LC Districts

Interreg Europe

European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

REGIONE MARCHE

Peer Review report/Study visit #2

Marche region

Index

1 Introduction

The interregional learning process, as described at LC Districts project proposal, aims at combining the four levels of learning (individual, organizational, stakeholders and external learning) by following a participatory approach through the organization of the relevant regional stakeholders and partners under interactive exchange groups for each of the thematic areas.

It is foreseen in the same document that five Study Visits will be organized with the participation of regional stakeholders plus the organization's staff. The Study Visits will allow partners to investigate in depth into the existing "Good Practices" of the host region, with Peer Review exercises of each partners' policies organized per thematic area, and common debriefing sessions. Peer Review reports will be produced for each of the thematic workshops after the Visits.

This report is covering the second LC Districts Study visit, which was organized on-line by Marche region (with the external assistance of Sviluppo Marche Srl) in October 22 2020.

During the study visit, moderated by Lorenzo Federiconi (Marche Region), the two Good Practices selected at regional level were introduced: the ITACA Protocol and the Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the municipalities of Vallesina (Joint SEAP Vallesina).

The ITACA Protocol, introduced by Massimo Sbriscia (Marche Region) and presented by Massimiliano Bagagli (Protocollo ITACA) and Paolo Lucattini (Tuscany Region), is a tool for assessing the level of sustainability of buildings and urban areas, aiming to verifying energy-environmental performance. ITACA is a non-profit association that aims to implement actions shared by regional authorities to promote and to ensure effective technical coordination between regional governments, national institutions, local authorities and practitioners.

The second good practice, the Joint SEAP Vallesina, was introduced by Andrea Carosi (SVIM) and presented by Andrea Capitanelli (SVIM) and Daniele Colarossi (Marche Polytechnic University). The Joint SEAP - Joint Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the group of municipalities of the Vallesina area, elaborated through the coordination of Sviluppo Marche Srl and CIS Srl, is a strategic planning tool for 11 neighbouring municipalities in the Vallesina region, those share the common commitment of reducing CO_2 emissions by at least 40% by 2030. Since in some circumstances

opportunities for high-impact actions can be more easily identified within the administrative boundaries of an aggregation of small neighbouring local authorities, the joint approach to sustainable energy planning can guarantee the achievement of more effective results than individual ones.

2 Methodology

Due to the COVID19 restrictions, and according to the updated methodology to implement the study visit peer review exercise and to elaborate the peer review report[1], the peer review was organized within the on-line study visit, as a specific section after GGPPs presentation. The host partner (Marche Region) launched the peer review process using its own methodology.

Visiting partners will carry out the analysis and assessment together with their stakeholders and will send their conclusions within the deadline indicated by the host partner.

2.1 Objective of the review exercise

The aim of this exercise is to present the GGPP selected by the host region and learn from the peer reviewers, in order to improve, adapt and support the exchange of experiences in the LC Districts Project.

2.2 Calendar for the second peer review report

Marche Region coordinated and hosted the online study visit on the 22th of October 2020, focusing on two Good Practices (GGPPs) and addressing project partners and different stakeholders identified by each partner.

A day before the online study visit (21st of October), Marche Region shared among the review team some specific questions about the GGPPs, useful for the peer review exercises planned within the online study visit.

During the online study visit and after the presentation of each GGPPs, reviewers discussed and shared knowledge about the GGPPs presented and answered the specific questions for about 30 minutes.

[1] Alternative to physical study visits, 16.02.2020. Updating of the methodology presented at the kick off meeting in Pamplona and applied during the first LC Districts Study visit organized in Navarra region by the Government of Navarra and NASUVINSA (September 10-11, 2019).
Given that the situation due to the health crisis has not allowed the 3 study visits planned for 2020 to be held, all partners agreed that the partners of MARCHE, LINNAEUS and ZLÍN must organize a virtual visit for the good practices object of the study visits. Each region must contribute with 5 good practices, of which at least 2 will be analyzed in depth through study and analysis by the rest of the partners and stakeholders.

Following the study visit, Marche Region elaborated the draft of the peer review report, including comments and main findings from the participants, and shared it among the review team on the 26th of October.

The review team is asked to share comments, feedback and integrations to the draft by the 28th of October.

Marche Region shares with all project partners the final version of the peer review report by the 30th of October.

Calendar for the second peer review report proposed:

21 October	22 October	26 October	28 October	30 October
Specific questions about the GGPPs are shared by the hosting region (Marche) among the review team.	Study Visit and peer review exercise for each GGPP, to discuss and exchange the first impressions and ideas.	First peer review report is shared by the hosting region (Marche) among the review team.	Reviewers send their contributions and feedback for the report.	Final peer review report integrated with comments and feedback collected is shared by the hosting region (Marche) among the review team and the project partners.

2.3 Process

In October 2020, Marche Region circulated information among project partners in relation to Study Visit 2 for broad dissemination to regional stakeholders as preliminary identified in the project proposal, in order to encourage their participation in the Study Visit.

Questions and clarification requests from partners have been collected in the middle of October.

