



OVERVIEW

The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative holds a pivotal role in achieving the “20-20-20” targets for 2020.

SEAP-PLUS aims at the enhancement of the CoM impact in both quantitative and qualitative terms by:

- **Bringing more Signatories and Supporting Structures in the CoM**, for instance by promoting the CoM initiative in events such as Energy Days and the SEAP-PLUS Final National events;
- **Assisting municipalities in the preparation of more and better Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs)** by providing technical support for the development of SEAPs;
- **Triggering the cooperation between local authorities, regional authorities and energy stakeholders** through specific actions, such as workshops, roundtables and bilaterals. Follow up actions aim to ensure future collaboration, such as signing a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC).
- **Facilitating direct transfer of knowledge and know-how between experienced and learning CoM participants**, through the creation of six twinning pairs, focusing on building the capacity, knowledge and expertise of learning regions.

NEWS

The CoM publicly acknowledges the key role of LAREAs

Acknowledging the key role of Local and Regional Energy Agencies (LAREAs), a signing event for LAREAs will be organised under the auspice of the European Commission. By signing the pledge, LAREAs commit to support Covenant signatories and Territorial Coordinators in their efforts to meet and exceed the EU 20% CO₂ reduction objective through increased energy efficiency and development of renewable energy sources.

Register now!

Directors of Energy Agencies - ManagEnergy Networking Event, 24 - 25 June 2014, Brussels, Belgium

The 3rd edition of this event will be dedicated to LAREAs and to Covenant Coordinators. More information available at: www.covenantofmayors.eu/agenda_en.html?id_event=878

CONTACT (LEAD PARTNER)

TEE Technical Chamber of Greece
Olga KALANTZOPOULOU
Tel. +30-210-3291613
okal@central.tee.gr

NEWS

SEAP-PLUS twinning visits

Two more twinning visits have been organised by all twinning pairs; the experienced partners visiting the learning partner (completing the second round of visits) and vice versa:

- JOKKMOKK visited Riga from 16 to 19 of October 2013 and LEIF visited Lulea from 3 to 6 March 2014
- CEA visited Cosenza from 11 to 13 December 2013 and ALESSCO visited Lefkosia, Platres and Agros from 23 to 25 April 2014
- DIBA visited Athens from 4 to 6 of November 2013 and TCG visited Barcelona, Rubi and Vilanova from 18 June to 19 March 2014
- ARE Liguria visited Martjanci from 2 to 4 October 2013 and LEAP visited Genoa from 18 to 20 February, 2014
- CAA visited Varna from 30 October to 1 November 2013 and BSRAEM visited Krems, Mureck, Weiz, St. Pölten and Amstetten from 15 to 19 March 2014
- ICLEI Europe visited Pitești from 27 to 29 January 2014 and AMR visited Freiburg from 2 to 4 April 2014

Roundtables with the learning partners municipalities were also organized during the visits, in order for them to benefit directly from the experience exchange.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union



SEAP-PLUS National Final Events

SEAP+ fosters energy self-sufficient communities in Germany

The 4th Annual Conference of Energy Self-Sufficient Communities (Energieautonome Kommunen) took place in Freiburg, Germany from 2 - 4 April 2014, bringing together 230 local governments and stakeholders. More than 50 speakers contributed with current analytic findings, good policy practices and real-life examples on how to implement the energy transition locally in counties, cities and towns.



Source: eneff-stadt.info

With the effort of ICLEI Europe, SEAP-PLUS became this year's exclusive partner to shape the programme towards advanced local energy action planning, by conducting special sessions on improving the access to energy data for local governments in Germany and offering for the first time within the conference series an in depth exchange with European city representatives and energy experts from Luxembourg, Romania and Sweden.

Overall, the conference focused on the implementation of sustainable energy policies, and encompassed visits to local communities. Key topics covered over the three days included: public participation in climate action; access to grants and municipal funding; and pioneering approaches to energy transition. Concluding messages were diverse, for instance:

- In Germany the energy transition is successful because of the local effort to build-up a decentralised energy system
- The framework conditions for adding more renewable energy to the grid need to (continue to) enable citizens and SMEs' engagement and finance.

