

## COOPENERGY Action Plan Report:

### Partner:

Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes (RCRA) – France

### Joint-Action:

Accompany a “Positive Energy Territory” (TEPOS) to develop financial instrument to raise the implementation of renovation projects for private housings

### Pillar:

Financial instruments (pillar 1)

### Regional/local authorities involved:

Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes; communities of municipalities (intercommunalities) of “Val de Drôme” and “Pays de Saillans et du Crestois” (TEPOS « Biovallée », representing more than 45 local authorities)

### Stakeholders involved:

Regional Council and abovementioned intercommunalities, French Agency for Environment and Energy Management (ADEME), National Agency for Housing (ANAH), the local Energy Agency (ADIL 26), the Departmental Housing Improvement Center (CALD), the Rhône-Alpes environment, planning and housing Authority (DREAL, which is a regional service of the Ministry of Environment), local professional builders, owners of private housing, and the banking sector (Crédit Agricole Sud Rhône-Alpes).

### About the joint action:

The objective of this action is to **prepare the implementation of a mechanism of refundable advances of funds to finance renovation of individual houses.**

The following activities have been implemented by the public authorities and stakeholders involved:

- A **local working group** coordinated by RCRA was set up, involving the above mentioned local authorities and stakeholders. 6 meetings of the working group have been held during the course of the action.
- This local working group decided **to carry out a study** at the local level in order to identify gaps and barriers for implementing a refundable advances system and to make concrete recommendations on how to implement this financial instrument to encourage private housing renovations in a Positive Energy Territory (there was previously no study or experimentation on this subject in Rhône-Alpes). The study was conducted by the company Urbanis, selected by means of a public tender. It was based on the program “DORÉMI” (operational plan for



energy-efficient renovation of individual houses) carried out in Biovallée, which provided results and data from its first renovation projects.

This study highlighted that the implementation of refundable advances of funds is a significant leverage for housing renovation ; recommendations and concrete conditions to set up this mechanism have been defined (thanks to a best expertise on financial issues regarding renovation of private houses).

- Following the implementation of these activities:
  - o The results of the study were presented and discussed to a regional working group dedicated to financing of energy-efficient renovation ("Atelier Bâtiment Durable") on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and in this way could be widely disseminated (at regional level).
  - o Biovallée is now **currently preparing the implementation of a local mechanism of refundable advances** in its territory with its own operator and plans to set up a partnership with banks to propose a "all-in-one" offer of loans for energy saving projects.
  - o On the basis of the outputs of this study and others works carried out by the Regional Council, discussions has been initiated by RCRA in order to create a **regional "resources center" for renovation** (i.e. a regional platform for information, advice and support to launch and manage renovation projects), which will particularly support and accompany discussions with the banking sector to implement financial instruments for housing renovation, including refundable advances of funds.
  - o The recommendations highlighted by this study may also **be replicated in other territories in Rhône-Alpes, in particular within the "Housing renovation platforms"** implemented in the region and supported by the RCRA and the national Agency for Environment and Energy Management (ADEME).

### **About the Collaboration model:**

The collaboration model was mainly based on the creation of a multi-level stakeholders group involving national, regional and local public authorities, a local energy agency, as well as other regional and local stakeholders concerned by financing of energy-efficient housing renovation.

The joint action has been carried out by the Regional Council, in cooperation with the communities of municipalities of Biovallée and all the above mentioned stakeholders have participated to the action through meetings of a steering committee.

In addition to the operational implementation of a financial instrument, the purpose of this joint action is also to strengthen collaboration between the RCRA and Biovallée to find tools to reinforce the efficiency of Biovallée's Positive Energy Territory action plan and to meet the objectives of the Rhone-Alpes regional SEAP (SCRAE).



## Accompany a "Positive energy territory" (TEPOS) to develop financial instrument to raise the implementation of renovation projects for private housings - Action Plan

ACTION	DEADLINE	STATUS	PROGRESS
Set up of the local working group and organization of the 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting	September 2014	Done	-First meeting held in Valence on the 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2014 : Identification of the needs, construction of the partnership between the Regional Council and the local authorities involved in the TEPOS "Biovallée", definition of the objectives of the action
Organisation of 2 <sup>nd</sup> local working group meeting; Finalization of the technical specifications for the study	November 2014	Done	-Meeting held in Valence on the 4 <sup>th</sup> of November 2014 (addressed technical specifications of the public tender)
Organisation of 3 <sup>rd</sup> local working group meeting; Launch of the public tender and selection of the contractor	December 2014	Done	-Meeting in Lyon on the 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2014 -In December, Urbanis was selected by RCRA to carry out the study
Organisation of local working group meetings; Implementation and conduct of the study	April 2015	Done	-Conference Call 6 <sup>th</sup> of January 2015 -Meeting in Valence on the 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2015 to present the first results of the study -Meeting 26 <sup>th</sup> of March 2015 dedicated to presentation of the final results of the study
Dissemination of the study outputs and conclusions	September 2015	Ongoing	-Presentation of the results of the study in a regional working group dedicated to financing of energy-efficient renovation ("Atelier Bâtiment Durable") on the 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015 =>dissemination at regional level
Implementation of the system of refundable advances in Biovallée	October 2015 – December 2017	Ongoing	-Launch of the implementation of the financial mechanism in Biovallée -Meeting to organize between the local authorities of Biovallée and RCRA in the second semester of 2015 to continue the collaboration (support from RCRA to Biovallée to set up its financial tools...) and coordinate their action.