

# MAJOR EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE TECHNICAL CHAMBER OF GREECE DURING 2013

## European Union Programmes

Due to the economic crisis in Greece and the lack of funds, the Technical Chamber of Greece has focused, mainly, on the organization of events funded by European Union.



The Technical Chamber of GREECE (TCG) is participating to the Intelligent Energy Europe for a Sustainable Future project as coordinator of the sub-project titled «Adding to SEAP (Sustainable Energy Action Plan) more participants, more contain across Europe (SEAP-PLUS)» Project: SEAP-PLUS (IEE/11/978/SI2.615950)

The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative holds a pivotal role in achieving the –20-20-20 || targets for 2020, enacted through the Climate and Energy package in 2009.

Six pairs of regional partners have been created to facilitate direct transfer of knowledge and know-how from experienced partners to learning ones, so that the latter can better support their local authorities. The twinning partnerships focus on building the capacity, knowledge and expertise of the learning regions in developing SEAPs. Particular emphasis is given on overcoming the barriers faced during the development and implementation of SEAPs. Three rounds of twinning visits are planned, each consisting of a visit from the learning partners to the experienced partners and vice versa. As it is important to maintain the ties between the learning and experienced regions, SEAP-PLUS foresees the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between each twinning pair. This is expected to extend their co-operation after the duration of the project.

Local Authorities are being mobilized to participate in and / or organise Energy Days in each region. Technical help is also being offered to them by both experienced and learning partners of the project.

Collaboration with the respective energy stakeholders for access to reliable and localized energy data is currently being encouraged through specific actions, such as workshops, roundtables and bilaterals. Regional stakeholders involvement is also being promoted. Follow up actions will ensure future collaboration, such as the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC).

SEAP-PLUS continues to successfully promote the CoM initiative and disseminate the project outputs and results to key target groups, including local, regional, national authorities and decision makers.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### ***The Sustainable Energy Action Plan of Nicosia Municipality***

The Cyprus Energy Agency (CEA), as a participating partner in the SEAP-PLUS project, invited the Municipality of Nicosia to demonstrate its political commitment by signing the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) agreement in order to achieve the EU sustainability targets for 2020. The Mayor Mr. Konstantinos Giorkatzis, representing the Municipality of Nicosia, approved the invitation of CEA to join SEAP-PLUS and signed the CoM on May 17, 2012.

The SEAP of Nicosia has been successfully developed, as a result of the combined efforts and contribution of CEA and the Energy Team of the Municipality of Nicosia. The final version of the SEAP is expected to be deliberated in October by the Municipal Council. This SEAP includes ambitious and pioneer measures for the active involvement of Nicosia citizens, as well as the implementation of projects and the development of infrastructures (Tram, EV charging points, Photovoltaic, zero energy buildings etc.), in order to achieve the goal of reducing CO2 emissions by 33% by 2020.

#### *Baseline Year*

The year 2009 was selected as the baseline year for determining energy consumption and CO2 emissions in the Municipality's territory. According to actual consumption data collected by the Electricity Authority of Cyprus (utility), the oil companies, the Statistical Service of Cyprus and other sources, the total energy consumption in 2009 in Nicosia was 1,207,023 MWh, equivalent to 529,350 tonnes of CO2 emissions. Transport is the largest consumer of energy in the municipality, followed by the tertiary sector and households.

#### *Energy Modelling*

CO2 emissions were forecasted up to 2020, where it was estimated that without any measures (Business As Usual scenario), emissions will amount to 450,226 tonnes (lower than the baseline due to the impact of Governmental Strategies).

### ***Vienna submits its Sustainable Energy Action Plan in June 2013***

Climate protection has been a very important topic of the Austrian capital city for many years. In 1991 the City of Vienna joined Climate Alliance as one of the first European cities. In 1999 Vienna adopted an ambitious climate protection Program (KliP Wien) until 2009 which was continued in KliP II until 2020.

