

IMEAS

JOINT ACTION PRACTICE GUIDE

Interreg 
Alpine Space

 **IMEAS**

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

01

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WELCOME TO THE IMEAS JOINT
ACTION PRACTICE GUIDE



WHY THIS GUIDE?

This guide aims **to help you work collaboratively** on low-carbon energy transition strategies, policies, plans and initiatives in your territory and across other Alpine territories.

It provides concrete examples of joint working as well as guidance, hints

and tips for implementing successful cooperation models.

This guide also provides recommendations for policy makers in supporting **low-carbon joint initiatives**.

WHO IS THIS GUIDE FOR?

This guide is for energy and climate stakeholders involved at national and sub-national levels, who are **key players in developing and delivering low-carbon energy** transition strategies, policies, plans and initiatives.

It includes staff working in public authorities, sectoral agencies, energy suppliers, network operators, engineering companies, etc.

The guide aims to help these groups **to work in partnership** using multi-level governance principles and implementing effective joint actions.



FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is based on the **experiences of seven Alpine territories** in implementing collaborative low-carbon energy transition planning through the IMEAS project.

IMEAS is a three-year European funded project (cofunded through the Alpine Space Programme) aiming to help

Alpine territories to develop low-carbon strategies that are supported by joint actions in sustainable energy implemented across sectors and territories.

FIND OUT MORE

Read more about the IMEAS project by visiting

You can also join a free web platform for sharing tools and experience to support low-carbon energy transition strategies.

Sign up now





BENEFITS AND PRINCIPLES



BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING JOINT ACTIONS

With the great number of low-carbon energy policies and action plans implemented all over Europe (regional, local SECAPs*...) and the increase in the number of approaches involving different governance levels, sectors of government and stakeholders, the problem of **overall coherence** and the need for **advanced collaboration and engagement models** arise.

More effective collaborative working between energy stakeholders helps to maximize low-carbon energy planning outcomes and **accelerate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions**.

Collaborative working and Multi-Level Governance (MLG) will help to achieve more synergies between these different approaches, levels and sectors. By working together, energy stakeholders can combine their expertise to benefit

the planning process, they can involve different sectors and stakeholders that will support and facilitate the development of ambitious low-carbon integrated strategies and initiatives.

For instance:

- Local authorities can exchange with communities and provide local knowledge which can determine the achievability of the plans that are developed.
- Neighbouring municipalities can join efforts and work across sectors to develop a joint and integrated low-carbon action plan.
- Regional authorities can exchange with national authorities, they are able to provide technical and/or financial support and can act as a coordinator of the planning process.

*Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan



This can achieve multiple benefits, helping authorities and communities to:

- **ENSURE COHERENCY BETWEEN LOW-CARBON ENERGY PLANS AND ACTIONS AT VARIOUS LEVELS:** a collaborative process can help to integrate plans and policies at various levels and across territories (for greater efficiency).
- **DEVELOP CLEAR AND CONSISTENT VISIONS:** sharing knowledge and ideas between stakeholders can enable ambitious and realistic visions to be created. Proper attention is paid to local context, alongside the strategic needs (helping to achieve targets).
- **ESTABLISH MORE FAVOURABLE FINANCIAL MECHANISMS:** partnering up with other authorities can create more secure and stable conditions to attract investments.
- **COMMUNICATE MORE EFFECTIVELY:** defining objectives collaboratively ensures that messages are harmonised between stakeholders (avoiding confusion).

- **RESOURCES, SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES CAN BE POOLED:** through joint-working different skills, planning techniques and resources can be combined to make limited resources go further, taking advantage of economies of scale, for instance through joint procurement or to access a specific energy planning tool.
- **BETTER MANAGE NATURAL RESOURCE CONFLICT:** collaborative working facilitates the link between various sectors and territorial planning processes (e.g.: energy, spacial planning, agriculture, forestry...). This can support the development of climate-friendly territorial planning procedures.
- **SHARE EXPERTISE, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE:** this can fill important skills gaps in the planning process and facilitate the spread of good practices and innovative actions.

THESE EFFORTS LEAD TO ACTIONS THAT ARE MORE VISIBLE, EFFECTIVE, COHERENT AND LESS COSTLY



IMPLEMENTING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN ENERGY PLANNING: THE 5 PRINCIPLES

Working to meet our low-carbon energy targets often involves complex and controversial solutions (changes in land use; access to and shared use of resources; access to funding, etc.) requiring the involvement of multiple players at different levels and across sectors.

Multi-level governance processes are designed to support this involvement of players at different levels and across silos.

However in order for these approaches to be successful the White Paper on European Governance advocates 5 principles of “good governance”.

Applying these principles will help you to achieve joint actions successfully.

1 OPENNESS, TRANSPARENCY

Communicate and make information easily accessible and understandable to all stakeholders and the general public.

2 PARTICIPATION

Ensure widespread participation of all stakeholders, each step of the way – from the design, to the implementation of the policy.

3 ACCOUNTABILITY

Clarify everyone’s role and objectives.

4 EFFECTIVENESS

Clearly identify objectives and expected results, and evaluate their impact.

