

NEWSLETTER SEP. 16

MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD PARTNER

Due to the political commitments deriving from the recent global agreements, many local/regional actors in Europe are engaged in the development and implementation of regional policies oriented to face the challenges of carbon reduction, such as policies to combat climate change.

In this framework, starting from the 1st April 2016 the Province of Potenza is honored to actively leading a new prestigious project of international cooperation, namely the **“LOCARBO - Novel roles of regional and Local authorities in supporting energy consumers’ behaviour change towards a low CARBOn economy”**.

The overall objective of LOCARBO is “to improve policy instruments (PI) targeting energy efficiency of the built environment through regional and local authorities supporting energy consumers’ behaviour change”. This will be achieved by experimenting innovative engagements of regional/local authorities in supporting the change of energy consumers’ behavior.

Energy policies and climate often deal with the struggling interests of different stakeholders. Its

long-lasting effect is closely linked to its acceptance by citizens. We have to keep in mind that citizens’ involvement during the course of implementation increases the chances of successfully finalizing the activities or projects. On the other hand, knowledge of public opinion gives policymakers a sound basis for making the required decisions.

It is always fundamental to take the needs of local communities into account when preparing policies in order to increase energy efficiency in the region.



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Moreover, it is very important that activities need to vary to fit with municipalities' current situation, and their advantages and shortcomings so that no one feels it is being left behind.

Energy savings, energy efficiency and waste reduction are strictly linked to citizens' behavior having a huge potential impact and a long-term perspective. Therefore, policies addressed to citizens should be more attractive. Communication should be clear, simple and effective; in the same way, the direct advantages to the citizen have to be identified and declared.

Training and education as a basis for behavioural change (starting with education in schools and the training of employees) are also fundamental activities to be performed.

In recent years, the Province of Potenza has distinguished itself nationally and internationally - and was granted by several prestigious awards, including those by the United Nations - for the strong engagement on local community involvement on energy and environmental issues, protection and preservation of the territory even from the relevant natural risks and, therefore, the relevant disaster risks management.

Due to the wide experience gained through the coordination of international partners - as regards transnational projects - and of municipalities and local communities - for what concerns the institutional-territorial network "Province of Potenza - Municipalities - Communities for Resilience" - the Province of Potenza has managed to capitalize on the strategic and positive experiences, placing as basic strategy the combination of the three main components of territorial development: **sustainable development, territorial safety and climate changes contrasting** policies, integrated in a unique general strategy defined "Territorial Resilience" (#weResilient).

So, in this perspective, the LOCARBO provides for the great opportunity to foster the change of people's behaviour to become more sensitive to environment and energy issues.

Our commitments are based on the belief that our today efforts will benefit our future generations and will contribute for creating a better world!

Alessandro Attolico

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Objectives

LOCARBO is an interregional cooperation project for improving low-carbon economy policies. It aims to improve policy instruments targeting demand-driven initiatives to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewables in buildings, through innovative ways of supporting energy consumers' behaviour change.

Thematic Pillars

LOCARBO will combine and roll-out innovative practices linked to three strongly interrelated thematic pillars:

Supplementary services and products:

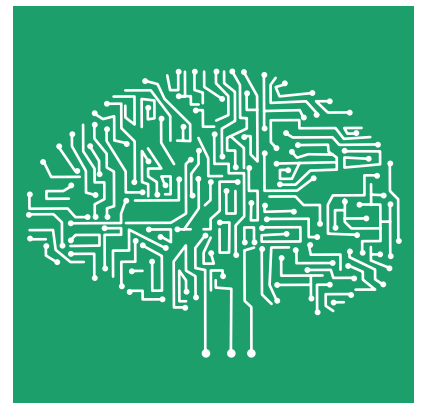
Services and products offered by regional and local authorities, such as energy consultancy services to end users and energy ambassadors.

Innovative cooperation models:

Cooperation models based on Local Energy Communities, composed of economic and civil actors cooperating on energy efficiency and renewable energy, oriented to foster an active involvement of stakeholders, especially energy consumers.

Innovative and smart/ICT technologies:

Supporting the spread of intelligent technologies, such as energy management systems and smart meters in regions/countries with lower penetration rates, and systematically collecting and analysing data and feedback information in order to support evidence-based policy making.





