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resources for sustainable energy planning



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union

Multi-Level Governance for more collaborative energy planning between the local and regional levels

Welcome to the third edition of the COOPENERGY project newsletter where you can find out about our latest project news 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](#)



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Resources already available to you!

Through COOPENERGY we aim for local and regional authorities to work better together on their sustainable energy work, taking into account each level's needs. We are just over the half-way post of the project and this work has already provided new insights on better ways to work collaboratively.



Resources for public authorities available now...

- [Database](#) of 60 best practice Case Studies across Europe
- [Guidelines](#) on Multi-Level Governance Cooperation
- [Tips \(short video\)](#) and [Factsheet \(3 pages\)](#) for Financing energy measures
- [Techniques](#) for Energy Modelling, Planning, Monitoring (Transport in particular)

Resources coming up in the year ahead...stay tuned!

- **The revised Guidelines** – on how to build effective partnerships and collaboration models needed to deliver energy initiatives, as a public authority. Your feedback is being sought on the initial version of the guidebook via a short survey (closes 1st April 2015).
- **Resources on engagement** – sharing good practice examples on how public authorities are engaging stakeholders in their energy plans and initiatives.
- **Transferring good practice across regions** – in the next stages, COOPENERGY partners will be transferring the collaboration approaches developed within their own regions to other regions outside of the project.

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Partner Regions' ongoing activities

Here is an overview of the activities undertaken in the partner regions since the project began in April 2013:

- **Rhône-Alpes regional council (RCRA), Rhônalpénergie-Environnement (RAEE) and Hespul** (Energy Information Centre for the Rhône district) are working together to provide a collaborative energy planning service for Energy POSitive territories. **Hespul** is supporting the TEPOS Beaujolais Vert and the Pays Beaujolais to implement multi-level governance processes between the regional and local level by providing recommendations for the revision of Pays Beaujolais sustainable development contract with the Region Rhone-Alpes (CDDRA). Hespul started a joint action to strengthen the local wood fuel supply chain in the region by improving the cooperation between regional, urban and rural authorities as well as local stakeholders. Several meetings have been held with



Grand Lyon Metropole and woodfuel suppliers to assess the feasibility of developing local supply chains for wood chips with very low moisture level. Last but not least, Hespul supported the regional council to design its regional strategy for the connection of the renewable energy sources to the high voltage electricity grid. **RCRA and RAEE** are accompanying the TEPOS Annecy Chambéry PNR des Bauges in providing feedback regarding their territorial climate action plan to the Regional Council in order to improve the consistency of actions. They are also organizing a workshop on March 19th on financial tools to support energy transition, based on the work of Region Rhône Alpes to identify available programmes.

RCRA is working with TEPOS Biovallee in order to define a programme providing guarantees to owners for renovation of private housings, speeding up the process for improving the energy efficiency of their homes.

RAEE is implementing an action with TEPOS Valence Romans Sud Rhône-Alpes and Grand Genève to enhance collaboration in adapting land use territorial procedures (SCOT) for sustainable energy communities.

- **Energy agency of the Zlín Region (EAZK)** updated the Regional Energy strategy in 2014. Due to this update, there is a strong need to update the existing regional SEAP for the period beyond 2014, which is being done within the Coopenergy project. A regional steering committee with the objective to lead and coordinate the review of the regional SEAP has been set up under the patronage of the governor of the Zlín Region. It is named 'Energy group of the Zlín region'. There are several priorities of the existing regional SEAP to be updated, namely:
 - Support to energy efficiency in the facilities of the Zlín Region and its organisations – schools, hospitals, social services
ETA
 - Development of energy efficiency projects in the whole area of the Zlín region across all sectors
 - Development of renewable energy sources utilising projects in the whole area of the Zlín region across all sectors
 - Increasing the security and reliability of energy supply in the Zlín Region
 - Horizontal measures including educational and advisory activities for different target groups regarding developing and financing concrete projects
- **Regional Agency of Liguria (IRE SpA)** has supported the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Liguria Region and the local authorities involved in the Covenant of Mayors to officialise their commitment to

work in long term collaboration.

