

REBUS Newsletter 3

What is REBUS?

REBUS—Renovation for Energy efficient Buildings—works through the idea that any benefits of renovation are higher when the retrofitting works are undertaken in a large number of buildings. Public authorities are among the best players to coordinate with to ensure economy of scale within such renovations—i.e. by pooling buildings together. REBUS fits into this context and contributes to EU

policies and priorities in a concrete and targeted manner. By promoting renovation for energy efficiency of public buildings, REBUS supports growth enhancement and job creating investments, with an emphasis on energy efficiency.

Regional Knowledge Sharing

Partners from eight EU countries work together to build **Energy Renovation Paths (ERPs)**. Exchange activities create the process of developing Action Plans that challenge regional differences thus making them adaptable to local contexts. Energy efficiency in public buildings is clearly relevant in the context of EU regional policy. The targets set by EU directives represent a challenge for member states. Concrete improvements at policy level are needed to achieve them, in which REBUS will play its part.



The vision of REBUS

The large potential for energy savings in the public building stock is hampered in each phase of the local authority energy renovation process: planning, implementing and monitoring. These problems all stem from a basic need in public authorities: to raise awareness and build skills on energy related issues among civil servants. REBUS uses **interregional exchange** among regions with a varied level of development on this issue, together with communication and engagement activities to develop Action Plans, resulting in: improvement of policy in-

struments, skills at individual, organisational and regional levels. REBUS assists the public sector by providing means and instruments to design Energy Renovation Paths (ERPs) for public buildings. In turn, this creates better, highly qualified jobs in public sector and more jobs related to the renovation sector (i.e. buildings, ICT tools).



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Save the Date!

Official release of the final Energy Renovation Path—
February 2019, REBUS Website



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European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Energy Renovation Path (ERP)

What is the REBUS Energy Renovation Path (ERP)?

REBUS supports local authorities in planning, implementing and monitoring energy renovation works in public buildings by designing a model Energy Renovation Path (ERP) that can be applied to all renovation projects and helps to overcome most typical challenges encountered in the process.



The ERP gathers good practices related to energy efficiency renovations in public buildings, with the focus on 4 main topics: planning, implementing, monitoring and horizontal theme capacity building.

In planning, a lack of reliable information, skills and effective decision-making structures often hinders the process of prioritising buildings to be renovated. In implementation, it affects the public tender process and subsequent works. In monitoring, it leads to difficulties in selecting/using tools that can monitor project impact and post-investment consumption.

The REBUS ERP, developed thanks to the **interregional exchange**, helps public authorities to improve the following aspects of their energy policy content and management by: raising awareness on potential savings of public buildings, collecting and using feedback from partner countries selecting buildings for renovation, drafting tenders for renovation works that include energy efficiency baselines, and so on.

The ERP follows a **'Dip, Dive, Dig' approach**. Users are advised to develop their learning through the initial 'Do's and Don'ts' and list of actions (Dip), learn more through the Experiences from each partner (Dive) and then undertake detailed investigation through the Good Practice's highlighted (Dig).

Stay tuned! The ERP available soon on the REBUS website: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/rebus/>. Our social media channels will alert all to the launch of the ERP via our REBUS [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

Interregional Cooperation for Europe's Energy Transition Event

This summer, REBUS, alongside likeminded EU-funded projects with an interest in improved policy for the European energy transition—VIOLET, SET-UP, BUILD2LC, ZERO CO₂, BIO4ECO and more—engaged in a cross-borders interregional cooperation event to address common challenges and goals related to the energy transition in Europe.



Co-hosted by the REBUS, VIOLET and SET-UP projects, the interregional cooperation event was held on the 27th of June in Florence, Italy—not coincidentally, a



*Chris Ashe of the **European Institute for Innovation**, alongside partners and participants from 14 low-carbon Interreg projects, discuss ways in which they can tackle challenges related to Europe's energy transition.*

cultural hub and home to many traditional and historical buildings that need special attention when renovating them for energy efficiency. This transnational meeting was created and designed by **Resolvo** and the **European Institution for Innovation (Elfi)**. The goal of the meeting was to cluster 14 similar Interreg Europe projects under a single cause—Europe's energy transi-

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Interregional Cooperation

tion—in an effort to bring synergy and support among represented projects. Featured as an EU-wide Energy Day, an extension of the annual **EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) 2018**, the whole day was a great success and provided amazing opportunities for capacity building of recommended policy changes surrounding energy efficiency in buildings.

Using a co-creational approach, the event offered a variety of engaging panel discussions, keynote speeches and even a competition to challenge project partners to brainstorm and validate solutions to these pressing issues surrounding Europe's energy transition.



