

Report: Evaluating the joint action AP200, Basque Country

Context and rationale

In general, municipal management in towns with small populations is hampered by a lack of human and material resources. This situation is further aggravated in the field of energy, where per capita expenditure is higher than for larger municipalities. And for municipalities with a population of under 200 inhabitants, the situation is even worse.

Multi-level governance actions are of particular interest for this type of municipality as it is not possible to carry out energy projects without help from all the agents involved.

For this reason it was decided to apply MLG to municipalities of this kind and to a public service (public lighting).



Description of the Joint Action AP200

This project is a Joint Plan for public lighting renovation in municipalities under 200 inhabitants in the Basque Country.

This project counts on the collaboration of public authorities at three different levels, national, regional and local through IDAE - National Energy Agency (with a subsidy for energy audits), EVE – Energy Agency of the Basque Country (performing the energy audits, acting as a central purchasing entity and managing all the necessary administrative works) and local authorities (installing the equipment and meeting with existing safety and energy efficiency regulations for public lighting installations)

How we collaborated

Starting points

- Creation of the workgroup, establishment of responsibilities and objectives.
- Regulatory framework to be applied
- Availability of funds

Implementation process

1. Establishment of the necessary energy audits. Systems and sources of financing
2. Implementation and monitoring of results

Time frame

The action lasted somewhat longer than the 24 months initially planned. However, it varied from one municipality to another according to the specific problems faced at each of the sites.

Financing and costs

Because financing is one of the chief barriers, the participation of financing agents (EVE and IDAE) on the work group was of key importance in providing the local authority with the security and confidence they needed for carrying out the planned activities.

Key results of the Collaboration

- > *Improvement of urban lighting in 8 municipalities with very small populations in the Basque Country*
- > *Reduction in energy costs in the municipality*
- > *Creation of an awareness of energy saving among municipal authorities. Combined with the creation of the workgroup, this has led to exploration of new actions in the area of energy efficiency and application of renewables in the municipal area*



Barriers and proposed solutions

There are two principal barriers: Training and funding

- Training: To cope with this barrier, it is proposed to provide mentoring and support for management, contracting of equipment and monitoring of actions. Information is also given on the regulations to be applied in public lighting.
- Financing. Search for funding agreements and commitments in several spheres.

Lessons learned and success factors

The principal lesson learnt relates to the establishment of a methodology on relations and interactivity with the different market agents. Although there had been "collaborations" and although these actions had been beneficial, they had not been systematised and adopted by the regional authorities. With the MLG, the contributions of all the market agents were put to use; this led to quicker decision-making with greater consensus.

Resources

Public authorities at three different levels collaborated in this joint action:

- IDAE - National Energy Agency with a subsidy for energy audits
- EVE – Energy Agency of the Basque Country performed the energy audits, acted as a central purchasing entity and managed the necessary administrative works
- Local authorities that installed the equipment and met with existing safety and energy efficiency regulations for public lighting installations

Perspectives, continuation of the action

(Activities planned from this step onward) Not Foreseen.

Transferability - the success factors for collaboration

(Key factors that made the collaboration successful) See Lessons learned

Contact Us

For further information contact Guillermo Basañez Unanue

Email: gbasanez@eve.es

Website <http://www.eve.es/index.aspx>