EVENTS

Don't miss!

SEAP-PLUS Final Events are scheduled to take place in each participating country. Local and regional authorities, energy stakeholders, regional and national decision makers are all invited to participate. The events will present the SEAP-PLUS achievements, funding opportunities, future developments in EU policy and regional / national policies that support the implementation of measures.

- **Bulgaria: 16-17 May 2014 in Varna**, organised by BSRAEM
- **Spain: 4 June 2014 in Barcelona**, organised by DIBA
- **Greece: 12-13 June 2014 in Athens**, co-organised by TCG and EPTA
- **Austria: 16-17 June in Kötschach-Mauthen**, organised by CAA
- **Cyprus: 13 June 2014 in Lefkosia**, organised by CEA
- **Slovenia: 25 September 2014 in Ptuj**, organised by LEAP
- **Romania: 25-26 September 2014 in Satu Mare City Hall**, along with the AMR General Assembly
- **Italy: end of September 2014 in Rome**, co-organised by ARE Liguria and ALESSCO
- **Sweden: September 2014 in Luleå**, organised by JOKKMOKK

VISIT SEAP-PLUS



www.seap-plus.eu



www.facebook.com/seapplus



twitter.com/seapplus

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union



ACHIEVEMENTS

Five SEAPs submitted in Latvia

In Latvia, five Latgale planning region municipalities successfully developed and submitted SEAPs to the CoM in the beginning of 2014, thanks to the technical support provided by the SEAP PLUS expert team. In order to ensure at least a 20% CO₂ emission reduction until 2020, compared to the selected baseline year, municipalities developed CO₂ reduction visions and actions. Municipalities will mainly focus on activities that promote and ensure the use of local and renewable energy sources for heating, as well as actions to modernize the transport sector and regularly improve energy efficiency indicators.



Three SEAPs submitted in Bulgaria

In the frame of SEAP PLUS, BSRAEM experts are providing technical assistance to targeted municipalities for developing or updating SEAPs. The new SEAPs of Aksakovo and Beloslav have been developed and adopted by the respective City Councils. The SEAP of Valchi Dol municipality has been developed and will be presented to the City Council for adoption. The update of Dalgopol SEAP is currently ongoing, with support from BSRAEM.

One more SEAP submitted In Austria

In the frame of SEAP-PLUS, CAA provided technical assistance in preparing the SEAP of the town of Wolfurt (8,000 inhabitants) in Austria, which is a Climate Alliance member since 1997. The SEAP was adopted by the municipal council in September 2013 and submitted to CoMO in October 2013. The energy strategy includes a reduction of CO₂ emissions by 20% until 2020 (base year 2001), involving the energy-intensive industry.

NEWS

Latvian Environmental Investment Fund becomes the first CoM territorial Coordinator in Latvia

LEIF has signed the CoM initiative and has become the first CoM territorial coordinator in Latvia. As such, LEIF will continue to provide technical support to municipalities that wish to join the CoM and develop a SEAP.

Norrbotten County Council becomes the first regional CoM Coordinator in Sweden

As a result of SEAP-PLUS activities in (Northern) Sweden the County Council of Norrbotten County has decided to become the first regional CoM coordinator in Sweden. Concrete support to the municipalities of the region will be provided in collaboration with the regional Norrbotten Energy Agency, Nenet (www.nenet.se)

Seven out of the 14 municipalities in Norrbotten are involved in CoM activities, from which six have already signed the CoM: Jokkmokk, Piteå, Kiruna, Arjeplog, Älvsbyn and Övertorneå.