As a result of the success of the two climate protection programs and SEAP-PLUS activities, Vienna signed the Covenant of Mayors in October 2012 and submitted its SEAP in June 2013. The target is to reduce CO2 emissions per capita by 21% by 2020 in comparison to the base-line year of 1991. With more than 240 implemented measures in the areas of district heating and electricity generation, housing, businesses, city administration and mobility, 3.7 million tons of CO2 per year have been avoided so far. 15 billion € have been invested in climate protection measures and 58,000 jobs have been secured since 1999. The remaining savings of 0.8 million tons of CO2 per year until 2020 should be reached by 380 individual measures in the fields of energy supply, use of energy, mobility, procurement, waste management and public relations.

### ***SEAP-PLUS participated at "Accelerating change at local level for effective delivery of sustainable energy solutions"***

TCG attended this two-day seminar, organised jointly by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE) and the INTERACT programme in May 2013 in Brussels. The event brought together practitioners in the field of local and regional energy planning from IEE and from 12 European Territorial Co-operation programmes. The event highlighted the importance of strengthening cross-programme collaboration for speeding up the delivery of energy efficiency targets. During the event, practitioners exchanged best practices on peer learning, integration of sustainable energy into urban planning, regional energy strategy planning and the role of financing mechanisms for the delivery of sustainable energy actions at local and regional level.

### ***Europe's largest and Sweden's most northern municipality has signed the CoM***

Kiruna municipality is regarding the area Europe's largest municipality. With an overall area of 26.000 square kilometres Kiruna is larger than e.g. Slovenia. In addition Kiruna is Sweden's most northern municipality, well known for the famous Ice Hotel and as one of Europe's capitals for iron mining.

### ***Helping municipalities from Northern Sweden developing their SEAPs***

At the moment Jokkmokk municipality is supporting 7 municipalities from the regions Norrbotten and Västerbotten to develop their SEAPs. Övertorneå, Skellefteå, Arjeplog and Sweden's both most northern and largest (regarding area) municipality Kiruna have already signed the CoM, the regional capital Luleå, Boden and Älvsbyn are on the way to join the movement.

On February 7 more than 30 municipal representatives including colleagues from Norway and Finland gathered in Jokkmokk to discuss CoM issues. The SEAP-PLUS energy stakeholder workshop in Luleå on March 14 included a lot of information on how to develop a local BEI and opened for fruitful bilateral cooperation between municipalities and energy companies. Four regional energy companies have since then already signed the SEAP-PLUS Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC).

Jokkmokk is offering all SEAP-PLUS partner municipalities continuous support with completing the BEI and developing the SEAPs. A 2-days workshop together with experts from the city of Skellefteå was held in the beginning of June. Workshops together with Kiruna and Boden municipalities will take place in September.

### ***SEAP-PLUS working together with MESHARTILITY***

In order to ensure synergies between the two projects, SEAP-PLUS partners are in contact with MESHARTILITY partners of the same country. As a result ARE Liguria, DIBA, BSRAEM, LEIF and LEAP will be participating and contributing to the respective national events organized by MESHARTILITY partners.

### ***Support provided to Latvian municipalities***

LEIF is currently supporting five municipalities in developing a SEAP. The main support, so far, has been on resolving data collection issues and evaluating the existing situation. To date, the municipalities have signed MoCs with local energy providers (in particular, district heating companies that use wood biomass).

The communication with the municipalities is regular, via emails and phone calls. LEIF has also held meetings with municipalities during the Energy Day event and

the EU INTERREG IVB funded project "Bioenergy promotion" event. In these meetings, potential energy efficiency improvements and other issues have been discussed, as well as the role of the municipality in planning the development of the energy sector.

### ***Support to Bulgarian municipalities in developing SEAPs***

The five Bulgarian municipalities (Aksakovo, Beloslav, Valchi Dol, Pomorie and Provadiya), selected by BSRAEM to support in the framework of the SEAP-PLUS project, adopted Decisions (by their city councils) for joining the Covenant of Mayors.

BSRAEM experts are providing technical assistance to the targeted municipalities in developing and updating their SEAPs. Progress has been evident, more specifically, the new SEAP of Aksakovo is about to be adopted by the City Council, whilst the development of the SEAPs of Valchi Dol and Beloslav is ongoing.