5 COHERENCE

Ensure that there is coherence between different actions (particularly other governance processes).



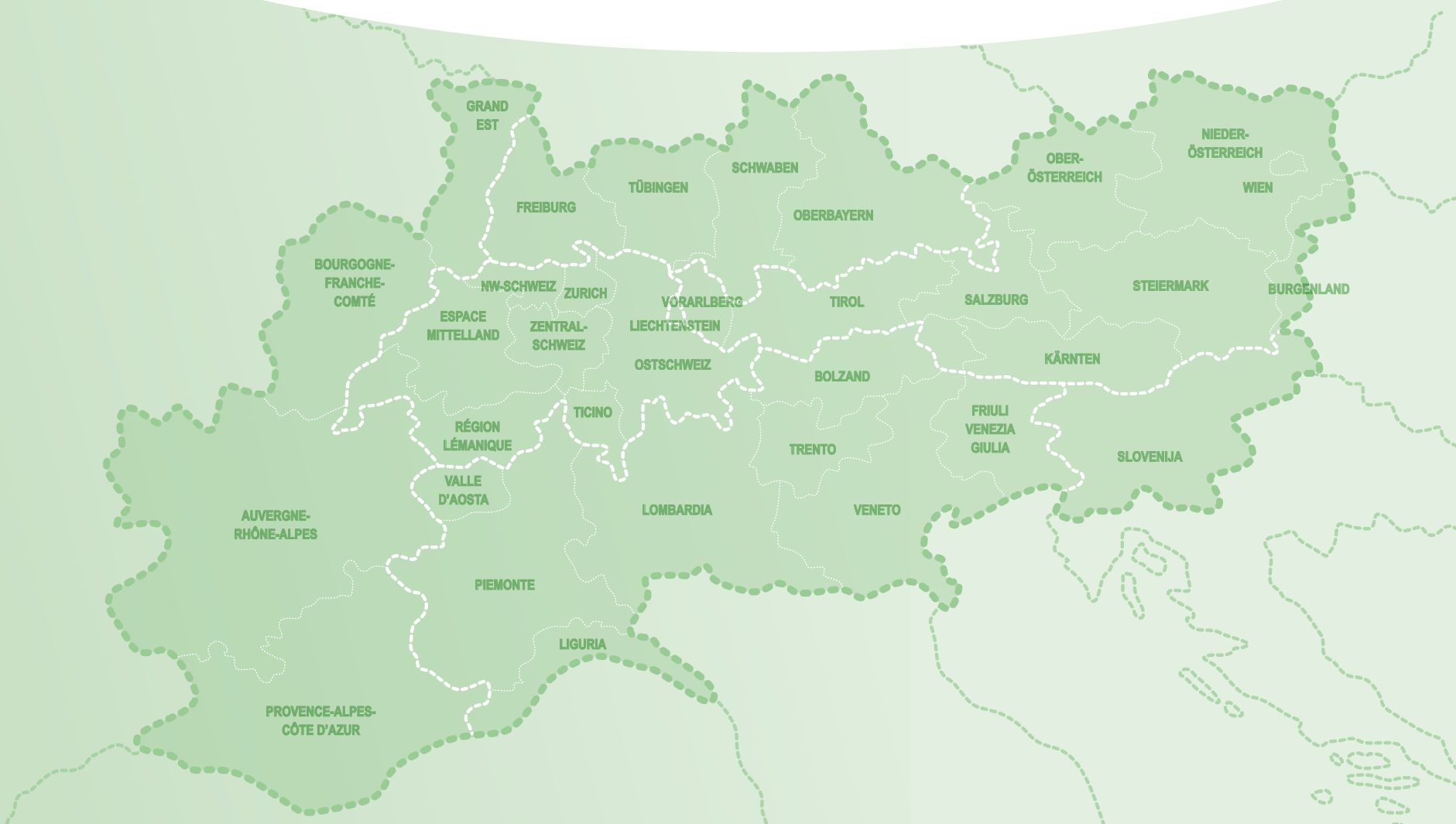
EXAMPLES OF JOINT ACTIONS



Joint actions were carried out by the IMEAS regional project partners to design a first set of low-carbon strategies and integrated roadmaps.

Several cooperation models were implemented by the project partners addressing the various challenges encountered in their regions.

They are presented below and provide an overview of various combinations of vertical, horizontal and transversal cooperation examples.





ALLGÄU - GERMANY

DESCRIPTION

A comprehensive Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI) was elaborated for the Allgäu region, comprising the energy production and consumption of four counties and three county-free cities.

Energy network operators for electricity and gas were mobilized to help provide

territorial energy data supporting local energy planning.

In addition, energy consumption and production scenarios until 2050 were elaborated and used for the development of CO₂ emission reduction targets and an energy political support programme on regional level.

CONTEXT / BACKGROUND

Allgäu region consists of 147 municipalities in four counties and three county-free cities.

