



SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative holds a pivotal role in achieving the “20-20-20” targets for 2020, enacted through the Climate and Energy package in 2009.

SEAP-PLUS aims at the enhancement of the CoM impact in both quantitative and qualitative terms by: bringing more Signatories and Covenant Supporters or Coordinators in the CoM; assisting municipalities in the preparation of more and better SEAPs; triggering the cooperation of local authorities with regional authorities and energy stakeholders and the cooperation between experienced and learning CoM participants.

Six pairs of regional partners have been created to facilitate direct transfer of knowledge and know-how from experienced partners to learning ones, so that the latter can better support their local authorities. The twinning partnerships focus on building the capacity, knowledge and expertise of the learning regions in developing SEAPs. Particular emphasis is given on overcoming the barriers faced during the development and implementation of SEAPs. Three rounds of twinning visits are planned, each consisting of a visit from the learning partners to the experienced partners and vice versa.

Local Authorities are being mobilized to participate in and / or organise Energy Days in each country / region. Technical help is also being offered to them by both experienced and learning partners of the project.

Collaboration with the respective energy stakeholders for access to reliable and localized energy data is currently being encouraged through specific actions, such as workshops, roundtables and bilaterals. Regional stakeholders involvement is also being promoted. Follow up actions will ensure future collaboration, such as the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC). MoC are expected to be signed by key energy stakeholders and local / regional stakeholders in each country / region.

Overall, SEAP-PLUS continues to successfully promote the CoM initiative and disseminate the project outputs and results to key target groups, including local, regional, national authorities and decision makers.

NEWS



SEAP-PLUS twinning visits: The first round of the visits was completed after the experienced partners visit:

- JOKKMOKK visited Riga (LEIF) from November 7 to November 9, 2012
- CAA visited Varna (BSRAEM) from November 18 to November 22, 2012
- ARE Lig visited Martjanci (LEAP) from December 11 to December 13, 2012
- DIBA visited Athens (TCG) from January 21 to January 23, 2013
- CEA visited Cosenza (ALESSCO) from February 7 to February 8, 2013
- ICLEI Europe visited Bucharest (AMRR) from April 1 to April 3, 2013

Roundtables with the learning partners municipalities were also organized during the visits, in order for them to get familiar with the procedures and methodologies presented by the experienced partner.

The second round of twinning visits will start with the learning partners visiting the experienced partners between April and September 2013.

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GOOD PRACTICES

Highlights from the first round of SEAP-PLUS twinning visits

- DIBA's methodology: Energy Assessment Visits to the 10 most important public buildings when developing a SEAP.
- CEA's Street Lighting Pilot Project proposal: This illustrates how an energy agency, several municipalities and an energy company can successfully cooperate and apply for funding to implement a project.
- The Best Practice Database at CAA website: More than 100 examples successfully implemented by Austrian municipalities in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energy, mobility and awareness building. For more information visit: www.klimabuendnis.at/bestpractice
- Jokkmokk's and Nenet's Climate and Energy Catalogue of measures for small and medium sized municipalities: This tool aims to provide support in developing and implementing SEAPs and can be used as a checklist that clarifies the status quo and as a database for new ideas.

SEAP-PLUS recommendations and tools

Published in October 2012, this document aims to help local and regional organizations across Europe to access methodologies, tools and best practices that can improve the quality and content of their BEI and SEAP. Key recommendations focus on:

- Innovative BEI and SEAP methodologies, good practices and tools for the municipal, residential, tertiary, transport and RES sectors.
- New emission sectors that can be added to BEI and SEAPs, such as agriculture, forestry and fishery, waste management, and water treatment.
- The integration of SEAP measures to wider regional policies. Best practice examples on the cooperation of stakeholders.

For more information visit: <http://www.seap-plus.eu/wp-content/uploads/Recommendations-and-tools.pdf>

EVENTS

The MEDEEA International Conference "Mediterranean Energy Cities" at Lefkosia, Cyprus on May 15 - 16, 2013, disseminated the final results and important outcomes of the MEDEEA project and shared experiences on how municipalities and stakeholders can work together towards a sustainable energy future. The MEDEEA project promoted local energy planning in the Mediterranean through the use of tools, such as the "European Energy Award - eea®" and the CoM (www.interregmedeea.eu)

Don't miss!

- **Resource Efficiency - Call for views and best practices:** The Committee of the Regions calls on CoM Signatories to share views and best practices on the flagship initiative "A Resource Efficient Europe", through a [survey available in all 23 EU languages](#), by June 28, 2013. The results will be presented at a conference on September 2-3, 2013 in Vilnius.
- **Covenant of Mayors 2013 Ceremony:** Monday 24 June 2013 has been confirmed as the date of the Ceremony (www.eumayors.eu).
- **SEAP-PLUS Business Breakfast:** This two hour event will take place at 11am on June 24, before the CoM Ceremony, in the House of Cities, Municipalities and Regions, Square de Meeûs 1 1000 Brussels.

