

Multi-Level Governance in Sustainable Energy Planning: local and regional public authorities collaborating

Welcome to the fourth edition of the COOPENERGY project newsletter where you can find information about relevant tools, events, initiatives and reports.

If you would like to share news on your sustainable energy partnership work, please do [email us](mailto:smal.us).



Contents:

- [Event: COOPENERGY final conference_3 Dec. Paris](#)
- [NEW factsheets & videos on stakeholder engagement](#)
- [Resources already available to you!](#)
- [NEW reports on access to energy data \(Data4Action\)](#)
- [Partner regions' ongoing activities](#)
- [Sign the Committee of the Regions' MLG Charter](#)
- [Sign-up to our online Collaboration Platform](#)

Events: COOPENERGY final conference on 3 December 2015 in Paris

Come join us for our final conference on 3rd December in Paris, parallel to the COP21, where we will present the results from our three year long project, which is ending officially in March 2016:

- Learn how 7 European regions have forged a more collaborative approach between the regional and local public authorities to revise together the Regional Sustainable Energy Action Plan taking into account local needs, to implement joint actions for more efficiency and coherence (ex : joint procurement of public lighting), etc.
- Discover the tools developed now available to you to implement more multi-level governance collaborative sustainable energy planning in your territory.

Draft agenda & Registration: www.fedarene.org/?p=11030
English-French language interpretation will be available



[Tag](#)

New factsheet & videos on stakeholder engagement

We have published two new factsheets for Regional and Local Authorities, to support their sustainable energy planning:

- **A Financial Factsheet** – guidance on how to finance energy initiatives <http://bit.ly/1CAKv45>
- **A Stakeholder Engagement Factsheet** – tops tips and advice on the best ways to engage your stakeholders in energy initiatives <http://bit.ly/1CNYalN>

Watch videos on how to engage your stakeholders in energy initiatives, taken at our March 2015 stakeholder engagement workshop in Luleå, Sweden: <http://bit.ly/1COOPENERGY> [YouTubeChannel](#)

- **Engaging citizens to take more sustainable travel options**, in Umeå, Sweden.
- **Engaging Stakeholders**, in the Metropolitan Rhine-Neckar region and Massif des Bauges region.
- **The role of energy agencies** in stakeholder engagement.

[Tag](#)

Resources already available to you!

Resources 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
- **Techniques** for Energy Modelling, Planning, Monitoring (Transport in particular)

Resources coming up 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.**
- **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.

[Tag](#)

New reports on access to energy data in 12 European regions (Data4Action project)

The Data 4 Action project has published a suite of reports for each of its partners' regions, to analyse how effective each region is at accessing data – specifically data which can be used to monitor energy action plans. In each report, Data 4 Action partners have analysed the strengths and weaknesses within their regions, to gain access to local and accurate data for their SEAPs (Sustainable Energy Action Plans). The influence of regional and national frameworks on data sharing is also examined.

Access the reports on the DATA4ACTION website:

[Tag](#)

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), Rhônalpénergies-Environnement (RAEE) and Hespul** are working together to support the implementation of Positive Energy Territories' action plans. To date, 14 Positive Energy Territories (TEPOS)' have been selected and are supported by the regional public authority (RCRA) and the French Agency for Environment and Energy Management (ADEME) to become 100% RES communities.

Their objective is to reach a balance between local energy production and consumption by 2050. In the scope of COOPENERGY, RCRA, RAEE and HESPUL are providing a specific support to two TEPOS representing in total more than 100 municipalities (TEPOS PNR Bauges/Chambéry Métropole/Communauté d'agglomération d'Annecy and TEPOS Beaujolais Vert) to implement multi-level governance processes between the regional and local levels, in order to provide recommendations for the revision and the implementation of the Rhône-Alpes regional Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SRCAE). As part of this process, a regional steering committee has been set up and Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) have been signed with both TEPOS.

In this framework, RAEE and RCRA, organized with TEPOS Bauges/Chambéry Métropole/Communauté d'agglomération d'Annecy an energy day entitled "Financing energy transition" on the 19th of March 2015.

This forum included:

- a sequence of speed funding with projects developers and potential funders,
- a round table "Energy transition as a means for economic development",
- thematic workshops related to business models for renewable energy development.

The Energy agency of the Zlin Region (EAZK) updated the Regional Energy strategy in 2014. Due to the update, there was a strong need to update the existing regional SEAP for the period beyond 2014, which is actually being done within the Coopenergy project. The regional steering committee named "Energy group of the Zlin Region" has been set up under the patronage of the governor of the Zlin Region with the objective to lead and coordinate the review of the regional SEAP. In last several months the existing SEAP was revised closely, the new SEAP for the period 2015 – 2019 was elaborated and is about to be approved by the Council of the Zlin Region on its regular meeting in August 2015.

• **Regional Agency of Liguria (IRE SpA)** is carrying out a range of activities to support municipalities across the Liguria region of Italy, with their energy planning activities. Through the Regional Steering Committee (SC), set up within COOPENERGY Project, IRE is providing concrete support on energy issues, including building regulations and public lighting. So far three meetings of the SC took place in February, April and June 2015, in Genoa.