PROJECT SUMMARY

Activities

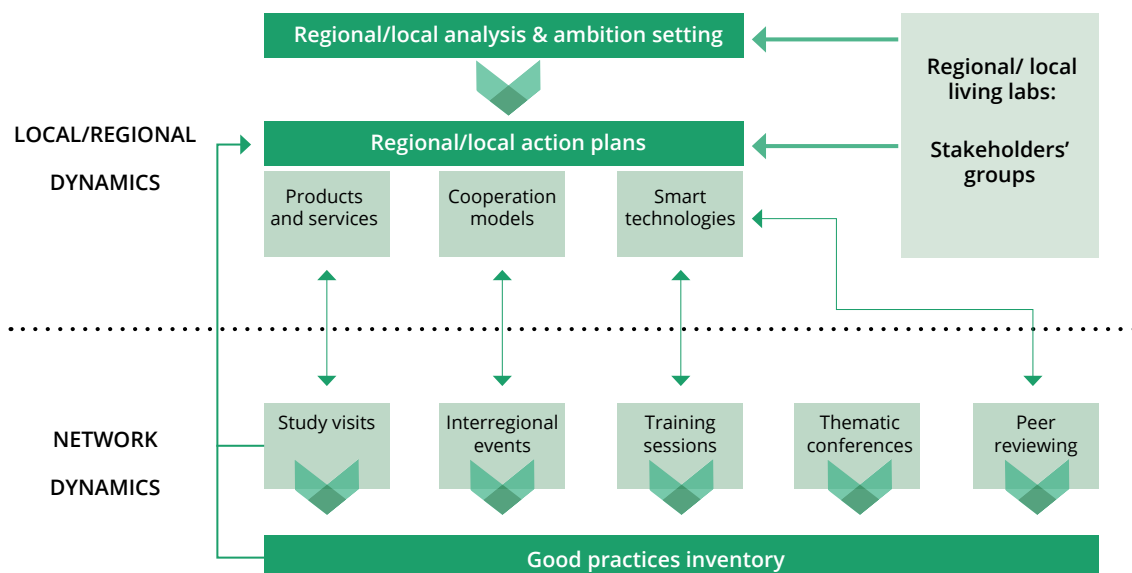
Regional/local analysis and ambition setting: Each partner region has to produce a regional/local analysis related to the addressed policy instrument, integrating the state-of-the-art and the ambitions of the region.

Regional/local action plans: Each partner region has to develop a regional/local action plan with a view to improve the tackled policy instrument associated with Structural Funds and other programmes, influencing EUR 100 M of funds.

Local living labs: Each partner has to involve local/regional stakeholders in the project, namely in the elaboration of the local/regional action plans and in the networking activities.

Good practices inventory: The project aims to produce a good practice inventory oriented to sharing innovative experiences among regions in the area of low-carbon economy, namely energy efficiency in buildings and consumers' behaviour change.

Networking activities: The project organizes several networking activities, namely study visits, training sessions, interregional events, peer-reviews, and thematic conferences, oriented to share good practices to be incorporated into regional/local policies.



The main result of LOCARBO is the improvement of the tackled policy instruments associated with Structural Funds and other programmes, centred on energy efficiency and the use of renewables in buildings and on the change of energy consumers' behaviour.



THE PARTNERSHIP

Province of Potenza (IT) - Lead Partner

Basilicata Region (IT)

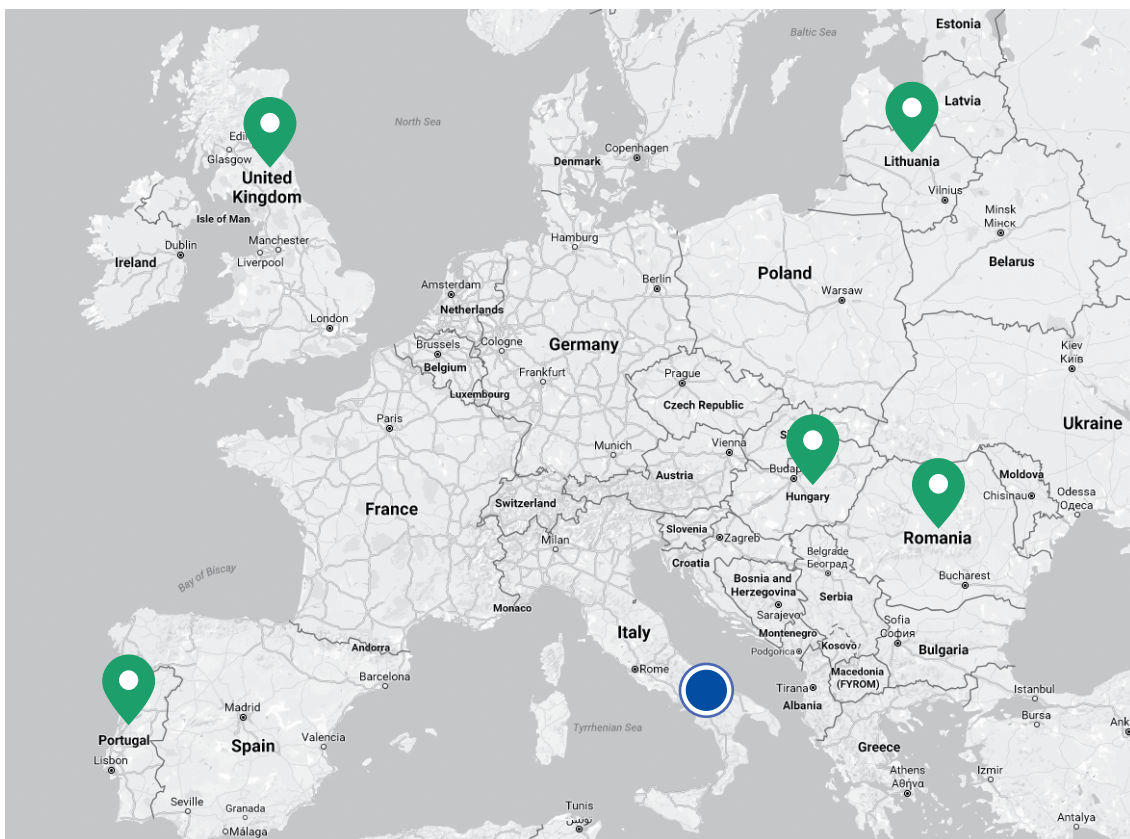
Municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia (PT)