Since Allgäu region is not integrated into one administrative unit, energy policy decisions for the entire region can only be made with the joint consent of all territories. Several energy planning

processes are implemented in the Allgäu region depending on the needs and requests of the various public administrations. **Energy targets are set in most of the counties and cities.** So far, there are no regional low-carbon energy targets. It is essential to agree upon quantified goals to strengthen cooperations among territories.

Topic



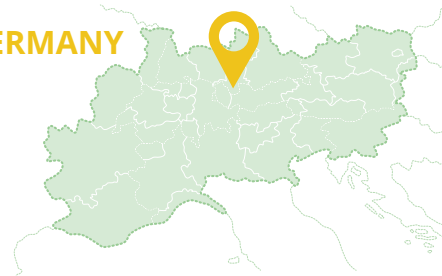
ENERGY DATA SHARING AND JOINT REGIONAL ENERGY PLANNING

Partner coordinating the action



EZA! - ENERGIE & UMWELTZENTRUM ALLGÄU GEMEINNÜTZIGE GMBH





ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS

The following activities were implemented:

- Elaboration of a Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI) using the BSKO-Standard for four counties, three county-free cities and for the Region Allgäu itself (eight individual BEIs).
- Evaluation of the results, e.g. by creating benchmarks for all eight BEIs.
- Energy consumption and production and GHG emissions forecasting by 2050.
- Agreement on quantified climate protection targets for the Allgäu region.

- Elaboration of an energy political activity programme on regional level.

The following IMEAS tools and guidelines were used:

- **GUIDELINE:** Managing energy and climate data in horizontally and vertically (MLG) integrated models.
- **GUIDELINE:** Comprehensive planning and implementation of sustainable energy and environmental policies.
- **GUIDELINE:** Baseline Emission Inventories as a means to assess current status and potential CO₂ reduction.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

In addition to the comprehensive results of the BEI the following results were achieved:

- Benchmarking of counties and cities (energy and CO₂ emissions).
- 2050 scenarios about electricity

consumption and production, heat consumption and production and GHG-emissions.

- Quantified CO₂ emission reduction targets.
- Energy political activity programme.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

In total, more than 35 stakeholders involved

20

ENERGY PROVIDERS/
NETWORK OPERATORS

6

UNIVERSITY
AND NGOS

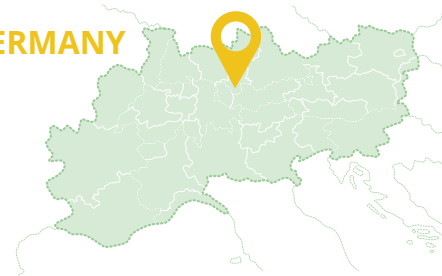
7

LOCAL PUBLIC
AUTHORITIES

3

NATIONAL
AUTHORITIES

OTHER DATA
PROVIDERS



KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The work was facilitated by **existing decision structures** on regional level and providing support for data collection and stakeholders' mobilisation.
- In a view to support faster decarbonisation of human activities, set targets should be reviewed and adapted within the next five years.
- Regular **monitoring and evaluation** of the implemented activities are essential for the successful implementation of the roadmap.
- In the absence of a common political administrative unit in the region, EU funding would be desirable to **support regional energy planning**.
- Local monitoring of the activities must primarily take place in the counties and county-free cities with their own public administrations. The participation in the European Energy Award is strongly recommended for local monitoring.

KEY RESULTS

Baseline **Emissions Inventory**
for the region

Mobilization of electricity
and gas providers supporting
energy data sharing

Energy political statement with
CO₂ emissions reduction **targets**
for the whole region by 2050

Energy political activity programme
with **projects on regional level**

MORE INFORMATION

Contact

or IMEAS Web platform





AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES FRANCE

DESCRIPTION

Grenoble-Alpes Metropole and Vercors regional natural park are neighbouring territories and represent in total 122 municipalities that are located in metropolitan and rural areas. They are cooperating with the objective to **become a Positive Energy Territory** (TEPOS).

The joint action consisted in **analyzing and maximizing** the flow of local wood

energy between rural and metropolitan areas. In partnership with INRIA (French national research institute for digital sciences) and Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Energy Environment Agency, they developed a Sankey diagram to help visualize wood flows at infra-territorial level and facilitate the decision making process of supplying low-carbon wood energy.

CONTEXT / BACKGROUND

Grenoble-Alpes Metropole has set ambitious energy and climate protection targets. The main source of renewable energy for heating is wood energy but the resource is mainly available outside the metropolitan territory. To **encourage short distance supply** and avoid

importing wood from outside of the region, Grenoble-Alpes Metropole decided to engage in a process of rural-urban cooperation with other municipalities and supported by a joint long term objective to become a positive energy territory by 2050.

Topic

**RURAL-URBAN COOPERATION
BETWEEN A METROPOLITAN AREA
AND A REGIONAL NATURAL PARK**

Partner coordinating
the action

**AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (AURA-EE)**





ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS

The following activities were implemented:

- Collection of territorial energy data about wood energy.
- Data analysis and additional data enquiries.
- Data processing and modelling and development of the Sankey diagram about wood energy flows.
- Data dissemination and exchanges with territories.
- Meetings mobilizing stakeholders in the wood energy sector.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

The following results were achieved:

- A wood energy flow analysis for the two territories highlighting key improvement areas to help increase the supply of low-carbon wood energy to the metropolitan area.

