

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

A RESOURCE-EFFICIENT EUROPE

The contribution of regions and cities



Regions and Cities supporting
Europe2020
Europe's growth strategy



National Art Gallery
Vilnius, Lithuania
2 September -
3 September 2013

Exhibition
on good
practices

Hosted by



Lithuanian Presidency
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A RESOURCE-EFFICIENT EUROPE

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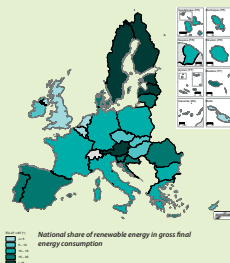
The flagship initiative for a resource-efficient Europe under the Europe 2020 strategy supports the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy to achieve sustainable growth. Natural resources underpin our economy and our quality of life. Continuing the current patterns of resource use is not an option. Increasing resource efficiency is key to securing growth and jobs for Europe. It will bring major economic opportunities, improve productivity, drive down costs and boost competitiveness.

The flagship initiative for a resource-efficient Europe provides a long-term framework for actions in many policy areas, supporting policy agendas for climate change, energy, transport, industry, raw materials, agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity and regional development. This is to increase certainty for investment and innovation and to ensure that all relevant policies factor in resource efficiency in a balanced manner.

Regions and cities have an important role to play in fostering resource efficiency. They invest in green buildings, sustainable water and waste management, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting cleaner modes of transport, and in protecting ecosystems. In the Covenant of Mayors, over 4,000 local and regional authorities in the EU have committed themselves to increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in their respective territories.

www.ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe

National share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption



The increased promotion of renewable energy technologies may provide a viable economic opportunity for regions with the appropriate natural assets. However, the map shows that so far only a few countries reach the 20% renewable energy target.

The Baltic Sea Region has become a forerunner in the production and use of renewable energy. Most of the Nordic countries have achieved high shares of renewable energy consumption already or are on the way. Other than the Nordic countries Austria, Portugal and Romania are

the only countries which are above the Europe 2020 target on renewable energy. The reasons for some countries to lag behind differ: energy intensity, industrial structure, missing natural potential for renewable energy production.

Natural opportunities in the North and in mountain areas for renewable energy production can be one reason for success, but also respective national policies play an important role.

Since the 1990s, policies on renewable energy development have been implemented across Europe in different degrees. In 2001 the EU Directive on Electricity Production from Renewable Energy Sources has been an important step. Following that, pioneering schemes have been implemented in Denmark, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands.

Europe 2020: Planned European renewable electricity production



The Europe 2020 Strategy encourages the use of green technologies to combat climate change. The aim is to reach sustainable growth by using low-carbon technologies, better development of renewable energy production and increased energy efficiency. Ideally, increased resource efficiency can also help saving money for companies, regional and local authorities and citizens.

The Europe 2020 Strategy also calls for a decrease in energy dependency. Today, Europe relies on the rest of the world for resources like fuel and raw materials, which often have to be imported over long distances. Scarcities and volatile commodity prices can bring a dangerous dependency, which needs to be reduced. Furthermore, through the use of renewable energy, modern techniques and installations, new jobs are created in the green economy.

The Europe 2020 Strategy has defined three headline targets for the sustainable growth priority. The two energy related targets are

renewable energy resources and energy efficiency. The Europe 2020 Strategy aims to increase the share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption to 20% in 2020. Also energy efficiency shall be increased by 20%. To reach that goal wind and solar present important resources for renewable energy production.

Planned European electricity production according to national renewable energy action plans



Source: JCR, 2011



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The Covenant of Mayors in Abruzzo : A model for Europe | Abruzzo, Italy



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The Abruzzo region, its provinces, the regional and provincial Energy Agencies and the Association of Municipalities manage the model. To date, a total of 618 interventions have been realised, mainly in schools, including an increase in the efficiency of public street lighting systems, the implementation of photovoltaic and thermodynamic solar plants, the construction of insulating walls, the replacement of boilers, casings and windows, and the installation of temperature controllers on heating systems.