The Mayors of Aksakovo and Valchi Dol attended the Covenant Ceremony during the EUSEW in June 2013, and the SEAP-PLUS Business Breakfast, accompanied by the BSRAEM team and the mayors of two more municipalities, Sozopol and Dalgopol.

After the second twinning visit of BSRAEM in Austria, the team of the energy agency shared the obtained knowledge and experience with the Black Sea municipalities. As a result, the Nessebar municipality (a Covenant signatory) is planning to develop activities that will result in the territory becoming the first self-sufficient municipality in Bulgaria in terms of energy efficiency and use of RES. With the support of BSRAEM a number of measures will be identified and elaborated for achieving this goal.

### ***Support to Greek municipalities in developing SEAPs***

On March 29, June 5 and July 18, 2013, three teleconferences, via Skype, were successfully held by the Greek partners TCG and EPTA, with representatives of municipalities supported by the SEAP-PLUS project. To date, the teleconferences have set up the framework for developing SEAPs with an emphasis on developing the Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI) of a SEAP, in particular energy data sources, methods for collecting and analyzing the data as well as problems faced and potential solutions.

### ***Support to Italian municipalities in developing SEAPs***

Alessco continues its support activities to the municipalities of the province of Cosenza. In May, the first meetings took place with mayors of Municipalities involved in the SEAP-PLUS project.

Mayors along with technical staff attended a workshop to discuss the first phase for developing a SEAP, that is to say the data collection process and the compilation of the Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI), as well as the inherent problems with data collection and other associated problems with energy consumption in municipalities. Municipalities were provided with a data collection template and a questionnaire, which technical offices must fill out and return to Alessco.

Future meetings are planned to be held in each municipality involved, in order to form a working group "Energy Team" that will deal firmly with the energy policy of the municipality and collaborate in the implementation of SEAPs.

ARE Liguria is also carrying out activities for mobilizing local authorities within the Liguria Region. The five Municipalities that have been selected under the SEAP-PLUS for technical support are officially signing the Covenant of Mayors.

A meeting with their working group is currently being organized to launch the data collection campaign, and introduce the first steps of the SEAP process. The meeting will also provide the opportunity to explain and discuss in more detail the type of data that are necessary for developing a BEI, as well as establish a common methodology and procedure for developing SEAPs.

## **ENERGY DAYS**

SEAP-PLUS Energy Days have been organized in each partner region, including a variety of events such as informative events for local and regional stakeholders promoting the CoM initiative, encouraging the development and implementation of SEAPs and presenting the SEAP-PLUS project. Some of the Energy Days were organised during the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) which this year from the 24th to 28th June, 2013.

### ***A European event: The SEAP-PLUS Business Breakfast Event***

The Business Breakfast Event was successfully held on the 24th of June 2013, during EUSEW, in Brussels, before the CoM Ceremony. Mayors, representatives of municipalities and other CoM stakeholders, primarily from cities supported by SEAP-PLUS had the opportunity to meet and exchange experience. The achievements so far and challenges of the SEAP-PLUS twinning partnerships were presented, along with recommendations on how to best involve energy stakeholders and best practices, helpful tools and methods for developing SEAPs.

During the event, two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between project partners were signed, in order to extend the twinning pairs cooperation after the end of the project: Mr. Wolfgang Teubner (Executive Director of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, European Secretariat) signed the MoU with Mr. Tudor Pendiuc (President of AMR and Mayor of Pitești Municipality), and Mr. Wolfgang Mehl (JOKKMOKK's Environmental Strategist) signed the MoU with Ms. Aija Zučika (LEIF's Project Manager).

A special ceremony also took place, during which Mr. Ivan Markoja, the Mayor of Odranci (Slovenia), adhered to the CoM and became an official CoM Signatory.

### ***Energy Days in Austria***

On the occasion of the annual conference of Climate Alliance Austria, two Energy Days were organized in the castle of Hartberg in Styria, on May 28-29, 2013. 150 mayors, municipal executives and energy experts attended the high level event.