Durham County Council (UK)

Kaunas University of Technology (LT)

Hungarian Innovation and Efficiency Nonprofit Ltd (HU)

Municipality of Avrig (RO)



 Lead Partner

 Partner

THE KICK-OFF MEETING



Project partners met in Potenza

The Province of Potenza hosted the LOCARBO project kick-off meeting in 31 August - 1 September in Potenza, with the support of INTERREG Europe Program.

The 2-day event was attended by the seven project partners (from Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, and UK) and invited external experts, to present the main project activities

and thematic tasks that LOCARBO will tackle in the upcoming four years.

The purpose of this first meeting was the definition of work structures, project management issues, daily project and financial management and presentation of the communication and dissemination strategy. This was a very important meeting which allowed the different partners to know each other and to become aware of their roles in the initiative.



REGIONAL AND EUROPEAN NEWS



Energy Union and Climate Action: Driving Europe's transition to a low-carbon economy

Last July, the European Commission presented a package of measures to accelerate the transition to low-carbon emissions in all economic sectors. Following the Paris Agreement on climate change impetus and the launch of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the global transition to a low-carbon economy has gained an international relevance.

The package of associated measures presented by the Commission will help Europe to become more competitive on a global social economic stage. It will strengthen the commitments taken by the UE Member States in October 2014, since all Member States will have national emission targets for 2030 expressed as a percentage reduction from 2005 emission levels, as well as access to new flexibilities and measures to achieve those targets effectively.

In a collective perspective, these national targets will give an overall EU reduction of 30% in the sectors covered by the proposal, and an effective panorama of the forward-looking UE Climate Change policy.

Source: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2545_en.htm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Launch Conference - 18-19 October 2016 Durham, UK



The City of Durham (UK) will host the first public presentation of the LOCARBO project on October, 18-19, joining several participants from six European countries: United Kingdom, Lithuania, Portugal, Italy, Romania, and Hungary.

The first day of the event will be centered on the Launching Conference. It includes a general presentation and overview of the project, an outline of the policy instruments tackled, and an introduction to project thematic pillars – supplementary services and products offered by regional and local authorities; innovative cooperation models; and innovative smart technologies.

The public conference will be followed by a Stakeholder Cafe moderated by Durham County Council, with the presence of the project partners and respective stakeholders. A site visit will also be organised to demonstrate some good practices that are being implemented in the British city.

On the 2nd day, project partners will have the opportunity to participate in the Analysis & Ambition Info Sheets discussion, in the Good Practices Fair and in the Action Plan Warm-Up Workshop, in order to prepare the next steps of the project.

<http://www.interregeurope.eu/locarbo/events/event/260/launching-conference/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

European Week of Regions and Cities 2016 – 10-13 October 2016

Brussels, Belgium

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/regions-and-cities/2016/index.cfm

Climate Chance - Climate Actors World Summit – 26-28 September 2016

Nantes, France

<http://www.climatechance2016.com/en/schedule>

International Climate Alliance Conference & Climate Star Gala – 05-08 October 2016

Krems, Austria

<http://p353626.mittwaldserver.info/?id=148>

UN Climate Change Conference (COP 22/ CMP 12) – November 2016

Marrakech, Morocco

https://seors.unfccc.int/seors?session_id=COP22



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund