



More Carbon Reduction by Dynamically Monitoring Energy Efficiency

Welcome to Issue 1 of the EMPOWER newsletter!

After much preparation, our 9 European project partners started work in January!

With the support of Interreg Europe through the European Regional Development Fund, the partners, along with key regional stakeholders, will engage to develop the best ways to reduce carbon output by dynamically monitoring energy efficiency in buildings, with special focus on the use of innovative financial instruments.

There are two over-arching challenges that we want to address for our European cities and regions:

- Reduce CO₂ emissions from buildings using new technology and better management
- increase investment in energy efficiency to meet the EU's CO₂ reduction targets

Follow us over the next five years as we share experience, solutions, and good practice to develop and deliver better public policy to help reduce carbon emissions!

www.interregeurope.eu/empower



This Issue...

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Meet the Partners

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Why Carbon Reduction and why EMPOWER?

We have to meet the energy needs of EU citizens as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

Buildings alone account for 40 % of EU energy needs and 36 % of carbon emissions. Coupled with the ambitious and fast-approaching Europe 2020 targets, the EMPOWER partners decided to explore the challenges and opportunities together to find suitable solutions.

Cities and regions need more investment in these new approaches to meet their carbon reduction targets. EMPOWER wants to reduce carbon emissions from buildings with new technology and better management approaches, with a special focus on the use of financial instruments to achieve success.

At the core of this is interregional cooperation – 9 partner regions sharing their experiences, needs, and best practices on reducing carbon in buildings, particularly medium-sized schemes, to support their local economies.

Making Changes to Energy Efficiency

EMPOWER will target 9 regional development policies and programmes to improve how they are rolled out, resulting in a 10% reduction in carbon emissions from buildings by 2021.

The partners also want to demonstrate that monitored savings can reassure financial institutions about the benefits of long term energy management investment.

Specific actions, such as peer review, and transferring good practices will build capacity, improve knowledge and deliver a higher-than-trend rate of carbon reduction. Stakeholder and policy-owner involvement is crucial.



Kicking Off in Maribor

The partners got the project started at the kick off meeting in the beautiful city of Maribor on 24-25 January.

The partners had the opportunity to meet as a group for the first time and discuss the project roll out for the coming five years, including project management, exchange of expertise and communications.

They will meet again to review and plan at their second meeting in Lorient in September.



EMPOWER Kick Off meeting, Maribor, January 2017

Stakeholders are the Key: Peer Review Workshop, Venice

To drive the project objectives towards success, the partners need to engage with key stakeholders in their regions. These are policy makers, regional and local authorities, researchers, and private sector companies in the low carbon sector.

Stakeholders are the drivers of the project; without them the project will not achieve its goals. There are several ways they are brought on board, through local stakeholder groups which meet every 4 months and interregional learning events, such as Peer Review.

The EMPOWER Peer Review workshop took place in Venice on 28-29 March. Stakeholders from the partner areas discussed their regional energy policies and mutually evaluated planned policy improvements. It was a lively and intense event, using SWOT analysis, role-play and gaming in order to distil the essential issues

Each project-partner has now prepared a “to-do list” that summarises what they plan to learn from the others. After the summer break they will start a programme of Study Visits and Technical Workshops that will involve staff, key decision-makers and stakeholders as they focus on training needs, investment potential and technical monitoring issues.



Peer Review, Venice, March 2017

Meet the Partners of EMPOWER



Lead Partner

Energy Agency of Podravje – Institution for Sustainable Energy Use (SL)

The Energy Agency of Podravje – Institution for Sustainable Energy Use (Energap) is based in the city of Maribor in eastern Slovenia. Energap is the lead partner for EMPOWER, with primary responsibility for project and financial management.

Project Partners

Local Energy Management Agency of Almada, AGENEAL (PT)

Southern Regional Assembly (IE)

Veneto Region (IT)

Municipality of Lorient (FR)

Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden (SE)

Mazovia Energy Agency (MAE) (PL)

Development Bank of Saxony-Anhalt (DE)

Santander City Council (ES)



REGIONE DEL VENETO