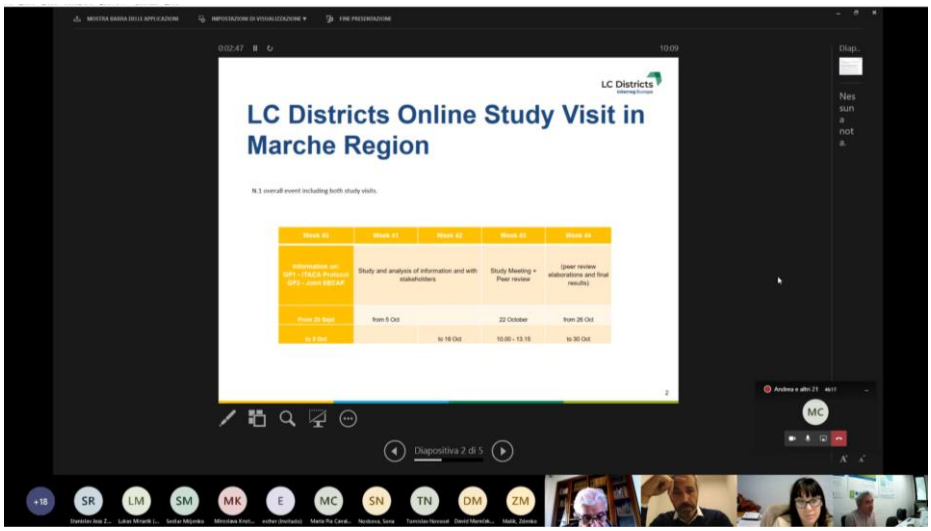
Partners and local and visiting stakeholders participated at the online study visit for a total of 39 attendees (see chapter 3) according to the agenda proposed by the host region (Marche Region).

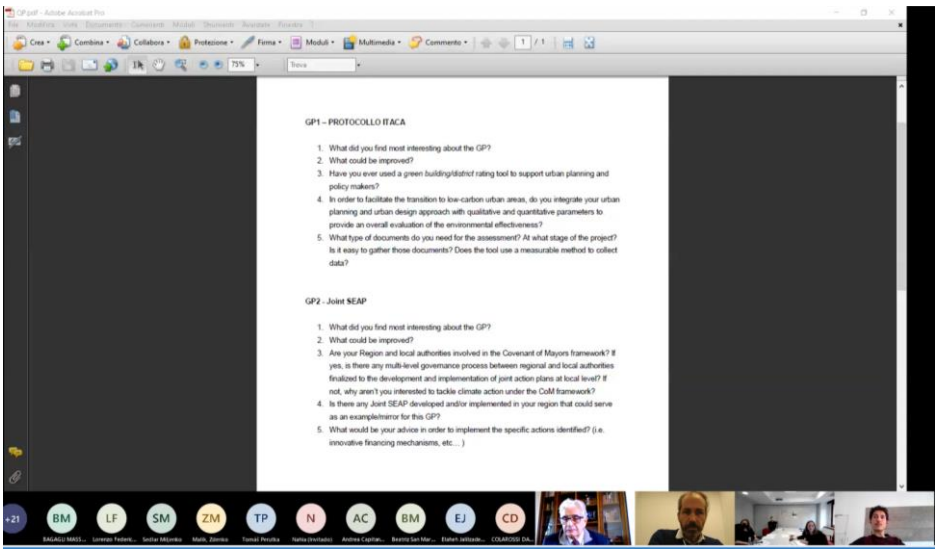
LC Districts Online Study Visit in Marche Region

Thursday 22nd October 2020
Web conference on TEAMS

Agenda

10.00 – 10.10	GP1 - Protocollo ITACA for buildings and at Urban Scale: introduction by Marche Region
10.10 – 10.20	Prassi di Riferimento UNI/PdR 13:2019 Protocollo ITACA: Technical focus Massimiliano Bagagli, Member of the ITACA Sustainable Building Working group
10.20 – 10.30	Protocollo ITACA at Urban Scale Paolo Lucattini, Tuscany Region, ITACA Environmental Sustainability at Urban Scale Working Group
10.30 – 10.50	Q&A
10.50 – 11.20	Peer review exercise
11.20 – 11.40	break
11.40 – 11.50	GP2 - Joint SEAP: introduction by SVIM
11.50 – 12.00	JOINT SEAP VALLESINA Joint Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the group of municipalities of Vallesina Andrea Capitanelli, SVIM
12.00 – 12.10	Developing and testing an innovative methodology for energy audit and energy efficiency for public buildings Daniele Colarossi - Polytechnic University of Ancona
12.10 – 12.30	Q&A
12.30 – 13.00	Peer review exercise
13.00 – 13.15	Final remarks / conclusion





A template with specific questions about the GGPP was circulated prior to the visit among the participants. This template included a set of 5 questions to structure the contribution of the participants and reviewers for each practice. The five questions were:

Good Practice 1: Protocollo ITACA

1. What did you find most interesting about the GP?
2. What could be improved?
3. Have you ever used a green building/district rating tool to support urban planning and policy makers?

4. In order to facilitate the transition to low-carbon urban areas, do you integrate your urban planning and urban design approach with qualitative and quantitative parameters to provide an overall evaluation of the environmental effectiveness?
5. What type of documents do you need for the assessment? At what stage of the project? Is it easy to gather those documents? Does the tool use a measurable method to collect data?

Good practice 2: Joint SEAP Vallesina

1. What did you find most interesting about the GP?
2. What could be improved?
3. Are your Region and local authorities involved in the Covenant of Mayors framework? If yes, is there any multi-level governance process between regional and local authorities finalized to the development and implementation of joint action plans at local level? If not, why aren't you interested to tackle climate action under the CoM framework?
4. Is there any Joint SEAP developed and/or implemented in your region that could serve as an example/mirror for this GP?
5. What would be your advice in order to implement the specific actions identified? (i.e. innovative financing mechanisms, etc…)

The two GGPP were presented in the online study-visit held on 22 October and the reviewers were given the opportunity to pose the questions they considered relevant.

After GGPPs presentation, the host partner (Marche Region) coordinated a unique peer review section for both GGPPs, where reviewers and host region representatives had the opportunity to mutually learn and to exchange their ideas about ITACA protocol and multi-level governance approach for Joint SEAP development.

After the online study-visit and peer review, Marche Region elaborated the draft of the peer review report, including comments and main findings from the participants and the other partners had the opportunity to expand their observations and comments in order to develop this final version of the peer review report.

3 Peer review team

The review team of the Study Visit #2 was composed by:

PARTNER		NAME OF THE PARTICIPANT	Organization
NAVARRA GOVERNMENT	1	Elisa Fernández de Valderrama	Navarra Government
	2	Esther Montoya	Navarra Government
	3	Diego González	Navarra Government
	4	Josecho Vélaz	COAVN (College of Architects)
	5	Sonia Olza	INICIATIVAS INNOVADORAS
Navarra de Suelo y Vivienda NASUVINSA	6	Beatriz San Martín	NASUVINSA
	7	Idoia Madariaga	NASUVINSA
	8	Nahia Villanueva	NASUVINSA
	9	Sergio Echarte	Local Action Group of the Middle Zone of Navarra
MARCHE REGION	10	Massimo Sbriscia	Marche Region
	11	Lorenzo Federiconi	Marche Region
	12	Simonetta Taddei	Marche Region
	13	Maria Pia Cavallone	Marche Region
	14	Andrea Carosi	Marche Region
	15	Andrea Capitanelli	SVIM
	16	Massimiliano Bagagli	SVIM
	17	Daniele Colarossi	SVIM
LINNAEUS UNIVERSITY	18	Jimmy Johansson	Linnaeus University
	19	Elaheh Jalilzadehazhari	Linnaeus University
	20	Sofi Hård	Elitfönster
	21	Amir Vadiee	Mälardalen University
Czech Technical University in Prague, University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings CTU	22	Soňa Nosková	CVUT UCEEB
	23	Zdenko Malík	CVUT UCEEB
	24	Jiří Novotný	CVUT UCEEB
	25	Lukáš Minařík	Ministry of the Environment, CZ
Energy Agency of the Zlín Region EAZK	26	Miroslava Knotkova	Energy Agency of the Zlín Region
	27	Tomas Perutka	Energy Agency of the Zlín Region
	28	Jan Vidomus	Energy Agency of the Zlín Region
	29	Bohdan Polák	State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic
	30	Jana Tywoniaková	Energy consultant
	31	Ladislav Botek	Topolná (municipality)
	32	David Marecek	Zlín Region
	33	Jan Vaněk	Zlín Region
	34	Stanislav Jasa	Zlín Region

	35	Martina Senkerikova	Zlín Region
North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency REGEA	36	Marko Čavar	REGEA
	37	Tomislav Novosel	REGEA
	38	Miljenko Sedlar	REGEA
	39	Lidija Rejc Orešić	REGEA

4 Peer Review of the Good Practices in Marche

General feedback for the visit:

By Czech team:

Both GGPPs are really interesting. It would be useful to understand how to link them with the existing tools for financing (portfolio for financing opportunities).

By Smaland team:

ITACA protocol looks very similar to LEED and BREEM tools, two of the most famous certifying systems for buildings. It has been really interesting to learn how the certification system has been applied at the regional level.
The Joint SEAP approach is interesting, but it would be useful to understand how to link the project implementation with financing resources and opportunities.

By Marche Region team:

The difference between ITACA and LEED tools basically refers to the link with the current legislation in each region/country. Despite all the rating systems used by the different tools are able to develop assessment analysis in the same fields and sectors, each regional/local authority has to comply with the national and EU legislation system Marche Region is trying to link SEAP/SECAP with regional funding (bonus for regional calls).

By NW Croatia team:

SEAPs and SECAPs are well known also in Croatia, and they are a useful and detailed ex ante analysis useful to support planning and programming of further policies with regional and national authorities.
Joint or individual SEAP/SECAP can be really well connected with projects and activities related to the circular economy. Moreover, such kind of planning/policy tools can be linked with the European Green Deal and with all the EU current and further policies, like the climate law.

Regions and municipalities have to draft climate-related plans, so tools like Joint SEAP will be very useful also for sharing knowledge with other planning levels.
There aren't Joint SEAP experiences in Croatia, but there are some experiences of Plans developed at County level, applying a similar process but excluding big cities, whose tend to have their own Plan.

By Navarra team:

The Navarra government approached the CoM framework for the first time in 2019. The Navarra government invited all local authorities to join the CoM initiative and commitments, getting a really high positive response: 154 municipalities as new CoM signatories since spring 2019.
As most of the Navarra municipalities are small towns and villages (smaller than the Joint SEAP Vallesina municipalities), with lack of technical staff, municipalities involved have been grouped into 8 working-groups. The expectation is elaborating and approving through city council 16 Joint SECAP until spring 2021.
NASUVINSA is coordinating the implementation of the process to elaborate inventories and RVAs for all regional signatories. Some municipalities have already done a lot of improvements and implementation actions at local level, but out of the CoM framework. This means that they are working without a clear mid-term strategy and programme. In this sense, CoM commitment could bridge the gap with lacking of strategy.
Navarra region and NASUVINSA are involved in the ongoing project LIFE IP NADAPTA-CC - Towards an integrated, coherent and inclusive implementation of Climate Change Adaptation policy in a region: Navarre.

As regards ITACA Protocol, we are going to talk with our stakeholders in order to understand if it is possible to apply a kind of Protocollo ITACA Urbano in the Navarra region.

4.1 Good Practice 1: Protocollo ITACA

SBTool is an international generic framework for rating the sustainable performance of buildings and projects. It may also be thought of as a toolkit supporting local organizations to develop local SBTool rating systems. Itaca Protocol is the Italian evolution of this tool, aiming to assess the sustainability of buildings and urban areas (from block to district). The Itaca Protocol for urban areas, in particular, seeks to

overcome the fragmented vision of interventions, incorporating new levels of investigation into environmental, social, economic and cultural aspects within processes of urban regeneration.

REGIONE MARCHE

ITACA
Istituto per l'innovazione e trasparenza degli appalti e la compatibilità ambientale

1. What did you find most interesting about the GP?

By Czech team:

The most interesting we found were the overall high ambitions of the whole concept as well as interlinked and sophisticated system of criterions for building and urban planning assessment.

Evaluation of building energy performance with using of ITACA protocol takes into account everything important related to the topic. For example, reducing of water consumption is often overlooked, so wide range of ITACA protocol is welcomed also in this way.

By Smaland team:

Using environmental certification tool allows evaluating buildings' performance in terms of indoor comfort, energy consumption, and costs during their lifetime. Although the administration and implementation of the ITACA protocol and its documentation added on investment costs, it did not have an overwhelming effect on the total budget required for executing the project.

By NW Croatia team:
The ITACA protocol seems as a very handy tool that could be used for standardization of activities and thus in contributing to achieving higher energy savings and GHG emissions reduction.

By Navarra team:
The ITACA protocol is an ambitious tool that shows a strong commitment of the region regarding sustainability and that aims at standardizing and defining this complex concept. The wide range of parameters concerned and the variety of areas covered makes this tool very complete and thus, very interesting.

2. What could be improved?

By Czech team:
How is the Protocollo ITACA linked to legislation, how binding using this tool is, what is the motivation for using that and which financial instruments are available for financing the measurements. How the air quality is assessed. What is the wage of particular assessment criterions. What we find very important in our regions is the main focus on refurbishments and reconstructions rather than on new buildings.

By Smaland team:
It would be useful if one had presented a short overview of ITACA protocol and explained how it differs from another certification tools, used in Italy. If not mistaken, in Italy, one can use either ITACA or the promotion of LEED certification tool to evaluate buildings' performance.

By NW Croatia team:
It could be very interesting if a climate proofing of buildings could be developed as a functionality of the tool, as it is a more and more emerging question. Complementarity with SECAPs and other planning documents (spatial planning ones) could also be assessed and potentially introduced.

By Navarra team:
The implementation of the protocol in small regions like Navarra seems to be very difficult since we do not have an organization who can tackle this matter and we do not

count with many resources. We suggest it could be a simplified version with which a small region could start driving the change.

3. Have you ever used a green building/district rating tool to support urban planning and policy makers?

By Czech team:
Several times we used CESBA which stands for Common European Sustainable Built Environment Assessment and is a common initiative towards promoting a harmonization of sustainable building assessments for public buildings throughout Europe. The inducement of CESBA is the perception of the variety of sustainable building certification systems in European regions and the need to find a common framework for building assessments - http://wiki.cesba.eu/wiki/Main_Page.
EAZK took part in the international project CEC5 developing CESBA in the past. However, using this tool is just voluntary and, in our case, it is used only rarely.

By Smaland team:
As sustainable buildings become more common globally, the use of certification tools becomes more of an expectation in Sweden. On one hand, Swedish national targets remain top motivators; on the other hand, clients demand healthier buildings. However, the administration, implementation, and documentation of any such tool can add on investment costs. It would be very interesting to i) find out about differences between ITACA and certification tools, which are used in Sweden, and ii) use similar strategies to keep the expenses at a manageable level.

