INTERREG IV C Mini-Programme

European **n**etworks, **e**xperience and **r**ecommendations helping **cit**ies and **cit**izens to become **E**nergy **E**fficient

STRATEGY PAPER

1. Problem description and project approach

The European Union is at the forefront of the international efforts to combat climate change and is committed to promoting the development of a sustainable energy landscape in Europe. Recently published scientific analyses (e.g. IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change) have again stressed the dramatic environmental consequences of our fossil fuel-dominated lifestyles and the economic costs of climate change for our societies. Energy production and use are identified as the major factors responsible for greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

A transition to a low carbon economy as described in the ECCP II as well as in the recently published European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (COM2007/ 0723) requires a change of energy patterns in communities and their citizens. The promotion of energy efficiency, energy saving, renewable energy and sustainable transport at the local level in Europe is an integral part of a both environmentally and economically friendly strategy to combat climate change and to gain energy independence from the international gas and oil markets.

The strengthening of interregional cooperation and the capitalisation of the local experiences are essential for ensuring effective implementation of European and national strategies. Local authorities have the ability to contribute to these strategies in a bottom-up approach by implementing measures for the sustainable use of energy and emissions reduction and by directly informing and involving their citizens. The European Union and national governments therefore call upon local authorities to make the necessary contributions to climate protection. Furthermore the promotion of interregional cooperation ensures economic and social cohesion in the European Union and is of great importance for guaranteeing the inclusion of the regions in a European-wide approach for sustainable development in the field of energy efficiency.

Local authorities need to be supported in their endeavour to fulfil the ambitious goals of the European Union to cut 20% of energy consumption by 2020 and at the same time to source 20% of their energy needs from renewable energies. The challenge will be to bridge the gap between the political energy efficiency goals and concrete implementation in regional and local administrative actions. On the one hand, a lack of knowledge, insufficient financial and organisational support and structures as well as missing tools for actions or change of behaviour prevail as reasons for the yet unused potential in local energy strategies and the use of Structural Funds. On the other hand, there is a pool of successfully implemented tools and measures in different regions that could be extended, modified and transferred to the interregional level.

EnercitEE starts off at this point and tackles the described areas, and focuses in particular on citizens as energy consumers in order to increase energy efficiency at the local level. The project connects different European regions to create a network for exchanging experiences, to assess good practices of regional and local policies in the field of energy efficiency and sustainable transport and to prepare the transfer to other regions within Structural Funds programmes. In this respect, EnercitEE helps to secure the sustainable energy supply of the European Union and to contribute to its economic growth and political stability as set out in the Gothenburg and Lisbon Agendas.

All six regions have strengths and weaknesses in their energy efficiency activities. EnercitEE provides them with an opportunity to learn from each other, to exchange their own good practices and to learn from other regions' solutions.

2. EnercitEE's objectives

The main objective of the project is the exchange of experience in order to identify, analyse and transfer good practices and to help local authorities and their citizens to improve their energy performance. For this reason, experienced European regions will share their strategies with less experienced regions to speed up the identification of good practices and to foster the transfer to the local level.

Based on good practices from different regions, such as biomass in Smaland, passive houses in Saxony, innovation and technology policy in Emilia-Romagna or energy education in Haute-Savoie, EnercitEE wants to achieve its goals by exchanging these experiences and knowledge. The project promotes environmental protection as well as the positive effects of energy efficiency in terms of cost savings for cities and communities, safeguarding of jobs and regional economic growth. This integration of ecological, economical and social interests reflects the project's commitment to sustainable development.

Local authorities will get a chance to function as a role model for their citizens as well as for other communities. They will learn how to better reach and involve their citizens, to raise awareness, generate the necessary political understanding of action and give practical advice for energy efficiency action.

Regional cooperation is realised and strengthened through the establishment of the partner network under INTERREG IVC and through various activities, outputs and results planned within the scope of this mini-programme. The partner regions assume the role as catalysts in developing, providing and disseminating instruments and measures at the local level. EnercitEE provides the regions with the necessary tools and good practices as a pool of experiences; each partner region can select its individual set of measures according to its specific situation and needs.

