



PRESS RELEASE

Workshop Local leadership in sustainable energy at High Level Policy Conference -

27/06/2013 – Brussels, Belgium, Committee of the Regions, JDE 70 - From 9:00 to 13:00 h.

The event aims to facilitate and share useful solutions and support available for the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of SEAPs with signatories and potential signatories of the Covenant of Mayors. The event aims to trigger exchange of experience and to build capacities of local and regional governments representatives and technical staff and to ultimately result into increasing the number of Municipalities signing the Covenant of Mayors and to help them to answer of challenge of energy and climate targets for 2020.

This event is organized under the CONURBANT project (<http://www.conurbant.eu>). The project aims at helping medium-large cities and the smaller towns in their urban area, through capacity building using peer-to-peer support and training between less and more experienced Municipalities, in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors. Main organizer of the event is Municipality of Vratsa, Bulgaria – partner in the project with the support of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa, Bulgaria (technical partner in the project) through its Enterprise Europe Network which supported the attendance of speakers from EACI - Ms Vassilia ARGYRAKI, EACI - ManagEnergy, Local and regional energy agencies; Eric Koch, EACI Project Officer (Research funding/ ICT/ Intelligent Energy/) at European Commission.

This will be a Joint session with five projects financed under Intelligent Energy Europe Programme to present the lessons learnt from SEAPs development and implementation including examples and good practices, success factors and barriers. In addition to the lessons learnt from the actual development of the SEAPS and implementation activities, it would also be discussed and presented the impact and effectiveness of the peer-to-peer and mentoring activities undertaken by some of the joint project partners, peer-learning as a method of improving the implementation of energy policies (SEAPs). The event will include a



session about the new opportunities for funding; the future vision of Elena and the Intelligent Energy Europe for the next programming period 2014-2020.

CONURBANT, LEAP, Covenant capaCITY, ERENET and CASCADE projects focus on the key role of local authorities in meeting the European Union's challenging energy and climate targets for 2020 through the delivery of effective local energy leadership. The partners are working to develop and deliver quality Sustainable Local Energy Action Plans. Furthermore, they support the Covenant of Mayors, a high level initiative, through real, manageable and supported actions at a local level.

The projects bridge the gap between essential bottom-up localised action, and the European energy agenda by embedding sustainable energy policy into the operations of municipalities. The focus is on generating the necessary political will, vision and ambition as well as the administrative capacity for local authorities to act as effective energy leader.

This event will emphasize on the innovative approaches being taken to promote the exchange of knowledge and best practice to improve the capacity of urban and rural areas and cities to embed sustainable energy solutions. The lead partners are exchanging ideas and sharing solutions as well as opening up their seminars and visits to the other projects.

The EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), an initiative of the European Commission connects directly with citizens and energy stakeholders at the local, regional and national levels, helping Europe to reach its energy goals and generate new ideas and actions.

This year, EUSEW includes a high-level policy conference in Brussels, with an expected attendance of around 4 000 people, more than 900 'Energy Days' events across the Union and the prestigious Sustainable Energy Europe Awards. CONURBANT project participate for second year in EU Sustainable Energy Week with workshop organized within the project.

Find out more by visiting www.eusew.eu or join us on social media: facebook.com/euenergyweek and twitter.com/euenergyweek.