By NW Croatia team:
We are using similar tools in Croatia which are derived out of legislation, but we are currently upgrading the protocol and its functionality to be applicable to district levels.

By Navarra team:
In Navarra we had an ad hoc experience in rating tools to support urban planning: At the beginning of this century, a brand new district was built in the metropolitan area of Pamplona: Sarriguren Ecocity. Navarra Government, owner of the land, launched a procurement process for the urban development of the district, in which sustainability design and quality of the works were the core points that were assessed for the awarding of the contract. Next, once urban planning was fixed, the buildings were also

bound to procurement processes since all residential buildings were intended for social housing. In this procurement several bioclimatic criteria were fixed, as well.

Ratings always took place when drafting the project, due to our regulations.

4. In order to facilitate the transition to low-carbon urban areas, do you integrate your urban planning and urban design approach with qualitative and quantitative parameters to provide an overall evaluation of the environmental effectiveness?

By Czech team:
Not on a voluntary basis, just only SEA and EIA which are compulsory. The explanation of SEA and EIA is in the answer on question 5.

By Smaland team:
The City Lab certification tool is used in Sweden to evaluate the environmental effectiveness for the design of urban areas. Thousands of people have been involved in the development of this tool such as government agencies, municipalities, construction companies, property owners, architectural offices, consultants, and citizens. The development has also included an evaluation of international systems for sustainable urban development where Breeam Communities was thoroughly tested. Citylab certification tool includes both qualitative and quantitative parameters. The quantitative parameters address a range of factors across multiple scales. Qualitative parameters address issues of causal connection, actual properties, human actions, and social reality. More information about Citylab can be found in: http://www.decodeprojektet.se/media/1167/eng-citylabactionguide-180516-webb_com.pdf

By NW Croatia team:
Yes, it is done on the level of strategic documents and concrete projects.

By Navarra team:
Integrating qualitative parameters makes more difficult and sometimes less objective any assessment. However, these parameters are important and have high incidence in the overall sustainability. Therefore, it seems convenient to consider them and try to measure them with quantitative parameters that approach them and reach a complete assessment.

5. What type of documents do you need for the assessment? At what stage of the project? Is it easy to gather those documents? Does the tool use a measurable method to collect data?

By Czech team:

SEA - Environmental impact assessment of concepts

Environmental impact assessment of concepts (SEA process) is regulated in the Czech Republic by Act No. 100/2001 Coll., On Environmental Impact Assessment, as amended.

The process of assessing the effects of concepts includes the identification, description and evaluation of the expected direct and indirect effects of implementation and non-implementation of the concept and its objectives, for the entire period of its expected implementation. The aim of the process is to mitigate the adverse effects of the plans contained in the concepts on the environment.

The basic steps of the assessment according to the law include the elaboration of the notification, the execution of the investigation procedure, the elaboration of the evaluation of the draft concept, the elaboration and the issue of the final opinion. The final opinion is a necessary basis for the approval of the concept. The assessment process also includes adequate public involvement, which includes the publication of information and documents, the settlement of comments and a public hearing.

The SEA process assesses concepts that set the framework for future permits of projects listed in Annex 1 of the Act, processed in the field of agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, surface or groundwater management, energy, industry, transport, waste economy, telecommunications, tourism, spatial planning, regional development and the environment, including nature protection, and concepts for which, in the opinion of the nature protection authority, a significant impact on the subject of protection or integrity of a site of European importance or a bird area under the Nature Conservation Act cannot be ruled out and countries; these concepts are always subject to assessment. If the territory concerned consists of the territorial district of one or more municipalities which determine the use of an area of local importance, or if there is a change of concept, these concepts shall be subject to assessment if so determined in the investigation procedure.

EIA - Environmental Impact Assessment of buildings, activities and technologies
Environmental impact assessment of plans (EIA process) is regulated in the Czech Republic by the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment.
The process of assessing the effects of plans on the environment is based on a systematic examination and assessment of their possible effects on the environment. The purpose is to identify, describe and comprehensively evaluate the expected effects of the planned projects on the environment and public health in all crucial contexts. The aim of the process is to mitigate the adverse effects of the implementation on the environment.
As part of the EIA process, the buildings, activities and technologies listed in Annex 1 to the above-mentioned Act are assessed. Projects assessed in the EIA process are, for example, buildings, roads, production halls, mining, operations - newly built, but also their changes, ie expansion, changes in technology, increasing capacity, etc.

By Smaland team:
Currently, building information modeling approach (BIM) is used for interoperability information sharing between prevalent simulation tools and thereby between building professionals. These activities are mainly performed at the early stage of the design process to reduce the required time, effort and unpredicted errors in building design process. Once all models are developed, additional evaluations are made to find out whether or not a design satisfies requirements for achieving certifications. Those certifications, which are applicable in Sweden, use a measurable method to analyze several criteria (such as daylighting, energy consumption, etc). More information about applicable certification tools in Sweden can be found in: https://www.sgbc.se/certifiering/

By NW Croatia team:
There are different documents needed, from the phase of project preparation, during the execution and later on within the monitoring period.