3. Expected outputs and results

All project outputs are dedicated to the exchange of experiences in order to promote energy efficiency measures in European regions at the private and public level.

EnercitEE expects new solutions and better-trained staff from a maximum of 12 sub-projects which are selected through open calls for proposals. For example the knowledge and skills of 150 staff members will be improved through staff exchanges, training sessions and component seminars.

EnercitEE aims to have a direct impact on both the policies and energy performance of the participating regions, measurable in improved policies, reduced energy consumption in public and private houses and an increased share of renewable energies. By using different means of communication and dissemination of the project's progress and results a positive effect is also expected for those European regions which do not directly take part but learn from EnercitEE's outputs.

EnercitEE is designed as a capacity building project for the staff of regional and local authorities as well as the citizens of the communities, in particular the identification of at least 24 good practices. The challenge is to involve more than 1,000 stakeholders and citizens in the activities and projects of this mini-programme.

All outputs and activities provide regional and local authorities with the opportunity to reflect and improve their own work and performance. EnercitEE will influence the development and improvement of energy and climate policies in six participating regions. The transfer and dissemination of 6 good practices realised through the implementation of the sub-projects will contribute to a positive energy performance and the sustainable development of the regions.

4. Structure of the INTERREG IVC mini-programme EnercitEE

EnercitEE as an INTERREG IVC mini-programme consists of 4 components:

Component 1: Coordination and management

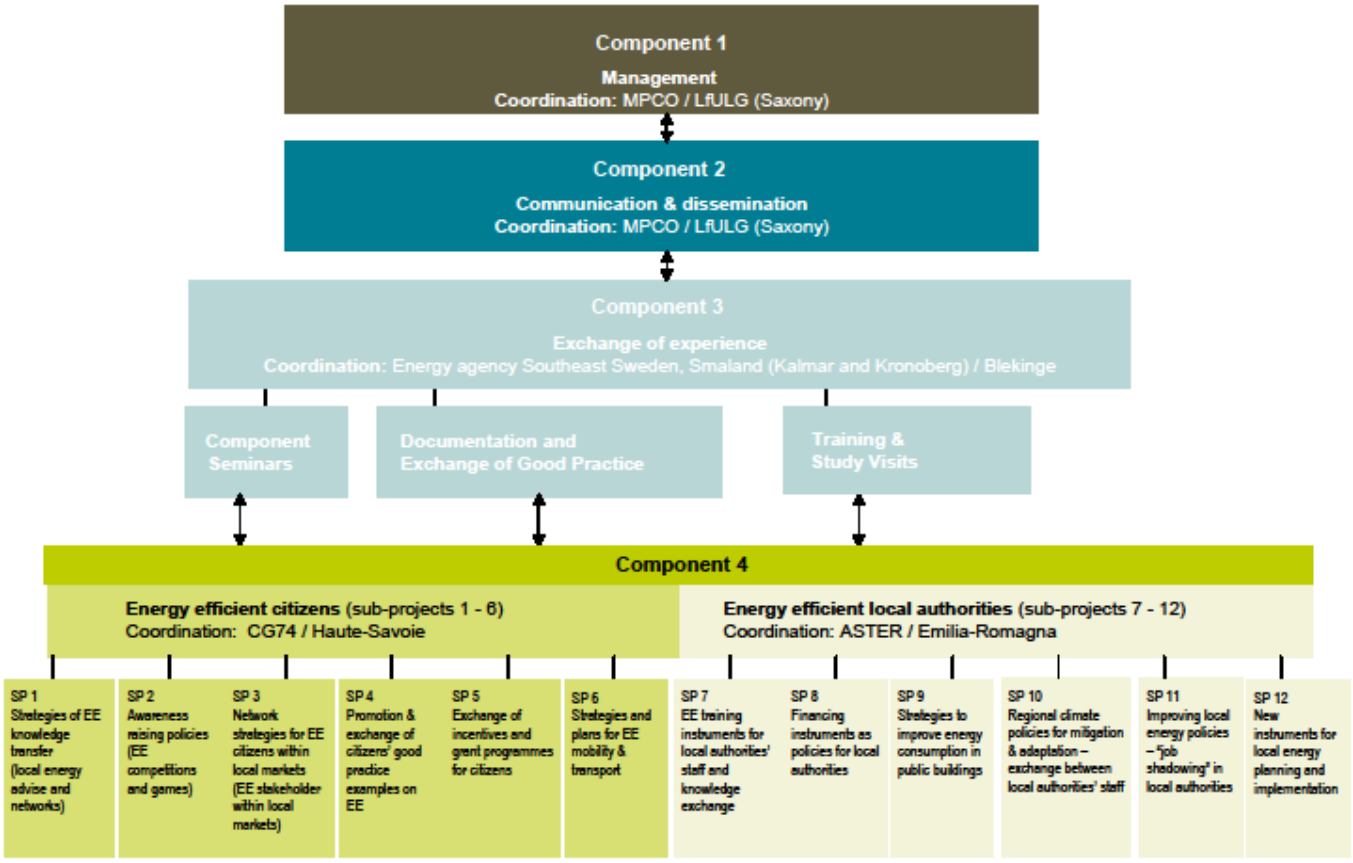
Component 2: Communication and dissemination

