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EMPOWERING E-learning platform

Many municipalities need support when developing a SECAP. To be truly helpful, this support should be easy to reach, easy to use and easy to understand. To this end, RISE has developed the Empowering platform for interactive learning. The target group are municipalities that either want to update their existing SEAP, or to create an entirely new SECAP. On the platform, the users can find education material, recorded webinars, helpful tools, presentations, and links to other relevant material and inspirational good examples.

The material on the platform is divided into six categories. The first three of them follow the process that any municipality needs to go through in order to create

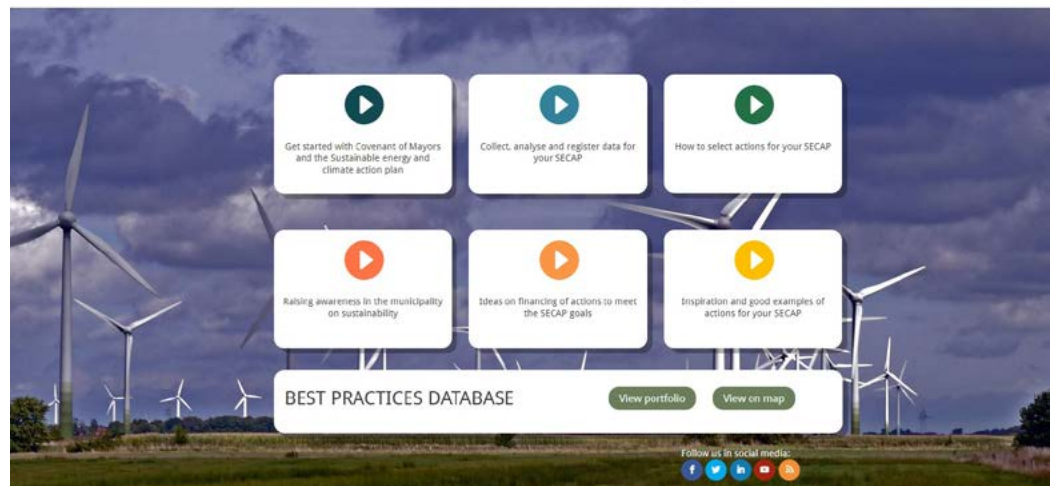
a SECAP: Understanding of the concepts Covenant of Mayors (CoM) and Sustainable Energy and Action Plan (SECAP), Data collection and handling, and How to select SECAP actions. The other three categories include material that can be helpful in the internal processes when becoming a CoM signatory and in creating a SECAP: Awareness-raising in the municipality, Ideas on how to finance actions, and finally Inspiration and good ideas.

The material on the platform, apart from the links, is exclusively produced for and within the Empowering project by the scientific project partners CRES and RISE. It is developed bearing in mind the specific conditions for

the target group. For this reason, the platform is easy to navigate, and the material is not overly extensive and difficult to understand. This is necessary since the users will probably not have too much time for the task. Most of the material is in English. But since the platform is meant to be used by municipalities throughout the EU, the aim has been to use a relatively simple English. There is also a possibility to create material in the 6 national Empowering languages and add that to the platform.

New material is continuously added to the platform. Currently, a new mini-education on how to select SECAP actions is under production. The platform is open for all and free of charge.

<https://empowering2020.eu>



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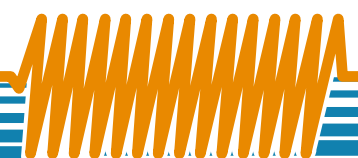
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Congratulations to Andalusian municipalities!

Between May and September 2018 have taken place the four local workshops for Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans for the Andalusian municipalities involved in EMPOWERING.

These face to face free work-

shops were aimed to reinforce the knowledge of the capacity building webinars and have the participation of experts in climate change, energy, local adaptation measures and action plans of the Covenant of Mayors.

The local workshops have been successful and the eleven municipalities have finished their action plans advised by experts, so congratulations to Sanlúcar la Mayor, Morón de la Frontera, Baena, Arahal, Montilla, La Palma del Condado, La Puebla de Ca-

zalla, Salobreña, Armilla, Peñarroya-Pueblonuevo and La Rinconada.

Outcomes and related documents can be consulted on the project website, at sections Platform (Spanish version) and News. ☀



Regional Capacity Building Program in Romania

It was organized during August-November 2018 and was attended by municipalities, private actors, and regional officers (within North-East RDA). The workshops have been facilitated by the CoM's Support Structure, Alba Local Agency for Energy.

A number of 16 municipalities have participated in the program and 9 of them (Botosani, Bacau, Ia i, Suceava, Piatra Neam, Moinesti, Vaslui, Roman and Victoria) have been intensely supported to design climate

and sustainable energy action plans.

The program allowed the representatives of the municipalities to concretely work on their SECAPs whilst acquiring knowledge on the actual process.