By Navarra team:
Actually, a strict legislation exists to favour high quality of buildings and their surroundings. High standards in building constructions are required. For example, it is required that by 2020 all the new public buildings will be nearly Zero Emissions Buildings (nZEB).
At urban scale, besides environmental and eco –friendly standards are required, it seems that it is more difficult to assess them, because there is no measurable tool.

4.2 Good Practice 2: Joint SEAP Vallesina

Joint SEAP stands for Sustainable Energy Action Plan for a group of municipalities from the Marche Region. It refers to a plan carried out collectively by a group of neighbouring towns, allowing them to achieve more effective results than isolated ones.

In this case of study, 11 small local authorities, coordinated by SVIM and CIS, shared commitments in climate action under the framework of the Covenant of Mayors. They have been engaged in developing their joint SEAP, foreseeing a shared CO_2 reduction commitment by at least 40% by 2030.

It is an experience that represents an example of multi-level governance for the development of multi-municipal strategies and action plan for GHGs emission reduction in small municipalities.

1. What did you find most interesting about the GP?

<u>By Czech team:</u>
The most interesting thing we found was the ability of a greater number of municipalities to find a joint approach and unite many times contradictory interests beyond election period.
The cooperation without general pressure from the administration seems to be also interesting.

<u>By Smaland team:</u>

Although, implementing any such activity allows one to define better strategies and/or actions for climate change adoption, managing collaborations between all authorities and transforming actions into an executable plan is a challenging task. It was very interesting to know how involved parties worked together to accomplish the mission. The overall impression of communities working together was interesting to hear.

By NW Croatia team:
The most interesting thing is spatial connection of the municipalities based on natural positioning and connection via specific projects, the fact that it is not administratively pushed for.

By Navarra team:
The most interesting aspect of the Good Practice is the joint participation of municipalities. The capacity to reach a common goal and join forces of different administrations.

2. What could be improved?

By Czech team:
In depth explanation how the targets set by the Joint SEAP are linked to concrete actions planned – for example in transport – which concrete actions foreseen are linked to the ambitious target of reducing CO_2 emissions in the transport section.
Collected best experiences in SEAP should be shown as best-practice solutions.,.

By Smaland team:
It would be very interesting to know about different barriers (such as Lack of funding and of human resources) the project partners faced, as well as facilitators and solutions, which were implemented in order to overcome those barriers. Because, one of the main goals of the LC-District project is to exchange experience. Accordingly, it would be very useful to have knowledge and be prepared in the event of facing similar situations. Giving examples of funding solutions could be added.

By NW Croatia team:
Probably the implementation of pentahelix approach, to involve more stakeholders from all pillars of the society. Proper assessment and measurements of the effects of the measures in terms of GHG reductions could be strengthened.

By Navarra team:

We think that establishing an annual review of energy consumption and emissions would be advisable in order to verify effectiveness. Close monitoring of the implementation level of actions proposed in the SECAP is necessary in order to obtain results.

3. Are your Region and local authorities involved in the Covenant of Mayors framework? If yes, is there any multi-level governance process between regional and local authorities finalized to the development and implementation of joint action plans at local level? If not, why aren't you interested to tackle climate action under the CoM framework?

By Czech team:

Yes, the whole situation on the issue of CoM and multilevel governance in the Zlín Region is following:

Since 2014 EAZK is Covenant of Mayor Supporter and takes action on territories of the Zín Region in the field of energy to promote the Covenant of Mayors initiative and support municipalities in their effort to adapt their local level policy and goals to be in synergies with existing Covenant of Mayors goals.

The Energy Agency of the Zlín Region (EAZK) is a non-profit organisation. It is a regional energy agency established in 2006 and 100% owned by the Zlín Region. EAZK was primarily established as an implementing tool of the Zlín Region energy policy. The Zlín Region is a frontier region with both agriculture and industrial tradition and a great density of settlements. There are 307 towns and villages (municipalities) there. The area of the Zlín Region is 3.964 km² with the population of 582.555 inhabitants (2020).

EAZK operates within the whole area of the Zlín Region which is identical with NUTS3-CZ072. The EAZK is a project partner with a great potential to address various target groups as the agency provides energy management for more than 150 organisations established both by the Zlín Region and particular municipalities.

Energy agency operates also as an independent advisor for municipalities of the Zlín Region in their process of development of their own SEAPS. The agency acts as a negotiator between politicians and municipalities on one side and consultancy companies, central heating systems operators and energy suppliers on the other side. Expected results include new/improved municipal Energy plans for increase of energy efficiency, and RES utilization, balanced and reliable energy supply.

Thanks to its nature EAZK has the accessibility to all reliable regional databases and documents on the potential of the Zlín Region. EAZK also participates in suggesting and implementation of strategic documents and policies of the Zlín Region in the field of energy, environment, and innovations. Representatives of the agency are involved in the process of consultation and suggesting of national legislative documents and policies as members of various committees and working groups both on regional and national level.
EAZK disposes of a rich experience in the field of defining the needs of towns and villages of the Zlín Region. This experience has been gained during 14 years of agency activities when many conceptual documents both for region and municipalities were developed and implemented with considerable contribution from EAZK.
There are 307 municipalities in the Zlín Region and EAZK also supports both the region and the municipalities to gain financial sources from existing funds to implement EE measures and increase the RES share on energy supply in the Zlín Region. The vast majority of the projects initialised and administered by the EAZK have been financed with the support of structural funds.

