

## Sustainable Energy Communities join forces to support EU 20-20-20 Targets

Five Intelligent Energy - Europe (IEE) Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) projects have joined forces to disseminate news and information on innovative local action that can inspire cities and regions to meet EU targets for 2020 on greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy.

The five projects - *ENNEREG*, *Energy for Mayors*, *CITY-SEC*, *come2CoM* and *ENESCOM*, which represent more than 100 communities throughout Europe, will produce a joint newsletter in several European languages to be sent to thousands of sustainable energy actors.

The projects share a common objective of demonstrating how Communities can be a key driving force in fulfilling the EU 20-20-20 climate and energy targets of at least 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, 20% increase in energy efficiency and 20% of energy from renewables by 2020<sup>1</sup>.

These goals will be achieved by supporting local and regional stakeholders in the development of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) and Projects (SEPs), encouraging and supporting communities in signing the Covenant of Mayors<sup>2</sup> and exchanging experiences in order to ensure replication of good practice throughout the European Union.

The first issue of the Newsletter, covering the initial activities of the five projects will be published in **Autumn 2010**. The newsletter will be available on the **EU Regions 202020 website** and will also include a diary of Sustainable Energy Communities events. To register to receive the newsletter and further information about Sustainable Energy Communities activities and events go to: [www.regions202020.eu](http://www.regions202020.eu)

### Press Release Contact Details

Contact for this Press Release – **Katy Hall**, Communications Officer, Regions 202020 and Sustainable Energy Communities Cluster of Projects - [web@regions202020.eu](mailto:web@regions202020.eu)

See the section below for further information about the individual projects.

## Description of the individual Projects

### ENNEREG - Regions paving the way for a Sustainable Energy Europe

Further information about **EU Regions 202020** and the activities of the **ENNEREG** project will be available on the project website soon at [www.regions202020.eu](http://www.regions202020.eu). In the meantime, for further information please contact the coordinator Nils Dugaard, Energy Consulting Network, Denmark - Email: [info@regions202020.eu](mailto:info@regions202020.eu)

The ENNEREG project involves 12 Pioneer Regions, of all types and sizes ranging from islands in Greece and Portugal to the whole of Wales, committed to demonstrating how regions can be a key driving force in fulfilling the EU 20-20-20 goals<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> EU 20-20-20 targets: a series of demanding climate and energy targets to be met by 2020, as follows: at least 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions; 20% of EU energy consumption to come from renewable resources; a 20% reduction in primary energy use compared with projected levels, to be achieved by improving energy efficiency. See: <http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eumayors.eu>

The ultimate aim of the ENNEREG project is to establish and inspire a network of regions throughout Europe, “**EU Regions 202020**”, to produce regional Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) and replicate Projects (SEPs).

ENNEREG entails three main dimensions:

1. The first dimension concerns the 12 regional partnerships in Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom making a coordinated approach in defining visions and goals suited to the local policy context, the region’s resources and the interests of stakeholders. This will lead, among others, to the elaboration of Sustainable Energy Action Plans and the implementation of selected sustainable energy projects in each region as well as to the launch of Covenant of Mayors’ Supporting Structures.
2. The second dimension is to encourage regions beyond the consortium to take up the sustainable energy challenge. This objective will be pursued in the form of a Replication Programme, where each of the 12 ENNEREG Regions twin with a new region to adopt the relevant project achievements in the new region.
3. The third dimension is to create an enabling environment, **EU Regions 202020**, for broader debate on how regions can help meet EU’s targeted supplemented with a range of EU wide dissemination activities.

### **City\_SEC – Regional Development and Energy Agencies supporting municipality Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) to jointly become active energy actors in Europe**

A website is currently being developed for the **City\_SEC** project at [www.citysec.eu](http://www.citysec.eu). In the meantime, you can find out more from the project coordinator, Lucia Catalani, Email: [lcatalani@svimspa.it](mailto:lcatalani@svimspa.it)

The **City\_SEC** project arises from the common need to support the local and regional policy makers in order to adhere to the Covenant of Mayors and achieve its objectives, in particular, in those regions where there are few municipalities as signatories.

**City\_SEC** aims to carry out an energy baseline assessment and develop Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) for 44 municipalities, thus helping them to become Sustainable Energy Communities. The 44 municipalities involved will be supported by the project Consortium to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative and to develop actions that will go beyond the 20-20-20 EU energy targets.

The activities are carried out by formalising 6 **City\_SECs** comprising several municipalities as members and each **City\_SEC** sharing a common strategy to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and increase energy efficiency in the region. The consortium will organise training and information activities aimed at raising awareness and building capacity of **City\_SEC** members, in particular of policy makers and civil society, on sustainable energy issues.