The following IMEAS tools and guidelines were used:

- **GUIDELINE:** Managing energy and climate data in horizontally and vertically integrated models.
- **GUIDELINE:** Practical Advice on how to Involve Local Stakeholders in Energy and Climate Planning and Setting up a Regional Energy Team.

- The setting up of a vertical and horizontal cooperation process for data gathering at territorial level.
- The analysis of large heating network projects using wood energy, taking into account issues such as forest management and origin of wood.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

In total, 18 stakeholders involved



4
SECTORAL
AGENCIES



3
PROFESSIONALS
ASSOCIATIONS OF
THE WOOD SECTOR



3
NATIONAL
AUTHORITIES



6
LOCAL PUBLIC
AUTHORITIES



1
ENERGY
OPERATOR



1
REGIONAL
PUBLIC
AUTHORITY



KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Setting up exchange meetings involving local stakeholders will help **improve the data collection process**.
- Urban-rural cooperation requires strong solidarity between territories. It will allow the urban territory to use the resources of the rural territory in a sustainable way with **limited impacts on its biodiversity**, carbon storage capacity, landscapes and other rural needs.
- Implementing an integrated energy planning process requires a strong attention to the following points: availability of energy data, involvement of local actors, **development of sustainable cooperation models between territories** for instance through inter-territorial transactions.

KEY RESULTS

Sankey diagram and wood energy flow analysis

Rural-urban cooperation model about the supply and procurement of low-carbon wood energy

MORE INFORMATION

Contact

or IMEAS Web platform





VORARLBERG - AUSTRIA



DESCRIPTION

In order to support more than half of its 96 municipalities being part of the “e5” low-carbon programme, the government of Vorarlberg decided to design and implement of a **centralized**

georeferenced energy database providing local accurate energy data to municipalities and creating a standardized, user-friendly energy monitoring report.

CONTEXT / BACKGROUND

Energy Autonomy Vorarlberg is Vorarlberg’s core energy policy programme. By 2050 Vorarlberg wants to become energy independent.

Energy monitoring is supported by Statistics Austria based on data gathered from electricity and gas energy providers. Wood consumption is only estimated.

The following needs were identified in order to develop a more integrated energy planning and monitoring process:

- Provide energy consumption and production data at municipal level.
- Strengthen the engagement of the e5 programme participants by increasing the visibility of their actions.
- Maximize the use of local resources (biomass, hydro, PV).
- Reduce the energy consumption in buildings and mobility.

Topic



TERRITORIAL ENERGY DATA SHARING AND MONITORING

Partner coordinating the action



**ENERGY INSTITUTE
VORARLBERG - AUSTRIA**





ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS

The following activities were implemented:

- Gathering of territorial energy data from various sources and analysis of existing databases.
- Co-design of the centralized energy database (specifications).
- Tender preparation activities.

The following IMEAS tools and guidelines were used:

- Integrating SEAPs / SECAPs with Energy Plans on Higher Governance Levels.
- **GUIDELINE:** Implementing innovative solutions for sustainable energy systems.

RESULTS ACHIEVED*

The following results were achieved:

- Analysis of existing needs and solutions for local energy data sharing.
- Tender specifications of a centralized energy database and monitoring tool providing harmonized and accurate local energy data to municipalities and communities in Vorarlberg.

*Due to the time needed for the preparation of the tender, EIV also implemented a second joint action about local energy community's business model.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

In total, 17 stakeholders involved



1 ENERGY AGENCY



1 NETWORK OF MUNICIPALITIES



13 LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES



1 REGIONAL PUBLIC AUTHORITY



1 SME



KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Involving end-users** during the design phase of the tool is key.
- Keep in mind that a tool has to be integrated in a process that will have **to be developed or adapted**.
- The connection of different governance levels is **time-consuming**. It should not be underestimated.
- The tendering process for new centralised tools can be long and complicated.
- The end users of a new tool needs **to be convinced about its added value** and thus can help adapt the process in an effective way.

KEY RESULTS

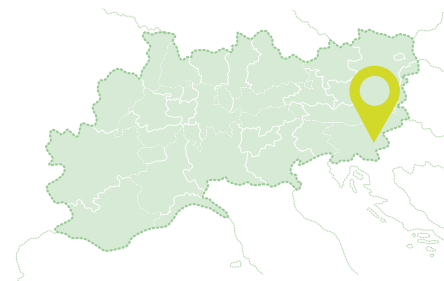
Tender specifications of a **centralized energy database** and monitoring tool providing local accurate energy data to municipalities and communities in Vorarlberg.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact

or IMEAS Web platform





CELJE - SLOVENIA

DESCRIPTION

In order to develop a **more ambitious long-term local energy plan** addressing other environmental challenges, the city of Celje with the support of the local energy agency, implemented a vertically integrated approach in order to develop its Local Energy Concept.

Special efforts were undertaken to jointly evaluate the planning process and its deficiencies across all levels, to work with various sources to **improve local energy data accuracy**, and to jointly develop environment-friendly energy measures for the territory.

