

HIGHLIGHTS

P1 Feedback from the Final Conference in Bordeaux, **P2-3** Panel discussion from Final **P4** Data4Action SEAP Guidebook published and January 2017 adapted from Patrick Biard's (RAEE) Conference; time for action is now! available online and in hardcopy from partners. presentation. Summary of project outcomes.

news DATA ACTION

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DATA4ACTION is an Intelligent Energy Europe co-funded project that aims to foster energy data exchange collaboration between public authorities and energy data providers.

Final Data 4 Action Conference, Bordeaux, January 2017

The DATA4ACTION project relied on regional observatories of energy and climate. These observatories, which are usually set up by regional energy agencies, are important tools for providing local authorities with the data necessary for the construction, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their energy policies and the achievement of the 20-20-20 European objectives. Regions play an essential role in achieving these objectives, being both engines of proposals at the regional, national and European levels and actors of the implementation of the decisions emanating from these different levels. The Conference in Bordeaux favoured the exchanges of views between energy data providers on how to improve relations with local authorities.

Patrick Biard, RAEE - The main project outcomes

- The creation of 7 regional data centres and the development of 5 existing ones;
- Development of collaboration models with the involvement of more than 60 local authorities and 30 data providers;
- Policy recommendations on data sharing, published on website and presented to EU representatives in October 2015;
- The development of online capacity building tools including data processing and analysis;
- 14 Joint Exchanges with structures outside the consortium.



The challenges to data collaboration and some possible solutions

There are challenges to data collaboration, such as data ownership issues, data accuracy, access to territorial aggregated data from multiple sources and data format, all of which impact on the quality of data exchanges. In many instances public authorities, especially smaller ones, are not in a position to deal with such challenges.

This said, some win-win collaboration models pre-existed the project. These have helped public authorities in not only gathering the data they need but also providing them with data services such as data processing and analysis.

These collaboration models range from bi-lateral agreements leading to concrete results but sometimes also leading to inefficiencies for public authorities and the data providers when it comes to multiple data sources.

Data4Action primarily implemented multi-lateral agreements. Supported by a third party organization which collaborates with several data providers, it is aggregating or processing data and then offering data services to public authorities or communities located within the same geographical area: A "one stop shop" data service and structure.



Panel discussion at DATA4ACTION Final Conference with **Pedro Ballesteros** (European Commission), **Michel Lebrun** (European Committee of the Regions), **Françoise Coutant** (Vice-President in charge of Climate and Energy Transition in the New Aquitaine region), **Alin Guezello** (CEO of SPL Énergies Réunion, RC for the News and Solidarity Energy)

Regions and Cities in data collection - the role of Europe

The **Conference DATA4ACTION: the Observatories for Energy and GHG, a strong support to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy** in Bordeaux in January 2017 allowed for the exchange of views between energy data providers on the prospects of optimising the models of collaboration between them and local and regional authorities. While there is general acceptance of the need for robust data for the development and monitoring of energy action plans, there is still a tendency to wait for ‘instruction’ to come from national or EU level. There was a general mood from the panel that such waiting needs to end and action at the local and regional level must take over.

Françoise Coutant from New Aquitaine Region described the work done by AcclimaTerra, the regional observatory which proved to be essential to acknowledge what happens in the region in terms of GHG emissions and consumption of energy, and to harmonize objectives previously belonging to three different regions that merged in the New Aquitaine. As for today, the Region has common and ambitious objectives, common data and a coordinated policy thanks to the observatory; however, these objectives would have even more impact in the decarbonization scenario if Europe had a strategy at European level.

“Local and regional authorities are essential tools for the success of this energy transition, since they are the closest to the citizens” said **Michel Lebrun** while talking about the **Covenant of Mayors**. 7000 local and regional authorities have embarked on a voluntary action to reduce greenhouse gases and increase renewable energy production which is more ambitious than national or even European projects. The initiative launched in 2008 is no longer at the initial level, is more advanced, so it is necessary to create a complex mechanisms of cooperation between the different administrations in order to make the Covenant of Mayors have visible results on the quality of life of the citizens. **Pedro Ballesteros** put the mismatch between EU and local level succinctly: *“...the EU does not understand local complexities and the challenge of climate change is not understood at the local level”*. To act as quickly as it is required, partners and collaborators must act at a local level. Ballesteros continued *“I advise local and regional authorities to implement strong policy and then utilise the EU Framework of funding to support same.”*

The Covenant of Mayors is indeed one of the main important tools for climate change in urban areas. In November 2016 the Joint Research Centre published an [analysis](#) of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans pointing out that the CoM signatories’ ambition is to reduce GHG emissions in 2020 by 27%, well above the minimum target of 20%. The JRC is working to include the new commitments for the 2030 in the CoM, not only the 40% reduction but also the adaptation to climate change as part of the new Sustainable Energy for Climate Action Plan (*“adaptigation”* measures).

Focus on the territories

Examples from Czech Republic, Italy, Romania and Spain showed that there are sometimes difficulties in gathering accurate data in order to get all the information needed to support municipalities to elaborate their own baseline energy inventories. The DATA4ACTION project pushed the Alba Local Energy Observatory [ANERGO - see page 4] to look for the most accurate and reliable data.