#### *Networking, exchange of experiences and scientific inputs from climate researchers*

The first day included a meeting of the graduates of the climate protection training programs and the plenary meeting of CAA. Two well-respected climate researchers gave lectures about climate change at a global and a provincial level. The afternoon focused on how to move from talks to action: the climate coordinator of the province of Styria presented the new climate campaign, the environmental and energy officer stated the implemented measures in Hartberg. Children from local kindergartens and schools performed their climate-protection song.

The second part of the afternoon was dedicated to the partnership of CAA with the people of the Rio Negro Region in Brazil and the future challenges. Day 2 started with a plenary discussion regarding climate protection and the new energy efficiency legislation. Afterwards mayors, companies and schools presented their good practices in the fields of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency. Participants had the opportunity to join one out of five different workshops: CoM, civic participation, CO<sub>2</sub>-compensation, alimentation and climate justice.

The two very successful Energy Days ended with an excursion to the Ecopark Hartberg with visits to photovoltaic installations, energy headquarters, climate tower and the exhibition Experimentarium.

### ***Energy days in Bulgaria***

The Sustainable Energy Days of Varna took place on May 16–17, 2013 in the Festival and Congress Centre, and were co-organized by BSRAEM, as a Covenant Supporter, along with the Municipality of Varna and the District Information Point of Varna.

The event included different activities, such as presentations, discussions, exhibitions and demonstrational projects of RES and innovative architectural designs of passive houses.

The first day was dedicated to national operational programs as financial tools for achieving sustainable energy and climate protection and to the opportunities for Varna to develop as an area of low carbon emissions and relatively low energy dependence. Amongst other information, the SEAP of Varna was presented, along with examples of international cooperation in supporting the Covenant municipalities, including the SEAP-PLUS project. The second day focused on best practices and demonstration projects on energy efficiency and RES.

Participants, which included energy companies, municipality experts in energy and ecology, citizens, students, representatives from businesses and non-profit organizations working in the field of RES and climate change, showed a high level of interest in new carbon reduction policies and the application of innovative energy efficiency measures, as well as in financial instruments for supporting investments.

Useful practical advice was given on smart solutions that can be implemented in order to achieve energy efficiency in households. Complementary activities to the Energy Days included the exhibition —Energy future II and the two films screened, featuring the Covenant of Mayors and energy efficiency.

### ***Energy Day in Greece***

TCG invited the municipalities it supports under SEAP-PLUS to participate in an Energy Day activity that involved the organization of a drawing competition for primary schools within their area —*I paint what we do in our city to clear the sky*".

TCG and the Regional Union of Municipalities of Attica (P.E.D.A.) also organized an informative event —*Local Actions for Sustainable Energy*" on June 27, 2013, during the EUSEW.

Mayors and representatives of municipalities that participate in the projects SEAP – PLUS and Green Twinning attended the event. During the event, the CoM initiative was presented, along with the actions of TCG's CoM Support Office, the activities and achievements of SEAP-PLUS (including financial tools) and of the project Green Twinning. An award ceremony followed for the winners of the student drawing

competition organized by TCG and nine municipalities from different regions in Greece.

### ***Energy Days in Italy***

In addition to the Energy Day in the Province of Imperia on May 6, 2013 organized by ARE Liguria (see previous newsletter), the second Italian SEAP-PLUS partner, Alessco, along with the province of Cosenza, as a Covenant Coordinator, and other partners, organized the Energy Days in Cosenza in October 2012.

This was a thematic exhibition, "Calabria Energy expo", with a focus on the energy sector, where industry experts had the opportunity to meet and talk about energy. The event lasted three days, and included various activities such as meetings, workshops, and 50 stands (for information or demonstration). This event provided an important showcase for the green economy of the province of Cosenza, and ensured the participation of many key stakeholders.

During the event, Alessco organized a workshop that presented the project SEAP PLUS. The workshop had a high number of participants, including numerous Mayors of Municipalities from the province of Cosenza. In addition to this, Alessco set up an Information Point, for promoting the Covenant of Mayors initiative and energy efficiency measures to citizens.