CONTEXT / BACKGROUND

Celje, the 3rd largest municipality in Slovenia, is confronted with heavily polluted air due to industrial activities, heavy transit traffic, high number of individual heating systems that are old and inefficient and unfortunate climate conditions in connection to its location in a valley.

National and local low-carbon energy transition planning processes in Slovenia can further benefit from the implementation of a **multi-level cooperation mechanism**.

Topic



**VERTICALLY INTEGRATED
LOCAL ENERGY PLANNING**

Partner coordinating
the action



**ZAVOD ENERGETSKA AGENCIJA ZA
SAVINJSKO, ŠALEŠKO IN KOROŠKO
(KSENA) - SLOVENIA**





ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS

The following activities were implemented:

- Analysis of existing local energy data accuracy.
- Gathering of territorial energy and environment data from different databases and sources at National and Local levels.
- Co-design of a revised integrated low-carbon energy plan (Local Energy Concept of Municipality of Celje).

RESULTS ACHIEVED

The following results were achieved:

- Data gathering from multiple sources at National and Local levels.
- Joint evaluation of the energy planning process: identification of key weaknesses and improvement areas in the planning process such as : lack of alignment between responsibilities of each

The following IMEAS tools and guidelines were used:

- **GUIDELINE:** Comprehensive Planning and Implementation of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Policies.
- **GUIDELINE:** Practical Advice on how to Involve Local Stakeholders in Energy and Climate Planning and Setting up a Regional Energy Team.
- **GUIDELINE:** Baseline Emission Inventories (BEI) as a Means to Assess Current Status and Potential CO₂ Reduction.

level for the development of energy plans, lack of comprehensive database for energy consumption and production and lack of harmonization of different national acts that regulate energy policy on a local level.

- Development of a vertically integrated local energy plan.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

The following stakeholders were involved



NETWORK OF MUNICIPALITIES



ENERGY OPERATORS



LARGE ENERGY CONSUMERS



LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES



NATIONAL AUTHORITIES



ENERGY AND SECTORAL AGENCIES



KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Providing **accurate and harmonized territorial energy** data is key for implementing integrated energy planning.
- **Joint evaluation of the energy planning process** will help clarify weaknesses and agree on improvement areas.

KEY RESULTS

Energy data collection from more than **10 data sources**

Joint evaluation of the energy planning process

Co-design of 30 integrated **sustainable energy measures**

MORE INFORMATION

Contact

or IMEAS Web platform





AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF TRENTO - ITALY

DESCRIPTION

In order to establish the new Provincial Energy Environmental Plan: an **integrated low-carbon energy plan**, the Province of Trento engaged several research groups and mobilized regional stakeholders in order to develop several

dynamic and integrated energy scenarios for Trentino 2030. Environmental and **economic impacts as well as social dimension** of the energy transition were taken into account during the process.

CONTEXT / BACKGROUND

The Autonomous Province of Trento (PAT) is currently divided into 175 municipalities. The use of renewable energy sources (RES) in the supply mix is equal to 35%.

In order to **comply with the Paris Agreement Objective** and assess the efforts needed to achieve low-carbon objectives PAT decided to develop decarbonisation scenarios using advanced modelling and forecasting tools.

Topic



ENERGY TRANSITION MODELLING AND FORECASTING AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL

Partner coordinating the action



AGENZIA PROVINCIALE PER LE RISORSE IDRICHE E L'ENERGIA APRIE





AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF TRENTO - ITALY



ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS

The following activities were implemented:

- Engagement of key target groups through a Memorandum of Understanding.
- Development of an energy model integrating all sectors: electricity, thermal energy, transport.
- Modelling using the EnergyPLAN tool: based on hourly profiles and considering various technologies and energy carriers.
- Elaboration of the scenarios.

- Search for optimized solutions both in terms of emissions and costs, using a multi-objective evolutionary algorithm.

The following IMEAS tools were used:

- **GUIDELINE:** Managing Energy and Climate Data in Horizontally and Vertically (MLG) Integrated Models.
- **GUIDELINE:** Comprehensive Planning and Implementation of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Policies.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

The following results were achieved:

- Engagement process signed between the Autonomous Province of Trento and the Research Entities of Trentino: University of Trento, Fondazione Bruno Kessler and Fondazione Edmund Mach and a Provincial Energy Board.
- An energy model for the province integrating all sectors.
- 2 dynamic-integrated and optimized energy transition scenarios were developed for 2030.
- A multi-objective evolutionary algorithm was developed and integrated with the EnergyPLAN tool, allowing PAT to assess how to achieve its CO₂ reduction targets and the associated costs.
- Integrated energy roadmap of Trentino.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

In total, 12 stakeholders were involved



2
UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH



1
PROVINCIAL PUBLIC ORGANIZATION



4
BUSINESS SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS



3
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE PROVIDERS



2
SECTORAL AGENCY AND ENGINEERING COMPANY



AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF TRENTO - ITALY



KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Multi-dimensional decision support systems** can facilitate the integrated planning and decision making process.
- The IMEAS tool 'Multiregional energy modelling using open source software' should be further developed and extended to integrate new functionalities such as **multi-resolution time spans** and a **more flexible** definition of discount rates.
- **Agreeing and implementing a participatory process** is key for developing integrated energy transition roadmaps.