For some municipalities this proved to be a successful approach and we are glad to congratulate Botosani Municipality that adopted the full SECAP during the Local Council Meeting in December 2018. ☀

Training for the Marche energy plan

SVIM and the Marche Region aim to maximize training by offering a large number of workshops for the 32 Municipalities of the Local Energy Board. In 2018, 8 training local workshops were held to update or draft the sustainable energy (and climate) action plan, improving the know-how on the steps to be taken for the involvement of stakeholders and for technical and political aspects related to the energy planning. In the workshops, that involved totally 35 presentations by 20

different speakers, supporting tools were provided to improve the local planning of the plan development work.

For 2019, we are aiming even higher, with two regional Workshops, one of which at the Committee of the Regions in Bruxelles, to increase financial investments for energy efficiency and the development of renewables sources. The goal is to provide the support to get for all municipalities the approved SE(C) AP (mitigation part). ☀



Local training workshops in Istria region: main outcomes

The local workshops for the capacity building of Region of Istria municipalities started in March 2018. This training work-shops have informed participants about energy data collection, good practices in Europe and provided practical advice and discussion on energy data gathering and processing for the purposes of establishing a Baseline / Monitoring Emission Inventory (BEI/MEI) as part of a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP).

These workshops have shared insight and good practices on data collection with a focus for buildings, local energy production and transport. Recommendations and solutions on how to optimize data gathering have been shared and discussed with speakers, experts and participants.

Main messages:

- join forces to gather data. This also includes forming relationships with energy agencies, regional development agencies and R&D institutions.
- secure a long-term political commitment
- definition of clear mitigation and adaptation target(s) / goal(s)
- integrate the SECAP into everyday management processes of the municipality: it should not be just another nice document, but part of the corporate culture. ☀



Implementation of Workshops at RCM

For the 1st workshop, an open invitation was sent to all municipalities (inside and outside the LEB) for participation and monitoring of forthcoming laboratories. During the first one, other municipalities that did not belong to the LEB, were also interested in attending the seminars and participating in the EMPOWERING Project. Thus, five more municipalities were integrated: Thessaloniki, Serres, Kordelio-Evosmos, Thermi and Naoussa.

Interesting and topical to-

pics were discussed during sessions, between municipalities and experts. Particularly during the 3rd and last workshop, an excellent cooperation climate was established and was set the base for its continuation in the context of EMPOWERING.

Regarding the two next regional workshops, the interest was also intense, with particular attention to the financial tools of strengthening the municipalities and the region itself, both within the framework of the CoM. ☀

Ongoing capacity building workshops in B-A-Z county, Hungary

Starting last summer, the BORA 94 B-A-Z County Development Agency launched a series of capacity building workshops, which allow local authorities to tackle some of the challenges related to energy planning and SEAP development. The workshop are held from June 2018 till March 2019.

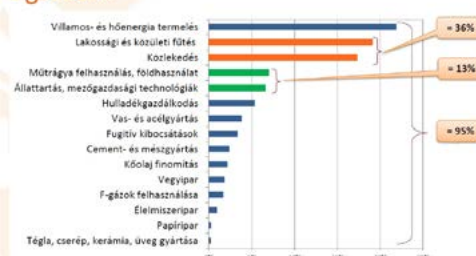
There were Capacity Building Workshops that aimed to support representatives and technicians of local authorities in SEAP development and also in upgrading of their

existing SEAP. Participants had the opportunity to learn about how to systematically collect, monitor and analyse energy data, and how to define the necessary measures to be included in the SEAP of the municipality. Workshops are centred around various methodologies mainly based on interactivity.

In February and March two workshops are organised addressed to regional representatives about innovative and alternative financial solutions and schemes. ☀



Hazai dekarbonizáció szempontjából jelentős ágazatok



Minimizing obstacles – maximizing municipal planning

In the past year, EMPOWERING project has been providing support to the municipalities towards their adhesion procedure to “Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy” initiative and to monitor the progress of SEAP drafting and upgrading to SECAP targeting to climate change mitigation, adaptation and access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy for all. The result was the adhesion of 32 new members.

The existing members -participating Municipalities had to operate in a new environment taking the new commitments into account. Their first major decision was whether to upgrade their effort with 2030 targets in mind or to also include actions towards strengthening their resilience to climate change impacts.

The next steps for the participating municipalities was to collect data for Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) elaboration in case of new members and for the monitoring procedure (MEI) of the existing members.

EMPOWERING project facilitated them by providing an easy-to-use methodological tool for data collection, energy balance development as well as BEI elaboration along with 3 targeted webinars on how to use the different tool features.

Up to now, 18 municipalities developed their energy balances and elaborated their BEIs along with 1 joint BEI referring to 11 small municipalities.

They are currently focusing on drafting their energy vision towards 2030 as well as calculating the impact of different measures in order to select the most appropriate for reducing the energy consumption in their territory. Next steps include drafting the SEAP or SECAP.

The following months the EMPOWERING project partners will focus on supporting regional authorities with territorial data collection, shaping the regional energy vision towards 2050 and drafting an innovating financial tool in order to trigger sustainable energy investments by private and public sector and to transform the vision into actions!

Partners



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