The Memorandum foresees the creation of a regional Steering Committee (SC) composed of representatives of the Liguria Region, the Provinces, the provincial capital cities and small municipalities (involved in the Covenant of Mayors). The SC met to discuss the coordination of energy planning, in particular the review of the regional SEAP. The first SC meeting took place in Genoa on 26th February: it represented the occasion to start to collect the needs of the local territories in order to support them through concrete useful tools for the joint actions. The next meeting is scheduled for mid-April 2015.

The SC members also constitute the Local Working Groups which will implement two joint actions: "Collaboration in BEI data supply and performance monitoring for municipalities" and "Joint procurement process and collaboration in public lighting and other frequent energy issues for municipalities". IRE also started replication activities with the neighbouring region Piemonte: in January, IRE and the Piemonte Region met in Turin to exchange their experiences on multilevel governance models for the Regional SEAP preparation process. IRE has supported the Liguria Region in updating the regional SEAP that is currently being evaluated for final approval.

- **Bocconi University - Centre for Research on Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy (UBIEFE)** worked with FEDARENE and Rhônalénergie-Environnement (RAEE) to document successful Multi-Level Governance models in Europe through 60 best practice case studies, now published on the COOPENERGY website. UBIEFE also organized in collaboration with other partners a workshop on "Regional and Local financing for sustainable energy planning" in its premises in Milan, in June 2014, and elaborated a factsheet on financial instruments for sustainable energy based on the workshop's outcomes, which is now available online.
- **Metropolitan Region Rhine-Neckar GmbH (MRN)**, as a first step undertook an online survey for its communities/counties to ask about the status of local SEAPs as well as collaboration needs. The survey revealed willingness for collaboration with the Region, but also a need for capacity-building to conduct certain activities at the local level. These results were presented at an MLG Forum with representatives of the Region, the local level, energy cooperatives and energy agencies. The next step is to commit relevant players to deliver on key targets of the Regional SEAP, notably by starting

local working groups such as on citizen energy cooperatives.

- **Basque Energy Agency (EVE):** In June 2013, EVE and HAZI formalized a cooperation agreement to promote the development and utilization of forest biomass for energy purposes in the Basque countryside. The objective of both organizations is to offer advice to Basque local councils interested in the utilization of biomass for heat, following a plan and operating model based on the needs of the municipalities, and in line with the existing funding mechanisms and funding from different sources.
- **Norrbottnen Region Energy Agency (NENET)** analysed whether local and regional needs are addressed in the energy and climate strategy of Norrbotten County, by interviewing regional authorities and a number of municipalities. It transpired that it is crucial to make clear the benefits for municipalities of delivering in coherence with the regional strategy. The findings of the analysis were discussed with the regional authorities, and they, with other key energy-climate stakeholders, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation committing to collaborate in energy planning processes. NENET has notably organised 2 Energy Info Days and two of four Multi-Level Governance Forums to involve further stakeholders: youth groups, NGOs and the general public. In 2014, the County Council of Norrbotten became the First Territorial Coordinator in Sweden for the Covenant of Mayors. NENET is owned by the County Council together with the fourteen municipalities in the County. These owners decided at the ownership meeting in April 2014, to give NENET an extended role as a Regional actor. The two dominant parts of the extension was to carry out the active part of the County Councils role as coordinator for the Covenant of Mayors and to carry out an analysis on development of regional platform for project and business development in the clean tech sector.

In 2015, the County Administrative Board is preparing a regional energy Action plan according to the template of the Covenant of Mayors and in a comprehensive participative MLG process.

- **Kent County Council** undertook a review of its energy planning processes and partnerships. The review outlined clear recommendations for improving the County's existing sustainable energy action plan (SEAP): the Kent Environment Strategy. As part of this process, local authority partners across Kent have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (called Climate Local Kent) committing to delivery of a number of key targets within the Plan.

Kent has also reviewed and strengthened the terms of reference for groups across three levels of governance for the Plan: one officer group, one senior officer and one political group to ensure Kent improves how the plan is reviewed and delivered at multiple levels. Kent's next steps are to review the entire Strategy with its local partners in order to produce an updated version of the strategy by summer 2014. The review is already taking place and the Memorandum of Cooperation is being reviewed and re-signed alongside this in order to strengthen the commitment to deliver the plan in partnership across key local partners.

Find the Regional Review Reports, Memorandum of Cooperation documents on: www.coopenergy.eu/content/project-documents

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Join the MAYORS in ACTION coaching programme!