### ***Energy Day in Latvia***

An Energy Day was organised in the Balvu municipality on June 27, 2013, with the cooperation of energy stakeholders. The event included various activities, such as:

- A seminar and discussion sessions on CoM, SEAP, sustainable transport, passive houses and energy efficiency.
- Workshops, exhibitions and consultations on energy efficiency measures for households, public and private buildings.
- Electric bikes demonstration and common bike ride in the city.
- Stands and exhibitions on energy efficiency and energy savings.

Approximately 150 inhabitants participated in the Energy Day. The SEAP PLUS seminar attracted 48 participants, 14 of which were representatives of municipalities.

### ***Sustainable Energy Week in the province of Barcelona***

The Province of Barcelona (DIBA), as a Covenant Coordinator and the Network of Cities and Towns towards Sustainability (Xarxa), as a Covenant Supporter, organized a series of sustainable energy events, in collaboration with the Catalan Institute of Energy (ICAEN) in order to optimize the available disseminating resources and to reinforce the message of the campaign.

All events, part of a long term campaign (2013-2014), took place during the EUSEW and reached 90 municipalities. Activities included: exhibits, workshops, lectures, educational events, energy information points, games, interactive resources, and distribution of informative materials. In the framework of the SEAP-PLUS project. DIBA organized two specific activities that took place in Manresa, Sant Cugat del Vallès and Barcelona, ensuring the participation of a representative from each hosting municipality to highlight the Council's involvement:

- Workshops - gymkhana on energy savings and efficiency for kids between 3 and 12 years old: –We play with energy ||
- SEAP PLUS Information Point, for the Covenant of Mayors initiative and on energy efficiency measures for citizens.

Main topics included: Covenant of Mayors, energy use by sector (e.g. transport), main sources of energy consumption in Catalonia, main impacts of energy use and production, advice on measures for achieving energy savings, renewable energy production, actions implemented by municipalities to save energy.

The activities were well received by the participants and achieved a high level of participation, whilst at the same time the events achieved the cooperation of different stakeholders and projects, for the first time in such a large scale.

### **SEAP Actions**

Proposed measures focus on:

The estimated annual emissions reduction for 2020 by applying the above measures amounts to 98,436 tonnes. The impact of this reduction to the Business As Usual Scenario will result to a reduced amount of local CO2 emissions of 351,790 tonnes. That is, 33% lower with respect to those in the baseline year 2009.

### **SEAP Budget and Funding**

Funding for the implementation of the SEAP is expected to be taken from various resources; the proposed share of each funding source to the SEAP is:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Number</b>
Buildings, equipment / facilities & industries	16
Transport	14
Local electricity production	1
Land use planning	8
Public procurement and stake-holders	3
Working with the citizens and stakeholders	11

**VISIT SEAP-PLUS :** [www.seap-plus.eu](http://www.seap-plus.eu), [www.facebook.com/seapplus](https://www.facebook.com/seapplus), [twitter.com/seapplus](https://twitter.com/seapplus)



In the context of the ongoing efforts by the European Union to reduce energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions and to foster the penetration of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in the building stock, the European programme Intelligent Energy Europe (Intelligent Energy Europe, IEE) introduced the **BUILD UP Skills initiative**. This initiative, co-financed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI), aims at enhancing the continuous vocational education and



training (CVET) of workers and craftsmen in the construction sector with a view to achieve the effective and proper installation of new energy efficient technologies and materials in buildings.

The up-skilling of the workforce in the constructions sector is a critical factor towards the achievement of the European "20-20-20" objectives. For this reason, the BUILD UP Skills initiative was promoted and adopted by 30 EU countries in the form of separate independent projects. Specifically, Pillar I of the BUILD UP Skills Initiative focuses on the composition and the functioning of the "National Qualification Platform" (NQP) with the participation of all the involved authorities.

The final and most determining stage of the initiative is the development of a **National Qualification Roadmap**, outlining the strategic actions to be implemented, regarding the training, qualification and certification of the construction sector workforce, towards the achievement of the national energy objectives for 2020, in every participating country. Based on a complete **analysis of the national situation**, the **Roadmap** should take into account the expected contribution of the building sector to the national 2020 targets as well as the requirements for 'nearly zero-energy buildings'.

