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**COALESCCE**  
**in semester 4**  
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An interregional cooperation project for improving low-carbon economy policies.

**Upcoming Activities**

**January** Workshop in Sofia, 28-30, January, 2019  
 Action Planning and Best Practice Toolkit Development

**May** Final dissemination conference  
 Great Manchester, United Kingdom

**COALESCCE project finished second year of activities**

Seven partners across Europe are working together to increase the capacity of community based approaches to local renewable energy provision in order to reduce carbon emissions, increase energy security and tackle fuel poverty whilst driving 'Green Growth'. In the fourth semester, Peer Reviews took place in two more partner regions, which contributed to exchange of experiences and mutual learning among all project partners.



<p><b>#1</b> Set a meaningful direction with national energy efficiency targets</p>	<p><b>#2</b> Provide a clear plan for energy efficiency measures</p>
<p><b>#3</b> Put in place good infrastructure planning for supporting the transition</p>	<p><b>#4</b> Close the energy savings investment gap</p>
<p><b>#5</b> Consult stakeholders about investments that matter</p>	

On 10<sup>th</sup> of December, 2018 a webinar was held focusing on Energy Efficiency 2030 - Next steps for Member States.

With the implementation of the Clean Energy package, EU Member States are moving into the next phase of energy efficiency policies, at a moment when citizens are increasingly aware of environmental challenges and keen on benefiting from policies which bring direct economic and social advantages. Fast-tracking energy efficiency has the potential to maximise economic, social and environmental benefits for all Europeans.

In this context, the Coalition for Energy Savings developed a set of recommendations for Member States on how to better reflect energy efficiency in national plans. These recommendations were discussed during the webinar on 10 December 2018. Five essential steps to help achieve the targets were proposed. For more information: <http://energycoalition.eu/10122018-guidance-implementing-new-energy-efficiency-directive>

The fifth Peer Review took place in October, 2018 in Baden - Wuerttemberg Region, Germany



The main focus of the peer review was how to revitalize the existing cooperatives and motivate them to invest in new projects? There are around 170 energy cooperatives in Baden-Württemberg, mainly in wind power, solar PV or bio-energy district heating. Changes in FITs are affecting negatively the attractiveness of the sector.

During the first day of the Peer Review the team attended a District Heating Congress in Karlsruhe. District heating schemes and renewable heat are not affected by FITs and are seen as an opportunity for community owned and led energy projects.



The peer review team had the opportunity in the next two days to visit number of projects and meet local experts in Freiburg and Konstanz.

The peer review approach was amended by additional workshop with some of the local experts to refine the recommendations to the host region

The findings were presented at a public event on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

The challenges in front the Community Energy and Co-operatives Associations in the region are to promote an expanded scope of community energy activities, beyond just generation and to professionalise the community energy sector.

Application of the new technologies IoT, ICT, crowdfunding, communication offer opportunities for new business models development.

The sector can be successful by bringing the stakeholders together to lobby at national level for policy change e.g. carbon tax and at the same time encourage friendly competition at regional level between co-operatives for recognition in a league table

The trips through Baden-Wuerttemberg and the eco-tour of Konstanz showed the appreciation of the Germans for the environment and nature, and eco-friendly industries and products.



In December, 2018, Greater Manchester Region, UK hosted the seventh and the final Peer Review of our COALESCCE project

The COALESCCE partners' peer review in Greater Manchester, in December 2018 started with a visit to Stockport Community Hydro. The double Archimedes screw turbine at Otterspool Weir generates renewable energy power on the river Goyt near Marple since 2012. It has been able to generate power even at times of low water levels. It generates enough clean, green energy to power about 60 homes, saving over 100 tonnes of CO2 per year or over 4,000 tonnes during the estimated 40 year life of the project.

The project partners visited also the Carbon Co-op and one of the projects supported by it, a deep energy efficient retrofit of a house in Eccles belonging to a Co-op member.

The Carbon Co-op is owned and run by house owners and demonstrates a community benefit society, which supports it's members with technical advise, skills and resources as well as the opportunity to meet other householders working to the same goals. The organization has no external shareholders or owners making profits, all resources are kept within the co-operative.

Householders interested in upgrading their house to 2050 standards is among the target group of Carbon Co-op members.



The peer review team also received presentations from a range of stakeholders including community energy groups, the University of Manchester (Tyndall Centre), social investors (Resonance), and representatives from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Oldham Council, Electricity North West (the local DNO/DSO) and national government (BEIS).

The week of intensive work brought opportunities to socialise with the stakeholders. The final feedback and recommendations session was lively, with the recommendations well received by the local stakeholders leading to a productive discussion and actions identified which could enable a step change in the community energy sector in Greater Manchester.





Knowledge City event in Sofia on November 27, 2018

COALESCCE partners from Bulgaria attended the International Conference KNOWLEDGE CITY in Sofia in November, 2018.

The event was organised under the auspices of Sofia Municipality and in partnership with Cluster Sofia Knowledge City, EIP-SCC, Sofia Development Association, Sofia Investment Agency and Sofia Tech Park. The conference brought together about 200 participants, representatives of leading Bulgarian and international companies, clusters, universities, research and scientific institutions, NGOs, investors and others knowledge economy and smart cities development stakeholders. The conference was focused on the systematic approach of transforming cities into knowledge & smart cities and the role of the local governmental policies for accelerating this process. A test bad of the Smart City Guidance Package for Integrated Planning and Implementation involved number of scientists, policy makers, businesses and EU representatives in the discussion around sustainability or environmental plans of which energy efficiency, climate change and scarcity of resources have become integrated parts, and are therefore closely related to smart city plans.

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