

# 4 NEWSLETTER 5 Mar. 18

## MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD PARTNER

Dear project partners,

much cooperation better result!

We are easily approaching the final part of the first phase of our long 54 month lasting project and, considering all the good things we have already done and all the better things we will still have to realize, we are always much more convinced and confident that “cooperation” among countries and people is the effective tool to strengthen more and more. Cooperating within a network of partners is a mutual process that must be based on finding opportunities rather than identifying obstacles.

This because it includes adapting, creating, transferring and sharing knowledge and experiences in order to empower ourselves and our local networks’ know-how, skills and capacities.

In our case, a useful cooperation can reinforce and support national efforts concerning citizens’ correct behaviors towards environmental and energy issues also enriching perspectives on best practices exchanges and lessons learnt in other countries. On

the other side, these exchanges have the potentiality to impact regional and sub-regional integration processes as well as global energy and environment policy debates focusing on sustainable energy, energy saving and CO2 reduction.

During last decade, in all European programmes and forums, we faced two invitations by the European Secretariat: to collaborate with other regions, learning from each other and solving common challenges and to have a “bottom-up” approach to take advantage on the possibility of addressing high-priority local



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### INDEX

- Message from the Lead Partner 1**
- Introducing partnership regions 3**
- The 4th Project event – Alba Iulia, RO 6**
- Institutional Learning Platform 7**
- Regional and European news 9**
- Upcoming events 10**

issues that are well known to local stakeholders and population, but that may be neglected by central government authorities. In fact, it is useful to discover and explore local needs in line with partner's visions and priorities looking for a good balance between "top-down" and "bottom-up" approach.

In the era of globalization, our future, that of our business or our territory, are inevitably also linked to what happens in Europe and in the world. Opening up to Europe and the world, networking with other businesses or other territories, cooperating with these companies or territories to jointly develop projects to tackle common problems, today is not only of fundamental importance for new opportunities, but compulsory.

For this reason, transnational cooperation becomes both an opportunity and a need for sustainable and equitable development for ourselves and for others. Humanity has no different ways to build its own future if not thinking of itself, cooperating with others to guarantee the whole.

Enjoy the reading!

Alessandro Attolico  
Locarbo PM Coordinator



## INTRODUCING THE PARTNERSHIP REGIONS

### Kaunas University of Technology



Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) is the largest technical university in the Baltic States. Institute of Environmental Engineering (APINI) is a scientific department of KTU, which performs research in the fields of sustainable development and environmental protection, implements national and international projects, and leads M.Sc. and Ph.D. study programmes.

The backbone of APINI activities and research lies in practical engineering as well as management and political solutions related to environmental quality issues. KTU APINI has implemented more than 100 international projects (FP, INTERREG, BSR), and has published 33 books (independently or in cooperation with international partners) and hundreds of scientific papers.

KTU APINI has extensive experience in the field of both energy research and interregional projects implemented in close cooperation with local/regional/national public authorities.

Relevant competences of KTU include research in the fields of Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energy Sources (RES), integrated environmental and quality management systems, cleaner production and innovative cooperation models. The institution has been involved in national and international projects related to EE in public buildings and in industries, namely “Regional Strategies for Energy Conscious Communities” (REENERGY) 2011-2014, and “A competition to reward companies and public administrations for saving energy in their office buildings by behavioural changes” (Energy Trophy +).

Local communities often lack the chance or initiative to shift towards environmentally sustainable development, increasing the share of RES production/consumption and EE management, contributing to the achievement of the Energy 2020 Strategy and EU 2020 targets. The overall objective of REENERGY was to improve, through interregional cooperation, the effectiveness and approach of local/regional sustainable energy policies, as a response to overarching EU strategies and commitments, notably Energy 2020 Strategy and EU 2020.

Study subjects as Sustainable Energy, Cleaner Production, and Environmental Impact Assessment are taught in the international M.Sc. programme “Sustainable Management and Production” (over 100 environmental specialists have graduated since 2004). Students and lectures collaborate with industrial enterprises, chambers of commerce, local and national authorities, and many international organisations and companies (UNEP, UNIDO, OECD, NEFCO and others).