Abruzzo won the national prize 'ECO and the City' because it "has been able to set up a system, by creating a management body which has enabled all the regional local bodies to plan interventions aimed at increasing energy efficiency directly on site". Today this model can be considered as a best practice at European level.

www.eumayors.eu
www.regione.abruzzo.it

Abruzzo is the only region in Italy in which 305 cities have all joined the Covenant of Mayors' Regional Administration and all Provincial Administrations act as coordinators. Each signatory city aims at reducing CO₂ emissions by 20% in its own territory, through a 20% increase in the energy from renewables and a 20% increase in the energy efficiency rate.

The region allocated €300,000 from the regional budget to assist the municipalities in preparation of its operational plans. It also gave the entire resources of €35 million of structural funds 2007-2013, axis II Energy, to support the implementation of the intervention foreseen by the Sustainable Energy Action Plan of the Covenant of Mayors in the region.

Facilitating access to public transport in Budapest Budapest, Hungary



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The Park & Ride tool developed in Budapest aims to provide better access to public transport in areas where local feeder services are less economic. It encourages people from outer districts and the agglomeration to use public transport by creating the easy infrastructure to travel by car or bicycle and change to train. Less traffic brings additional benefits to the inhabitants of the town.

In Budapest, Park & Ride capacity is distributed in a wider area alongside railway lines with relevant distance to the city centre. At minor stations and locations, small car parks with a limited number of parking places are constructed, which also include Bike & Ride facilities. So more than 1000 Park & Ride places have been built along main railway lines around Budapest with additionally 570 spaces in the outskirts of the city. Another 1000 Park & Ride places will

be constructed next year near to metro and suburban rail lines in the city, as well as further sites will be built in near future in the agglomeration in connection with mainline rail developments.

Main stakeholders involved are municipalities, the BKK Centre for Budapest Transport, BKV (Public Transport Company), MÁV (State Railways Company), NIF (National Infrastructure Development Company). The development of Park & Ride facilities in the outer districts and in the agglomeration in close connection to railway lines makes commuting by train more attractive. Results can be measured in terms of degree of usage, less congestion, and less parking spaces needed in the centre.

www.catch-mr.eu

Involving all stakeholders to reach the EU energy and climate objectives | City of Pamplona, Spain



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With ENGAGE, Pamplona encourages citizens to share their sustainable energy initiatives. ENGAGE is a European participative campaign, led by Energy Cities, through which local players commit to take action in favour of the energy transition.

Pamplona is one of the twelve pioneer cities involved in the ENGAGE campaign, which now gathers more than 60 European local authorities. During public events in Pamplona, such as the famous festival of San Fermín, visitors were able to go to a stand, have their picture taken and pledge a commitment to save energy. Thanks to a unique online tool, the municipality can create customised posters in just a few clicks. These posters are then displayed in the city's streets for everyone to see.

"I engage to buy local and seasonal products" and "We engage to use Pamplona's car-sharing system" are two of the over 450 commitments made by local players, with the overall objective of reaching the EU's CO₂ target: a 20% reduction by 2020.

The first results have proved very promising. Indeed, by extrapolating the monitoring conducted on a sample of 54 participants, participants in Pamplona have avoided 5,500 tonnes of CO₂ emissions within only one year. The city is very proud of these good results, as the ENGAGE campaign also helps them fulfil their Covenant of Mayors' commitments. This project is an example of one of the 80 good practices that illustrate Energy Cities' 30 proposals for the energy transition of cities and towns*. The ENGAGE campaign is open to all European local authorities.

www.citiesengage.eu
www.energy-cities.eu





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Mediterranean implementation of the European Energy Award (MEDEEA) | Crete, Greece



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Nikolaos, Sitia, Ierapetra, Archanes- Asterousia, Anogeia and Gortynia.

The Crete Region also financed the Certification at the EEA* by an international inspector of the municipalities of Heraklion, Chersonissos, Rethimno, Faistos, and Malevizi for their involvement in EU programs as well as European or national funding tools.

