



### EMPOWER Regional Action Plans in action High-level Interregional Exchange of Experiences

November 2019

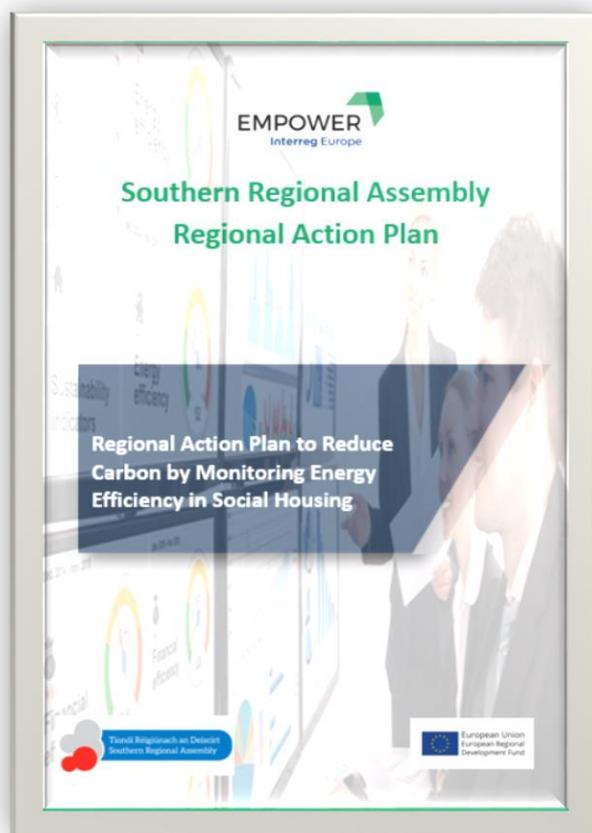
During this semester the partnerships of 9 European regions worked together to share experiences, solutions and good practices to develop and deliver better public policy to reduce carbon emissions through monitoring energy efficiency. [EMPOWER](#) is now at the most important stage of Regional Action Plan development and evaluation, for implementation and monitoring during the forthcoming Phase 2.

The [Southern Regional Assembly](#) submitted our proposed Regional Action Plan for the region to the Interreg Europe Union Technical Secretariat for evaluation, which was recently validated.

Our Regional Action plan is seeking to improve the [Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme](#) working with [Cork City Council](#) to implement a pilot to install energy monitoring equipment to calculate the exact energy usage of a number of social housing units before and after a deep retrofit.

The pilot will allow the Local Authority to assess the energy efficiency behaviour change achieved by the social housing tenants thereby reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and assisting Ireland in meeting our carbon emissions targets. It is anticipated on successful completion of the pilot that the practice will be mainstreamed by Local Authorities.

Congratulations to our project partners from Slovenia, Portugal and Spain who along with Ireland have had their Regional Actions Plans validated by the Joint Secretariat ahead of schedule.

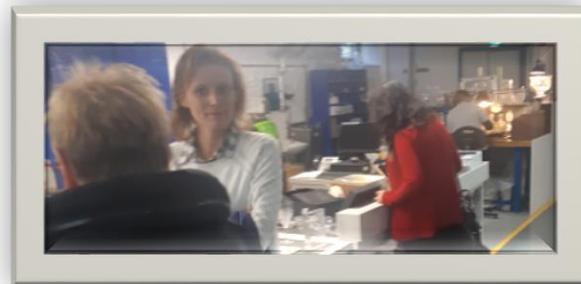


On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 the Southern Regional Assembly hosted the final interregional project partner meeting for Phase 1 of the EMPOWER project in Ireland's Oldest City - Waterford city founded by the Vikings in 914, where we finalised the Phase 2 implementation plan for our Regional Action Plan.



Some of our Interregional partners also had the opportunity to enjoy a tour of the award winning House of Waterford Crystal who have been crafting glass

since 1783 over 230 years and who have been part funded by ERDF funding.



The Southern Regional Assembly were delighted to host this event and share our wonderful city with our Interreg Europe EMPOWER project partners and have appreciated the opportunity to share knowledge, experiences and good practices throughout the project. These exchanges of experience have allowed us to develop a Regional Action Plan that will deliver an important policy change here in Ireland.



*EMPOWER is a five-year, inter-regional project which commenced January 2017. The project aims to reduce carbon output by dynamically monitoring energy efficiency in buildings, with a special focus on innovative methods of financing. Consisting of 9-partners: from Ireland, Slovenia, Portugal, Italy, France, Sweden, Poland, Germany and Spain. The project was approved for a grant of € 1.90 m by the Interreg Europe Programme, through the European Regional Development Fund.*

For more about the EMPOWER project you can read here [www.interregeurope.eu/empower](http://www.interregeurope.eu/empower) or <https://www.southernassembly.ie/eu-programmes/eu-projects> or follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/interregeempower> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Empower0/>

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