Component 3: Exchange of experience

Component 4: Energy efficient citizens and local authorities (Sub-projects)

The full administrative and financial responsibility for the project lies with the Lead Partner Saxony. To ensure proper implementation of these tasks the Lead Partner set up the Mini-Programme's Coordination Office (MPCO) in Dresden/ Germany.

Additionally, the implementation and supervising of each component is led by a Component Manger (Regional Partner). Component 1 and Component 2 are carried out by Saxony. Component 3 which is dedicated to the exchange of experiences among the involved partner regions through study visits, training sessions and component seminars is carried out by the Swedish partner. Component 4 deals with the supervision and implementation of sub-projects and is carried out jointly by Haute-Savoie (France) and Emilia Romagna (Italy).



5. The sub-projects of EnercitEE

EnercitEE's Component 4 concerns the sub-projects of the INTERREG IVC mini-programme. Altogether 12 thematic priorities are set and EnercitEE sub-projects will be selected after open Calls for Proposals.

They concentrate on two target groups at the local level: a) citizens as a key group of energy consumption and b) local authorities as policy-making bodies for energy efficiency and as institutions which need to reorganise themselves to rapidly become more energy efficient. The focus of this component is to facilitate interregional cooperation and light pilot implementation in order to improve the energy performance of citizens, private households and local authorities and the preparation of relevant local policies in this field.

The sub-projects have two experienced component leaders. Sub-projects 1-6 (SP 1-6, citizens) will be led by the Regional Partner Haute-Savoie/ France who is experienced in education and setting up of citizen-friendly projects and policies, sub-projects 7-12 (SP 7-12, local authorities) will be led by the Regional Partner ASTER/ Italy in close cooperation with the Regional Partner Emilia-Romagna Region/ Italy which has experiences and legislative duties on the coordination and addressing of the local authorities with regard to energy policies and measures.

Two open calls for proposals will be launched in June and in December 2010. The Steering Group will be responsible for selecting the proposals. After approval the sub-projects will be implemented and carried out in the regions within two years. Progress and results of the sub-projects will be presented at three component seminars and at the final conference. Experiences and good practices generated in the sub-projects will be collected and used for the guides on good practices and the handbook on policy recommendations and furthermore will be presented and discussed at interregional seminars.

6. Sub-project thematic priorities

SP 1: Strategies of EE knowledge transfer (local energy advice and networks)

(EE citizens)

Background and challenges

Ever since energy efficiency has become one of the top issues for policy makers at the European, national and regional level, policies have been changed or newly introduced, EE knowledge has improved and products have become more EE.