KEY RESULTS

- Engagement model of research and regional organizations
- 2 dynamic integrated optimized **energy transition scenarios**
- Multi-objective** evolutionary algorithm to facilitate the decision process

MORE INFORMATION

Contact

or IMEAS Web platform





VAUD - SWITZERLAND

DESCRIPTION

Gland, Montreux and Morges cooperated with CREM in order to assess and **improve the implementation of their local energy plans**.

Several horizontal cooperation initiatives across administrative departments and involving energy consumers such

as building owners were facilitated in order to jointly assess the gaps and develop improvement areas. The municipalities shared their experiences in order to further improve their energy governance model.

CONTEXT / BACKGROUND

The 3 cities of Gland, Montreux and Morges are situated in the Vaud Canton and have comparable geographical, administrative and energy patterns: mid-size, mostly residential with **similar energy consumption** per habitant and they are located by the Geneva lake which opens opportunities for geothermal energy solutions.

The 3 cities have developed energy plans and are facing challenges such as the lack of involvement of building owners, lack of cooperation among administration services and lack of monitoring of the plans.

Topic



**HORIZONTAL COOPERATION
AT LOCAL LEVEL**

Partner coordinating
the action



**CREM - CENTRE DE RECHERCHES
ENERGÉTIQUES ET MUNICIPALES**





VAUD - SWITZERLAND



ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS

The following activities were implemented:

- Analysis of the energy gaps in the building sector and enhancement of a centralised building stock database for municipalities including building owners, ownership contract, and heating needs.
- Cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder meetings involving also Canton planning stakeholders.
- Clarification and quantification of the efforts needed to achieve the 2030 and 2050 objectives.

- Experience sharing among the 3 municipalities.

The following IMEAS tools and guidelines were used:

- **GUIDELINE:** Comprehensive Planning and Implementation of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Policies.
- **GUIDELINE:** Practical Advice on how to Involve Local Stakeholders in Energy and Climate Planning and Setting up a Regional Energy Team.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

The following results were achieved:

- A shapefile tool was developed for municipalities with the typology of building owners and building characteristics.
- Cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder meetings involving administrative technical staff and experts in energy, construction, spatial planning, environment and communication helped to analyze the gaps and develop scenarios.
- 2030 and 2050 objectives and associated efforts were clarified and quantified for each municipality.
- Joint planning experiences were shared among the 3 municipalities.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

In total, at least 9 stakeholders involved



3
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE PROVIDERS



2
CANTON LEVEL PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS



1
SECTORAL AGENCIES



3
MUNICIPALITIES MOBILIZING DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS



KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is crucial to **involve all city planning services** in the local energy planning process and to formalize their engagement in the local city planning framework when it exists.
- The local energy planning should result in **clear objectives** which can easily be transformed into yearly objectives.
- Assessing the gaps and developing improvement areas will be more effective if it is done through a **participatory process** for instance through a series of cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder meetings.

KEY RESULTS

Enhanced **centralised georeferenced database** of the building stock

Cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder meetings at local levels

Shared experience among 3 cities

MORE INFORMATION

Contact

or IMEAS Web platform





UPPER BAVARIA GERMANY

DESCRIPTION

Two neighbouring territories, the Region of Upper Bavaria and the State of Salzburg, questioned the necessary support reinforcing the local and regional government level to optimally implement existing climate protection instruments. The joint action followed **a multi-level and trans-national approach**, applied a hands-on process, and aligned the individual recommendations from the two territories. This procedure allowed the identification

and the elaboration of the needed public support as well as the crucially needed framing conditions empowering the public administration to optimally take actions in sustainable energy and climate protection. Stakeholders from the government silo on different levels (state, region, district, municipality) were brought together to develop an effective framework which supports climate protection measures in an optimal manner.

CONTEXT / BACKGROUND

The two territories, the Region of Upper Bavaria and the State of Salzburg, issued existing climate protection instruments and jointly addressed the following questions to overcome impeding barriers and to use possible chances associated with sustainable energy and climate protection instruments:

- Which supporting programmes are needed to push the implementation of specific climate protection measures on **a local and a regional scale**?

- How are existing supporting programmes to be **better aligned or revised** to facilitate regions and communities to take action?

The joint action aligned the recommendations identified by the stakeholders in Upper Bavaria and in Salzburg. Installing these needed conditions, the government silo and the politics may significantly reinforce the public administration to take action.

Topic



CROSS-BORDER AND MULTI-LEVEL PARTICIPATION REINFORCING THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PLANNING

Partner coordinating the action



B.A.U.M. CONSULT GMBH MÜNCHEN





ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS

The following activities were implemented:

- Workshops with stakeholders from Bavaria and Salzburg identifying the specific need in terms of public support and regarding the coordination of energy policies.
- Experience sharing and knowledge transfer between the Region of Upper Bavaria and the State of Salzburg.
- Local multi-stakeholder meetings in both territories providing bottom-up feedback addressing higher governance levels.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

The following objectives were achieved:

- Identification of the most important climate protection instruments, the greatest barriers and chances, as well as the needed supporting programmes and framing conditions to take action.