The specific objectives of **BUS-GR** are to:

- form a national platform on Energy Efficiency and RES related training programs and qualification schemes for the building construction sector workers;
- identify and quantify the need for qualified workforce in Greece in order to describe the current status quo;
- design and set up a national training and qualification strategy (the Roadmap) up to 2020 for the achievement of national sustainable energy goals;
- ensure the roadmap adoption by all relevant stakeholders in Greece via the appropriate endorsement activities.

In the frame of the "BUILD UP Skills – Greece" (BUS-GR) Project, a very strong consortium, was formed composed of the most prestigious national organizations, social partners and academic institutions representing the technical, training and certification structures in Greece. The list of partners of the Greek consortium (BUS-GR project) is:

Project Coordinator



[Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving \(CRES\)](#)

Project Partner List



[Decision Support Systems Laboratory, National Technical University of Athens](#)



[Small Enterprises Institute of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen and Merchants](#)



[Renewable and Sustainable Energy Systems Lab., Technical University of Crete](#)



National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance



Technical Chamber of Greece



Ινστιτούτο Εργασίας Γ.Ε.Ε.Ε.

Labour Institute of the Greek General Confederation of Labour



Western Greece Region



Centre for Educational Policy Development of the Greek General Confederation of Labour

Apart from the BUS-GR consortium partners, a large number of stakeholders are involved, supporting the continuous efforts of the consortium to assure the effective and successful accomplishment of the project. These bodies are:

- The lead Ministries, responsible for the energy, labour and lifelong learning issues in Greece;
- Federations and professional associations of buildings technicians;
- Sustainable buildings experts;
- Associations of companies engaged in RES – Energy Saving (ES) high efficiency building products;
- Building industry related research institutes/bodies;
- Accreditation and certification bodies;
- Other “social partners”.

#### **BUIILD UP Skillllls – Greece**

#### **National Qualification Roadmap**

[http://www.buildupskills.eu/sites/default/files/National%20Roadmap\\_Greece\\_final%20%28EN%29.pdf](http://www.buildupskills.eu/sites/default/files/National%20Roadmap_Greece_final%20%28EN%29.pdf)

#### **Further information**

More details on “BUILD UP Skills – Greece” can be found at

<http://greece.buildupskills.eu>

More details on BUILD UP Skills can be found at [www.buildupskills.eu](http://www.buildupskills.eu)

More details on the IEE programme can be found at

<http://ec.europa.eu/intelligentenergy>

## **Conferences**

- 9th Conference "Hellenic Language and Terminology", 7 – 9 November 2013.
- Energy in Buildings 2013. Athens, 9 November 2013.

## **Day and Two – Day Meetings**

- Meeting with the Greek Members of the European Parliament on "The Institutional Framework of the Pursuit of the Profession of Engineer in Europe and Internationally" and "Policies and Financial Instruments for the Construction Sector and for the Development in Europe", Athens, 8 February 2013.
- Pollution from smog. The period of misguided choices: errors, effects, solutions, Athens, 27 March 2013.
- Topical issues of Environment, Regional Planning and Urban Design Law, Athens, 15, 22, 29 May and 5 June 2013.
- Research and technology-local development factors, Chania, 17 May 2013.
- Transport infrastructure projects as a lever for recovery and growth of the Greek economy, Athens, 3 – 4 June 2013.
- The Contribution of Research and Innovation of the Defence Sector in the Development of our Country, Athens, 14 June 2013.
- Interdisciplinary approach to INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS: technology, environment, culture, Thessaloniki, 1 November 2013
- The Presence and the Role of the Public Power Corporation of Greece Group in the Present Economic and Social Reality, Athens, 8 November 2013.
- The economic crisis and public works production system, Athens, 13 November 2013.
- Strengthening the skills of the workforce in the construction sector in terms of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Chania, Ioannina and Volos, 17 December 2013.