A large number of civic actors have included energy efficiency topics in new areas of society and local authorities and citizens have gathered know-how on energy efficient behaviour, technology and policy approaches. Saving potentials for electricity, heat and fuels through energy efficiency solutions remain at a very high level. With increasing energy prices, social welfare beneficiaries have to pay an even higher share for basic living conditions which resulted in a fuel poverty phenomenon all over Europe. Other target groups, such as house owners and tenants start to realise the impressive money savings that result from EE behaviour and measures. They realise the potential and become more and more attracted by short pay back periods for EE products. Until today EE knowledge has been used in advisory services offered by consumer groups or local authorities but content still remains too vague or too general. New and more specified EE knowledge needs to be set up and spread to the respective target groups and made available to newly established citizens' networks and associations.

This sub-project focuses at the exchange of experience of existing approaches and which new instruments should be developed and supported by local and regional policies.

Potential thematic areas

- EE knowledge transfer
- Fighting fuel poverty,
- Energy savings advice
- Information and training (tenants, house owners, staff of social welfare buildings) & strategies to establish at policy level
- Regional energy advisors networks

Potential results, effects and output

- EE 'information brochures'
- EE folders for immigrants to facilitate integration strategy into society
- Improved knowledge among citizens
- Identification of new target groups and tailor made EE information material
- New policy instruments for knowledge transfer
- Promotion and set up of new energy advisory services and networks

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Citizens' initiatives and associations, e.g. civil society organisations (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Community foundations (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Municipalities and counties
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Institutions of science and education (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Other public authorities and institutions

SP 2: Awareness raising policies (EE competitions and games)

(EE citizens)

Background and challenges

Most awareness raising policies had their focus on social and environmental aspects in the past. With the challenge to fight global warming, the evidence of climate change and EU's dependence on imports of fossil fuels policy-makers are forced to set up policies to increase the share of renewable energies and to use energy more efficient. Apart from regulatory laws, such as European regulations or local by-laws, incentives to motivate citizens to become energy efficient through competitions, games or projects have proved to be very successful 'soft' policies.

There are numerous ways to motivate citizens: some might want to contribute to the future low-carbon vision of their city, some house owners improve the energy performance of their buildings in order to receive a label and to increase their property's value, or households and school classes simply have fun to compete with each on who will save most energy.

This sub-project should exchange and assess awareness raising policies on EE by actively involving citizens in the process.

Potential thematic areas

- Awareness raising policies, EE competitions and games
- Fostering local EE policies by EE competitions/ games/ projects (e.g. in schools, tenants)
- Energy efficiency labels
- Sustainable regions or municipalities

Potential results, effects and output

- Exchange of experience on awareness raising policies, EE competitions and games
- New policy instruments for awareness raising
- "EnercitEE label" or other labels
- Green local phone numbers
- Light pilot implementation of EE competitions and games
- Good practice catalogues on awareness raising policies, EE competitions and games
- Awareness raising strategies through labels or vision/mission statement (e.g. energy autarchy)
- Involvement of various groups of citizens into the policy-making process

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Citizens' initiatives and associations, e.g. neighbourhoods (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Community foundations (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Schools and kindergardens (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Municipalities and counties
- Municipality and county associations and federations
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Universities
- Other public authorities and institutions

SP 3: Network strategies for EE citizens within local markets (EE stakeholders within local markets)

(EE citizens)

Background and challenges

A majority of municipalities lack financial means to implement every possible EE measures or to support civil climate protection commitment. As a consequence of this, they cannot serve as shining examples to their citizens. In addition, public utilities have often been sold to private energy service providers which led to less municipal influence in the provision of low-carbon energy supply.

Citizens on the other hand become more conscious of their influence in the new liberalised energy market and in contrary to local authorities can virtually decide overnight if they want to be supplied by greener or more energy efficient energy (e.g. better cogeneration). When opting for a local RES (Renewable Energy Source) or saving money through change of local energy supplier they have a growing impact on the regional economic cycle. Jobs will be created through RES providers and money saved from change of supplier can be spent within the region.

This sub-project should examine the potential role of EE citizens within a local market. In addition, experience on synergies of EE citizens' networks should be exchanged and new EE networks and consumer groups supported.

