



Project: 100% RES territories



Place: Europe - Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovenia.

Dates: April 2012 – March 2015

Type of Cooperation: European

Partners:

CLER, réseau pour la transition énergétique (FR)
Legambiente (IT)
Climate Alliance Austria (AUS/EU)
Community Energy Scotland (UK)
Innergies (BE)
deENet (GER)
ENERGIACLUB (HU)

RURENER (EU)
Climate Alliance (world)
SOLAGRO (FR)
Slovenski Forum (SLO)
University of Bacau (RO)
AF-CityPlan (CZE)

Key Numbers: Collaboration between **13 partners** in **10 European countries**

Project's objectives:

Structured around five twinning pilot projects in 10 countries, the project promotes areas in rural Europe determined to develop renewable energy resources, and reduce energy expenses for inhabitants, businesses and small towns. The main goal of this project was to establish the sustainable, renewable energy supply of rural communities. This will be obtained by sharing experiences, designing sustainable energy action plans and implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy investments.

Operational Objectives:

For the territories:

- To set the objective of meeting its energy needs from local renewables (*political level*)
- To draw up an action plan and specific measures (*strategic level*)
- To address energy by taking a global approach to local development (*systematic approach level*)
- To implement specific projects (*implementation level*).

For the partner organizations:

- To develop tools, services and methodology to support rural communities in their energy transition actions (guides for best practices, systems for self-evaluation...).
- To coordinate the project, facilitate the creation of partnerships and twin-cities
- Share best practices among rural territories of Europe

Actions:

5 experienced territories will support 5 learning territories to develop their joint SEAPs through a mentoring approach. The implementation of 2 actions in each territory will make the joint SEAP concrete. Territories will go through 5 steps:

- Self-evaluation: identify strong points and those where more work is needed
- Going public: announcement of commitment to the TEPOS process to heighten its local “brand image”
- Identification: display the territories on the European map to ease the identification of each other, and the understanding of each other’s dynamics through the exchange of experiences
- Recognition: stronger commitment on the part of rural areas raises the collective credibility of positive energy territories; gives weight to their local positions for the energy transition (creation the European RES Champion League contest ensuring European recognition).
- Gathering energies: increased trust among the stakeholders and stimulation of the efforts onsite by sharing a common vision.

Levers:

- Energy project in rural areas is important to also tackle various other local development issues.
- Jobs created with energy projects and expertise or the fight against fuel poverty are much closer to the usual concerns of mayors and lead eventually to the same set of actions.

Barriers:

- The Covenant of Mayors procedures are not well adapted to the complex structuring introduced with the grouping of small communities willing to develop and implement a joint SEAP.
- The work with coordinators was necessary to support communities that do not have the means to with heavy reporting steps required by European projects.

Added value of cooperation:

The project entirely relied on the European dimension of the project. The sharing of such a diversity of experiences depended on the variety of the partners involved. Involving small rural communities in a European project gave them the means to conduct ambitious project, while benefiting from the feedback of other communities that were more experienced.