VISIT SEAP-PLUS



www.seap-plus.eu

www.facebook.com/seapplus

twitter.com/seapplus

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union



ACHIEVEMENTS

Three SEAPs submitted in Greece

Within the framework of SEAP-PLUS, EPTA and TCG are providing technical support to municipalities in Greece, for developing SEAPs, through teleconferences, roundtables, bilateral meetings and calls and supporting material. As a result, three municipalities have successfully developed a SEAP. the municipalities of Tanagra, Farsala and Penteli. These SEAPs aim to reduce CO₂ emissions within the municipalities territory by at least 20% until 2020. The SEAPs are available to download at the CoM website.



Three SEAPs submitted in Cyprus

The Municipality of Lefkosia and the Local Communities of Platres and Lythrodontas in Cyprus benefited from the technical support provided by SEAP-PLUS for the elaboration of their SEAPs. The year 2009 was selected as the baseline year for quantifying energy consumption and CO₂ emissions within the Municipality's territory.

The SEAPs include local sustainable actions in order to exceed the CO₂ reduction target of 20% by 2020 at a local level. The actions planned to be implemented in 2014 are awareness campaigns through energy days, educational presentations at schools and to the public, development of an online library for energy educational material, carrying out granted energy checks to households as well as energy renovations of existing public buildings. The table below summarizes the SEAPs CO₂ targets:

Local Authority	SEAP CO ₂ savings (tons CO ₂ 2020)	2020 SEAP CO ₂ objective (%)
Lefkosia	98,436	33%
Platres	1,676	34%
Lythrodontas	3,240	32.5%

NEWS

First Austrian JOINT SEAP

In December 2013, all 13 rural municipalities of the region "Waldviertler Kernland" adhered to the CoM and will prepare the first Austrian Joint SEAP until late 2014. The ambitious region aims to be energy self-sufficient regarding electricity, heat and mobility by 2030.

SEAP-PLUS participation in Latvia

LEIF participated in the regional development committee meeting, organized by the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, for the mayors of Latvian municipalities, on the 8th of April 2014. The CoM initiative, and the SEAP development process, along with the SEAP PLUS project and achievements, were presented and discussed with the leaders of Latvian municipalities. A total of 29 participants from 18 municipalities attended the meeting.

SEAP-PLUS participation in Greece

The SEAP-PLUS project and achievements were presented during the thematic Workshop "Local economic development through energy efficiency" on the 13th March 2014, in Thessaloniki, organized by the Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving. The aim was to transfer experience and best practices of SEAP development and implementation among CoM Signatories, and highlight financial opportunities and economic benefits.

VISIT SEAP-PLUS



www.seap-plus.eu

www.facebook.com/seapplus

twitter.com/seapplus

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union



ACHIEVEMENTS

Two Signed MoC with energy stakeholders in Greece

TCG signed Memoranda of Cooperation (MoC) with two of the most important energy providers in Greece, the Public Power Corporation S.A. (PPC) and the Public Gas Corporation (DEPA) S.A. A signing ceremony is planned at the Greek Final Event.

One Signed MoC with an energy stakeholder in Italy

On 6th March 2014, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed between ALESSCO and Ultragas. Ultragas is a leading distributor of Liquid gas in Italy, with about 80,000 customers. The aim of the MoC is to establish a closer cooperation with the energy sector and facilitate the exchange information and data on energy consumption in the territory of the Local Authority.

Three MoC to be signed with energy stakeholders in Romania

Zalău Municipality, with the approval of the Local Municipal Council in May 2014, will sign a MoC with SC FDEE Electrica Distribuție Transilvania Nord, Zalău Branch. The MoC to be signed by the municipalities of Pitești and Ploiești are under preparation and will be officially finalized with key local energy providers. The three municipalities will organise a short ceremony for signing the MoC.



Six Memoranda of Understanding between SEAP-PLUS partners have been signed!

As it is important to maintain the ties between 'learning' and 'experienced' regions, SEAP-PLUS foresees the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between each twinning pair. Essentially, MoUs aim to extend cooperation beyond the duration of the project. ICLEI Europe/AMRR and JOKKMOKK/LEIF signed the MoU, during the SEAP-PLUS Business Breakfast event. CAA/BSRAEM, TCG/DIBA, LEAP/ARE Liguria and CEA/ALESSCO also signed the MoU, at the roundtables for municipalities of the learning partner, during the fourth twinning visit.