To meet the needs and the instances stated by the participants, IRE is now preparing a model of a tender notice for the renovation of the public lighting to make it available for the Municipalities that will adapt it to their own context.

IRE is also going on in the "twinning collaboration process" with the neighbouring Piemonte Region. Two exchange meetings have already taken place (one in Turin and one in Genoa) to share experiences about the collaborative, multi-level governance (MLG) model adopted by IRE. This model is being used to implement the revision process of the Regional Energy and Environmental Plan (PEAR) that is now in phase of approval by the Regional Board.

• **Bocconi University – Centre for Research on Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy (UBEEF)** worked with FEDARENE and Rhônalpénergies-Environnement (RAEE) to document successful Multi-Level Governance models in Europe through 60 best practice case studies, now published on the COOPENERGY website.

UBEEF 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. During Coopenergy's technical workshop on Stakeholder Engagement, held in Luleå, Sweden on 12th March 2015, UBEEF presented an experience of participative decision making regarding the city of Milan and its consultative citizens referendum for sustainability (see the presentation online), which also included the topic of sustainable energy.

During the official launch of the INTERREG MED Programme 2014-2020 conference "Global challenges, Mediterranean solutions – Decision making and concrete actions" held on 22nd June 2015 in Marseille, UBEEF presented the Coopenergy project and the main results of the survey on multi-level governance models for sustainable energy ([event link](#)).

• **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 a 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 a Multi-Level Governance 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 an citizen energy cooperatives.

In April 2014 the Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region 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. To work hand in hand, avoid duplication and using synergy effects, this innovative approach of Multi-Level Governance creates a win-win situation for all participants.

• **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.

The aim of this multi-level collaboration is to achieve the following general objectives: to coordinate the activities of all stakeholders (from the forest resource to the point of consumption of thermal energy), to value indigenous resources, generate local employment and advance the development and deployment of renewable energy.

As part of this action, on January 28th a meeting took place in Amurrio between EVE, HAZI and municipal managers to advance in the design and implementation of a plan to give the council a sustainable and profitable solution for municipality and its citizens with regard to the energy supply of the various city-owned buildings. The process will include the development of the necessary studies for the analysis and management of forest resources. In parallel, studies will be conducted to meet the energy needs of the municipality and the realization of the technical solutions adopted, and the funding mechanisms will be the same. It is expected that the process ends with the implementation of sustainable energy measures for the town of Amurrio, which allow for local forest biomass in the facilities and buildings more consumers' heat.

• **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.

This year, 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 process. As part of this process, three workshops have been held, focusing on transport, renewable energy, and business and growth. This has enabled feedback to be sought from a variety of sector professionals, with the new strategy due for approval in Autumn 2015. Nenet has also signed Memorandum of Understanding with two twinning regions – Dalarna in Sweden, and Riga Planning Region in Latvia – to share experiences and benefit from results from previous work.

One meeting has been held in Norrbotten with Dalarna and another meeting is planned for October. The partner from Latvia will visit Sweden in October, and Nenet will return the visit in November. The activity should result in detailed action plans on how to continue the strategic work with energy and climate issues.

• **Kent County Council** has been working with its partners at local level to produce a revised sustainable energy action plan (SEAP) for the county of Kent: the Kent Environment Strategy. Over the past 6 months, the existing strategy (which ends this year) has been reviewed by the county council and by all local authority partners (13 district authorities as well as health practitioners, the environment agency, the county police service and fire and rescue service among others). A consultation period for the new strategy will now begin (on the 27 July) to seek all partners' feedback on the county's priorities for energy and environment over the coming years. The final strategy will be produced in December and an updated Memorandum of Cooperation will be signed by all local partners to strengthen delivery of the strategy and commit all partners to action at the local and regional levels.

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

[Tag](#)

Sign the Committee of the Regions' Charter for Multi-Level 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 "multi-level 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 multi-level governance approach in their policy and project design. This is all part of the CoR's 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 Multi-level 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 multi-level 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 multi-level governance by European institutions, regularly produces a [scoreboard](#) on the issue, and is working on compiling good multi-level governance practices in cooperation with the European Commission.

Find out how to sign the Charter here: <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/multi-level-governance/Files/How-to-sign.aspx>

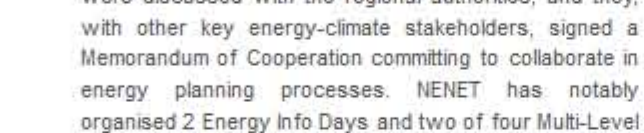
[Tag](#)

Sign up to our online Collaboration Platform!

Register for free to our COOPENERGY collaboration platform to access further collaborative energy planning resources, and take advantage of our online discussion forum.

Sign up to the collaboration platform <http://coopenergy.eu/content/get-involved>

[Tag](#)



This newsletter is produced by the COOPENERGY project

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

Edited by FEDARENE