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Development and implementation of win-win collaboration models

The example of France

The Energy Transition Law for Green Growth in France introduced a new process for providing energy data to local authorities in **art 179** which is a major step forward in a process that has been introduced by the *Grenelle* Law. Notwithstanding the progress made in the accessibility and the quality of data, there still are challenges to be faced to answer all the questions we have at local level. The law requires to provide data on a much smaller and more precise geographical scale, and the main issue is what to do with it. Data needs to cover all different types of energy and to be accompanied by more advanced complementary analysis so that Local authorities can take ownership of it, process it and use it in an effective way. Moreover, in order to understand the data that has been provided, there is the need to have a closer dialogue between the local authorities and energy operators. In the Observatories created in Rhônalpénergie-Environnement, partnerships with this type of stakeholders have been created, and the Energy Agency acts as a forum for discussion between them. One of the biggest challenge for the observatories is to change from formally having a typically technical approach to a more strategic approach to the way that local territories work in terms of energy.

The example of the United Kingdom

The Kent County Council works interestingly with actors beyond the energy sector in the data exchange chain. Apart from traditional stakeholders such as public authorities, business support organizations and the financial and investment sector, the County Council takes into consideration other economic actors to encourage low-carbon development. The actors one wouldn't necessarily associate with the energy agenda are public health professionals; they actively work with the Council to look how to jointly put money into measures that would encourage alternative forms of transport; by doing that, investing in electric vehicles, cycle networks and walking paths and poor equality can be reduced. In addition, the County Council seeks their aid to look how cold homes or even hot homes have an impact on residents, to take into account illnesses related to cold or hot air conditions; once one takes the data, it can be turned into intelligence and evidence and work with all the sectors across Kent to enable the development of cross functional infrastructure and joint activities.



Servan Le Guern, GRDF [FR], Carolyn Mc Kenzie, Kent County Council [UK], Pierrick Yalamas, Rhônalpénergie-Environnement [FR]

If you are keen on learning more about the DATA4ACTION Final Conference, go to our [website](#) and download the presentations!

Collaboration Agreements: A Case Study from Anergo, Alba County [RO]



ANERGO Observatory has at this time **6** Memorandums of Cooperation with data providers and **16** with local authorities. More details can be found on the observatory website at www.anergo.alea.ro. The MoCs are valid for 3 years after signing with possibility of signing an annex to extend the validity period. The MoCs will be updated in the future to best fit the energy data requirements. The data to be provided by the energy data providers is based on the MoCs signed by ANERGO with local authorities - this containing an empowerment for ANERGO to request data on behalf of LA from EDP.

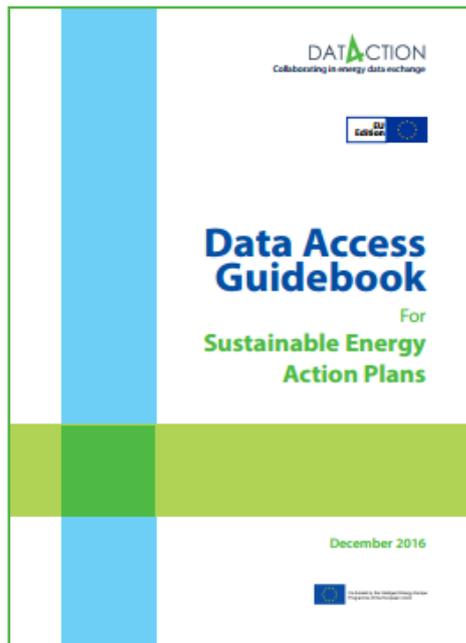
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|---|----|--|
| Energy data providers with which ANERGO has signed a MoC: | 4. | E.ON Distribuție România (Regional natural gas distributor) |
| 1. SC APA C.T.T.A. SA Alba (Alba County water provider and distributor) | 5. | ELECTRICA DISTRIBUȚIE TRANSILVANIA SUD SDEE ALBA (Alba County electricity distributor) |
| 2. AGENȚIA PENTRU PROTECȚIA MEDIULUI ALBA (Alba County Environmental Protection Agency) | 6. | SOCIETATEA DE TRANSPORT PUBLIC ALBA IULIA (Alba Iulia local public transport company) |
| 3. DIRECȚIA REGIONALĂ DE STATISTICĂ ALBA (Alba County Statistics Directorate) | | |

Data Access Guidebook published in EU and local versions, December 2016

The guide is aimed at those developing Sustainable Energy Action Plans and Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans. It is written to help users identify and access reliable and accurate energy data in their region or territory and to develop and implement win-win collaboration models in energy data sharing.

Public authorities need to develop and monitor their plans through access to robust aggregated data. Across Europe, more than 9000 municipalities are working on developing and implementing energy plans either on a regulatory basis or voluntary basis such as through the Covenant of Mayors. This guidebook was written by Data4Action partners to outline a step by step process and proven models for accessing this data.

EU and local versions are available! Download them!



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