Before breaking off into the Business Case workshops, participants received a review of what the Energy Transition is & discuss some signs of progress and future hopes.

Some highlights from the event include the sharing of good practices related to energy efficiency policy from experts of the **ZEROCO2**, **Social Green**, **CLEAN** and **Locarbo** Interreg projects. Durham Council's talk on their tested approaches to and experiences with energy efficiency in historical and cultural buildings also held a special place in our heart, as VIOLET aims to preserve traditional and heritage buildings by integrating energy efficiency cultural heritage into EU policy planning, management and monitoring.

Business Case Competition

The highlight of this summer's Interregional Cooperation for Europe's Energy Transition event was the **Business Case Competition**, which allowed all projects and participants to become active players in the energy transition day.



Participants, after hearing a variety of business cases presented by 14 different low carbon Interreg Europe projects, anxiously await to hear the winner of the competition.

With the launch of the **Business Case Competition**, project partners broke off into groups for an entire day to define and present their value propositions for the challenges of Europe's energy transition. In addition to this, the groups had the opportunity to focus on three major factors in the framework of participative workshops: **external forces** (i.e. inclusive economic development and growth, access to energy, etc.), **user commitment** (i.e. how to engage with energy system users and stakeholders) and the **mobilisation of key resources** (i.e. financial support, stakeholders/partners). After the third round of interactive, a winner was chosen.



(First place of the Business Case Competition went to the innovative thinkers of the **MOLOC** project (above), while **REBUS** and **BUILD2LC** took second and third, respectively. In reality, all projects were winners as they provide policy recommendations for the energy transition that will ensure progression towards the EU 2030 targets and beyond.



Staff Exchanges

Region of Crete takes on Durham, UK The UK Partners head to Poland

Four engineers that have been appointed energy managers in central buildings of the Region of Crete visited Durham on the 6th and 7th of September 2018 in order to find optimal solutions for energy saving and implement new practices in the public buildings of Crete.



Energy managers from Crete learning from Durham's "Big Switch Off" school carbon reduction programme this September.

As capacity building has been identified as a major regional need for Crete, during the staff exchange the energy managers of the regional buildings had the chance to get informed about the implementation of the successful GPs (The **Big Switch Off**, Durham's carbon reduction programme for schools). The knowledge gained gives them the potential to apply these good practices to the buildings for which they are responsible. This will work as a pilot application in order to evaluate the results in Crete and propose specific actions for building capacity of technical staff and raise awareness of the building users.

During the exchange, the actions and the results of the programs implemented by the City of Durham in schools and in various public buildings were presented, namely the Big Switch Off program, the DCC Carbon Management Program and the "LOCARBO project". The delegation also visited **Esh Winning Primary School, St. Petersburg, Joseph's RCVA Primary School** and **St Margaret's CE Primary School** in order to see the results and discuss about the abovementioned programs. The Greek energy managers were able to pack their suitcases full of fresh insight and good practices to bring home to the Region of Crete.



This September, colleagues from Durham County Council and a partner charity stakeholder, OASES attended a staff exchange in Poland to learn more about the 50:50 schools programme from Euronet that ran effectively in 139 schools in the country.

Durham County Council (DCC) visited the PNEC offices to understand the background of the programme and its methodology. The DCC also learned some practical tips on how to use the energy monitoring equipment that the schools involved used.

The partners then travelled to **Bielsko-Biala**, a city south of Krakow that is an award winning city for its energy efficiency work. They swung by the **Primary School No. 1** to meet their Eco-team pupil and learn about their energy saving work as part of the 50:50 programme. In two years they saved 9389€ from their energy bills!



(Above) REBUS partners measuring lux levels in a room.

The staff exchange moved on to visit the **Automobile and General Education High School** complex to get an inside look at the successful technical measures and behavioural programme implemented there.

To wrap up the exchange, the group met with the **Energy Management Unit** from Bielsko-Biala municipality. They have a comprehensive Sustainable Energy Action Plan and have achieved excellent results over

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many years through collaboration and identifying new opportunities and funding. The partners also met with the Deputy Mayor, who kindly presented some gifts.



From Firenze to Buzau

REBUS partner AFE (Florence, Italy) headed to Buzau, Romania this July for a staff exchange well organized by Romanian partner SERDA.

During the exchange, partners discussed proposals for the improvement of the energy renewal path (ERP) in order to improve the strategies about energy efficiency of the public Managing Authorities in Romania as in Italy: Buzau's experience can be transferred to the Tuscan territory with similar modes of action. It is also necessary

for AFE to accept the suggestion of revision and updating of the SEAP.

