

**Memorandum of understanding to cooperate on Multi-Level-Governance in energy planning
between the Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar GmbH and the Province of Flemish Brabant**

Considering that the policy of the European Union sets for 2020 a target for renewable energy sources (20% of total energy production), energy efficiency (20% increase), CO2 emissions (20% reduction compared to 1990 levels) and biofuels (10% of total fuel consumed);

Considering that energy strategies have a relevant impact on social welfare and the environment, and need to be considered to build a society which is sustainable;

Considering the actions in the field of sustainable energy that have already been carried out in both regions;

Considering that cooperation between regional and local authorities and other stakeholders is essential to improve the local and regional action on sustainable energy;

The Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar GmbH and the Province of Flemish Brabant agree as follows:

Agreement

The Province of Flemish Brabant will exchange experience with Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar GmbH on regional promotion of sustainable energy planning and implementation with a focus on Multi-Level-Governance models. More specifically, the exchange will cover efforts towards private households, companies and municipalities and issues including awareness raising, participation, regional climate strategies, working in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors, EPC and sustainable industry areas. The Province of Flemish Brabant will

- implement one study visit (up to 3 person, up to 2 days) to the Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar to learn more about best practices in place and to exchange experience;
- host one visit of COOPENERG experts (3 persons, up to 2 days) to receive technical support on-site for the implementation of MLG-models and to facilitate experience exchange;
- participate in evaluation of the process, giving feedback and information;
- participate in the final COOPENERGY conference;
- join the online collaboration platform (free of charge) for further technical exchange.

The Province of Flemish Brabant will allocate the following resources for the twinning:

- travel costs for own staff when visiting the Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar;
- local transport, meeting venues, meals/coffee break etc. when expert staff is visiting the importing region;
- travel costs for participating in COOPENERGY final conference.

The Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar GmbH will allocate and provide the following resources for the twinning:

- staff costs for consultancy during visits and for remote support;
- local accommodation expenses (hotel, meals, local transport, catering) when the Province of Flemish Brabant is visiting the Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar;
- travel costs to visit the Province of Flemish Brabant;
- travel costs for participating in COOPENERGY final conference.

The Province of Flemish Brabant will consider ideas or proposal received from the Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar GmbH and will consider their inclusion in regional efforts to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy among stakeholders in the region.

The Province of Flemish Brabant and the Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar will explore opportunities for further cooperation in the field of low carbon strategies and techniques.

The Participants agree to allow the Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar GmbH to document the activities carried out under this agreement as part of the activities of the Coopenergy Project of the Intelligent Energy - Europe (IEE) programme which has the objective of improving cooperation between regional and local authorities in sustainable energy planning through multi-level governance models.

Nothing in this agreement is of a legally enforceable nature and consequently no liability shall be attached to either party in the event of its failure to carry out any of the terms of the MoC. Each party is responsible for the way in which it carries out its undertakings under this agreement, and no liability shall be attached to the other party as a result.

Nothing in this MoC shall be construed as giving the right to any party to represent the other towards third parties including the press and media and no right of agency shall therefore be construed. The parties are therefore free to terminate the MoC at any time.

This MoC shall be effective upon its signature by the Participants

Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar GmbH

Signature



Name: Bernd Kappenstein

Date: 03.03.2015

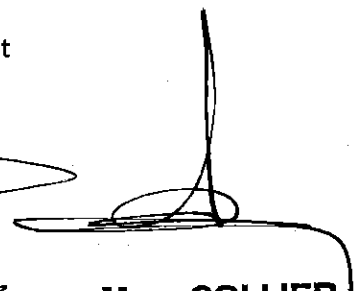
Province of Flemish Brabant

Signature



Name: Roep Eic

Date: 04.03.2015



Marc COLLIER
provinciegriffier

15.03.2015