By Smaland team:
Several partners from southeast Sweden joined the European City_SEC Project, executed between 2013 and 2018. Swedish partners included 5 municipalities in Småland (Borgholm, Hogsby, Kalmar, Mörbylånga and Oskarshamn), the Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden who supported the municipalities in fulfilling their commitments under the Covenant of Mayors framework, and Kalmar County. The outcomes from City-SEC and Joint SEAP projects show the significant importance of networking between authorities to address options for training and rising awareness. Because any such networking contributes to the removal of legal, technical, social and administrative barriers in mitigating climate change. Following the lessons learned from City-SEC and Joint SEAP, similar joint-projects can definitely be replicated in either Småland or other parts of Sweden, where more experienced municipalities supported less experienced ones.

By NW Croatia team:
Yes, lots of them are involved in CoM. We are thinking about developing joint SECAPs.

By Navarra team:
Yes. In 2019 Navarra's Government invited local entities to acquire CoM commitments. Since that event, 154 municipalities have signed the adhesion to the Covenant of

Mayors in Navarra. The governance of these groups is being led and coordinated by Nasuvinsa (public enterprise). Eight work-groups have been created in different geographic areas. In each area, Local Action Groups and Development Agencies have an important role boosting the progress of the initiative.

4. Is there any Joint SEAP developed and/or implemented in your region that could serve as an example/mirror for this GP?

By Czech team:

It is not exactly a Joint SEAP of particular municipalities, however, EAZK has developed and is implementing Energy Action Plan and Energy Efficiency Financing Plan for the Zlín Region for 2020 – 2024 which has some similar features to the Joint SEAP introduced by Marché Region. This Plan of the Zlín Region outlines 5 priorities that are based on the Regional Energy Strategy:

- Support for efficient use of energy in buildings owned by the Zlín Region;
- Support for efficient use of energy in the region;
- Promoting the use of renewables, secondary and prospective energy sources;
- Increasing security and reliability of energy supply;
- Measures to support the implementation of the Action Plan.

EAZK is planning to introduce this plan in detail as a part of the online study visit organised by EAZK in January 2021 for LC DISTRICTS consortium and its stakeholders.

By Smaland team:

In addition to the City-SEC, multiple finished and ongoing projects can serve as an example. Please refer to the link below to be informed about plans and actions, progresses and good practices in Sweden. https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/plans-and-actions/action-plans.html

By NW Croatia team:

Not so far.

By Navarra team:

No, not yet. Currently, Nasuvinsa has proposed to local entities to elaborate Joint SECAP (including climate adaptation actions) grouping municipalities from the same geographical areas and with similar characteristics (the majority of local entities in Navarra, except Pamplona and its metropolitan area, are considered rural areas and

small villages with small population). Therefore, the GP could be a great example for us to learn how to develop the Joint SECAPs.

5. What would be your advice in order to implement the specific actions identified? (i.e. innovative financing mechanisms, etc…)

By Czech team:

The functional portfolio of various financial instruments is a necessary condition indeed, however, the same importance should be given to establishing a long-term cooperation between municipalities themselves as well as between municipalities and regions, regardless the political orientation, with the main focus on a long term environmental, energetic and socio-economical sustainability in decision making processes.

Successful implementation should be based on wide range of stakeholders involved.

By Smaland team:

To have close collaboration with authorities, who are more experienced, can increase the chances of successful implementation of actions.

By NW Croatia team:

- Proper discussion with managing authorities for EU funding to integrate measures from SECAP to documents regulating EU funding
- Usage of financial instruments
- Involvement of wider stakeholders network that could deliver synergies

By Navarra team:

- Search financing with energy service companies (ESEs).
- Prioritize the measures to be applied and set the date of completion.
- Municipal commitment of an annual financial allocation for the plan.
- Reinvest the savings generated in the Joint SEAP measures to be implemented as stated in the plan.

5 Summary sheets

Good Practice #1 Protocollo ITACA
The best aspects: ● Interlinked and sophisticated system of criterions for building and urban planning assessment. ● Handy tool that could be used for standardization of activities and thus in contributing to achieving higher energy savings and GHG emissions reduction. ● Wide range of parameters concerned and the variety of areas covered makes this tool very complete and interesting.
Things to improve: ● Implementation of the ITACA protocol and its documentation add on investment cost. ● Link to legislation ● The motivation for using that and financial instruments are available for financing the measurements. ● More info of the differences from another certification tools, used in Italy ● A climate proofing of buildings could be developed as a functionality of the tool
Things to replicate: ● Simplified version for small region could
Mirror practices per region: ● CESBA which stands for Common European Sustainable Built Environment Assessment (CZE) ● International project CEC5 (CZE) ● City Lab certification tool for the design of urban areas (SWE) ● Similar tools which are derived out of legislation (NW Croatia) ● The experience with the new district in the metropolitan area of Pamplona: Sarriguren Ecocity. (Navarra)
Data collection and methods applied: ● In the Environmental impact assessment (SEA), the basic steps of the according to the law include the elaboration of the notification, the execution of the investigation procedure, the elaboration of the evaluation of the draft concept, the elaboration and the issue of the final opinion. The final opinion is a necessary basis for the approval of the concept. ● In the Environmental Impact Assessment of buildings, activities and technologies (EIA), the process of the effects of plans on the environment is based on a systematic examination and assessment of their possible effects on the environment. The purpose is to identify, describe and comprehensively evaluate the expected effects of the planned projects on the environment and public health in all

