European Energy Award
Optimising and successfully implementing Municipal Energy and Climate Protection Activities

The European Energy Award (eea) is a quality management and certification system for municipalities committed to sustainable energy, climate and transport policies. From mobility to communication and cooperation, from spatial planning to energy supply, the eea represents the most comprehensive quality management system for municipalities in the field of energy efficiency since it comprises the full range of proven energy and climate protection measures municipalities can take.

The success of the eea is based on 3 main advantages for municipalities: The Process. The eea is getting things done - it brings structure into local climate policy and helps municipalities to identify, plan, implement and review the most suitable climate protection activities in a continuing process. The Actors. An interdisciplinary energy team acts as the “motor” of the process and brings together internal knowledge and skills. The team is supported by a trained eea-advisor. The Instruments. All participating municipalities will get access to the eea-management tool and its catalogue of possible measures, which helps them to plan their activities. Respective measures are standardized on the European level but are contextualised to the local level - this allows for an international benchmarking which takes into account each municipalities capacity to act.

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Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020). It is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 are set out in multiannual work programmes, which cover the large majority of support available.

The project IMPLEMENT - Improving Local Energy and climate policy through quality management and certification has been funded under this programme with a budget of almost 1.4 mio Euro and activities undertaken throughout a project period of 48 months.

More information on the Programme: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/

About IMPLEMENT

By introducing the quality management and certification system European Energy Award (eea) in Belgium, Croatia, Greece and Poland, the project aims at setting up the necessary structures to carry out the programme in municipalities in the new target regions. During the project, 30 pilot municipalities will further develop and implement their climate and energy strategy by using the eea standards and the associated criteria catalogue with a comprehensive set of recommendable energy saving and climate action measures. Accredited eea advisors will guide and monitor the continuous process while certification will ensure that municipalities implement their climate and energy plans in line with high quality standards. The municipality’s experiences and successes will pave the way for more municipalities in the target regions to join the eea.

4 main objectives are addressed through this project:

Roll out the European Energy Award quality management system and certification scheme in four EU member states

Four pilot partner countries will introduce and roll out a successful international quality management programme for local climate policy implementation. For the institutionalization of the programme, national eea offices and steering committees involving stakeholders from different governance levels will be set up.

Capacity Building: empower municipalities to implement climate strategies based on integrated energy and climate plans

An interdepartmental energy team from each municipality will prepare an energy policy programme (30 in total), which will outline a set of binding activities, responsibilities, budgets and deadlines for the subsequent years.

Measureable energy, CO2 and costs savings as well as increasing production and consumption of renewable energy in 30 pilot municipalities

During the project period, 30 pilot municipalities will receive external guidance in putting their energy policies into practice. Municipalities will assess and plan activities in 6 areas of activity: Development & spatial planning, municipal buildings & facilities, supply & disposal, mobility, internal organization and communication & cooperation.

Certification of municipalities ensuring quality standards and positive recognition

As part of the eea process, the work done by the energy teams will be moderated and reviewed by accredited eea advisors. At the end of the project all achievements will be assessed by an external eea-auditor. These audits will lead to certifications and depending on the success rate, the European Energy Award will be granted.

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Further information available on
www.european-energy-award.org