KTU staff are members of the smart specialisation platforms (including the “Energy and Sustainable Environment”, in Lithuania) that are involved in the design of the addressed policy instrument. Due to its collaboration with several local and national public authorities in different local, national and interregional cooperation projects, KTU is in a strong position to influence regional and national policies, providing its knowledge and know-how to policymaking bodies.

Projects of KTU’s Institute of Environmental Engineering include developing resource efficient and cleaner production innovations as well as environmentally friendly products, and implementing both preventive environmental management and waste minimisation systems. The institute provides guidance to national and international companies seeking long-term sustainable solutions in optimising processes of transport, energy, industry, and services.

Beside KTU APINI, there are other departments, namely the Department of Building Energy Systems, which is working with topics related with EE and sustainable architecture. This department was established in 2014 (after a reorganization of the Departments of Geoengineering and Graphic Works).

It employs 15 lecturers, who work in the following scientific and study fields: microclimate of buildings, EE and engineering systems, RES and smart technologies in construction. The institution is involved in several national and international projects related to EE in heritage buildings, improving EE in the housing stock and air quality management in low-energy buildings.

## Hungarian Innovation and Efficiency Nonprofit Ltd



The Hungarian Innovation and Efficiency Non-profit Ltd. (abbreviated in Hungarian as MI6) is a privately owned non-profit company, a determinant player in Hungarian EE and green energy related policy support. In recent years, MI6 expanded its activities abroad and is well acknowledged by local and international partners and the European Commission.

MI6 main project is the Virtual Power Plant Programme (VPPP), which is built up from virtual blocks: a company block, a student and school block, a municipality block and an international block. The performance of the blocks is measured via the success of awareness raising at the target group and its tangible results: energy savings.

The Virtual Power Plant Programme is now the 10th largest power plant in Hungary (built from invisible bricks of energy savings) collecting 175MW (2.1TWh/year) in fossil savings.

Since 2011, the MI6 has operated this company merit scheme, including a motivational pipeline and award system for energy conscious companies. The number of partners have reached 8,500 in 2017.





Large company partners, like Audi, Opel or T-Systems have been committed and active contributors of the programme through mentoring and sharing their practice in EE and RES.

MI6 conducted two research projects with ERDF funding, totalling EUR 4 million in 2013-2015. In these, MI6 contacted 120,000 SMEs by phone, and additional 20,000 via an online survey, more than 1,000 companies were interviewed, and energy audits were conducted in 700 organisations (500 companies, 100 households, 100 educational, social and healthcare institutions). Based on the collected data, MI6 built a database and used it to draft the ERDF co-funded EE and RES schemes in Hungary for the 2014-2020 EU programming period.

It was also MI6 that re-designed and improved the EDIOP-4 ERDF scheme on EE improvement and RES investment on SMEs (scheme budget: EUR 270 million) relying on international inputs of the LOCARBO project.

At the EU Sustainable Energy Award 2015, the Virtual Power Plant Programme was nominated among the top 3 EE programmes in Europe by the European Commission and EASME. As a result, MI6 received international attention and has been invited to international collaborations.

MI6 was selected one of the seven consortium members in the LOCARBO Interreg Europe project for the period of 2016-21, facilitating the transition towards a low carbon economy through the improvement of policy level interventions. MI6 also participates in the TRIS Interreg Europe project on circular economy.

The MI6 has been an active partner in the EIT Climate-KIC since 2011, covering research and planning

activities in Climate Market Acceleration, Climathon and other initiatives.

From 2015, MI6 offered a newly erected passive building to students and the broad public to facilitate public learning about green energy technologies. This passive house became an attractive venue for international study tours and local 'green' events.

In 2016, MI6 launched its Energy Conscious School Programme, which attracted thousands of students to the passive house, physically and virtually, via an e-learning education package. Schools participating in the programme were also provided with LED lighting as a prize for taking part with their students in awareness raising programmes.

In 2016, MI6 started an awareness programme (Sustainability Thematic Week in schools) that reached 350,000 students, with the help of the Ministry of Human Resources. In 2017, MI6 provided an educational programme for secondary schools as part of this thematic week. In 2018, MI6 widened this programme to nurseries, primary schools and adults. In 2017, MI6 launched a student award scheme called Student Energy Efficiency Manager of the Year for students from all over the country.

