technologies

**Kaunas University of Technology – Project Partner (PP5)**



**Energy distribution operator, *Energijos Skirstymo Operatorius* (ESO) installs smart meters for the Energy efficiency**

*Energijos skirstymo operatorius* (ESO) implements an innovation - a smart electricity meter. It sends the readings to a central database and users have to pay the bill - no need to write off the data.

According to European Union legislation, by 2025 even 80 percent consumers should use smart meters. This will help achieve and implement Europe's energy efficiency plans and targets.

Private customers of *Energijos Skirstymo Operatorius* (ESO) participating in the Smart Accounting project can already choose the new four-time zone tariff plan Smart. The plan, which will provide additional opportunities for greater savings in electricity consumption, has been approved by the State Price and Energy Control Commission (NCC).

The four-time zone tariff plan "Smart" allows the achievement of one of the main goals of the



implementation of smart electricity meters. A more flexible tariff plan will allow customers to change their electricity consumption habits and adjust the amount and time of electricity consumption to the changing price of electricity during the day.

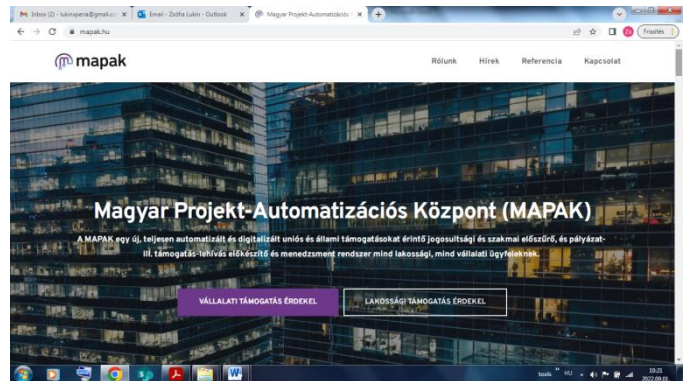
On business days, the time intervals of the new tariff plan are divided into night, morning, day and evening. The night interval includes the time of day from 10pm to 5am, the morning from 5am to 7am, and the day from 7am to 5pm and in the evening from 5pm to 10pm. The time intervals on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays will also be divided into the corresponding night (22:00 to 7:00) and day (7:00 to 22:00). It is the inclusion of public holidays that is good news for those who have been waiting for more favorable prices, not only on weekends. It is also possible to monitor the hourly electricity consumption using such an electricity meter.

What is also new is that the "Smart" tariff plan will be used more flexibly when changing the time from summer to winter and vice versa. The time parameters set in the electricity meters will be adapted to the time applied in the country, i.y. these time intervals apply throughout the year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the digitization of our company, which operates in a continuous mode around the clock. It was necessary to create and implement processes so that employees would have as little contact with each other as possible. Actually, the lockdown gave additional boost to remote metering techniques and speeded up the

digitalization process in country.

## Hungarian Innovation and Efficiency Nonprofit Ltd, Mi6 – Project Partner (PP6)



### GINOP 4.1.4.-19 and GINOP PLUS 4.1.4.-21: Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme (EDIOP = GINOP in Hungarian)

NEW Innovative IT solution method "MAPAK" has been developed in order to answer the new challenges of the pandemic. The solution is a new VPPP (Virtual Power Plant Programme) IO (Innovation Operational) program supporting the attendance and participation of SMEs at the scheme of Energy Efficiency applications via full digitalization of the entire project pipeline and management processes.

In 2019, we launched a test version of a new, online, COVID compatible, IO supported instrument, the "MAPAK", which is an integrated, chatbot-based asset to support the project owners (SMEs), to improve and apply new low carbon and energy efficiency projects for a zero or a very low budget, and which is granted to collect all the reachable market information to help optimal planning, programming methods and developing techniques for call for proposals of the Managing Authorities.

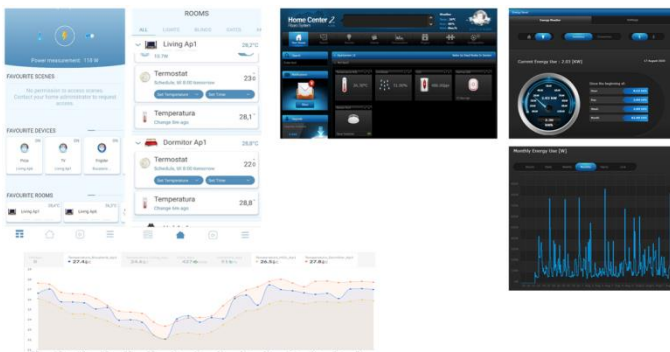




We would like to analyze and study the basis on which the SME sector's given different answers for the virus situation created challenges, especially by the innovative use of IO supported assets and solutions.