- Comparison of the most needed and support programmes as well as the most important climate protection instruments stated by the individual territories.

The following IMEAS tools and guidelines were used:

- **GUIDELINE:** Comprehensive Planning and Implementation of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Policies.
- **GUIDELINE:** Connecting the EU energy policies to Country and State level.

- Involvement of various multi-level stakeholders in two 2 neighbouring territories following a bottom-up process.
- Identification of best practice cases and supportive framing conditions in the 2 territories.
- Transnational dialogue and experience sharing between the 2 territories.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

In total, more than
30 stakeholders were involved
in Germany and Austria



8

REGIONAL AND DISTRICT LEVEL
PUBLIC AUTHORITIES



10

SECTORAL
AGENCIES AND
ASSOCIATIONS



8

MUNICIPALITIES



2

INFRASTRUCTURE
AND SERVICE
PROVIDERS



3

FEDERAL
PUBLIC
AUTHORITIES



KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The implementation of climate protection instruments rather depends on the overall framing conditions than on the provision of specific supporting programmes.
- Not taking action may rather be a matter of insufficient knowledge transfer than a lack of supporting programmes.
- Transnational joint activities facilitate the transfer of best practice cases and the identification of supportive framing conditions.
- The installation of a central institution at the national level, providing data, consultancy, and information, could contribute to remove contradictory conditions and allow the public administration to effectively implement the most suitable climate protection instruments.
- A binding framework obligating the monitoring of the activities' progress is needed for lessons learning from both successful and unsuccessful instruments.

KEY RESULTS

Multi-stakeholder
bottom-up process

Experience sharing and
knowledge transfer between
2 neighbouring territories

Transnational comparison
and alignment of supportive framing
conditions and best practice cases

MORE INFORMATION

Contact

or IMEAS Web platform





RECOMMENDATIONS





HINTS AND TIPS FOR IMPLEMENTING JOINT ACTIONS

IMEAS Project Partners derived from their **experiences in implementing the joint actions** the following list of hints and tips. Feel free to experiment some of them and provide your feedback on the IMEAS platform at

- Start to **build a collaboration scheme** only when there is a real need for it or a common vision. Be open and encourage bottom-up approaches, listen to what your key stakeholders really need.
- Involve and **get clear and effective support** from people and institutions with decision making responsibilities, or those who can influence the process.
- Trust between people/institutions/stakeholders: **working together is key.**
- You are often working with busy individuals. They need to have a **clear personal benefit** to get involved. Make working life easier for them. Help them to save time or money in their personal field of work. Praise them for their efforts, much more than you think would be necessary. Provide them with personal experience that makes them feel good or with possibilities to develop their career (mentorship, training, etc.).
- If there is an uneven level of engagement you need to give clear incentives to the other part.
- Collaboration takes time – as it ought to be. For each step, **plan more time** than you consider necessary.
- To keep the momentum going, ensure that **a first success is reached very fast**, even if it is a minor one, the second one shortly after that etc.
- **Communicate a lot** and keep up the process. Try to reach as many visible results as possible.
- Communicate results: say it more often, clearer, simpler than you ever thought it could be necessary!
- **Celebrate successes** with all who are involved.
- Think about how **politicians can benefit from the process** and get their buy-in early enough.
- Think about timing: for instance, when are the next elections and what does this mean for your project?



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY MAKERS

The following section summarizes **recommendations for policy makers at EU, national, regional and local (inter-municipal) levels**, on accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy through the development of **integrated territorial roadmaps** and the implementation of **joint actions** that can effectively support the implementation of low-carbon energy action plans and initiatives.

The recommendations are based on the outcomes of discussions and activities carried out by Project Partners within the framework of the Alpine Space IMEAS project. They were derived by identifying gaps in existing policy instruments and defining key elements that could be introduced in future or revised legislation and tools in order to facilitate the implementation of collaborative actions.

The following policy recommendations are addressing issues at stake or areas for improvements, such as the needs to:

- Strengthen the role of public authorities in facilitating and supporting joint actions in low-carbon energy.
- Support public authorities and communities in implementing economies of scale through aggregated/joint projects.
- Implement awareness raising among policy makers about the possibilities and benefits of implementing integrated roadmaps and joint projects.

At a European level, recommendations can inform the review of Directives within the framework of the “Clean energy for All Europeans” strategy.

They consider the implementation of EU initiatives in climate protection and sustainable energy such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy as well as the Managenergy initiative.

They also provide insights for the effective implementation of the EUSALP macro-regional strategy.

Finally they consider the future development of new programme priorities according to the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

Additional measures are listed on the next page that can be implemented by Member States or Regions directly in their own policy instruments, depending on their own legislative framework, in order to facilitate the implementation of integrated roadmaps.