From 2017, MI6 has developed county-level climate change mitigation strategies in partnership with the Association of Climate Friendly Settlements in three counties of Hungary.

MI6 started elaborating SECAPs (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans), in close cooperation with local stakeholder groups, in almost 100 settlements across Hungary.



## THE 4<sup>TH</sup> PROJECT EVENT – ALBA IULIA, RO



### Alba Iulia welcomed the 4<sup>th</sup> LOCARBO Project Meeting

The City of Alba Iulia (RO) welcomed the LOCARBO 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Group and 4<sup>th</sup> TWT meeting on 7-8 September 2017, joining the entire partnership representatives in a 2-day intensive agenda.

An intensive 1<sup>st</sup> day started with a Stakeholder Café gathering representatives from the Local Development Agency, the ALEA Alba Local Energy Agency and the City Hall.

Several projects related with the implementation of nZEB buildings and smart public lighting, among others, were presented, with a special focus on Alba Iulia Smart City 2018 project, under which private companies apply to test their smart city solutions with their own funding.

Then, a guided site visit was carried out to a public transport company using an innovative system to increase power efficiency at fuel economy filtering and to three public institutions (the Dorin Pavel Technical College, an elderly home and a day center for the elderly) where Solar PV Panels were implemented with the support of European funds, producing at least 50% of these buildings' energy needs.

After that, a Good Practice Fair took place and each partner presented the collected good practices related with TP3 "Innovative Smart Technologies", and took the opportunity to discuss the state-of-art of thematic deliverables, focusing on the action plans.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and last day was dedicated to discuss project financial and communication issues.

# INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING PLATFORM

## Vila Nova de Gaia Municipality



On 21 April 2017, the municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia organized its 1<sup>st</sup> Institutional Learning Platform (ILP) meeting. The meeting, held at the City Hall facilities, was attended by 7 participants, namely technicians from the municipality and municipal companies (Gaiurb and Energaia).

The main objective of the meeting was the analysis and joint review of the Local Diagnosis and the Good Practices collected and presented at the previous interregional meetings to the other project partners.

Bearing in mind the project objectives (indicators and monitoring) and the expected reduction in energy consumption and change of behaviour, the participants discussed the eligible actions for EE in buildings included in the regional policy instrument addressed by the project.

The closing of the meeting addressed a summary of the project's recent activities and the schedule for the planned activities.

## Hungarian Innovation and Efficiency Nonprofit Ltd



MI6 2<sup>nd</sup> ILP was held on 27 March 2017, with the participation of the management and the CEO of the company, along with the entire Hungarian LOCARBO staff.

The project team summarized the recent activities of the project, the timeline and resource requirements foreseen and the good practices acquired through the study visit in Lithuania. Then, asked for questions and comments to channel in the LOCARBO project and proposals of potential solutions for the improvement of the recently issued Policy Instrument schemes.

# INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING PLATFORM

## Alba Iulia Municipality



Alba Iulia municipality organised its 1<sup>st</sup> ILP meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2017, gathering 15 participants at the City Hall facilities.

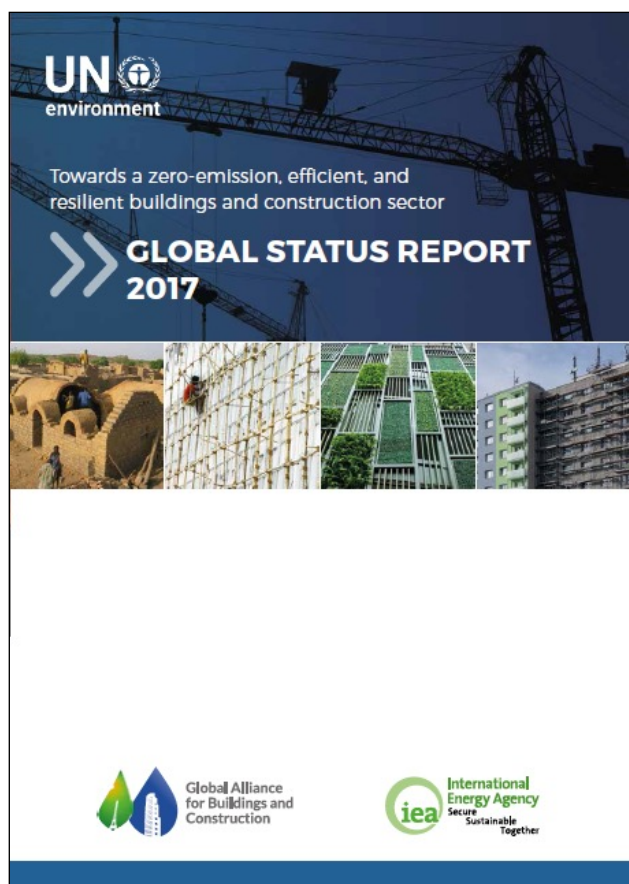
The main purpose of this meeting was to present the project's objectives, activities and expected results.

The meeting started with a general presentation of the Interreg Europe programme, and then focused on the LOCARBO project objectives, partners, innovative approach and the addressed policy instrument.

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to the analysis and discussion of good practices identified at regional level concerning EE in the built environment, and concluded with a brief overview of the future Action Plan.



## REGIONAL AND EUROPEAN NEWS



### The counting down to curb energy consumption in the construction industry and keep the Paris agreement on track is running out

The newly Global Status Report 2017, recently published by UN Environment and the International Energy Agency (IEA) for the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GABC), presents a comprehensive approach of the numerous commitments and actions by countries, cities, industry and related stakeholders of the construction sector on a sustainable trajectory and the global climate ambitions set out in the Paris Agreement.

Apart from the global perspective of rising energy consumptions and related emissions associated to the construction sector, the report

also highlights that the efforts to decarbonise this sector are progressing, thanks to implementation of comprehensive policy frameworks, deployment of low-carbon and energy-efficient technologies, better building design approaches and solutions, and an improving investment market.

Besides the advancing global progress, the report also reveals that the scale of improvement is still not enough to meet global climate ambitions, and details a series of key findings that demonstrates the urgency to put global buildings and construction sector on a sustainable pathway:

- 82% of final energy consumption in buildings was supplied by fossil fuels in 2015;
- The energy intensity per m<sup>2</sup> of buildings needs to improve 30% by 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement;
- Renovation rates in existing buildings need to improve from 1% to 2% per year to over 2% to 3% over the next 10 years, especially in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, where around 65% of the total expected 2060 buildings stock is already built today;
- Of the 193 countries to have submitted nationally determined contributions (NDCs), 132 explicitly mention the buildings sector - with 101 pointing to EE opportunities to meet mitigation targets;
- A potential of hitting the 4.9 GtCO<sub>2</sub> annual emissions reduction that could be achieved if countries were to pursue strategic low-carbon and energy efficient buildings technologies.

For more information:

[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/g20-summit-confirms-paris-agreement-irreversible\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/g20-summit-confirms-paris-agreement-irreversible_en)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 4th Steering Group and 5th TWT meeting in Budapest – 6-7 March



Budapest (HU) will host the next LOCARBO project meeting on 6-7 March 2018.

An extensive 1<sup>st</sup> day programme will begin with a public session for the presentation of LOCARBO Local Living Lab and the Virtual Power Plant Programme Award ceremony, and then proceed with closed sessions for project partners and Managing Authorities representatives, to present and discuss a Good Practice Inventory moderated by the Thematic Pillars Leaders.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day comprises a guided Site Visit to an Energy Efficiency Demo Building (Passive House), more dedicated internal partnership activities, such as the presentation of Action Plans status and Institutional Learning Platform experiences, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting to discuss technical and financial project issues.

For more information:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/locarbo/events/event/1493/4th-steering-group-and-5th-twt-meeting/>

**EU Green Week 2018. 21 - 25 May**  
Brussels, Belgium

**World Green Building Council Congress.**  
**5 - 7 June**  
Toronto, Canada

**LOCARBO**  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund