

MICRO-CoM - Boosting the development of MICRO-Local Energy Action Plans for the Covenant of Mayors in rural areas (CIP-IEE-2011)

Local public authorities, through the Covenant of Mayors, work directly with the European Commission to reduce CO2 emissions by at least 20% by 2020.

The adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors requires different financial and human efforts that in many cases, small municipalities are not able to assume and this is the reason by the project MICRO-CoM aims to provide support in the development of Micro-Local Energy Action Plans in which specific measurements focus on the particular characteristics of rural areas. At the same time, the transfer of knowledge and experience among participating partners will contribute to a successful development of the LEAP establishment.

Small and medium sized municipalities are not large consumers of energy but nevertheless, the overall balance as a group is an important focus of CO2 emissions that should be regulated and reduced. In turn, these municipalities are presented as exemplary, since despite of having limited financial and human resources, can develop their own Local Energy Action Plans, which among other things, it will improve energy efficiency.

These micro-plans will assist the municipalities in rural areas for their future adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors and for that, it will also be important to develop a control and measuring tool that provides an inventory of CO2 emissions.

The role of citizens who comprise the global community in the participatory process in rural areas is also noteworthy, contributing through its lifestyle change and attitudes towards sustainable energy consumption and use to reduce CO2 emissions.

MICRO-CoM project aims to work on several lines:

- Evaluation of energy measurements for rural areas.
- Development of Micro-Local Energy Action Plans.
- Municipalities' adhesion to energy policies.
- Provide measurement and control tools.
- Promote the Covenant of Mayors among citizens.

Major outputs & expected results:

The key outputs and results from the project will be:

- ANALYSIS of Adhesion to Covenant of Mayors in European rural areas and shining examples.
- VIRTUAL TOOL for evaluating CO2 emission in rural areas.
- Establishment of Micro-LEAPs in municipalities of the participating regions to be developed for reducing CO2 emissions through the implementation of energy saving measures (efficiency and renewable energy).
- TRAINING for municipal technicians and politicians (at less 300 municipalities).
- Exchange visits to CoM municipalities.
- 15 info-days.
- Awareness of citizens about Covenant of Mayors.

The long term objectives of the project are to increase the energy sustainability of the small and medium sized municipalities, reducing their CO2 emissions and so, contributing to the EU Energy Policy target by 2020

Deadline: 12th May.

The approximate requested budget will be of 1.000.000 € Approx (75% EU funding)

The lead partner is looking for Energy Agencies, associations of municipalities (less than 20.000 inhabitants) and development agencies; partners can come from every European country (preferably not Spain).

The tasks to be performed by the partners of the consortium will be the following:

- Analyze measurements established in rural areas
- Support to establishment of Supporting Structure of LEAP
- Develop Local Energy Action Plans.
- Promotion of the Covenant of Mayors
- Set up parameters of measurement and control tools.

The partners who show interest to participate in this proposal must have experience in:

1. Relations with municipalities
2. Being able to develop Local Energy Action Plans
3. European projects

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