The certification and development of action plans constitute the condition for the "Intelligent Specialisation" and the use of funding during 2014 - 2020. The Crete Region and the Municipalities of Crete coordinate to make good use of European programs for the implementation of projects and to encourage innovative interventions to support sustainable development.

www.interregmedeea.eu
www.incrediblecrete.gr

The "European Energy Award - EEA" rewards cities and towns with a label for outstanding efforts in the governance of energy related fields, especially energy efficiency. EEA* rewards municipal integrated energy planning and activities with the aim to reach and go beyond the "20-20-20" EU energy objectives in the Mediterranean regions. Nine partners from seven countries participate in the MEDEEA project.

The Crete Region (Energy Centre) initiated this project and provided specialised technical support to local municipalities, transferring essential know-how for the development of action plans for sustainable energy and the signing of the Mayors' Pact. Today, the active municipalities include Heraklion, Chersonissos, Rethimno, Faistos, Malevizi, Minoa Pediados, Chania, Aghios

The bold new face of Koprivnica Korprivnica, Croatia



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The Bold New Face of Koprivnica -policy adopted in 2011 requires all public buildings to be constructed as low-energy buildings or to meet the standards of passive buildings. It proves that energy-efficient buildings are not necessarily more expensive to build and benefit both individual users and the society. It is implemented in two big development projects: the Lenisce residential neighbourhood and a low-emission university campus. As incentive, the investors in energy-efficient buildings receive subsidies of up to 100% of their utility tax. The Lenisce residential construction project consists of blocks of flats and individual houses. It introduces the concept of energy-efficiency to a region which did not have much experience in this field, by improving the know-how of local and national construction companies while providing high quality housing for low-income citizens at an affordable price.

The newly-acquired construction expertise has been successfully tested in the conversion of former army barracks into a low-energy kindergarten and the building of a new Palace of Justice, the first building belonging to any national ministry in Croatia to be built in an energy-efficient way. All the new or renovated buildings will achieve 2020 targets for energy efficiency.

In addition to energy efficiency construction measures the policy aims to hard-wire sustainable development into all aspects of planning and implementation, though sustainable urban planning and land use; the use of renewable energy sources; the efficient use of water; sustainable wastewater management; sustainable transport and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

www.energy-cities.eu

Ecocity Luxembourg, Luxembourg



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A delivery by bicycle can be more effective than by a motorised vehicle in the intra-urban areas. Ecocity was founded in 2011 to develop the use of bicycles and electric vehicles as a mode of transport for small freight and mail to help reduce CO2 emissions while integrating disadvantaged young people into the labor market. Since its start these youngsters have consequently also become aware of environmental issues.

Freight transport is a necessity for shops but does have the negative aspect of creating air and noise pollution and congestion. Urban deliveries are of particularly essential importance for local shops, which do contribute to the state of quality of life in the city centre. By subscribing to the Ecocity services, citizens and businesses take a greener, environmentally friendly approach that aims to improve the quality of life, while maintaining the quality of service.

Ecocity's main service is the provision of carriers, whose bikes are equipped with a wireless meter CO2 ZEG. The reception point commodity provides a solution to fluxes in demand by streamlining the delivery rounds. This allows the community to live a greener way of life and reduce the number of delivery vehicles in circulation, therefore decreasing illegal parking. Since 2011, the initiative has saved 4,422,000 gr HCO₂.

www.ecocity.lu



European Union
European Regional Development Fund



Ministry of Regional Development and Construction
Croatia



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Climate Living in Cities -concept Malmö, Sweden



Climate Living in Cities Concept (CLICC) is part of Malmö's overall plan to reduce energy use per capita in the city by 20% by 2020. The objective of CLICC is to refurbish three post-war compounds, which comprise 1200 households, and reduce their household carbon emissions by 50% by 2014. Refurbishment measures include replacing traditional heating with a new system that generates warmth from used air, fitting new radiators, and installing photovoltaic panels or new energy-efficient washing machines.

CLICC also involves awareness-raising activities, tools and organised information events. One specific activity is the idea of 'climate coaches'. These are volunteers who work with citizens on house management, transport, or food consumption, and who give advice on how to live more sustainably. Residents from the three housing compounds can also access an online greenhouse gas emissions calculator to determine their household emissions and then search for tips on how to reduce their emissions.

Four dissemination events organised so far have attracted over 150 people per event. The events have focused on energy waste, water management, and recycling exercises. The city has further ideas lined up, such as turning the emissions calculator into a smartphone app and publishing a guide summarising all the measures being implemented. The total budget for the project is €4,045,600. A quarter is funded by the EU, while the rest is divided between the city of Malmö and the housing association partners.

www.clicc.se

Green Infrastructure: A new framework for an efficient urban model | Region of Valencia, Spain



More than 40% of the global carbon emissions in the Region of Valencia are related to urban patterns and land use. New urban developments require a significant increase in the consumption of land, water and materials.

In order to solve these problems, the incorporation of the principles of sustainable development into spatial and urban planning is needed. In this context, the Valencian regional government has prepared a new legal framework on land use, which establishes the Green Infrastructure concept as the unifying principle for the coordination of all landscape scales, and as the guide for urban and spatial design. This infrastructure constitutes a regional system which preserves ecological processes and increases and activates environmental, cultural and landscape-related values of the region.

The Green Infrastructure initiative promotes natural solutions based on the principle that protecting and enhancing the natural processes can contribute to achieving a much more efficient land use model in the Region of Valencia. Therefore resources such as land, water and energy will be saved, and waste production and greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced.

Bearing this in mind, all urban and regional plans will have to define the Green Infrastructure before new land developments are planned, which guarantee the economic, social and environmental benefits. In addition to that, the Green Infrastructure promotes sustainable planning strategies oriented towards enhancing the urban personality and integrating new developments in to the landscape.

www.cma.gva.es/etcr

ProjectZero enable ZEROcarbon urban transition Sønderborg, Denmark



ProjectZero is the vision of creating economic growth in the Sønderborg region, based on a CO₂ neutral development. The goal is to reduce Sønderborg's energy consumption by 45% by improved energy efficiency and convert energy sources from the area's own renewable resources.

The ZEROfamily programme was developed in 2009: 110 volunteering families participated in the project, involving more than 406 family members. The families were inspired to reduce their energy consumption by participating on courses and workshops. The ZEROhouse project was created in 2010: Over 1 100 families have so far participated by reviewing their energy consumption, retrofitting their private homes and changing energy habits. Craftsmen's energy competences have been upgraded and local banks have secure financing. Close to

EUR 20million new business turnover has been generated in the craftsman industry and substantial savings in heating, electricity and carbon reduction have been achieved. The project is now a documented role model both in Denmark and abroad.

The ZEROshop programme involves citizens and the private sector. It focuses on motivating shops to make short term reductions (minimum 10%) in energy consumption, energy costs and to commit to further long-term reductions of carbon emissions.

The ZEROcompany targets companies that develop an ambitious and measurable climate strategy with an objective to reduce CO₂ emissions by at least 10% within the first year. In 2010, the European Commission awarded the ProjectZero the Sustainable Energy Communities Award.

www.projectzero.dk
www.lecareproject.eu





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Renewable Energy & Efficiency Action (REACT) Trnava self-governing Region, Slovakia



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Under the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, the Slovak Republic must increase the share of electricity from renewables to 14% of total energy consumption by 2020. The Trnava self-governing Region is a project partner of Renewable Energy & Efficiency Action within the CBC Programme Slovakia - Austria (2007-2013). The REACT project aims to contribute in the field of renewable energy, energy efficiency in buildings, and in increasing the skills of people working in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy. The other project partners are: Technologieoffensive Burgenland (lead partner), Fachhochschulstudiengänge Pinkafeld, EnCoBa Malacky, Automotive cluster, West Slovakia Trnava and Slovak Technical University in Bratislava.

The project aims to develop solutions for the construction of new buildings, using the widest possible range of available resources in the region. It also examines the savings that could be made through buildings and their reconstruction, drafts processing guides for the reconstruction of buildings, develops training concepts as well as trains consultants in energy, manufacturing, testing and exploring renewable sources of energy available from the regional biogenic sources, from waste to transport.

