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1. Introduction

This document shows the activities undertaken in the Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region related to the task of COOPENERGY of mobilizing regional and local Authorities for greater effective of collaboration on SEAPs.

2. Development of the regional SEAP

The SEAP of the MRN was developed in several stages. After the identification of players in the regional energy sector and a pre-consultation in 2008, a decision of procurement was made with a public invitation to tender and launch events in 2009. Involving stakeholders in concept development via steering committees and working groups between 2010-2011 is a core characteristic of the regional SEAP: the inclusive and democratic process to ensure a great acceptance and matching needs and interests of different stakeholders. For the final decision at the association's general meeting, a final concept was presented at a regional conference in 2012. In the same year in March, the General Meeting of the Association approved the SEAP ("Regionales Energiekonzept Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar"). At the same time the Rhine-Neckar Regional Association (Verband Region Rhein-Neckar VRRN) was appointed to coordinate the implementation of the regional SEAP. Main sectors of the SEAP include topics on Energy efficiency (buildings, combined heat and power production, energy management); Renewable energy (wind, solar, water, geothermal, bioenergy, heat pump), System integration (combined heat and power production, smart grids, energy storage technologies) and Mobility (private and public transport).

There is no intention to revise the SEAP within the following years due to the complex democratic process in which it was designed and approved. 75 projects are defined as drafts in the regional SEAP. The operationalization will be coordinated by working groups e.g. "climate friendly communities"; "energy round table meetings", "sustainable mobility".

3. Activities of the Regional Steering Committee

There is a RSC already in place to ensure an effective implementation of the Regional SEAP and for Monitoring a Regional Climate Protection Manager is in charge. At present stage no new steering committee will be established (as proposed in WP3 of COOPENERGY) in order to avoid duplication. An adaption to new circumstances and needs of the local level is possible through specific actions related to the 75 project drafts of the regional SEAP, which are coordinated by already existing working groups as mentioned above.

4. Selection of the MLG model

To evaluate the status quo on coherence and need of the local level, a communal survey was conducted to serve as a basis for further MLS Forums, RSC meetings and to choose a MLG Modell for the MoC under COOPENERGY.

The online questionnaire was sent to 93 requested contact persons for Energy and Environment at local level. It was open from the 9th of July till the 5th of August 2013 with a response rate of 82,8%. In the announcement mail of the survey it was stated that the survey is part of COOPENERGY . The questionnaire comprised 48 questions with the following topics: degree of recognition of the regional SEAP, local activities on Energy and Environment and presence of local SEAPs, specific action and involvement in energy related networks and initiatives such as Covenant of Mayors, energy cooperatives, local needs for support and cooperation with the region. Results were presented at a meeting in autumn 2013 with representatives of the region, the communities, energy agencies, citizen's energy cooperatives and the counties.



Results_esurvey_lo
alSEAPs_MRN_Germa

Discussing the results of the survey in the Plenum, the idea was born to start a pilot project of MLG collaboration on implementing the different SEAPs between the Region and the Rhine-Neckar County, which itself will sign a MOC with its communities on working together to set up and implement local SEAPs. This is to ensure a collaboration involving all relevant levels (regional, county, community).

5. MLG activities


The MLG activities cover different thematic topics of the regional SEAP and take into account the specific needs of the local level, in order to achieve good coherence between the different levels. In November 2013 a RSC meeting took place in which the results of the communal survey were presented and discussed. Here the idea of the pilot project "MoC with the Rhine-Neckar Kreis" was born. It is an innovative MLG approach as the regional, county and local level are involved to ensure close collaboration. MLS Forums are held with topics such as Sustainable Mobility, Energy Management of Buildings, funding options for local SEAPs and so on. For concrete activities, several LWG were set up.

Annexes



RSC Meeting 1	
Date	November 2013
Location	Musikpark Mannheim
Participants	Mayors, VRRN, MRN GmbH, Local Authorities, Energy Agencies, Energy cooperatives, others (already existing RSC)
Objectives and summary	Presentation of results of communal survey to identify local needs and to optimize collaboration on SEAPs, find MLG Modell for MoC COOPENERGY; presentation of events to come in 2015 dedicated to needs expressed ("Veranstaltungsreihe kommunaler Klimaschutz ENERGIEWENDEMRN").
Agenda	Introduction (Ralph Schlusche, Association Director VRRN) Presentation of Communal Survey (Diana Schneider, MRN GmbH) Projects and Events in 2014 (Julia Eustachi and Klemens Gröger VRRN) Opportunities for the future of communities: the case of regional added value potential (Dimitri Vedel, Bodensee Stiftung) Discussion and Lunch
Contents	In context of implementation of regional SEAP a series of events called „EnergieWendeMRN“ is organized to promote and support local climate protection activities: information events, practical seminars, training on communal energy management, mobility management, monitoring, local SEAPs and RES in MRN.
Other (pictures, links...)	