EVENTS

Get involved!

SMART WEEK in Genoa: 16-20 June 2014, Genoa, Italy

Five days full of meetings, conferences and presentations on innovative solutions for SMART urban areas, coordinated by the Municipality of Genova. The main events will be the TRANSFORM POLITICAL EVENT "Integrated Energy planning for Smart Cities", the MED MARIE Conference "Energy Efficiency of buildings in the Mediterranean Area" and the ILLUMINATE Conference "Advanced technologies development for a SMART lighting".

Local Renewables 2014, 22 - 24 October 2014, Freiburg im Breisgau and Lörrach, Germany

To comprehensively tackle the ongoing economic crisis, growing energy instability and increased resource scarcity a shift to more sustainable economies is urgently required. The 6th Local Renewables Conference will explore the key role of local governments in this transition and explore ways to improve renewable energy use and energy efficiency. The Conference will examine the tools and integrated approaches necessary to efficiently exploit energy opportunities, as well as looking at the potential for local job creation. More information available at www.local-renewables-conference.org/

VISIT SEAP-PLUS



www.seap-plus.eu



www.facebook.com/seapplus



twitter.com/seapplus

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union



ENERGY DAYS

220 Participants from 28 countries and 6 continents attending Jokkmokk Energy Days on Sustainable Transport

The Energy Info Days and Jokkmokk Winter Conference 2014 focused on the following issues:

- What is the role of public policy in helping society, the Nordic countries and peripheral regions to accelerate the shift towards sustainable transport solutions?
- What does the concept of “Eco-Mobility” mean for the North?
- What are the concrete next steps for “Eco-Mobility”, what can each person do?



ACHIEVEMENTS

All Catalan Provincial Councils united in the fight against climate change

All Catalan Provincial Councils (Barcelona, Girona, Lleida and Tarragona) and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona have created the Catalan Covenant Club. The Club, officially created in February 2014, is a specific working group of the Network of Towns and Villages towards Sustainability (a CoM Supporter). The Club aims to support local authorities and their policies in the fight against climate change and promote cooperation among all Public Authorities and all energy stakeholders to enhance public-private cooperation. It aims to position itself as an intermediary with the EU on issues of energy efficiency and climate change mitigation and adaptation. In fact, the main goal is to present Local Authorities viewpoint on energy. The group also intends to explore new funding sources and mechanisms, either European or Spanish, in order to develop municipal energy projects. The club aspires that CoM Coordinators and Supporters will have a more active role in National Energy Policies.



VISIT SEAP-PLUS



www.seap-plus.eu



www.facebook.com/seapplus



twitter.com/seapplus



WITH THE SUPPORT OF



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union

EVENTS

Look out for!

EUSEW 2014, 23 - 27 June 2014

EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) returns for its ninth edition, with various events and activities planned, such as exhibitions, conferences, online events and workshops. More information at www.eusew.eu

Energy days in Varna, 16-17 May 2014, City Hall building, Plenary Hall, Varna, Bulgaria

Co-organizers of the event are the Regional Agency for Energy Management for SEAP PLUS and the Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities for the projects “Geo DH” and “Working Together for Development”, co-financed by the EC. The event will focus on civil participation at a national and international level. The slogan of the Energy Days is ‘Climate Change—a challenge to the society’. The aim is to strengthen the ‘Climate change and sustainable development’ message to all stakeholders and seek ways to strengthen and harmonise policy, practice and implementation of actions towards climate change by sharing knowledge, skills & expertise.

RES Champions League Award Ceremony, 25 June 2014, “la Bouche à Oreille”, Brussels, Belgium

For the 5th year, the best renewable European cities, towns and municipalities will be awarded in Brussels (www.res-league.eu)