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resources for sustainable energy planning



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Welcome!

Welcome to the second edition of the COOPENERGY project newsletter where you can find out about our latest project news and European events to help you plan for sustainable energy with local authorities in your region. **If you would like to share news on your sustainable energy partnership work**, please [email us](#).



In this edition find out about:

- [NEW: database of sustainable energy planning case studies now online!](#)
- [NEW: guidebook for Local and Regional Public Authorities now online!](#)
- [NEW: Sign the Committee of the Regions new Charter on MLG!](#)
- [Related project feature: SMILEGOV](#)
- [Local news from COOPENERGY partners](#)
- [Recent & upcoming events](#)
- [Sign up to the Coopenergy 'collaboration platform'!](#)

NEW: database of sustainable energy planning case studies now online!

With public authorities increasingly delivering 'more with less', we aim to save time and money by working more effectively together on sustainable energy planning, to maximise the benefits a joint approach can achieve.

Through the COOPENERGY project we have sought best practice on how regional councils (including county councils) across Europe are already collaborating successfully with their local authority partners, in order to deliver their sustainable energy plans and initiatives.

Throughout the summer 2013 we contacted around 250 public authorities in all EU28 member states and 115 regional energy agencies to obtain the best examples and models of collaboration from across Europe.

As a result over 150 good practices were submitted to us, and we have selected 60 of the 'best' to showcase as case studies through the COOPENERGY website.

View the case studies online here: www.coopenergy.eu/good-practice-resources

This database of case studies aims to provide ideas on how you could collaborate more effectively with your local authority partners on sustainable energy planning. Each best practice case study includes information on:

- How public authorities have set up partnerships to



deliver energy initiatives successfully

- What joint-mechanisms have worked to secure financing
- The key results achieved through these initiatives and their success factors
- How these initiatives can be transferred or 'replicated' to another area

COOPENERGY project partner regions' case studies:

- Rhône-Alpes region (France): [Public Regional Energy Services Operator \(OSER\)](#)
- Zlin region (Czech Republic): [Development of biomass and solar energy](#)
- Liguria region (Italy): Training and technical assistance to municipalities on European Energy Award®
- Metropolitan Region Rhine-Neckar (Germany): [Energy Efficiency Initiative "Energy Caravan"](#)
- Kent County (United Kingdom): [Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership](#)
- Malopolska region (Poland): [Regional Energy Plan](#)

NEW: guidebook for Local and Regional Public Authorities to assist a collaborative approach to energy planning

COOPENERGY partners have drawn on their experiences to develop a **guidebook on 'Implementing Multi-level Governance'**, designed to help local authorities set up the partnerships, collaboration models and agreements needed to **deliver sustainable energy initiatives and action plans (SEAPs) effectively in partnership.**

If you are a local or regional public authority, this guidebook can help you to:

- **Decide where to start** to develop a regional Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP);
- **Decide what planning tools you could use** to meet the needs of local and regional partners;
- **Develop your approach to engaging with the right stakeholders** during the preparation of your plan or initiative, to secure their buy-in and support.
- **Set-up the agreements or models you need** to deliver your energy plans and initiatives in partnership: saving time, cutting inefficiencies and sharing resources effectively in the process.
- Identify where you can **get further information, support and funding**

Read the guidebook here: www.coopenergy.eu/mlg

!!\ Your feedback, through a very short online survey, on this initial version would really help us improve its final version to be published in 2015, thank you: www.coopenergy.eu/multi-level-governance-guidebook-user-survey



NEW: Sign the Committee of the Region's Charter for Multilevel Governance!

Adopted by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) in April 2014 and supported by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Charter is a political manifesto from European cities and regions urging all levels of government to use "multilevel governance" as a guiding principle in policy design, helping to learn from each other, share best practices and further develop participatory democracy.

This initiative marks the strong will of regional and local authorities to become fully-fledged partners in EU policy making. Only by acting together can responsible actors at all levels of governance close the 'delivery gap' ensuring the EU meets its objectives on sustainable growth, quality jobs creation and territorial cohesion.

Although *not legally binding*, the Charter will commit its signatories to use a multilevel governance approach in their policy and project design. This is all part of the CoRs' commitment to ensuring a good application of the *subsidiarity* principle, which places decisions at the most effective level and as close to citizens as possible.

What are the benefits?

- Visibility of your initiatives, on the Charter's website and at high-level events organised
- Online platform to exchange best practices, look for potential partners, monitor EU policies
- MLG is recognised as a guiding principle in the new EU rules for the management of the Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020.

Background

With its 2009 [White Paper on Multilevel governance](#), the CoR launched a public consultation for drafting the charter. The CoR then renewed this commitment in a report on "[Building a European culture of multilevel governance: follow-up to the Committee of the Regions' White Paper](#)". Since then the CoR has actively been developing a method for monitoring usage of multilevel governance by European institutions, regularly produces a [scoreboard](#) on the issue, and is working on compiling good multilevel governance practices in cooperation with the European Commission.