The REACT project runs until December 2014, with a budget of €1,042,650. The main activities and outputs of the project are:

1. Information and publicity
2. Management
3. New buildings
4. Concepts and reconstruction
5. Qualification, training
6. Description of biofuels, recycled fuels and other fuels

ACT CLEAN - Making central Europe clean and competitive | European Project



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Companies in central Europe can greatly reduce any negative environmental impacts created by industry and business if they know how to take advantage of the latest technology. To help ensure that local businesses have the knowledge needed to be more environmentally friendly, the Act Clean project created the first area-wide network for cleaner production.

Cleaner production is not just a good way to become more efficient in reducing pollution. It is also a legal obligation: EU directives and regulations require enterprises to comply with environmental standards and ensure eco-efficient production. Many SMEs lack access to cleaner production technology developed and implemented in other regions. Meanwhile, the SMEs that can provide customers with cleaner production technology often lack access to the relevant

market players. Act Clean addresses these problems by offering SMEs a range of products and services to make their production processes more eco-efficient and to ensure that they comply with relevant EU legislation.

The cooperation among the Act Clean network is now sufficiently established and robust to continue after the initial project. The project website will keep operating as an interface between various central European countries and enterprises. Recommendations in the action plan should be taken up, to further shape and improve the framework for cleaner production in central Europe. Additionally, continued awareness raising is needed to educate SMEs about cleaner production and to promote and market the tools and instruments that have already been developed.

www.act-clean.eu

BiogasIn: Sustainable biogas market development in Central and Eastern Europe | European project



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The potential for biogas production in agricultural feedstock and its related environmental and socio-economic benefits has been analysed as part of the BiogasIn project for 28 regions in seven Central and Eastern European (CEE) target countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia).

There is significant potential for the use and production of biogas. Even though in these target countries there is a favourable legislative framework and state support mechanisms in place, the biogas market is developing at a slow pace leaving a considerable part of the existing potential untapped. Surveys conducted among banks, project developers and authorities capture the reality of the implementation of biogas projects and identify high administrative

barriers – approval and financing phases – as major bottlenecks in CEE biogas market development.

BiogasIn provides tools and activities designed to target the strongest framework barriers and to encourage support from the public sector – national, regional and local governments and administrations responsible for approving the motions concerning agricultural and biogas plants – in order to create a sustainable biogas market in target regions. BiogasIn also contributed to raising the awareness and trust in the technology for biogas production.

The project gave recommendations for: the improvement of approval procedures and the financing of biogas projects, information material for administrative and financial bodies and potential investors in the field, and the facilitation of dialogue among these key stakeholders.

www.biogasin.org





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Geronimo II-BIOGAS European project



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Geronimo II-BIOGAS is a follow-on initiative from a successful IEE SAVE project that developed the first interactive web portal for EU dairy farmers centered on-farm energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. It also identified an opportunity for the uptake of biogas as an environmentally friendly method for treating manure, a growing problem for many thousands of dairy and pig farmers across the EU. Major barrier to uptake include farmers not being able to tap into this unused biogas potential, coupled with unfavorable policies in many regions.

By 2020, this initiative will have contributed to an increase in the uptake of biogas technology among dairy and pig farmers, whereby 9 new pilot projects will have commenced and a further 50 biogas facilities implemented.

www.energy4farms.eu

The Geronimo II-BIOGAS project aims to unlock the potential of biogas as a cost effective and environmentally friendly means of managing manure. The 13 partners from across Europe work closely with:

- Farmers at grassroots level to determine the viability of biogas as a feasible investment for their farms, by supporting them in quantifying the biogas potential and drawing up business plans and strategies for investment in biogas facilities.
- Policy makers to ensure that barriers to the uptake of biogas is broken down. The project will ensure that a top-down effort is mobilised, whereby best practices in the area of pro-biogas governmental policies, legislation, schemes and incentives from frontrunner regions, are identified and transferred to other regions.

GREENFOODS European project



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The objective of the GREENFOODS project is to lead the European food and beverage industry to high energy efficiency and to reduce fossil carbon emissions in order to ensure and foster worldwide competitiveness, improve the security of energy supply and guarantee sustainable production in Europe. The project has 15 partners from 6 countries (Austria, Germany, Poland, Spain, UK and France) and is co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union.

The GREENFOODS branch concept will guide the user to identify tailor-made solutions for "green production" for SMEs in the different subsectors in the food and beverage industry. By combining technological expertise with knowledge on energy efficiency and renewable resources clear strategies for process optimisation and

energy supply towards a production without fossil carbon emissions for SMEs will result. Furthermore, the GREENFOODS training module integrated as a sector-specific management trainings such as the European Energy Manager as well as a stand-alone course will be established. Special funding schemes will be developed to facilitate the implementation of identified energy efficiency potentials in SMEs by comparing and analysing existing funding systems.

Applying the GREENFOODS approach, 200 energy audits will be performed including 20 detailed audits and 5 selected SMEs for the implementation of the concepts. In the participating countries "virtual energy competence centres" will be installed and will work as one-stop shop service centres.

www.green-foods.eu

The Green-Digital Charter and NiCE European project



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Launched at the end of 2009, the Green Digital Charter encourages cities to reduce the carbon footprint of their Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and to roll out ICT solutions that improve energy efficiency in areas including buildings, transport and energy. It also commits cities to work together using digital technologies to facilitate emissions reductions and forestall climate change. The Charter has been signed by over 35 major European cities and is coordinated by EUROCITIES.

There are three specific commitments:

- to work with other Green Digital Charter signatories on ICT & energy efficiency
- to deploy five large-scale ICT for energy efficiency pilot schemes per city within 5 years from the signature
- to decrease ICT's direct carbon footprint per city by 30% within 10 years from the signature.

The NICE project (Networking Intelligent Cities for Energy Efficiency) is an FP7-funded project which supports cities that have signed the Green Digital Charter to reach their goals. It does this in three key areas:

- Providing tools for cities: the project develops monitoring and reporting tools for cities to be able to measure their ICT carbon footprint and link their work to other initiatives.
- City support and action: NICE offers support to cities through a series of targeted exchange and learning activities.
- Outreach and engagement: The project organises a series of networking and visibility events to increase the number of Charter signatories and showcase cooperation opportunities with relevant stakeholders.

www.greendigitalcharter.eu/niceproject





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PRESOURCE: Greener products through less resource input | European project



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PRESOURCE

For companies in the production sector materials cost more than wages. Yet, material resources are not always used efficiently, especially by small and medium-sized enterprises, which may not be aware of possible savings. PRESOURCE helps SMEs become more profitable by exploiting their full resource efficiency potential through the promotion of transnational incentives for eco-innovations. Doing this increases resource efficiency in Central Europe's production sector.

There are two major barriers for exploiting the potential for resource efficiency in production processes. Firstly, enterprises and especially SMEs are unaware of their resource utilisation, real costs of pollution and the related cost reduction potential as well as ways on how to improve the situation. Secondly, SMEs have problems in financing

necessary investments in eco-innovations in order to exploit their potential to increase resource efficiency. PRESOURCE looks for incentives and innovative financing schemes, improving the framework for financing eco-innovations with a particular focus on resource efficiency-related investments. The project intends to issue recommendations and establish a stakeholder dialogue with the aim to respond to the EU2020 Resource Efficiency Flagship Initiative and the related EU Roadmap.

PRESOURCE connects eight partners from six countries, representing public and private institutions from environmental, innovation and research sectors. They aim to promote a more responsible use of natural resources and to implement actions leading to increased resource productivity in Central Europe. The project will specifically tackle the potential of SMEs representing the production and manufacturing sector.

www.central2013.eu/environment

Robots and humans work towards better water management | European project



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The construction of a workshop and laboratory by Traidenis, a leading expert in waste water treatment equipment, combined with the use of new robotic equipment, is helping lead the way in waste water treatment. By providing clean, efficient and effective waste water systems, it is helping ensure that the local environment and economy continue to thrive in the future.