crucial contexts. The aim of the process is to mitigate the adverse effects of the implementation on the environment.
- Information modeling approach (BIM) is used for interoperability information sharing between prevalent simulation tools and thereby between building professionals.
- The certifications applicable in Sweden use a measurable method to analyze several criteria (such as daylighting, energy consumption, etc).
- There are different documents needed, from the phase of project preparation, during the execution and later on within the monitoring period
- A strict legislation exists to favour high quality of buildings and their surroundings. High standards in building constructions are required.

Good Practice #2 Joint SEAP Vallesina

The best aspects:
- Cooperation between neighbouring small municipalities, increasing the capacity to reach a common goal and to join forces of different administrations.
- Spatial connection between the municipalities based on natural skills rather than administrative boundaries.

Things to improve:
- Detailed explanation of the link between the targets set by the Joint SEAP and the concrete actions planned.
- Giving examples of funding solutions.
- Sharing different barriers (such as lack of funding and of human resources) the signatories faced, as well as facilitators and solutions implemented in order to overcome those barriers.
- Implementation of pentahelix approach, to involve more stakeholders from all pillars of the society.
- Proper assessment and measurements of the effects of the measures in terms of GHG reductions could be strengthened.
- Establishing an annual review of energy consumption and emissions in order to verify effectiveness.
- Close monitoring of the implementation level of actions proposed in the SECAP is necessary in order to obtain results.

Covenant of Mayors commitment:
- EAZK is Covenant of Mayor Supporter since 2014, promoting CoM initiative and supporting regional municipalities to achieve CoM goals.
- The Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden and Kalmar County supported 5 municipalities in fulfilling their commitments under the CoM framework.
- In NW Croatia several municipalities joined the CoM.
- Navarra's Government invited local entities to acquire CoM commitments in 2019. Since that event, 154 municipalities have signed the adhesion to the CoM in Navarra. The governance of these groups is being led and coordinated by Nasuvinsa. Eight work-groups have been created in different geographic areas. In

each area, Local Action Groups and Development Agencies have an important role boosting the progress of the initiative.

Mirror practices per region:

- Energy Action Plan and Energy Efficiency Financing Plan for the Zlín Region for 2020 – 2024 (under implementation).
- Joint SEAP for 5 municipalities developed within the City_SEC Project.
- Nasuvinsa has proposed to local entities to elaborate Joint SECAP (including climate adaptation actions) grouping municipalities from the same geographical areas and with similar characteristics (the majority of local entities in Navarra, except Pamplona and its metropolitan area, are considered rural areas and small villages with small population).

Ways to implement concrete actions:

- Functional portfolio of various financial instruments.
- Close collaboration between municipalities and authorities, establishing a long-term cooperation between municipalities themselves as well as between municipalities and regional government, regardless the political orientation, with the main focus on a long term environmental, energetic and socio-economical sustainability in decision making processes.
- Proper discussion with managing authorities for EU funding to integrate measures from joint SEAP to documents regulating EU funding.
- Involvement of wider stakeholders network that could deliver synergies.
- Reinvesting the savings generated in the Joint SEAP measures to be implemented as stated in the plan.

6 General Conclusions

The two Good Practices shown by Marche Region in the online study visit represent two examples of the regional strategy in urban and residential areas in order to tackle climate change challenges.

With the first GP, the Marche Region wanted to present a useful tool for evaluating the environmental criteria of buildings and urban areas.

This tool was appreciated for the interlinked and sophisticated system of criterions for building and urban planning assessment and for the wide range of parameters concerned and the variety of areas covered.

However, something can be done in order to improve and to make the tool more effective, such as linking with existing legislation or the possibility of developing climatic protection of buildings as a new functionality of the instrument.

In the project partners regions similar tools are used mainly for buildings, while it is not so common to find criteria applied also for the districts or urban areas as a whole.

The second GP presented is a concrete example of multi-level governance for the development of multi-municipal strategies and action plans for climate mitigation (Joint SEAP) in small municipalities.

The key success of this methodology refers to the cooperation between neighbouring small municipalities that increase their capacity to reach a common goal and to join resources and competencies from different administrations.

Also in this case something can be improved: finding and linking regional, national and EU funds to implement the actions defined in the plan; stronger involvement of the stakeholders, ensuring closed connection and feasibility at local level; a proper and careful monitoring of the implementation level of the action plan.

The Covenant of Mayor is a relevant initiative that stimulates local authorities to commit themselves to reduce GHG emissions. CoM is well recognized and widespread at EU level, and the Joint approach seems to be really useful and interesting for several small EU municipalities.