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Green, sustainable and smart

20th REFORM Group Meeting

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Pressures to act

Around 75% of the people in Europe live in cities.

80% of energy consumption and CO₂ emissions is associated with urban activities

Central element of any local sustainable development strategy is the reduction of GHG in order to minimise the city's contribution to global climate change

Saving energy and increasing the share of RES:  key issues

Energy consumption in residential in tertiary buildings in the EU continuously increasing

Cities have the obligation to reduce energy consumption by 27% and GHG emissions by 40% by 2030

Cities´ commitment

Need for actions by local governments in shaping Europe’s future.

Through the Aalborg Charter and Commitments, thousands of local governments in Europe have committed to enhancing the sustainability of their urban areas

This is reflected in many European and international initiatives

The “Covenant of Mayors” launched by the EC collects local and regional authorities that voluntarily commit themselves to increase energy efficiency and the use of RES on their territories.

There it is indicated that “local governments play a crucial role in mitigating the effects of climate change”

European Initiatives

EC offers various programmes and funding opportunities,

- ✓ ELENA - European Local Energy Assistance
- ✓ H2020 sub-programmes , e.g. Smart Cities

In the past

- ✓ Intelligent Energy Europe
- ✓ the related ManagEnergy web portal

addressed to cities and towns interested in RES, energy efficiency and climate protection

- ✓ Concerto programme (FP7)
- ✓ Smart Cities (FP7)


CONCERTO / Smart cities Initiative

The CONCERTO initiative highlighted the role and contribution of city administrations as coordinators of integrated actions for sustainable urban development with a focus on energy issues.

22 projects, comprising of 58 communities and sites in 23 countries

Mission to research and demonstrate how energy efficiency and RES use can be incorporated into cities' buildings on a large scale.

c. 5 M people were directly – or indirectly - affected by CONCERTO activities.

Smart cities information system  information on sustainable energy solutions for buildings, cities and communities from EU co-financed demonstration projects;

Validated data on technical performance, on cost-effectiveness and payback periods for already constructed examples;

Recommendations for local and national policy makers

“What's measured gets managed”

Indicators needed to reflect the sustainability of a city and to help monitor progress towards agreed targets.

Locally developed indicator systems  supervision of local target achievement,

Systems from national and European levels  comparison and benchmarking with other cities (e.g. European Green City Index ranking European cities according to their sustainability performance)

The Integrated Urban Monitoring in Europe initiative by the EEA brings together actors from policy, research and stakeholder to coordinate, integrate and harmonise approaches towards urban monitoring.

The Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC) is an online toolkit for EU local authorities for assessing projects and policies, with a set of indicators in order for cities to compile their own indicators.

The workshop today

Success stories to be replicated

- ✓ The NKI-Initiative as a driver for municipal masterplans in Germany
- ✓ From Europe: Hannover, Flensburg, Ahrweiler (D), Leicester (UK), Vienna surroundings, Innsbruck (A) and Bolzano
- ✓ Internationally: Municipal masterplans in Japan
- ✓ EC Support activities to sustain cities' initiatives and projects (Smart cities and Communities' Information System)
- ✓ Cities and global climate change
- ✓ A gender perspective



Thank you for your attention !