Multi-level governance best practices in sustainable energy planning

Scientific Joint Workshop: Innovation in Assessing and Governing Low Carbon and Smart Cities

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Overview

- Driving forces for Multi-Level Governance in sustainable energy planning
- Coopenergy project
- Examples of MLG models
- Success factors
Multi-level governance refers to the effective interaction between the different political levels for an improved coordination and coherence between the local, regional, national and European policy level"

5 principles of "good governance“:
Transparency, Participation, Accountability, Effectiveness and Coherence

(source: White paper on EU governance)
Context – Sustainable energy planning

UN
European Union
Member State
Regional Authority
Metropolitan area
Municipality

Regulatory schemes
EU Directives
National/Regional laws
Compulsory local SEAPs
FR: > 50 000 inhabitants

Voluntary
Smart cities
PCET Voluntary,
...
Context – Sustainable energy planning

EU: about 7 000 local plans (SEAPs):

< 10% of EU municipalities,
< 40% of EU population

Limited coordination between sub-national levels leading to inefficiencies, overlaps, delays
Drivers for Multi-Level Governance at sub-national levels

Regional authority

Limited sources of renewable energy within their territory,
Need coherence with regional plans,
Compliance with spatial planning procedures not always “climate compatible”
Drivers for Multi-Level Governance at sub-national levels

Regional authority

Metropolitan area

- Lack of energy planning technical skills
- Lack grid (connections) for RES
- Lack of funding and financial resources
- Lack of energy data

Municipality
Drivers for Multi-Level Governance at sub-national levels

Need to involve regional and local stakeholders to:
- Deploy “smart” energy grids
- Facilitate natural resource use and conflict management (water,..)
- Implement effective cross boundary RES supply chains
- Engage stakeholders and develop consistent awareness raising campaigns
Other driving forces for MLG

- Need for synergies and **economies of scale**
- Need to take into account new **administrative levels**: macro regions, metropolitan areas
- Important **role of regions** in scaling-up local action and linking with EU policies and initiatives
- Increasing role of **civil society** and private actors: citizen investment program, RES acceptance, funding,..
- **More planning** requirements at sub-national levels
What is at stake at regional and local levels?

Increasing need for a collaborative and structured MLG in sustainable energy planning

Urban-rural solidarity mechanisms
EU - COOPENERGY Project
Implement and promote **effective Multi-level governance models in sustainable energy planning**

between regional and local public authorities
CONSORTIUM

Lead partner: Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes, 12 Partners, 9 EU Countries
Collaborative models

Regional public authorities

Local public authorities

Regional and local energy stakeholders

Citizens

Financial partners

Key targets
Key targets and focus areas

Collaborative development of regional energy plans
Regional tools supporting local planning actions:
   -- financial instruments
   -- decision making and monitoring tools
   -- stakeholder involvement tools
EU Survey- Best practices:

More than 250 public authorities contacted in EU 28
150 collaborative processes identified
60 best case models described online
Examples of collaboration models
Theme of collaboration: Developing sustainable energy plans
Topic: Cooperation in Regional SEAP development

Description: The regional authority implemented a collaborative and stakeholder involvement process for the design of the regional SEAP involving a wide range of public and private actors during a 2 year period (routables, thematic workshops, surveys,..)

Partners involved – Governance: 150 people were involved coming from local authorities, 13 interest groups and 46 non-governmental organisations. Coordination by the Regional Council

Key results: 280 agreed measures with objectives exceeding national climate change mitigation targets based on innovation scenario.
**Valencian Community, ES - “Improvement of energy performance in traffic lights”**

**Theme of collaboration:** Implementing joint Financial Mechanisms  
**Topic:** Joint Procurement Process

**Description:**  
Aims to help all the public municipalities of the Valencian community in replacing all the incandescent bulbs in traffic lights with more efficient LEDs. Project co-funded at regional level.

**Partners involved – Governance:**  
- 99 local municipalities  
- Instituto de la Energía (IDEA)  
- Valencian Community  
- Valencian Energy Agency (AVEN)

**Key result**  
Accelerated transition to more energy efficient traffic lighting with more than 20,000 incandescent bulbs replaced. Saved 5 MWh per year.
Rhône-Alpes region, FR - Public Regional Energy Services Operator (OSER)

Theme of collaboration: Implementing joint Financial Mechanisms
Topic: Setting up of regional funding entities

Description: OSER is a Local Public Company (LPC) responsible for energy efficiency renovation projects in public buildings. Its shareholders are the Regional Council and local public authorities. OSER provides technical, legal and financial expertise to LAs. It also act as third-part investor.

Partners involved – Governance:
Regional Council
10 local public authorities
service providers and banks/financial organizations

Key results:
20 high energy efficient renovation projects ongoing. Risks are centralised.
Setting up a Biogas Network, South East Sweden

**Theme of collaboration:** Implementing regional support tools  
**Topic:** Stakeholder engagement (supply and demand sides)

**Description:** Creation of a *regional network of actors* aiming to increase the general knowledge about biogas, both in *public and private sectors*. Other working themes of the network cooperation are feasibility studies and background reports on biogas potential in the region.

**Partners involved – Governance:**  
13 regional and local public authorities  
Farmers associations  
Energy utilities  
Industry association  
South East Sweden energy agency

**Key results**  
Managed to accelerate market uptake and production of biogas. 3 production plants in the area for biofuels and injection.
Success factors:

1. **Shared vision:** A shared vision and political commitment is in place at regional and levels. Decision-makers are committed to working together.

2. **Partnership working:** Regional and local public authorities are working in close cooperation. This is effective at least for technicians and communication mechanisms such as steering committees are already in place.

3. **Stakeholders involvement:** Key stakeholders are engaged in the initiative. The main stakeholders are committed to the approach (including different publics, economic players, etc.).

4. **Funding availability:** Financial resources are accessible and used to finance the actions that have been decided upon. There are subsidies, public-private partnerships, and local public or semi-public companies to finance actions to mitigate climate change.
Success factors:

5. Energy planning expertise: Public authorities at least at regional level have access to sustainable energy planning expertise in the technical, regulatory and financing areas.

6. MLG facilitating processes or structures: Organisational structures and processes that facilitate the development of multi-level governance agreements are already operational. For example: energy agencies, regional steering committees, regional sustainable development programmes, etc.
THANK YOU!

You can join the COOPENERGY collaboration platform: www.coopenergy.eu

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