1 RAISING INTEREST OF POLICY MAKERS ABOUT JOINT ENERGY PROJECTS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED BENEFITS

CONTEXT

Local policy makers usually lack relevant information and advanced technical support to evaluate possible economies of scale through joint/aggregated projects in sustainable energies and climate change. Although they see the need for more coordinated effort, they rarely engage in joint actions.

RECOMMENDATION

Member States and Regions should raise the interest of local policy makers in joint energy projects by **prioritizing** National and Regional **subsidies** to Local authorities. Subsidies, incentives, or part of them, should be contingent on implementing joint sustainable energy projects.

2 FINANCING JOINT PROJECTS

CONTEXT

National and regional energy facilitators can play a significant role to help identify the various sources and programs that can finance joint projects. Complementarity of funding programmes can be achieved through common frameworks and local and regional investment platforms.

The topics of the Horizon 2020 programme are similar with other centrally managed programmes and are all complementary to the cohesion policy. However, their administrative processes are very different.

There are practical barriers to actually realising the combination of funds which need to be addressed if we are to maximise accessibility and realise the benefits of the complementarity of these programmes.

RECOMMENDATION

A **common framework and common procedures** should be sought for the future Horizon Europe and other centrally managed Union programmes in the areas of research, innovation and market facilitation. These procedures should facilitate access to funds to public authorities and communities.

In order to achieve “coordination and synergies between ESI funds and other union policies and instruments”, the **next Multiannual Financial Framework should support the creation of sub-national investment platforms or “one-stop shops”** to support joint strategies and projects, interact with various EU financial programmes and initiatives, and ensure a reliable interface between investors, project developers and citizens.



3 PRIORITIZING OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

CONTEXT

Significant economies of scale can be achieved in the case of joint/aggregated projects. Priorities of the Operational Programmes (European Structural and Investment Funds) are already determined for the ongoing financial period. They usually don't give preference to joint/aggregated projects.

RECOMMENDATION

New Operational Programme priorities should be developed for the new financial period 2021-2027 and give **priority to joint/aggregated projects**. This could be done through the introduction of new selection or impact criteria.

4 PROMOTING SUB-NATIONAL LOW-CARBON ENERGY COOPERATION PROJECTS

CONTEXT

Energy cooperation projects represent a major opportunity for engaging a wide range of stakeholders and thus maximising the chance of achieving ambitious sustainable energy objectives at local level.

They include for instance: renewable community projects, urban-rural energy cooperation projects, innovative territorial programmes targeting energy autonomy.

Although they can bring major benefits, these cooperation projects are by nature difficult to initiate, finance, operate and sustain.

RECOMMENDATION

Member States and Regions should ensure that they fully **support sub-national low-carbon energy cooperation projects**, facilitate mutual learning and promote their results.

This could be done through communication campaigns, incentive programmes, legislative framework, networking activities, etc.



5 SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF TERRITORIAL FACILITATING ORGANIZATIONS

CONTEXT

Territorial facilitating organizations play a key role in implementing and accelerating the energy transition.

Structures already exist within some EU regions that can or are already endorsing this function (regional energy agency, regional public authority, regional consulting organization, etc). Their sustainability can sometimes be questioned and hindered by decisions at other levels.

RECOMMENDATION

In an effort to maximize economies of scale as well as facilitate the energy transition at National level, Member States should propose a standardized scheme and take **legislative measures**

to ensure that **regulatory low-carbon energy plans** are developed and include at least one measure to set up or identify facilitating organizations. These structures or technical assistance services should be sustained over time and be considered as a strategic priority for supporting the energy transition.

6 PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO AGGREGATED ENERGY AND CLIMATE DATA AT LOCAL LEVEL

CONTEXT

Sustainable energy planning at sub-national levels requires strong multi-stakeholder engagement (civil society, financiers, etc.) in order to actively contribute to the implementation of the plans. As of today, access to aggregated local energy and climate change data is limited.

Aggregated energy data not infringing the data protection rules (energy consumption, RES production, etc.) should be made accessible to the local public authorities and general public.

EU legislation should include recommendations for Member States to ensure national and sub-national public authorities provide access, in a free and easily accessible way, to aggregated local energy and climate data.

RECOMMENDATION

Member States should take **legislative measures** to ensure that aggregated local energy and climate data sets are created by the National Distribution System Operators and other data providers and that they are easily available to the local public administrations and general public, at least upon request.



LINKS, CONTACTS AND PARTNERS





IMEAS project

www.alpine-space.eu/projects/imeas/en/home



IMEAS web platform

www.imeas.eu



Covenant of Mayors

www.covenantofmayors.eu



Covenant of Mayors “Multi-level action for sustainable energy”

www.covenantofmayors.eu/IMG/pdf/CoM_Multi-level_Cooperation_FINAL.pdf



PEACE_Alps

www.alpine-space.eu/projects/peace_alps/en/home



EU white paper on governance

ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/communication-white-paper-governance-com2001428-20010725_en.pdf

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PUBLICATION

This guide is intended for all those with an interest in Integrated and Multi-level Energy models. This publication is available in a downloadable format from the IMEAS website or can be interactively viewed online, through the IMEAS website itself.

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