



MAYORS in ACTION empowers Coordinators and Supporters (C&S) of the Covenant of Mayors in effectively assisting their municipalities in implementing and monitoring their SEAPs. Through tutoring and coaching schemes, MAYORS in ACTION will allow C&S municipalities to go further, enabling them to implement actions by employing existing tools and experiences in different environments, and helping them to support one another towards a common goal. MAYORS in ACTION is a three-year project, running until February 2017, and is co-funded by Intelligent Energy Europe.

www.mayorsinaction.eu

News

Santorso engages citizens in its SEAP



The Community of Santorso is putting its SEAP into the hands of citizens, giving them a chance to provide input through a series of innovation engagement events. These activities follow on from **Covenant capaCITY** with involvement in **Mayors in Action**.

A series of public events were held in the past months to present the actions included within Santorso's SEAP and the research carried out by four engineers defining local need for energy efficiency – for example, by retrofitting private houses. A participatory process to discuss the strategy, priority actions, and the means of communication to the wider community was also kicked off.

Experiences and examples of good practice of citizen involvement in SEAP implementation were introduced by Davide Sabbadin, energy coordinator at Legambiente Veneto, as well as examples of such involvement are the formation of energy purchasing groups or cooperatives. On 29 January an exercise was conducted to define how the actions in the SEAP should be implemented. Further meetings are planned throughout 2015.

For more information about Santorso's SEAP and related activities, visit santorsosostenibile.it

Croatian cities cooperate on SEAP implementation



15 examples of good practice in implementing SEAPs were highlighted at a workshop hosted in Zagreb on 16 October 2014. The workshop focused on strengthening administrative capacity and allowing Croatian local governments to network on SEAP implementation. Representatives from Bjelovar, Gospić, Karlovac, Slunj, Sveta Nedelja and Velika Gorica attended.

The best practice examples presented included measures implemented at national and EU level, such as grants for improving the energy efficiency of households and private sector companies; more efficient public lighting; energy measurement, monitoring and management; renovation of public buildings and information campaigns.

Participants then shared their own experiences in implementing their SEAPs, particularly in terms of transport, construction and public lighting. They highlighted where the process was going well and where they encountered challenges. This allowed them to compare their experiences and how they dealt with these challenges.

The City of Zagreb is organising further cooperative workshops in the framework of other EU projects to strengthen the capacity of other Croatian local governments. This enables participants to expand their knowledge of technical and financial aspects, making them better equipped for the implementation of SEAPs and other sustainable development initiatives.

For more information, visit

eko.zagreb.hr

Funding opportunities and monitoring explored at Mayors in Action training session



The second Mayors in Action training event for Covenant of Mayors C&S took place from 2 – 3 October 2014. Around 50 stakeholders attended the event hosted by Barcelona Provincial Council, which focussed on funding opportunities and monitoring of local sustainable energy actions.

Attendees first learned about different EU financial mechanisms that can be used or applied for to secure funding for sustainable energy projects. A number of best practice case studies were then presented, including a building retrofitting scheme for public sector organisations in London (UK), the SOMENERGIA green energy cooperative based in Catalonia, and the ZagEE project which implemented energy efficiency measures in buildings owned by the city of Zagreb. The ELENA-KfW facility, which supports medium-sized investment projects of less than €50 million, was also featured. These examples were then critically examined in a peer-to-peer discussion session.

The new SEAP template and monitoring guidelines were then presented by the Covenant of Mayors Office. Finally, a workshop on the barriers and opportunities for the development and monitoring was held, and a study tour was conducted in the district of Osona, which looked at effective strategies for assessing the implementation of SEAPs.

To see the presentations from the training session, visit

mayorsinaction.eu

Veneto supports SEAP implementation for local municipalities



The regional government of Veneto has published a series of guidelines to aid municipalities that have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors in fulfilling their ambitious goals.

In 2014 the region provided direct financial support for the preparation and implementation of local SEAPs, giving a boost to new signatories and support to the old one.