Traidenis creates, manufactures and assembles wastewater treatment equipment, with the underlying aim of making the Nemunas River and its basin the cleanest in Lithuania. Solutions include using biological treatment plants for domestic wastewater for private houses, oil catchers, grease catchers, pump stations and tanks.

As research and development activities represent one of its key areas of expertise, a Lithuanian company recently decided to embark on a plan to build its own experiment workshop and testing laboratory where new technological equipment would be implemented. The project, co-financed

under the ERDF, helped see this plan through. Part of the funding was allocated to an industrial robot designed for polishing and drilling the technical components of its work, contributing to the modern moulding and assembly work carried out using the latest in advanced production technologies. The new workshop now houses the latest in filament winding system technology. This system has produced some key benefits for the company, notably a manifold increase in work efficiency. The project has helped enable Traidenis to make a wider impact on growth and development in the local economy.

www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy

SHARE - Sustainable hydropower in Alpine rivers ecosystems | European project



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SHARE - Sustainable Hydropower in Alpine Rivers Ecosystems is an on-going European project involving 5 countries: Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Germany and France.

Hydropower is the most important renewable resource for electricity production in Alpine areas: it has advantages concerning the global CO₂ balance but on the other hand creates serious environmental impacts. RES-e Directives require that renewable electricity is enhanced but, at the same time, the Water Framework Directive obliges Member States to reach or maintain a "good" ecological status of their water bodies, this intrinsically limits the hydropower exploitation. Moreover the administrators of mountain areas face an increasing demand of water abstraction but lack reliable tools to

rigorously evaluate the effects on the environment and on society. Consequently, consumers, producers and decision makers do not have all the necessary inputs to reach decisions about their use of hydropower resources.

The purpose of SHARE is to develop, test and promote a decision making support system to merge, on an unprejudiced base, both river ecosystems and hydropower requirements. This approach will be led using existing scientific tools, adjustable to transnational, national and local norms and carried on by permanent panel of administrators and stakeholders. The project openly pursues integrated river management aims.

SHARE is a project co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund in the frame of the European Territorial Cooperation Programme Alpine Space.

www.share-alpinerivers.eu



COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS' CONFERENCES, COLLECTION OF GOOD PRACTICE AND MID-TERM ASSESSMENT OF EUROPE 2020

In 2012 and 2013, the Committee of the Regions organises a series of conferences – one for each of the seven Flagship Initiatives of the Europe 2020 strategy – under the heading “Regions and cities supporting Europe's growth strategy”. The series culminates in the 6th European Summit of Regions and Cities in spring 2014 and the mid-term assessment of the Europe 2020 strategy from the perspective of the CoR.

The conferences on the Flagship Initiatives are developed together with the European Parliament, the European Commission and stakeholders from cities and regions. European associations are invited to contribute to events according to their interest in the topics. The conferences are targeted at representatives from regional and local authorities, EU institutions, private and financial institutions, social partners and civil society.

The conferences will be accompanied by a thematic exhibition of good practice cases from regions and cities, the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, the European institutions, the European associations and other stakeholders. In spring 2014, a selection of good practice covering the different Flagship Initiatives will be shown in Brussels. All local and regional authorities will have a possibility to assess all Flagship Initiatives by participating in thematic surveys. Also, in the two and a half coming years the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform will continue to monitor the Europe 2020 policy cycle – looking at how multi-level governance is implemented.

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www.cor.europa.eu

PLANNING OF THE CONFERENCES

- **Youth on the move:** 13 December 2012, Brussels;
- **An agenda for new skills and jobs:** 28 February/1 March 2013, Dublin;
- **An industrial policy for the globalisation era:** 10 April 2013, Brussels
- **European platform against poverty:** 29 May 2013, Brussels
- **Digital agenda for Europe:** 2 July 2013, Brussels
- **Resource efficient Europe:** 5/6 September 2013, Vilnius
- **Innovation Union:** 27 November 2013, Brussels