Description of MLS forums

EnergieWendeMRN (energy turnaround MRN)	
Organiser Name	Verband Region Rhein-Neckar VRRN, MRN GmbH
Date of Event	February 2013
Event Title	EnergieWendeMRN Sustainable Mobility
Location	Kulturviereck in Haßloch
Description	High traffic volumes, air pollution and traffic noise as well as environmentally harmful greenhouse gases affect increasingly the quality of life of citizens. The goal is to make the

	traffic volumes more energy efficient in ecological and economical way. How this can be achieved was discussed on the 6th of February 2014 with 40 representatives of local authority im Kulturviereck in Haßloch. This event is part of a series of events called "EnergieWendeMRN".
Target Audience	Mayors, Energy Agencies, Energy cooperatives, Communities
No. of participants	40
Event Language(s)	German
Contact	Julia Eustachi julia.eustachi(at)vrrn.de
Programme	This time priority issue was "Mobility management in communities" with topics such as funding instruments for sustainable mobility (e.g. funding programme of the National Climate Protection initiative) and practical examples presented by Frieder Zappe (Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Neckar). To raise awareness for sustainable mobility management in local and county administrations, a set of best practice cases were presented by Isabel Schonath from Rhine-Neckar County. At lunchtime participants could exchange thoughts and do a test drive with e-cars, e-bike and Pedelec sponsored by community authority Hassloch. To event is linked to a practical Seminar on Mobility management for local administration on the 25.02.2014 organized by VRRN.
Links	
Evaluation	Results showed, that a reduction of MIT can only be achieved in case of strengthening transport provider „Umweltverbund“ and in collaboration with communities in order to develop and adapt supply on transport options. Apart from a very well-developed public transport system, Car sharing options, sharing bike systems must also be taken into account to motivate citizens for a multi-mode and climate friendly travel behavior. Local administrations themselves contribute to traffic volumes as employer and service provider can be active in sustainable mobility management.
Pictures	

Signing of MoC MRN/Rhine-Neckar County/Communities RNK

Organiser Name	VRRN, MRN GmbH, Rhein-Neckar Kreis
Date of Event	23. April 2014
Event Title	Signing of MoC
Location	Landratsamt Heidelberg
Description	<p>Signing of the MoCs</p>  <p>PI_MOC.pdf</p>
Target Audience	Regional Authority, local authorities, Rhine-Neckar County
No. of participants	60
Event Language(s)	German
Contact	Bernd Kappenstein
Programme	Signing of the MoCs
Links	 <p>Kooperationsvereinbarung VRRN_MRN Gr</p>
Evaluation	Great Success, MLG Model is role model.

Pictures




Network Meeting Stakeholders Energy and Environment

Organiser Name	MRN GmbH																			
Date of Event	10. April 2014																			
Event Title	Network Meeting Stakeholders Energy and Environment																			
Location	IHK Rhein-Neckar in L1, 2 in Mannheim																			
Description	Different Stakeholders of the Energy and Environment sector of the MRN presented ongoing energy related project and discussed issues.																			
Target Audience	Chambers of Commerce and Trade, Energy/Environment Departments of local Authorities, energy suppliers and agencies, consulting institutions.																			
No. of participants	29																			
Event Language(s)	German																			
Contact	Bernd Kappenstein, Martina Dünzl																			
Programme	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Welcome</td> <td>Dr. Gerhard Gumbel IHK Rhein-Neckar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>The amendment of the EEG</td> <td>Dr. Georg Müller MVV Energie AG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz, activities and structure</td> <td>Oliver Decken Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Climate change activities Verband Region Rhein-Neckar</td> <td>Julia Eustachi Regional Climate Protection Manager VRRN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Energy- und CO₂-Balance Rhine-Neckar Count</td> <td>Dr. Klaus Keßler KLIBA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.</td> <td>Regional CO₂-Portal in the MRN</td> <td>Thilo Sekol Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar</td> </tr> </table>		1.	Welcome	Dr. Gerhard Gumbel IHK Rhein-Neckar	2.	The amendment of the EEG	Dr. Georg Müller MVV Energie AG	3.	Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz, activities and structure	Oliver Decken Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz	4.	Climate change activities Verband Region Rhein-Neckar	Julia Eustachi Regional Climate Protection Manager VRRN	5.	Energy- und CO₂-Balance Rhine-Neckar Count	Dr. Klaus Keßler KLIBA	6.	Regional CO₂-Portal in the MRN	Thilo Sekol Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar
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	7.	Environment Award City of Mannheim 2013	Agnes Hähnel-Schönfelder Stadt Mannheim
	8.	Update on the Energiekarawane	Brice Mertz EnergieEffizienzAgentur E2A
	9.	Nachhaltiges Wirtschaften: Final Report	Dorothee Lang UKOM
	10.	Projects of Department of Energy and Environment MRN GmbH	Bernd Kappenstein Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar
	11.	Indicators for energy efficiency	Bernd Kappenstein Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar
Links			
Evaluation	Meeting next year.		
Pictures			