We would like to disclose and understand the digitalization-based solutions of the SMEs of different countries, which aims at both the solution of the cost reduction and the rise of the energy efficiency as well. As a result, we would like to implement these good experiences to MAPAK, and to the new Carbon reduction measures of the GINOP Managing Authority of Hungary.

### Alba Iulia Municipality – Project Partner (PP7)



### PILOT ACTION IN ALBA IULIA - “Improving energy efficiency and consumer behaviour at the level of social housing in Alba Iulia Municipality”

The pilot action was possible under Interreg Europe Program, being part of the project “Regional Policies towards Greening the Social Housing Sector”, Acronym SOCIAL GREEN.

During the implementation period, the project faced restrictions caused by Covid 19 pandemic impact. In spite of that, the project has adapted to the new conditions imposed:

- a. The interaction with tenants and other interested participants was mainly online, with minimum impact on project evolution.
- b. Collaboration with our partner Tartu was online, cancelling the study and change experience meetings. AIM obtained the approval to use allocated budget for extending the technical smart home system from 8 to 10 social apartments.
- c. After 12 months of system monitoring and periodic information provided to participants, AIM obtained reduction of utilities consumption, which exceeding AIM's expectations, because due to Covid 19 restrictions, occupancy rate was higher than in previous years (almost constant).
- d. Considering the social restrictions caused by Covid 19 pandemic, AIM have presented the implementation and results of the Social Green pilot in social apartments from Alba Iulia in two online events:
  1. Local event (Nov.18, 2020);
  2. Social Green Final Event (Dec.16, 2020);



## LOCARBO 5th Call – Adopted Good Practices by each Partner

### LP – Province of Potenza (IT)

Considering the Provincial Territorial Coordination Master Plan (TCP), Province of Potenza's most important politic and strategic planning tool/document, (addressing all the territorial issues: environmental, climate change, energy efficiency, etc), the LP decided to consider all the Good Practices proposed by the rest of the Partners, in order to elaborate a General Catalogue in line with the purposes of the TCP and that will be officially incorporated in its guidelines at disposal of the Province of Potenza – Municipalities – Communities Network for Resilience and Sustainable Development.

The catalogue will include all the GPs proposed by the PPs, in the light of a restart, after covid emergency, towards a sustainable development for a 'Greener Europe'.

Moreover, the Province intends to sign up a Memorandum of Understandings with, at least, one of the 100 municipalities of the Provincial Network (in a sort of case-study of concrete adaptation) for the implementation of the GP in the municipal area (first of all the GP by KTU 'Awareness raising of Energy Efficiency measures among different stakeholders groups' by Kaunas).

In force of the MoU, the signatory Municipality will implement the good practice among its stakeholders' network (for example the school population) with the

support of the provincial team of experts (the experts will be technical officers of the Province of Potenza) that will share information with the public about possible solutions to promote energy efficiency.

In any case, all the stakeholders of the Provincial Network could be effectively involved: the 100 Municipalities as well as the local social housing company, the Associations consumers organizations, schools and students and professional orders to feed a wide debate and elaborate a common engagement to develop "different" sustainable behaviours and rational use of energy.

The Province wants to achieve a policy change with a Formal political act (a Resolution of the Provincial Council/or a President Decree) for approving the results of this Locarbo new phase. The results will be an integral part of the policies implemented by the Province of Potenza, as part of the its #weResilient strategy, for the implementation on its territory of the 2030 Agenda, of the Paris Agreement and of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, with a view to restart after the Covid-19 crisis in a more sustainable and low carbon approach, thanks to the strong involvement of all its local stakeholders (mainly Provincial Municipalities).

### PP3 – Municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia (PT)

Municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia made the decision of adopting Alba Iulia's proposed Good Practice "Improving energy efficiency and consumer behavior at the level of



social housing in Alba Iulia Municipality” and Kaunas University of Technology’s (KTU/KUT) Proposed Good practice “Awareness raising on the Energy efficiency among different stakeholders groups”. These GP’s were chosen to complement their new good practice and with the “original” action plan, previously developed. These GP will assist the partner on the response to the main issues experienced, that surfaced with the COVID-19 pandemic, and that are expected to experience again with the application of the good practice proposed with the pandemic.

