



Newsletter # 2

November 2017

More Carbon Reaction by Dynamically Monitoring Energy Efficiency

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Reader,

Welcome to EMPOWER's second Newsletter.

Next January will mark EMPOWER's first birthday, it has proven to be a very busy year so far with lots happening since our last newsletter in June.

In this edition you will find information about EMPOWER's activities over the past number of months, as well as the next exciting phase of the project. Overall, we are well on our way to empowering our regions.

We will keep you updated on EMPOWER's progress through a series of Newsletters which will be published on a 6-monthly basis. Our project website is also a great source of information for news, updates and progress on key outputs.

We hope you enjoy learning more about EMPOWER!

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EMPOWER AT A GLANCE

EMPOWER aims to reduce carbon output by dynamically monitoring energy efficiency in buildings, with special focus on the use of innovative financial instruments.



Read more about EMPOWER at:
www.interregueurope.eu/empower



Why EMPOWER?

With Europe 2020 targets fast approaching and buildings alone accounting for around 40% of EU energy needs and 36% of carbon emissions. EMPOWER partners are working together and exploring good practices to find suitable solutions.

How can we collect reliable data about the energy usage and potential savings in public buildings? And how do we derive concrete suggestions for day-to-day energy management, as well as for energy efficiency investments from that data? These are questions that EMPOWER aims to answer.

Throughout the project, the 9 partner regions will work together, exchange good practices, and improve knowledge and policies through actions including a Peer Review event, Study Visits, Technical & Import Workshops and Regional Action Plans to improve policy.



Exchanging Good Practices

Sharing Solutions for Success!

INTERREG Europe is all about European partners learning from each other and sharing knowledge and good practices, to improve public policy.

Through interregional learning, partners can discover what has or has not worked for other regions in energy monitoring and the financing of energy projects. This joint approach is critical to EMPOWER success.

To meet our objectives, project actions are divided into 5 stages.

We have almost concluded stage 1: **Assessing needs & Observing Good Practices.**

A key element of this first stepping stone on partners journeys to producing their Action Plans, was to hold a **Peer Review Workshop** which took place in Venice last March.

The Peer Review brought together partners & experts to analyse partners' plans, share ideas about how to improve regional policies, and review the planned policy improvements.



More information about the Peer Review can be found by clicking <https://www.interregeurope.eu/e>



Also check out a short video capturing the essence of the Peer Review by clicking below: <https://www.youtube.com>

EMPOWER's second project meeting was held in Lorient on the 6th and 7th September 2017. At this meeting partners built on the progress made at the Peer Review. Each partner shared good practices from their region in energy management and monitoring and financial instruments.

After reviewing all suggested good practices, each partner selected three practices that were relevant to the policies they wish to improve. The theory is that these good practices can be "adopted" and "imported" by partners to improve their policy.

This exercise found that some gaps appeared, where partners needs were not being met by good practices readily available from within the project. In this instance, examples will be sought from outside.

Good practices put forward were compiled into a **Good Practice Register**, which is a handy reference for Stakeholders or anyone interested in energy monitoring and funding.



The next step is for partners and stakeholders to experience first-hand their chosen good practices by attending Study Trips to good practice owners.



EMPOWERS Study visits

Each region will host a Study Visit, providing an opportunity for partners and stakeholders to visit relevant good practices to learn more and increase their capacity about the practice.

Already one of the nine Visits has taken place earlier this month, the first being hosted by our French partners; the Municipality of Lorient.

Study Visit, Rennes & Lorient
15th – 16th Nov 2017

An interesting site visit to Smart Saint-Sulpice kicked off this Study trip. Here energy monitoring is taking place on all communal buildings using new technologies, including a network of wireless sensors, with a view to reducing energy consumption by a minimum of 20%.

In the afternoon, participants visited Wi6Labs who develop

low power and long range wireless sensors networks for applications where accesses can be difficult. They specialize in sensor design, integration and delivery of service including data transmission.

The French Study Trip concluded with a very interesting and practical workshop where Gautier Husson (Liberasys) patiently taught participants about using Raspberry Pi technology and their capabilities for datalogging, as well as programming sensors and transferring data.