EnergieWendeMRN Topic Communal Energy Management

Organiser Name	VRRN (regional authority), MRN GmbH
Date of Event	July 2014 (17.07.2014)
Event Title	Communal Energy Management
Location	Sinsheim
Description	Workshop to discuss and evaluate options for communal energy managements, potentials and the need for a working group in communal energy management
Target Audience	Local authorities and administration, others
No. of participants	60
Event Language(s)	German
Contact	Julia Eustachi
Programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Status Quo of energy management in communities (staff, programmes,...) 2. Need and Design of a working group on communal energy management? (topics, form of collaboration) 3. Organisation (how often, how long, stakeholders involvement) 4. Conclusion
Links	
Evaluation	A working group is set-up with meetings every 3 to 6 months. There was a great resonance and acceptance.
Pictures	

EnergieWende MRN Financing opportunities for climate protection

Organiser Name	VRRN (regional authority), MRN GmbH
Date of Event	September 2014 (25.09.2014)
Event Title	Financing opportunities for climate protection: Locals SEAPs and individual measures
Location	Frankenthal, Dathenushaus
Description	Workshop to discuss and evaluate funding options for local SEAPs/activities
Target Audience	Local authorities and administration, others
No. of participants	35
Event Language(s)	German
Contact	Julia Eustachi
Programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. „Die Kommunalrichtlinie 2015/2016“. Funding in context of the National Climate Protection Initiative (Cathrin Gudurat, Service- und Kompetenzzentrum: Kommunaler Klimaschutz, Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik) 2. Funding of energy refurbishment at district and neighborhood level by KfW Bank Group (Janina Oest, Special Adviser for infrastructure financing KfW Bank Group) 3. Interesting European funding opportunities: EFRE/ INTERREG V A Oberrhein/ INTERREG B. (Jörg Saalbach, Verband Region Rhein-Neckar) 4. Climate protection activities and funding sources at City of Speyer: A practical insight (Fabienne Mittmann, Climate Protection Management City of Speyer) 5. Discussions
Links	http://www.energie-rhein-neckar.com/aktuelles/detail/artikel/energiewendemrn-foerdermoeglichkeiten-im-kommunalen-klimaschutz.html?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=2381&cHash=196a63bf01c773bb690a1ed026adc5f8
Evaluation	Evaluation sheets showed a great acceptance and positive feedback.

Pictures



Description of Energy days

Energy Information Day 1 "Regional Conference: The city of Tomorrow"

Organiser Name	Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region, Department of Energy and Environment
Date of Event	Friday 13 th of June 2014
Event Title	Regionalkonferenz (Regional Conference) "Die Stadt von Morgen" (The city of tomorrow)
Location	Bensheim
Description	Different Stakeholders of the energy and climate protection sector from within and outside the Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region had the chance to exchange ideas on the topic "climate neutral city" with special emphasis on sustainable city development and mobility as well as energy supply in times of energy turnaround at local level. Participants were able to enjoy several presentations and a panel discussion.
Target Audience	Communities, energy agencies, companies, energy cooperatives, others.
No. of participants	200
Event Language(s)	German
Contact	Bernd.Kappenstein@m-r-n.com