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EVENTS

Local and regional authorities need access to suitable, localized and reliable energy data, in order to develop SEAPs, but also compile and submit progress reports to the CoM office.

SEAP-PLUS recently organised a series of events, targeting regional and energy stakeholders, such as energy utilities, energy providers, regional / local authorities, national and regional energy agencies and associations. These events are expected to act as a catalyst and initiate a dialogue between regional / local authorities and energy stakeholders. Overall, the events:

- Introduce the CoM initiative and highlight its benefits.
- Present the SEAP PLUS project: aims & objectives, outcomes to date, benefits for participants and project target groups.
- Encouraging regional stakeholders to get involved, provide support and become Covenant Supporters / Coordinators.
- Explore the potential collaboration between regional/ local authorities and energy stakeholders, in order to overcome the obstacles related to obtaining reliable energy data.

So far, workshops with Energy Stakeholders took place at:

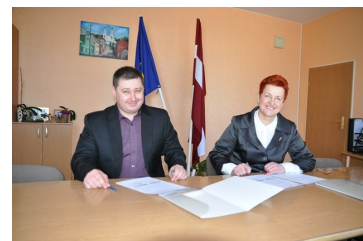
- Martjanci / Slovenia, October 3, 2012
- Ludza / Latvia, January 31, 2013
- Varna / Bulgaria, February 21, 2013
- Zeltweg / Austria, February 27, 2013
- Luleå / Sweden, March 14, 2013
- Cosenza / Italy, March 22, 2013
- Bucharest / Romania, April 3, 2013
- Freiburg / Germany, April 10, 2013
- Genova / Italy, April 17, 2013
- Athens / Greece, April 18, 2013

NEWS

SEAP-PLUS aspires that the cooperation of local authorities with key energy stakeholders will continue, beyond the duration of the project. To ensure this, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC), specific to each country and region, has been prepared. The MoC sets the framework of cooperation, with the aim to facilitate CoM procedures and the availability of energy data, taking also into account commercially sensitive procedures, data and information.




Stakeholders are being encouraged to sign the MoC. To date:

- In Sweden, Jokkmokk municipality has signed two MoCs with Lapplands Kraft and Glommerträsk Energi.
- In Latvia, five municipalities (Līvāni, Viļāni, Ludza, Kārsava and Balvi) have signed MoCs with local energy providers (in particular, district heating companies that use wood biomass).



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ENERGY DAYS

SEAP-PLUS Energy Days with a variety of events are being organized in each partner region, including an informative event where local and regional stakeholders and politicians will be invited in order to promote the CoM initiative, encourage the development and implementation of SEAPs, present the SEAP-PLUS project and outcomes to date.

Energy Days organised so far include:

- Jokkmokk's Energy Days and the SEAP-PLUS workshop "From ideas to results: How to develop a Sustainable Energy Action Plan" were organized together with the Jokkmokk Winter Conference "Sustainable Energy - Sustainable Living: Planning for Action", Jokkmokk / Sweden, February 4-7, 2013. This four day event, focused on Climate Change, Energy Production and the Arctic, in particular on issues, conflicts and solutions, as well as the CoM initiative and European municipalities planning actions for Sustainable Energy. For more information visit: www.nncc.eu
- ARE Lig organized an Energy Day in the Province of Imperia on May 6, 2013. As this province is the only one within the Liguria Region that is not a CoM Coordinating Structure, the afternoon session was dedicated to raising awareness of the CoM initiative and the SEAP-PLUS project. Municipalities of that Province were encouraged to join the CoM, benefiting from the technical support they can receive, when preparing their SEAP, in the framework of SEAP PLUS. The morning session focused on renewable energy sources and residential energy efficiency improvements, and the opportunities they offer in developing a green economy in the region.



Get involved!

An Energy Day is being organised in each partner region in summer 2013:

- On the occasion of the annual conference of Climate Alliance Austria, two Energy Days are being organized in Hartberg on May 28-29, 2013, with about 130 registered participants. Topics to be dealt with, include: Climate change and future scenarios, the climate strategy of Styria, workshops on CoM, civic participation, climate protection and energy efficiency.
- An Energy Day is being organized in the Balvu municipality in Latvia for June 27, 2013. The focus will be on sustainability, in particular providing information on electric vehicles and eco-friendly driving.
- TCG invited 13 municipalities to participate in an Energy Day activity that involves the organisation of a drawing competition for primary schools within their area. Two municipalities have already started organizing the event. The award ceremony for all winners will be organised by TCG in Athens.
- The event 'Current and future developments of photovoltaic (PV) systems' is organised by the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber and Frederick University, on June 22, 2013 in Lefkosia. This public event aims to bring together industry, professionals and stakeholders in the field of PVs, to present and discuss recent developments of PVs in Cyprus and Europe.

June 10, 2013 is the deadline for the publication of the Energy Days at: www.eusew.eu

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