Find out how to sign the Charter here:

<https://portal.cor.europa.eu/mlgcharter/moreonmlg/Pages/How-to-join.aspx>

IEE Project Feature: SMILEGOV progress multi-level cooperation across Island clusters

Whilst COOPENERGY looks at facilitating public authorities to build multi-level governance on mainland Europe, the IEE Smilegov project is working to address barriers to multi-governance across clusters of EU islands, to aid the implementation of sustainable energy action plans and projects. In recent news, SMILEGOV held a capacity building workshop on building effective multi-level cooperation in Sliema, Malta. The workshop focused on knowledge transfer between island clusters

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and included a range of videos on good examples of multi-level governance processes (e.g. [successful case of the Biogas](#)) as well as practical case studies to aid those working on sustainable energy actions. SMILEGOV has also interviewed decision-makers across island clusters to find out more about how they influence energy policy and how effective governance has been built to achieve sustainable energy goals, including interviews with [former French MP, Didier Robert](#) and Mr Tearii Alpha, [French Polynesian Minister for Marine Resources, Mining And Research](#).

Find out more on the [SMILEGOV website](#)

COOPENERGY Partners' progress

COOPENERGY partners have updated their regional pages of the COOPENERGY website, with the progress they have made since the COOPENERGY project began in April 2013. Visit each partners regional page to find out more, including how:



- [Rhône-Alpes regional council \(RCRA\)](#), [Rhônalpénergie-Environnement \(RAEE\)](#) and [Hespul](#) are working together to provide a collaborative energy planning service for Territories aiming to be Energy POSitive (TEPOS).
- [Zlín Energy Agency](#) have established two new working groups, one to enable the agency to collaborate with representatives of Holešov town council on the Energy concept and SEAP of the Zlín Region; the other to facilitate cooperation between the private and public sectors in the field of central heat supply systems.
- [Regional Energy Agency \(IRE\) Liguria](#) have set-up multi-level governance arrangements to review their regional SEAP, discuss regional energy policies and coordinate energy planning initiatives, at both the regional and local level.
- [Bocconi University - Centre for Research on Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy \(UBIEFE\)](#) held a seminar at the European Commission Joint Research Centre premises in Ispra, on the topic of determinants of cities' GHG emissions. During the seminar, E. Croci of Bocconi University stressed the importance of multi-level governance and cooperation for GHG reduction and sustainable energy and talked to the audience about the COOPENERGY project.
- [Metropolitan Region Rhine-Neckar GmbH \(MRN\)](#) in April 2014 signed a [Memorandum of Cooperation \(MoC\)](#) on climate protection with the Rhine-Neckar County, which itself has signed a MoC with its communities to ensure effective cooperation in implementing the SEAPs at different levels.
- [Basque Energy Agency/Ente Vasco de la Energía \(EVE\)](#) and HAZI formalised a cooperation agreement to promote the development and utilisation of forest biomass for energy, in the Basque countryside.
- [Norrbotten Region Energy Agency \(NENET\)](#) have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation committing to collaborate in improving energy planning processes and held an Energy Info Day to promote the regional energy and climate strategy and to encourage local actions.
- [Kent County Council \(KCC\)](#) has strengthened multi-level governance arrangements with local public authority partners in Kent, in order to review sustainable energy

plans in Kent and deliver joint actions. This includes the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation and a review of terms of reference for groups across three levels of governance.

Find out more on the [COOPENERGY website](#).

Recent & Upcoming Events

COOPENERGY Technical workshop on financing sustainable local energy actions – 20 June 2014, Milan.

Friday 20 June 2014

COOPENERGY partners organised an event dedicated to regional and local financing for sustainable energy planning. During the workshops, regional and local public authorities learned about the different funding mechanisms that can be used to fund joint approaches to sustainable energy planning, ranging from EU urban development funds to crowd funding. Find pictures and quotes from the day on the COOPENERGY Twitter account: [@coopenergyeu](#) [More info](#)



Working Group Meeting of the Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan: Citizen Energy Cooperative

Tuesday 15 July 2014

After founding a Working Group in autumn 2013 to improve how we deliver sustainable energy action plans in partnership across the MRN, the first working session will deal with topics such as an on-site visit of a “citizen wind wheel park” and discussions about opportunities of wind power in the Region as well as cooperation possibilities of energy cooperatives with public utilities companies. The next Working Group meeting will take place in autumn 2014.

From energy plans to results: How Covenant of Mayors municipalities succeed in the energy transition

Tuesday 23 September 2014

At Pitea municipal hall, Sweden - [More info](#)

See the Events Section on the [COOPENERGY website](#).

Get involved!

Register for free on our COOPENERGY collaboration platform to access further energy planning resources, the latest COOPENERGY project newsletters, and take advantage of our online discussion forum to discuss planning for sustainable energy with other regional authorities and councils from across Europe. Sign up to the collaboration platform [here](#)



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