

SPAIN

Implementing cooperation projects

Location

Catalonia

Programming period

2014 - 2020

Priority

P6- Social inclusion & local
Development

Measure

M19.3 – Cooperation
activities for LAGs

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 466 181.63
EAFRD 200 458.1
National/Regional 265 723.53

Project duration

2016 – 2017

Project promoter

Ass. Leader Ripollès Ges
Bisaura

Contact

Eduard Paredes Victori
eif@ripollesgesbisaura.org

Website

www.ripollesgesbisaura.org

An inter-territorial cooperation project in Catalonia promoted the use of endogenous renewable energy and management plans contributing to climate change mitigation and adaption.

Summary

11 Local Action Groups in Catalonia developed a project to promote a sustainable development model for their territories in relation to climate mitigation and adaptation.



The project was developed on three-axis covering Energy Management, Forest Management and Biomass and Climate Change. Activities included promoting the benefits of using energy plans in public buildings and review service-provision contracts, developing a software tool that allows small enterprises to monitor and optimise energy use, organising courses on biomass boilers and drafting technical guides, carrying out studies and pilot projects on herd grazing as forest management tool, calculating the carbon footprint of agri-food products and exchanging, etc.

Main results

Energy management plans were developed in 47 towns resulting 250 000 EUR in savings.

New business opportunities emerged for service providers to offer advice to town-halls on how to reduce municipal electricity consumption.

The impact of the ENFOCC project has been very positive and a second phase is under preparation.

Key lessons & recommendations

- ☐ The project ensures that some energy-saving actions developed are transferable to any territory.
- ☐ The accumulated experience through several programming periods on inter-programmes and transnational cooperation has been a critical success factor for continuing the cooperation between the LAGs in this project.
- ☐ It would have been easier to cooperate if calls from different Spanish and French RDPs would have been somehow coordinated.

Context

During the 2007-2013 programming period, the LAG Ripollès Bisaura coordinated a project named "Energy and Forest" which for three years (2012-2014) worked on strategic energy and forest management elements for the Catalan territories. The LAGs involved proposed to develop a new project taking into account the new policies, strategies and objectives of the European Union and the National and Regional RDPs. It was noted that a very important aspect in the new framework of the European Union's Rural Development policy was the need to work on mitigation and adaptation to climate change and for this reason it was decided to develop the "Energy and Forest" project into a new three-axis project: Energy Management, Forest Management and Biomass and Climate Change, in short "ENFOCC".

In total, the 11 LAGs of Catalonia decided to collaborate to some extent (10 have had a big involvement in the project, and 1 participates in a few activities). 4 LAGs from other regions in Spain and a French LAG have also shown interest in the project and will link proposals to their MAS to work with a similar methodology.

Objectives

The project aimed to be the driving force in the different cooperating rural territories for initiating energy management action, promoting sustainable forest management and the use of biomass.