Visiting Smart Saint-Sulpice



A Raspberry Pi



Partners learning how to programme Raspberry Pi

Schedule of remaining Study visit

Partners	Country	Proposed dates for Study Visits
ENERGAP	Slovenia	12 th & 13 th December 2017
Mazovia Energy Agency	Poland	9 th & 10 th January 2018
SE Sweden	Sweden	24 th & 25 th January 2018
Southern Regional Assembly	Ireland	6 th & 7 th February 2018
Saxony Anhalt	Germany	28 th February & 1 st March 2018
Santander	Spain	7 th & 8 th March 2018
Almada	Portugal	April 2018
Florence	Italy	May 2018

Promoting EMPOWER's Message



An Interreg **Europe Policy Learning event** took place in **Seville on 17th and 18th October** on energy and resource efficiency in European regions. At this event participants discussed the needs of their cities and regions, explored good practices in energy efficiency and approaches stemming from Interreg Europe projects.

The EMPOWER Project, particularly the good practices were shared with

participants by **Energy Agency of Podravje** (Energap) who were present to participate in this event and promoted EMPOWER.

On 20th Nov, Energap organized a **Press conference** in Maribor in conjunction with Energy Agencies from Slovenia and Croatia. The EMPOWER Project was presented at this event and appeared on the Slovenian national television.

EMPOWER's Next Exciting Phase

Semester 3 (January – June 2018) will be a very busy period, which will focus on holding the remaining Study visits. The Peer Review and lessons learned from the Study visits should form a strong basis for partners to commence work on their Action Plans. To assist with this process two Thematic Technical Workshops will also be held in the latter half of 2018; one led by Almada, Portugal on energy monitoring and a second by Saxony Anhalt, Germany on innovative financing of energy projects. We look forward to updating you on these activities in our next Newsletter!

We hope you enjoyed finding out about EMPOWER's progress. Follow us over the next four years as we share experience, solutions and good practice to deliver better public policy to help reduce carbon emissions at <https://www.interregeurope.eu/empower/>

Or by contacting:

Southern Regional Assembly,
Waterford, Ireland
Ms. Orla Kelly
okelly@southernassembly.ie

Energy Agency of Podravje (Lead Partner)
Institution for Sustainable Energy Use, Maribor, Slovenia
Dr Vlasta Krmelj
vlasta.krmelj@energap.si

Meet the partners

Energy Agency of Podravje – Institution for Sustainable Energy Use (SI) (LEAD PARTNER)

Local Energy Management Agency of Almada, AGENEAL (PT)

Southern Regional Assembly (IE)

Florentine Energy Agency (IT)

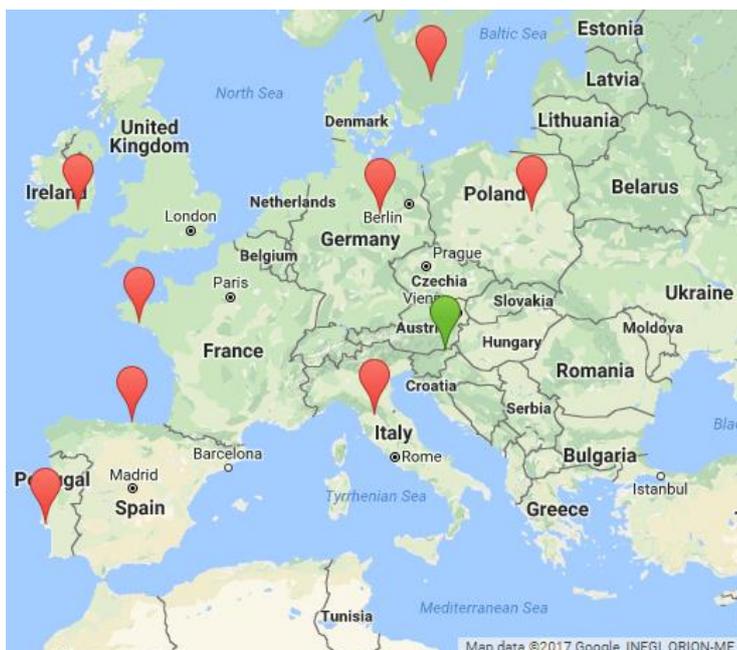
Municipality of Lorient (FR)

Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden (SE)

Mazovia Energy Agency (MAE) (PL)

Development Bank of Saxony-Anhalt (DE)

Santander City Council (ES)



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