**City\_SEC** will also explore the role Regional Development Agencies (RDA) can play to support the Covenant of Mayors initiative by outlining recommendations based on the experiences of the participating 5 RDAs.

### **come2CoM – Sharing urban sustainable energy strategies – promoting the Covenant of Mayors**

The coordinator for **come2CoM** is Katrin Jullien, *Beratungs und Servicegesellschaft Umwelt mbH, Germany* - Email: [kjullien@bsu-berlin.de](mailto:kjullien@bsu-berlin.de)

The goal of **come2CoM** is to contribute to the successful implementation of the European initiative, the “Covenant of Mayors”. The project partners will reach this goal by supporting cities and local authorities within the countries of the consortium to become members of the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) and to elaborate the requested Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs). In a first step, the project partners consisting of 12 committed energy agencies and energy consulting agencies, as well as energy institutes from 11 EU countries aim

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to launch a promotional campaign to inform cities and local authorities on the Covenant of Mayors and to convince them to take a lead in mitigating climate change. Equipped with the translated thematic leaflet and a presentation on the CoM, posters, an exhibition stand, a short film and a sub-website on the partners' website, com2CoM will present the CoM at national and regional events and organise personal consultations at city councils. Being involved in national and regional networks, speaking the same language as the city representatives and being on site, the come2CoM team strongly believes that with this bottom-up approach they can encourage up to 300 cities to sign the Covenant.

In a second step, come2CoM will enable signatory cities to take the first steps in setting-up their SEAP. Therefore, the partners will compile, explain and communicate suitable methodologies for the SEAP development and CO<sub>2</sub> inventory tools to selected CoM cities; disseminate know-how from recent best practice examples and offer guidance on choosing the right tools in respect to the individual development stage of the CoM cities within the field of climate and energy policies. Through individual consultations for exemplary cities as well as through seminars, they will in particular help to define energy efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub> targets, give advice on how to get support from relevant stakeholders and on how to involve them, recommend priorities and key actions and assist in time and financial planning. Besides the SEAP approved by the city council, come2CoM will provide at the end of the project a report describing the applied methodologies for SEAP development and CO<sub>2</sub> baseline assessment which shall facilitate the process of selecting methodologies in the future.

come2CoM also aims to encourage and enable cities in the long-term to implement actions to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases and to stimulate the exchange of know-how and experience on sustainable energy and energy-saving measures through the CoM network.

### **Energy for Mayors – A network of sustainable energy supporting structures for the Covenant of Mayors**

*For further information on **Energy for Mayors** contact the project Communications Officer: Maryke van Staden, ICLEI Europe - Email: [maryke.van.staden@iclei.org](mailto:maryke.van.staden@iclei.org)*

Energy for Mayors starts from the consideration that Supporting Structures (SuS) are necessary for a successful implementation of the Covenant, but they need guidance in order to achieve their role and be an effective support, in particular, for small towns. The present action aims at creating a network of SuS through capacity building. 11 partner SuS, in Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and Spain will also assist small and medium sized municipalities in the implementation of local Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs). The consortium will enlarge its networking activities to at least one SuS in each EU country and creating networks of SuS in each project country.

A survey for SuS will be conducted to identify methodologies and tools they make available for their cities and towns - to be collected and presented in the on-line Toolbox. SuS interested in participating in the survey are invited to get in touch - also to explore their involvement in the SuS training workshop to be held in Huelva, Spain, later this year.

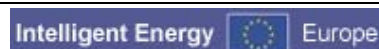
### **ENESCOM – European Network of information centres promoting Energy Sustainability and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction among local COMMunities**

*For further information on **ENESCOM** contact Monica Monti, Email: [progetti@ineuropa.info](mailto:progetti@ineuropa.info)*

ENESCOM aims to enhance the role of local communities in Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom in mitigating climate change by creating a common methodology to promote and develop capacity building in energy sustainability.

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This will result in an increase in adoption of sustainable energy policies and promotion of energy-efficient behaviour and lifestyles in Europe.

The project will promote integration, the institutionalisation of energy efficiency and the uptake of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) through widespread information and dissemination activities, including the creation of a network of regional and local front offices. The ENESCOM project will employ the Covenant of Mayors and the creation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) as starting points from which to engage and empower administrators and local communities, enabling them to plan their own way out of the challenging situation we face. The project's hope is that this approach will produce effects stretching far beyond the 30 months of the project itself. Creativity, ambition, interconnection with other projects, easy access to accurate information, effective tools and a positive vision of the future: all these taken together will provide the conditions that make change possible, and further dissemination more likely.

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