Potential thematic areas

- EE online network for citizens
- EE challenges in the public sector (20/20/20 etc.)
- Energy efficiency in consumer groups & policy guidelines
- EE awareness & training programmes for citizens

Potential results, effects and output

- Exchange of experience on network strategies
- New networking strategies for citizens as EE actors
- Light pilot implementation for setting up of energy efficiency targets and criteria in citizens' initiatives
- Transferring the EU 20/20/20 goals into citizens' networks and associations
- Fostering EE criteria (green purchase, EE production criteria) in consumer groups
- Awareness and joint training for the EE actor within local market (supply, products, shining example)
- Energy Efficiency Improvement Districts (as a specific version of Housing Improvement Districts)
- Exchange on improving carbon impact of different products & measures
- Strategies for joint purchase of EE products

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Citizens' initiatives and associations, e.g. neighbourhoods (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Community foundations (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Municipalities and counties
- Municipality and county associations and federations
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Other public authorities and institutions

SP 4: Promotion & exchange of citizens' best practice examples on EE

(EE citizens)

Background and challenges

In various sectors many EE projects and products which are considered good practice have been completed in the past few years: for buildings, HVAC (Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning), energy supply, cogeneration, energy efficient renewables, mobility and services. Citizens often do not have access to these good practices or lack knowledge of their existence. In addition, many exhibitions and fairs do not sufficiently highlight the potentials of energy efficiency through minor behavioural changes or low-cost investments.

This sub-project should systematically improve the access to and the promotion and communication of such good examples and search ways how this can be included in local policies in the long run.

Potential thematic areas

- Scope of citizens' good practice EE examples
- EE focus on energy fairs (Field & study trips, Open-House tours) & BP examples for various target groups
- Good practices on exhibitions and including them in local policies
- Communication tools

Potential results, effects and output

- Exchange of experience on citizens' good practice examples and making use of it
- Interregional set up of good practice compilation
- Joint development and light pilot implementation of Open-House events/ study trips
- Including energy efficiency as thematic areas in local fairs and exhibitions
- Exchanging and setting up communication tools

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Citizens' initiatives and associations, e.g. neighbourhoods (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Schools and kindergardens (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Municipalities and counties
- Municipality and county associations and federations
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Universities
- Institutions of science and education (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Other public authorities and institutions

SP 5: Exchange of incentives and grant programmes for citizens

(EE citizens)

Background and challenges

The EU is currently searching for innovative financing instruments to improve the energy efficiency in private households and in communities in general. In particular, a fair balance between repayable loans and non-repayable subsidies is searched. This balance varies in different municipalities depending on various factors such as GDP (Gross Domestic Product) or property ownership. Private or revolving funds can be an alternative to the existing supporting mechanisms especially if specific solutions at the local market are required. As an example, community foundations and civic funds can be established in order to support specific EE projects or create incentives for private EE behaviour. For projects that have already been co-financed by incentive or grant programmes, it will be interesting to see where energy efficiency solutions can be realised with less costs and how monitoring can be effectively ensured with no or little human resources.

This sub-project should foster an interregional exchange on incentive and grant programmes, assess new financing mechanisms or compile good practices on EE with good value for money.

Potential thematic areas

- Documentation of good practices from local/regional directives (energy management & incentives)
- Civic or community foundations
- Promotion of good examples and its contribution to policies

Potential results, effects and output

- Exchange of experience on incentives, grant programmes
- Evaluation of good and bad practices as a result of local/regional policies
- Joint setting up of structures for grant programmes for citizens
- Documenting projects that are co-financed by such grant programmes and serve as good practices
- Potentials, risks and preconditions for the setting up of community foundations

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Community foundations (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Citizens' initiatives and associations, e.g. neighbourhoods (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Schools and kindergardens (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Municipalities and counties
- Municipality and county associations and federations
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Universities
- Institutions of science and education (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Other public authorities and institutions

SP 6: Strategies and plans for EE mobility & transport

(EE citizens)

Background and challenges

In the set up of EnercitEE all regions confirmed that mobility is the only municipal sector that could not achieve any significant CO_2 reduction in the past. Local authorities lack successful policies and tools to reduce the number of private cars or to provide competitive alternative means of transport. In addition, the potential to green municipal fleets remain untapped due to organisational barriers or a lack of knowledge on green procurement.

There have been some promising approaches to interlink networks of different public transport systems in a region but a larger coordinated harmonisation is still missing. Innovative instruments such as e-mobility are currently supported by some national governments but do not yet reach smaller cities, counties etc.

This sub-project should raise awareness among the citizens on alternative mobility solutions and at the same time assess and compare the results of local/ regional policies.

Potential thematic areas

- Mobility strategies
- Regional Mobility Networks
- Carpooling and competition on mobility & inclusion in local strategies

Expected results, effects and output

- Exchange of experience on local mobility plans & strategies (e.g. Pedelek/ E-Bike, project linked to public transport on bike and pedal)
- Assessment of alternative means of transport
- Creation of networks among consumer groups
- Improved carpooling in municipalities
- Green procurement for municipal fleets
- Evaluation of good and bad practices as a result of local/ regional policies

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Public transport organisations (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Citizens' initiatives and associations, e.g. neighbourhoods (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Municipalities and counties
- Municipality and county associations and federations
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Universities
- Institutions of science and education (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Other public authorities and institutions

SP 7: EE training instruments for public authorities' staff & knowledge exchange

(EE local authorities)

Background and challenges

Due to constant change and improving of EE policies and technologies there is an ongoing demand for training tools and knowledge exchange for public authorities' staff. For most staff members energy efficiency remains an extra topic in addition to their daily tasks. Local authorities can only become energy efficient if there is an integrated approach including all actors within an authority. This is why training instruments should have an easy access and should have a simple but smart didactic approach.

As a lesson learnt from previous projects, there is a need that local actors exchange their experience and share good practices with as many other staff members as possible.

This sub-project should exchange experience on existing EE training instruments and on the knowledge exchange between local actors. Promising instruments should be newly or further developed and linked to regional and local policies.

Potential thematic areas

- Cooperation with education institutions & on/ offline EE courses for local authority staff
- Local authorities' energy dialogue and support policy implementation
- Tools for training
- EE training tools for certain target groups in communities

Potential results, effects and output

- Exchange of experience on EE training tools for public authorities
- Exchange of experience on practical impact of energy efficiency & renewable energy sources
- Evaluation of most suitable training tools
- Strategies for cooperation with educational institutes
- Joint set up, light pilot test and monitoring of EE training for specific target groups (e.g. retrofitting of buildings)
- Fostering dialogues in and between local authorities in order to spread knowledge

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Institutions of science and education (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Municipalities and counties
- Municipality and county associations and federations
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Universities
- Other public authorities and institutions

SP 8: Financing instruments as policies for local authorities

(EE local authorities)

Background and challenges

One of the urging challenges for policy makers is the set up of financial instruments to foster energy efficiency. Financing instruments need to be adjusted to different preconditions of member states, regions and cities. There are a number of financing opportunities for EE measures and investments for local authorities available: Private-Public Partnerships, European or national subsidies, loans and revolving funds. In addition, private investment in EE technologies, such as mini-cogeneration is already supported by some states, regions and/ or communities. Other energy services such as intracting (carried out by public authorities themselves) or contracting (carried out by external Energy Service Company (ESCO) which receives a monetary share of the achieved energy savings) have been on the market for some years now in order to renew/replace energy technology (e.g. heating/cooling plants) and improve the energy management in public buildings. With the increasing dependency on energy imports from non EU countries, local authorities are increasingly interested in decoupling, which means a growth in regional productivity with less energy and emissions used at the same time. There are various solutions to this, such as investments for energy efficient local energy supply or in large local RES plants which may result in new jobs and better purchasing power.

This sub-project should assess barriers of existing financing, find out the most suitable financing instruments and compile them according to the needs of the involved partner regions.

Potential thematic areas

- Fostering & developing the use of financial instruments
- Revolving funds (incl. EU, EIB opportunities)
- Energy performance & saving contracting for the public sector, info and support campaign & exchange on state of the art
- Fostering decoupling (increase of regional development with less energy emissions)

Potential results, effects and output

- Exchange of experience on financial instruments
- Joint developing of local & regional financial instrument
- Join development of local calculation models for decoupling
- Evaluation and transfer of intracting and contracting models
- Recommendations for policy makers for tailor-made financing solutions

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Municipalities and counties
- Municipality and county associations and federations
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Universities
- Institutions of science and education (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Other public authorities and institutions

SP 9: Strategies to improve energy consumption in public buildings

(EE local authorities)

Background and challenges

Most initial figures being compiled on energy consumption of public buildings reveal that huge energy savings can be achieved through change of behaviour as well as short and long term investments. As a lesson learnt from other projects, an initial energy advice can already have a big energy saving impact which is often followed by professional energy management systems being implemented shortly afterwards.

Since metering systems often lack systematic consumption figures of large buildings correct internal payment remains difficult. In addition, the EU has set an ambitious target for the implementation of intelligent metering systems for as many as 80% of all consumers until 2020. However, some targeted energy efficient refurbishment programmes have been carried out and some of them achieved great saving results.

This sub-project should start with an exchange from the existing instruments and programmes for public buildings and should jointly develop systems for energy payment systems or energy advice methodologies. Strategies for the integration of intelligent metering systems in public buildings should be made available for policy makers.

Potential thematic areas

- Preparation of implementing EE directives on consumption figures
- Methodologies for initial energy advice for communities
- Systems for correct internal payment of energy
- Renovation programme for (social) buildings

Potential results, effects and output

- Exchange of experience on energy management systems
- Assessing local & regional methodologies for initial energy advice
- Joint development of local systems for internal payment of energy
- Evaluation of renovation programmes for buildings
- Strategies for policy makers on the implementation of EE directives (e.g. smart metering)
- Light pilot implementation of jointly developed systems to improve energy consumption in public buildings (e.g. Smart Metering etc.)
- Preparation of quality assurance in new buildings and refurbishment to meet future EU policies
- Exchange of intelligent systems to operate a building energy efficient

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Municipalities and counties
- Municipality and county associations and federations
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Universities
- Institutions of science and education (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Other public authorities and institutions

SP 10: Regional climate policies for mitigation & adaptation - exchange between local authorities' staff

(EE local authorities)

Background and challenges

Some regional or local climate protection plans have been set up 10 years or longer. In the meantime mitigation and adaptation require new solutions and adjusted plans. Some regions and municipalities have made progress in specific areas and obtained know how with the implementation of projects. CO_2 balance emissions inventories have boosted since European policies focussed on CO_2 reduction as one central goal in the EU energy package.

Most cities and municipalities wish to draw up specific CO_2 reduction goals and to propose specific local adaptation measures as a result of climate change. New initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors have created useful networks but demand concrete reduction goals and the set up of Sustainable Energy Action Plans.

This sub-project should foster the exchange of knowledge through either interregional staff exchange, jointly improve and identify suitable mitigation and adaptation policies taking into account new initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors and CO_2 emissions inventories for balancing local greenhouse gas emissions.

Potential thematic areas

- Interregional staff exchange
- Policies approaching Covenant of Mayors
- CO_2 balance/ emissions methodologies for municipalities/ regions to monitor policy impact and creating sustainable municipalities
- Climate programme for mitigation and adaptation

Potential results, effects and output

- Exchange of experience on good practice policies
- Assessing policies, methodologies and tools to comply with the 20% CO_2 reduction goals of the EC initiative Covenant of Mayors
- Evaluation and testing of CO_2 balance emissions inventories
- Joint development of climate plans and programmes for mitigation and adaptation
- Interregional staff exchanges between local authorities staff to learn from each other
- Impact of policy assessment (ex-ante & ex-post)
- Exchange of experience on how regions adapt EU policy requirements on energy efficiency
- Sectoral views of adaptation compiled in regional adapation strategies or energy & climate actions plans
- Assessement if instruments for CO_2 Balance Emissions Inventories are in line with regional adaptation strategies

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Municipalities and counties
- Municipality and county associations and federations
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Universities
- Institutions of science and education (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Other public authorities and institutions

SP 11: Improving local energy policies - "job shadowing" in local authorities
(EE local authorities)

Background and challenges

Good practice examples of local energy policies are often the result of a long process within the administration which has been kick-started by a committed person, such as the mayor or the appointed energy delegate of the community. When internal processes work well and human resources with sufficient knowledge are available, the outcome can be remarkable, such as a tailor-made innovative local energy plan for example. In most cases, this process is hampered by the fact that only very limited staff with adequate know-how is available for all different stages, especially in small and medium-sized municipalities. Good policies however require either well-trained staff or external expertise with a profound EE knowledge in order to adjust or suggest well-suited local EE solutions.

Obviously, there is a lack of well-trained staff and a lack of external input into the different stages of a local energy policy. External actors are not sufficiently involved into the different stages, e.g. through internships or practical training. At the same time, local authorities have to improve the EE know-how of their staff through exchange programmes, trainings etc. in order to be able to identify suitable and less suitable instruments and policies for municipalities.

This sub-project should exchange experience on trainings and internships and assess ways how local EE policies could be improved through exchange programmes or the involvement of external actors with no or little costs.

Potential thematic areas

- Improving local energy policies through improved staff knowledge
- Training of civil servants in municipalities in energy and climate sector
- Training of politicians and other stakeholders

Potential results, effects and output

- Joint concepts and light pilot implementation of training in local authorities
- Practical trainings (e.g. students) in local authorities helping authorities to set up EE plans, management systems etc.
- Instruments to strengthen local energy efficiency know-how
- Identifying mechanisms to improve energy policies in local authorities
- Learning from good practice communities - job shadowing in local authorities
- Strategies to provide targeted EE training to politicians, local authority staff and other stakeholders

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Municipalities and counties
- Municipality and county associations and federations
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Universities
- Institutions of science and education (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Other public authorities and institutions

SP 12: New instruments for local energy planning and implementation

(EE local authorities)

Background and challenges

Improving energy efficiency often requires integrated approaches since implementation is not limited to one specific unit in local authorities. Crosscutting planning takes into account new approaches, technologies and regulations from several sectors (planning, transport, building, and environment). As an example, quality management systems can help to organise local energy work and can compile measures that are being implemented by both local authorities and other local actors.

New building directives on EE require better monitoring systems in order to ensure the quality of work and compliance with the required targets. Since energy standards will raise continuously until 2020 there is a need for new instruments to control if calculations in the planning process are correct and if work has been carried out properly when houses are being built and refurbished.

This assessment of instruments should take into account the financial situation of municipalities, the different preconditions of the participating regions and the most suitable actors to establish such instruments at the local level.

This sub-project should exchange experience on various quality managements systems, control tools and energy planning instruments. Strategies on control mechanisms should be jointly developed and innovative policy instruments assessed. Furthermore, the implementation of suitable instruments should be prepared.

Potential thematic areas

- Fostering quality managements systems as support for local policies
- Strategies to set up quality control building regulation
- Evaluation of new and existing policy instruments & strategies for improvement

Potential results, effects and output

- Exchange of experience on quality management systems
- Assessment of potential and barriers for quality control for new buildings and refurbishment
- Joint development of new instruments for local energy planning (urban planning, energy supply, land-use plans, by-laws etc.)
- Evaluation of selected instruments in various regions
- Compilation of good practice catalogues

Potential Sub-Project Participants

- Municipalities and counties
- Municipality and county associations and federations
- Local and regional energy agencies
- Public associations for environment and climate protection
- Public utilities (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Universities
- Institutions of science and education (only as public authorities or as bodies governed by public law)
- Other public authorities and institutions