A document entitled "Guidelines for the preparation of the SEAP to support local authorities" has been published

to better assist municipalities in the implementation of their SEAPs. It was developed using feedback received from across the region and gives useful information for those local authorities engaging with the Covenant for the first time, as well as for those who have already become signatories.

The guidelines were presented at a conference held on 24 February 2015 in Venice (Italy), along with regional financial instruments to support the implementation of SEAP actions. During the conference Mayors in Action was presented to participants, and several Veneto municipalities currently implementing SEAPs discussed their experiences and examples of good practice.

For more information, visit

regione.veneto.it

Mayors in Action at ManagEnergy capacity-building workshop in Greece

ManagEnergy Supporting local and regional sustainable energy actions

Greece's minister for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Yiannis Maniatis, has said that "energy

efficiency" is a key driver for the Greek economy. The remarks came during the workshop 'Sustainable Energy Action Plans in Greek Municipalities: Implementation, Financing & Monitoring', run by ManagEnergy and held in Nafplio, the former capital of Greece, on 17 October 2014.

More than 50 participants from cities and municipalities across the region attended. At the workshop participants learned about examples of good practice and discussed barriers and opportunities for sustainable energy projects. Discussions included national and EU financial mechanisms, as well as what changes could be made to policy and regulations to improve access to such financing opportunities.

Procedures supporting the implementation of SEAPs were also highlighted in a presentation by Evi Tzanakaki from CRES (Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving), a Mayors in Action partner organisation. In addition to the representatives of municipalities and regional organisations, participants also came from stakeholder groups of financial organisations, administrators, and private consultants and developers.

Mayors in Action offers support to Coordinators and Supporters of the Covenant of Mayors



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.

Selected C&S can benefit by participating in an international coaching and peer-review scheme, with partners in the consortium. Priority will be given to C&S currently supporting implementation and monitoring SEAPs.

In addition, national trainings for C&S will take place in Belgium, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Poland, and Spain. Selected C&S can benefit by participating in an international coaching and peer-review schemes. All existing and potential C&S will have access to the selection of tools and methodologies made available by the project.

Tutoring C&S of the MAYORS in ACTION consortium will support Trainee C&S in the implementation of local activities. Tutoring C&S will guide their Trainee C&S, providing them with support, consultancy, and good practices about implementation and monitoring of SEAPs from both technical and institutional aspects. Each Trainee C&S will keep in constant contact with its Twin-trainee C&S, monitoring and reporting the development of their actions.

Tutoring and peer-to-peer support will be provided through consolidated communication channels such as face to face meetings and workshops, a private area of the project website, video conferences via Skype.

For more information on how to participate, contact mayorsinaction@iclei.org or visit

mayorsinaction.eu

Polish National Fund joins the Covenant of Mayors and Mayors in Action



On 9 October 2014 the Polish National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management became the first National Coordinator of the Covenant of Mayors in Poland. During a high-level conference on energy security in Brussels, Mrs Małgorzata Skucha, President of the Board of the Fund, signed the Partnership Agreement with the representative of the EC's Directorate-General for Energy, committing to support Polish CoM signatories both technically and financially.

The Fund was established in 1989 and has supported environmental protection in Poland through financing environmentally-friendly projects and initiatives, including sustainable energy, ever since. The Fund has monitored the progress of the Covenant of Mayors initiative and has also cooperated with Polish Network "Energie Cités" (PNEC) another Polish Covenant Supporter. Seeing the great potential of the CoM signatories, who joined the fight against the climate change, the Fund decided to provide them with support.

In 2013 the Fund launched a special financing programme addressed to all Polish municipalities, through which they could apply for co-financing for the development of SEAPs (named "Low-emission Economy Programmes" in Poland).

The Fund also joined the Mayors in Action coaching scheme to increase their capacity in selecting, adapting and channeling good practices for the implementation and monitoring of existing SEAPs. Representatives of the Fund participated in both centralised training seminars (in Genoa and Barcelona) to learn from other, more experienced C&S and to exchange experience and ideas with them.