#### **PP4 – Durham County Council (UK|GB)**

The good practices that Durham County Council (DCC) is interested in adapting and implementing are:

Kaunas University of Technology (LT) Awareness raising of Energy Efficiency measures among different stakeholder groups. We are interested in this GP as our county already has a similar project, ECO2 Smart Schools which is outlined in both Climate Emergency Response Action Plans (CERAP). This project works to educate school pupils and employees in charge of the school’s energy consumption, on energy efficiency. However, this training is delivered by council officers, not energy companies or District Network Operators (DNOs). It may be useful to involve external organisations, alongside the council officers, to provide a broader overview of possible energy efficiency measures. Advice may be better received if it were to be delivered by non-service level agreement providers. So, the transferable element of this practice is the involvement of external organisations such as energy companies and/or DNOs in education programs.

Province of Potenza’s “Province of Potenza as Coordinator for the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) for Climate and Energy”. Although Durham County does not have a mayor, it has been a part of the CoM signatory. However, as the UK is no longer an EU member state, we feel it will be more appropriate for us to explore how we can implement Potenza’s CoM approach to engage local partners in developing our CERAP. Our County is interested in this GP as it demonstrates best practice for communication between organisations to develop and implement joint carbon reduction measures and develop a peer-to-peer network. The transferable element from this good practice is the development of an action board which would regularly meet to discuss energy efficiency measures and climate action taking place with strategic partners in the county and identify joint working opportunities.

#### **PP5 – Kaunas University of Technology (LT)**

Implementation of the good practice of the project partner from Alba Iulia provided access to the local consumption data using smart home monitoring systems and reduced energy costs. This good practice is an excellent example of policy improvement at the local level using the ERDF funds by the Managing Authority – Ministry of Environment through a project call – „Climate change program to stabilize the rise in energy prices” - implementation of measures dedicated for energy efficiency in buildings.



### **PP6 – Hungarian Innovation and Efficiency Nonprofit Ltd. (HU)**

The co-operation and knowledge exchange between the partners presented several great options to adopt for our project (MAPAK) and our country's policy making directions. The most suitable good practice to adopt was presented and developed by the Portuguese partner, Municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia. This can be useful in improving data collecting methods in the residential and SME sector when developing calls for application in the environmental area. The recent years of the pandemic crisis resulted in less physical contact, so alternative data measuring methods became more popular and adoptable to help design the most adequate awareness answers oriented towards sustainable behaviours.

### **PP7 – Alba Iulia Municipality (RO)**

Alba Iulia Municipality team selected Municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia's good practice "Real-time hygrothermal condition monitoring on municipal infrastructures retrofit works". Implementing this good practice brings significant opportunities, improving energy efficiency and thermal comfort, and having a positive impact on population quality of life. It can be replicated by citizens, municipalities and other interested parties, using the accumulated knowledge and experience of the Vila Nova de Gaia Municipality partner.

And Kaunas University of Technology's "ESO installs smart meters for the Energy efficiency" good practice. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the desire of digitization both for public institutions, companies and

citizens. This good practice represents a smooth process between employees and energy users which would be easily accepted by both parties. Ways of transferability of this GP are: awareness raising strategies regarding the benefits of the smart metering, close collaboration of public institutions, companies and the energy users.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FINAL CONFERENCE IN PROVINCE OF POTENZA – SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>



As the LOCARBO Project draws near its end, the partnership is having a final conference in the Province of Potenza to discuss the results and lessons learned during the initiative.

On the 9th of September, the LOCARBO project will hold its final international workshop in the Province of Potenza, Italy.

The event will welcome the representatives of partner organisations and stakeholders with the aim to share the knowledge gained through LOCARBO's final results.

The representative of the Lead Partner will also explain why there was an “extra” extension period that

was this “5th Project Call” and how this project can help tackle the COVID-19 crisis.

The partnership of the initiative will share their experience during the LOCARBO Initiative and share knowledge on lessons learnt, policy instrument improvement and future perspectives for local authorities in their efforts to develop local or regional low-carbon policies and tackle issues like energy efficiency and security.

**More Information on the event at:**

[FINAL CONFERENCE LINK](#)