Like many Tuscan cities, Buzau already has its SEAP—Action Plan for improving the energy efficiency. The aim of Buzau's SEAP is to ensure the implementation of local policies including the **Integrated Urban Development Strategy of the Municipality**, in the field of energy efficiency and environment protection.

In addition, the study visit to the **Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu High School** in Buzau served as an interesting and concrete example of the implementation of energy efficiency in public buildings.



A study visit to the Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu High School in Buzau .

Training in Energy Efficiency in Malmö



The purpose of the energy efficiency session was to give an orientation of the new way of doing energy survey, and the importance of continues documentation of the energy situation in buildings. It is also an orientation for the upcoming energy survey at the **Mazetti building**.

According to the REBUS Action Plan, Malmö has reworked or even more structured up the way of performing energy audits, or as we call it, Energy survey. The purpose of doing this is to facilitate the measuring, monitoring and thereby the communication between landlord and tenant to ease the discussion of energy mitigation in buildings due to behavioural change.

The operation energy consumed is one of five parameters that consumes energy in a building:

1. Heating and cooling
2. (Hot) Water
3. Ventilation
4. Building (Boilers, engines for elevators)
5. Operation (Computers, printers)



Energy efficiency training in Malmö. Sweden

7th REBUS Partner Meeting – Durham, UK

The REBUS partners and stakeholders convened in Durham, UK for the 7th international REBUS Partner Meeting & Exchange.



After a warm welcome from Durham County Council, the partners participated in a communication session and social media training held by Communication Consultant **Carrie Brookes**. Other topics covered in the partner meeting include financial management, reporting, internal monitoring and the finalisation and peer review of the partners' Action Plans.

A highlight of the 7th international REBUS partner meeting & exchange was the study visit to **Durham University** to hear from the internationally renowned **Durham Energy Institute (DEI)**. This included presentations on two Low Carbon projects – the live ERDF funded

SWII (Solid Wall Insulation Innovation) project, and the potential of using mine water as a Low Temperature Heat Resource, which focused on the proposed **Stanley Louisa Centre Minewater Heating Proposal**.



Dr. Hongjian Sun demonstrating the smart grid system at Durham Energy Institute at Durham University, part two of the visit.



8th REBUS Partner Meeting & Exchange Event

Berlin Calling! The REBUS partners convened in Berlin this December for a workshop with external stakeholders on alternative financing models, discussions on the final Energy Renovation Path, a study tour to Freie Universität (Free University) Berlin's Sustainability & Energy Management Department ...and perhaps a visit or two to a traditional German Christmas market.

The two-day international exchange event was kicked off with a presentation by **Eckard von Schwerin** from the **KfW Bank** speaking about KfW's promotion of municipalities through energy efficiency loans and grants. External expert **Britta Schmigotzki** then presented on the "Transposition of Building Related EU Energy Efficiency Directives into National Buildings Refurbishment Policies", followed by the partners' discussion on action plans and next steps for REBUS led by **Miriam Siciliano** of **Resolvo**. Day 1 concluded with a study tour hosted by **Andreas Wanke**, Director of the Department of Sustainability & Energy Management at **Freie Universität (Free University) Berlin**, followed by a warm dinner in Prenzlauer Berg.



REBUS Partners on the S-Bahn to Freie University Berlin study tour

Highlights from day 2 include a presentation by DCC's **Steven Bowyer** on "Key learnings from Heerlen (NL) Minewater Project", which explores using mine water for energy. ***Auf Wiedersehen ("until we meet again"), REBUS partners!***

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About the Partners



Florentine Energy Agency

(AFE), Italy (Lead partner) is a public company that operates in the energy saving sector by promoting a rational use of energy and renewables.



The **City of Malmö, Sweden** has set its own the objective to reduce its energy consumption per square meter and year by 50% from 2001 to 2020.



Bora 94 Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Development Agency (B-A-Z CDA) Non-profit LLC, Hungary (formerly NORDA) is a county development agency with a



The **Association of Municipalities Polish Network Energie Cités (PNEC), Poland**

helps municipalities in elaboration & implementation of local climate and energy policies.



South-East Regional Development Agency (SER DA), Romania is a non-

governmental and non-profit body of public utility responsible for the development of policy programming and implementation in the SE Region of Romania.



The European Institute for Innovation (Eifi), Germany is

an applied science pan-European organization supporting the adaptations of regions to respond to fast pace of development, in a variety of sectors.

Durham County Council (DCC), UK is a public body that focuses on

the need to facilitate business growth and job creation via an effective approach to energy efficiency.



Region of Crete, Greece is a public authority that designs and implements policies for sustainable regional development.

Project partner information

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