The Mayors in Action project focuses on supporting Coordinators and Supporters (C&S) of the Covenant of Mayors (CoM), to select, adapt and channel good practices for the implementation and monitoring of existing SEAPs through training, tutoring and coaching schemes, addressing C&S and municipalities. C&S from across Europe are **invited to participate** in a tailor-made twinning programme on strategies for evaluation of SEAPs, methodologies for implementation, methods for triggering financial opportunities, and how to improve communication and support with municipalities.

Find out more about the [MAYORS in ACTION's international coaching and peer-review scheme.](#)

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MLG in Islands: the SMILEGOV project

The SMILEGOV project, has launched two new resources to help public authorities collaborate on their energy plans and initiatives (using multi-level governance approaches), across clusters of EU islands. These resources include:

- **Seven good practice factsheets** – these factsheets discuss the conditions that enable good multi-level cooperation – using the experiences of SMILEGOV



partners from their own regions across Europe.

- **Guidelines for implementing sustainable energy projects** – these guidelines aim to build the capacity of European Islands to work collaboratively across Islands on their energy projects.

More resources can be found on the [SMILEGOV website](#).

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Funding Opportunities

LIFE Programme (2014-2017) – two new financial instruments launched

The LIFE Programme has launched two new financial instruments this month. The first, called **Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE)** aims to support Member states to make progress with their EU energy efficiency targets; a total of €80 million is available and is being managed by the European Investment Bank (EIB). The fund can be applied for up until 30 June 2017.

The second, called the **Natural Capital Financial Facility (NCF)** will provide loans and investment to projects which promote the preservation of natural capital. This includes adaptation to climate change; a total of €100-125 million is available for the 2014-2017 LIFE programme. Those interested in developing a project can contact the EIB at any time to discuss their ideas.

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



Financial Factsheet: financing local sustainable energy

Insights from the COOPENERGY workshop on financial instruments, Milan - 20 June 2014

Regional and local authorities are crucial to reaching the EU's sustainable energy targets by 2020 and beyond. But how can they fund their measures in this moment of economic crisis and tight budgetary constraints for public administrations? This factsheet, produced within the project, presents the outcomes of the Workshop on this topic held in Milan on 20th June 2014 and attended by representatives of regional authorities, local authorities and experts.

Read [the Financial Factsheet](#).

Rural funding online search tool

FREE - Future of Rural Energy in Europe has developed a handy online funding tool which lists the funding mechanisms that are available to finance sustainable energy projects in rural areas.

Find the tool on [FREE's website](#).

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Recent & Upcoming Events

COOPENERGY: Technical workshop on stakeholder engagement - 12 March 2015, in Lulea, Sweden

COOPENERGY partners organised a [seminar](#) dedicated to sharing expertise and experiences of the tools and approaches that can be used to engage stakeholders in energy plans and initiatives. COOPENERGY partner regions and other participants presented successful cases of stakeholder involvement, and during an interactive session worked on a case together with other participants on problem-solving.

Notes from the session will be available soon on the COOPENERGY website - stay tuned!



Committee of the Regions Conference "Governing a multi-level Europe" - 2 December 2014, in Brussels, Belgium

For the Committee of the Regions, all levels of governance in the EU are interdependent and interconnected. The recently adopted Charter on Multilevel Governance invites all public authorities to make multilevel governance (MLG) a reality in day-to-day policy-making and delivery. This primarily involves working in partnership between the different levels of government (local, regional, national and European). The conference discussed the state of play with regards to multilevel governance in the EU and focused on two key issues:

- The application of the MLG principle in the field of EU cohesion policy and with regards to the Europe 2020 strategy;
- Multilevel governance and active citizenship.

[Documents](#) and [video recording](#).

Workshop on the role of regional authorities in the Covenant of Mayors - 17 October 2014, Bilbao, Spain

This workshop organized by EVE, internally for Coopenergy project partners, was to discuss the role of the regional authorities in the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative. Current regional coordinators were asked to explain their experience and lessons learned in the promotion of the CoM, followed by an open discussion. [Video of the workshop](#).

More info on the COOPENERGY website Events section:

www.coopenergy.eu/events

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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>

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Sign up to our online Collaboration Platform!

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:

<http://coopenergy.eu/content/get-involved>

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