

Regional Action Plans start in 9 regions to improve local policy instruments

CLEAN project partners will start working with the lessons learnt from the cooperation activities in Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, Slovenia, Romania, Greece, Finland and Sweden.

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CLEAN or ‘**Technologies and Open Innovation for Low-Carbon Regions**’ project is part-funded under [Interreg Europe](#) programme with the main objective of improving the capacity of the low-carbon policy instruments in the participating 9 partner regions.

Since January 2017, partners from Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, Slovenia, Romania, Greece, Finland and Sweden are working together to increase energy efficiency in housing and public infrastructure by an average of 4%. The main outputs of CLEAN will be the following ones:

- Each region will develop an Action Plan based on the good practices, study visits and interregional exchanges taken place during the project lifetime.
- The creation of new type of projects supported as a result of the interregional learning.
- The transfer of innovative policy and solutions between the 9 partner regions.

To-date, project partners have attended energy seminars and staff exchanges and have organised study visits to showcase the expertise from the regions taking part in CLEAN. The next milestone of this interregional cooperation project will be to develop **Regional Action Plans** to improve local policy instruments. These documents will provide details on how the lessons learnt from the cooperation will be exploited in order to improve the policy instruments. Plans will include essential information, such as, the nature of the actions to be implemented, timeframe, players involved,

costs and funding sources, among others. *“Policy instruments will help to stimulate effective engagement between public*

authorities and citizens who own properties, and research centres and companies who can introduce new innovative energy efficiency solutions”, explains Dr Caitriona Strain, CLEAN project leader and Project Manager at ERNACT (lead partner).

The partnership has recently started defining the structure for the 9 Regional Action Plans. According to Dr Strain, the partnership will now commence a joint development of these RAPs. Furthermore, during the next year, they will organise interregional peer reviews and the final versions will be ready by December 2019.

Towards energy efficient public infrastructure

Project partner Development Agency of Savinjska Region (Slovenia) has held the latest Steering Group Meeting, energy seminar and study visits of the project in September. Partners have had the opportunity to visit Laško, Celje and Velenje towns to learn more about the Slovenian expertise regarding good energy practices like the measures adopted in the municipal building of Velenje; strategies and visions, energy management, accounting and implementation of ICT concepts of Velenje School Center; and the examples of Business Education Center – MIC, where local experts have given further details on the energy polygon, laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency and the low energy / passive house.

Find out more: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/clean/>