Programme	3.30 Uhr	Einlass		
	4.00 Uhr	Begrüßung	Bernd Kappenstein Fachbereich Energie & Umwelt MRN GmbH	
	4.15 Uhr	Grußworte	Matthias Wilkes Landrat Kreis Bergstraße, Stellvertretender Verbandsvorsitzender VRRN, Mitglied des Vorstandes ZMRN e.V. Mathias Samson Staatssekretär des Wirtschaftsministeriums Hessen	 
	4.45 Uhr	Die Stadt von Morgen – Herausforderungen, Ziele und Ausblick in die Zukunft	Dr. Eckhart Hertzsch Leiter der Geschäftsstelle „Nationale Plattform Zukunftsstadt“ und Leiter des Geschäftsfeldes „Morgenstadt“; Fraunhofer-Institut für Bauphysik IBP	
	5.15 Uhr	Vernetzte Mobilität nachhaltig gestalten – der VRN vom Verkehrsverbund zum Mobilitätsverbund	Volkhard Malik Geschäftsführer Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Neckar GmbH	
	5.45 Uhr	Kaffeepause		
	6.15 Uhr	Energieversorgung der Zukunft – Energiewende vor Ort	Dr. Peter Müller Vorstand der GGEW AG	
	6.45 Uhr	Podiumsdiskussion „Weichenstellung in einem urbanen, klimafreundlichen und vernetzten Lebensraum – Herausforderung für Stadt und Region“ Moderation: Gerhard Augstein, SWL	 Matthias Wilkes Landrat Kreis Bergstraße  Volkhard Malik Geschäftsführer Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Neckar GmbH  Ludger Stüve Direktor Regionalverband Frankfurt Rhein-Main	 Helmut Sachwitz Erster Stadtrat der Stadt Bensheim  Dr. Peter Müller Vorstand GGEW AG  Ralph Schlusche Verbandsdirektor Verband Region Rhein-Neckar
	8.00 Uhr	Ende der Konferenz		
	Links	http://www.energie-rhein-neckar.com/veranstaltungen/regionalkonferenz-energie-und-umwelt.html		
Evaluation	<p>Introduction / „What matters is a habitable and pleasant city which focuses on the citizen“ – Bernd Kappenstein welcomed the 200 visitors of the regional conference in Bensheim (Hesse) on July 13th 2014 with these words. The head of Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar GmbH’s department energy & environment explained furthermore, “We want to display trends and introduce projects that can change everyday life to be more far-sighted“. This development challenges both the region and the communities, to work together and therefore, achieve</p>			

the best outcome possible.

District administrator Matthias Wilkes took on this thought in his introduction and emphasized the importance of stepping beyond communal borders in order to face these challenges.

Presentations / Three experts demonstrated various perspectives on the future of cities and municipalities. Dr. Eckhart Hertzsch (Fraunhofer Institute for building physics, IBP) emphasized the fact that 70% of the German population already lives in cities. According to this fact, a „carefully coordinated, total concept“, is necessary to achieve the set objectives. Several examples derived from current developments in the Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region were presented.

Panel discussion / Wind energy, mobility and an aging society were the most prominent subjects of the panel discussion rounding off the conference. Ralph Schlusche, chairman of the Rhine-Neckar Region Association, stated the following:

There are 48 priority areas in the metropolitan region for wind turbines. 84 wind turbines are currently operated and 200 new ones can be built. According to requirements of the states Rhineland-Palatine, Hesse and Baden-Württemberg, 30% of the area are to be excluded. “Therefore, no regional planning can work without compromise”, said Schlusche. District administrator Matthias Wilkes specified the situation in the district Bergstraße, where the introduction of wind energy facilities leads to discussions among the citizens. “I can understand these protests to some extent”, said Wilkes. He explained furthermore that his district, as well as the district Pfälzer Wald, are important touristic destinations (“BioPark”). For him, it is important to examine every potential location on its own “because wind energy is not a black-and-white subject.

Pictures





Energy Information Day 2 Competition BürgerEnergieIdeen

Organiser Name	Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region, Department of Energy and Environment
Date of Event	November 2014 (19.11.2014)
Event Title	BürgerEnergieWettbewerb
Location	Schwetzingen
Description	
Target Audience	Citizens, local authorities, local banks, energy agencies etc.
No. of participants	-
Event Language(s)	German
Contact	Bernd.Kappenstein@m-r-n.com
Programme	-
Links	http://www.energie-rhein-neckar.com/erneuerbare-energien/wettbewerb-buergerenergieideen.html
Evaluation	-
Pictures	