



COALESCCE project sums up its first 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'.

For this project, community energy is defined as the provision of energy infrastructure, primarily renewable energy generating infrastructure but also energy efficiency measures, led by community groups and owned wholly or partly by local communities typically through the issue of community shares, using local supply chains and providing local employment opportunities, motivated by the objectives of environmental improvement and keeping the value of energy generation within the local population rather than it going to large national and multinational corporations. Although one key aspect of community energy is local community ownership of projects, this does not mean that finance for every development stage of a community energy project is easy to come by, or that the state should not support such projects either through direct or indirect means (grants, loans, expertise or market mechanisms).

Currently state interventions are skewed towards support of large corporations which offer poor value to local communities, keeping it at a corporate level. The project seeks to increase investment in local community energy investment via support from Structural Fund and ETC programmes. Integrated regional lowcarbon strategies need to focus more on community energy investments to reach these targets, but there is currently significant disparity across the member territories in this policy area: where some have none at all, those who do vary substantially in the levels of interventions and stakeholders that they favour and therefore their outcomes, in particular in the share of renewable energy infrastructure owned by communities and supported through the relevant structural fund programmes. COALESCCE aims to address this disparity.



The first Project Partner meeting took place in Great Manchester



The first Project Partner meeting took place in Great Manchester, Odham Metropolitan, UK, in February, 2017. On the 22nd and 23rd of February, The Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council hosted the project Kick Off Meeting. It represented the official start of COALESCCE and the occasion for partners to meet for the first time and to plan the activities to be realised together during the whole project.

Second Steering Group Meeting 12th July, 2017 In Germany



The Meeting established the programme of Peer Review visits for the remainder of Semester 1 and 2 of the COALESCCE project, to enable each partner to benefit from the experience and best practice of the other six regions. The Lake Konstanz Meeting set the bar and the scene for the rest of the COALESCCE project



The **Solar park Mooshof, Stockach** is a Joint venture between regional energy suppliers, renewable energy cooperative and private investor for a 4,5 MW and 13 ha solar park. The cooperation with local conservation organization to develop care concept for local species below the solar panels contributed to a significant increase of the acceptance.

The project partners met in Radolfzell at LACE Constance Foundation for a two-day study visit. COALESCCE project team visited several good examples for renewable energies near Lake Constance. All the sites illustrate how community based and joint ventures can help to realize these kind of projects with a high acceptance level.

The **Solar heating Bioenergy village** in Büsingen am Hochrhein has a new, 100% regenerative 6 km long district heating network. The project of the solar complex AG has model character: While in the winter half-year a big biomass boiler does the main work, the large solar system takes over in the summer half-year. The solar system is divided in two nearly 500 m² collector fields in the open land and additional 100 m² collectors in the facade of the boiler house.



Wood gasification, Blumeninsel Mainau, Konstanz

The 45 hectares Mainau Island lies just off the shores of Lake Constance the far south-west of Germany, close to Switzerland and Austria and is one of the top-ten tourist attraction in Baden-Württemberg. Unique is the energy concept, which tries to save energy on a large scale and to supply the energy from renewable energies. For that purpose, the management decided to produce most required energy on the island.



Study visit in
Germany,
BADEN-
WUERTTMEBERG,
Lake Konstanz, 12th
July, 2017

Interviews with participants and their shared opinions you can find on you tube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEY_FsYd8FSciNRSgwJowIg



During the four-day visit, the team of experts met representatives of local authorities, state institutions and businesses involved in developing and implementing energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change strategies.

The first COALESCCE Peer Review in Sofia October 23 – 26, 2017

Mark Atherton, chairman of the COALESCCE steering group provides update on the expert group's work in an interview on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hZb6bbpZQI&feature=youtu.be>

Field visits to Municipalities from South West (Ihtiman) and South Central (Bratsigovo) Regions acquainted the foreign experts with energy efficiency and RES projects implemented on their territories and financed mainly by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Agricultural Fund, the National Energy Efficiency Program, as well as by private investors.

Ihtiman Municipality enjoys the attention of private investors in the field of renewable energy sources. Two photovoltaic parks were built in the municipality. One is a photovoltaic power system of 1 MWp in the region of Paunovo village, and the second one is a 2 MWp.



In 2015 **Bratsigovo Municipality** joined the initiative of the EC "Covenant of Mayors" to engage European cities in the fight against climate change. The Municipality undertakes a voluntary commitment to achieve EU environmental and energy targets by reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 20% till 2020. In the period 2008 - 2017, with the help of the EU funds, the municipality implemented projects for rehabilitation and introduction of RES in municipal buildings - schools and kindergardens. It repairs the "Vassil Petleshkov" Culture Hall in order to achieve energy efficiency, including the replacement of a steam boiler with a renewable energy source on wood pellets and fruit pitches such as cherry stones and others with a power of 697Kw.





In November Oldham Council hosted a Financial Modelling workshop for the local community energy sector, delivered by Quantum Strategy & Technology, who also attended the peer review in Sofia. Local community energy groups from the COALESCCE stakeholder group plus other groups from outside the region attended the half-day workshop and received expert presentations from Quantum, who have supported a number of community energy groups. Key financial challenges to the community energy sector were discussed, along with changes in national policy which are impacting community energy groups, and ideas for new business models were put forward. The outputs from the Financial Modelling workshop will inform the main Greater Manchester COALESCCE stakeholder action planning workshop which is scheduled for February 2018, which will also include private and public sector representatives, and aim to feed policy recommendations to the Greater Manchester Mayor's Green Summit in March 2018.

Continuous
engagement in
communication
with stakeholders

We are spreading the word about COALESCCE far and wide! Here is Catalin and Diana from our Romanian COALESCCE members AE3R Ploiesti-Prahova at "European economy and digital society in the current geopolitical context", a conference at the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiesti in Romania. For more, visit www.interregeurope.eu/coalescce and www.ae3r-ploiesti.ro. Please like, comment and share with your local energy groups on Facebook, on websites and on your other social media channels!



Coalescce had the second peer review in Hungary in December 2017 and you will learn more about it in our Newsletter 2 in 2018.

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