For more information contact Patrycja Plonka, project manager at PNEC, at patrycja.plonka@pniec.org.pl

Raising the profile of Energy Performance Contracting



The Province of Flemish Brabant (Belgium), contributes to BEAST with the Provincial Helpdesk for Energy Management. This is an advisory service which support local governments to improve the energy performance of their buildings.

Many municipalities in Belgium own old buildings and the pace of renovation is slow. Moreover, municipalities lack the financial means that would allow them to develop a long-term strategy to make their buildings more sustainable and energy efficient. Renovation is often postponed. Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) is an alternative financing mechanism that can solve these problems. In Belgium, there is a lack of awareness about the features of EPC. Flemish Brabant developed an EPC coaching scheme to help municipalities and community facilities to launch EPC projects.

On 9 January 2015, participants including technicians, environmental officers, aldermen and mayors from three of the region's municipalities - Beersel, Halle and St-Pieters-Leeuw - convened for the first intermunicipal 'jam session' on Energy Performance Contracting.

For more information about the event and EPC, visit

beastproject.eu

Guest Projects

BEAST Introduction to the project



The BEAST project aims to contribute towards closing the implementation gap of SEAPs.

The project will establish structures for efficient delivery of SEAPs, identify and prepare 23 bankable sustainable energy projects, and implement actions leading to measurable energy savings and/or which increase the supply of renewable energy sources. Estimated investments due to BEAST is close to € 45 million and reduced emissions of GHG is estimated to about 24 000 tonnes of CO2 per year.

Local actors in nine European countries will be addressed and supported in their daily work through coaching with a 'learning-by-doing' approach to boost the implementation of SEAP actions. The local actions identified for the BEAST project differ widely, reflecting the complexity and daily reality for local and regional authorities addressing the different targets set in SEAPs.

For more information, visit

beastproject.eu

COOPENERGY project - new resources for public authorities



The three-year Coopenergy project, co-funded through the Intelligent Energy Europe programme, aims to support regional and local public authorities to work collaboratively on sustainable energy action plans (SEAPS) and initiatives, by using a multi-level governance approach. As part of this work the project has launched two new resources for public authorities to use in their energy planning:

- A **guidebook** on how to develop multi-level governance – designed to help public authorities set up the partnerships, collaboration models and agreements needed to deliver their sustainable energy initiatives.
- A database of **case studies** – to provide inspiration on how regional and local authorities can collaborate more effectively on sustainable energy planning – 60 of the 'best' practices have been selected from across Europe.

To find out more about COOPENERGY, and access further energy planning resources, sign up to the free **collaboration platform** or contact info@coopenergy.eu

Events



Mayors in Action at Zagreb Energy Week

11 - 16 May 2015, Zagreb, Croatia

The sixth edition of the Zagreb Energy Week will take place from 11 – 16 May 2015 in the Croatian capital, organized by the City of Zagreb's City Office for energy, environment and sustainable development. A series of events over five days will focus on the inclusion of stakeholders at local, regional, national and international levels in the process of combating climate change.

Dealing with the key issues in the field of energy and environmental protection, the Zagreb Energy Week includes a series of international conferences, professional meetings, open days, seminars, workshops, lectures and specialized teaching hours in schools and kindergartens in Zagreb in its programme. The European energy policy implementation issues will be discussed at length at three main events, organized on the 13 and 14 May 2015, and referring specially to cities and Covenant of Mayors Supporting structures.

The said events include a two-day international conference "Joint implementation of the EU energy policy for energy security and sustainable development of urban areas", Croatian club Covenant of Mayors and Workshop for Supporting structures Covenant of Mayors.

In keeping with the goals set out by the Mayors in Action project, the aforementioned events shall provide significant support for cities and C&S thereby helping them overcome the barriers in EU energy policies implementation.

For more information, contact maja.sunjic@zagreb.hr



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