

## Local Government Association, Malta - ENESCOM

**Time period:** 2010 - 2012

**Theme of collaboration:** Developing sustainable energy plans, Implementing modelling/monitoring/planning tools, Engaging stakeholders in energy plans

**Application:** Energy efficiency/Renewable energy production/GHG reduction

**Topic:** CoM-related technical support/Awareness initiative

### Description

The ENESCOM project promoted widespread information and dissemination activities targeting 13 different EU countries aiming at achieving the following main objectives:

- to increase the number of EU local communities engaged in the mitigation of climate change through the promotion and adherence of the Covenant of Mayors' (CoM) initiative;
- to develop capacity building in energy sustainability and the adoption of intelligent local sustainable energy policies (creation and implementation of SEAPs – Sustainable Energy Action Plans);
- to promote the integration and institutionalization of energy efficiency, saving and use of renewable energy sources (energy-efficient behaviours and lifestyles) within EU local communities, targeting all relevant stakeholders (public administration, businesses, citizens...).

As the only CoM Supporting Structure for Malta, the Local Councils' Association, now called Local Government Association (LGA) tries to promote the idea of the CoM and the development of SEAPs to all 68 Local Councils in Malta and Gozo. ENESCOM was one such initiative which financed the drafting of four SEAPs to Local Councils. Through the ENESCOM project, LGA also conducted several dissemination initiatives such as meetings with pioneer municipalities, energy days and awareness raising campaign to further promote the issue of sustainable energy planning in the region.

### Context / Background

Founded in 1994, Local Councils' Association (LCA) is a public authority that represents all 5 regions and 68 local councils in Malta and Gozo. As Covenant of Mayors Supporting Structure it currently supports 25 municipalities, of which 24 have submitted their SEAP to the Covenant office. Since 2007, LCA has set up a EU project unit and since then has participated to more than 15 projects.

#### Budget range

< € 100,000
€ 100,000 – € 1,000,000
€ 1,000,000 – € 10,000,000
€ 10,000,000 – € 100,000,000
> € 100,000,000
N/A

#### Key results

- 4 Local Councils (Municipalities) have adhered to CoM
- 4 SEAPs created, approved and submitted
- 4 information offices set up

#### Financing & costs

The project was financed by the IEE programme at 75 %. The total eligible budget for the LGA amounted to €110,764,000.

#### Partners involved - Governance

The local partners involved (stakeholders and beneficiaries) include those of the 4 Local Councils for which the SEAP was drafted- Victoria LC, Ghala LC, Qormi LC and Mellieha LC, as well as the Ministry for Energy and Ministry for Local Government.



## Results achieved

- 4 new Maltese localities have adhered to the CoM;
- 4 new SEAPs have been prepared and submitted to CoM
- 4 new information offices have been established in Malta
- staff member of the 4 new offices have been trained in order to be of help to citizens with their queries related to EE.

Furthermore, the following dissemination events were organized, which enabled to inform a wide range of local stakeholders:

- organization of 7 meetings with the pioneers municipalities to give information about the purpose and aims of the Covenant of Mayors to the Mayors, Vice-Mayors and Councillors of the 68 Municipalities of Malta and Gozo. 290 participants attended these events;
- Organisation of a National Energy Seminar, with 25 participants
- 2 Energy Days organised in schools, with 120 students aged 5-16 years participating;
- National Awareness Campaign during the MFCC Malta Trade fair. During this event the LCA set-up an information stand so as to give out information related to the project aims and objectives to more than 2,000 people.

## Lessons learned & Success factors

1) **Baseline assessment is very important:** An initial analysis of the communities' energy situation forms the base for planning energy sustainability, but also for monitoring the progress that will be achieved by implementing the new measures

2) **Local partnership.** In the experience of the ENESCOM project, the awareness raising has led to the realisation that the evolution of local energy systems towards higher consumption levels and the consequent growth of green-house gases emission can only be halted through the implementation of extensive actions, involving the highest possible number of subjects, areas and technologies.

3) **Awareness raising, information and dissemination.** Politicians, decision makers and municipal technicians are quite often unaware or not atuned to energy issues and their environmental effects and are therefore hard to convince in committing themselves to energy policies or initiatives. Presenting successful experiences (best practices) already developed by other municipalities or local communities (pioneers) can help overcome this kind of barrier and create a more favourable political background towards sustainable energy planning and local energy management.



LGA's stand at Malta Trade Fair



Students during an Energy day in Qala



Leaflets on energy saving disseminated among all 68 local councils of Malta

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