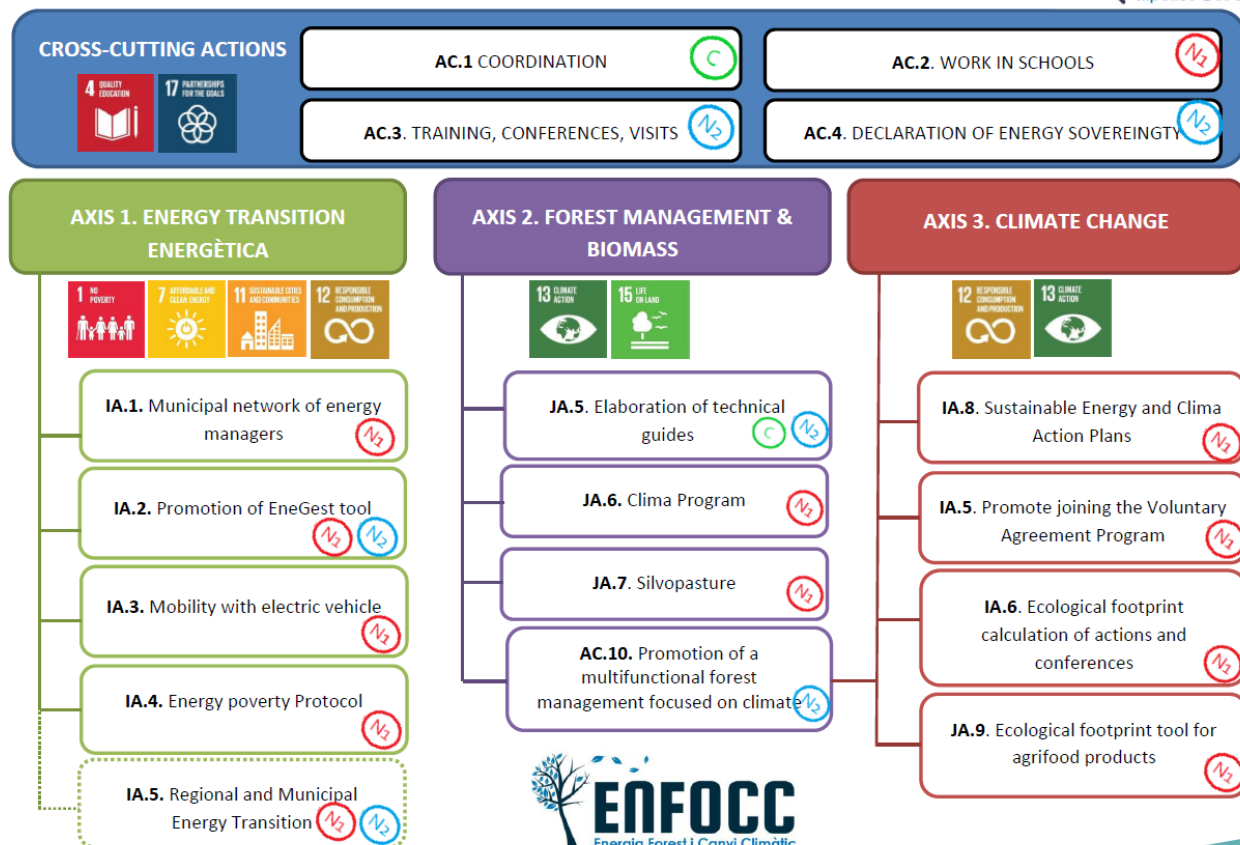
Another objective of the project was to raise public awareness about the effects of climate change, not only to the administration, but also to citizens and enterprises based in the participating rural areas.

Activities

The **Axis on energy transition**, was focused on promoting the benefits of putting in place energy plans in public buildings and review service-provision contracts. The advice has been given by agencies specialized in local-sourcing and saving initiatives. To stimulate the awareness of energy consumption, the software EneGest was developed which allows small enterprises to monitor energy use. The software EneGest was shared with 100 SMEs, 9 public schools and 47 town halls which received advice regarding energy management.



ENFOCC ACTION SCHEME 2017



In addition, 1 047 contracts with energy providers were reviewed and efficiency was looked in all of them, so that, for example, sunlight-schedule was taking into account when lighting roads.

Within the **Axis on forest management and biomass**, the aim was to work on projects that can be financed by the Spanish Government “**Proyectos Clima**”, which supports purchase of more sustainable boilers after demonstrating a reduction on CO2 emissions. The idea is to request a project for the whole of Cataluña under this call for projects, which name will be “BM-CAT”. In line with supporting sustainable energy models, there have been 3 courses for biomass boilers installers (explaining also aspects linked to sustainable sourcing), and 2 technical guides have been drafted: one on emissions in biomass installations and one on other uses of certified ELFOCAT wood. Emissions of 13 boilers were also verified in order to prepare the Clima project for the Catalan territory. In addition, three studies and pilot projects have been carried out to evaluate the feasibility of herd grazing in the forests as a management tool.

On the third component, the **Axis on Climate Change**, “Energy and Climate Action Plans” were drafted and promoted that include specific actions to be implemented. To serve as an example for all participatory areas, the coordinating LAG worked with the Catalan Climate Change Office on a plan which is now ready to be shared and serve as an example to all the other territories. The carbon footprint of six agri-food products in the cooperating territories has also been calculated with EneGest tool (including four lactic products, a geographical protected indication product and one extra virgin olive oil.) All these producers have been able to analyze the life cycle of their manufacturing process and share experiences through conferences and meetings.

Results

In the 47 towns that have actively worked in putting in place energy management plans, a total of 250 000 EUR of savings has been reported. This budget which will be reinvested in measures that will allow each town save even more energy.

A new economy is being put in place in the participating territories. It has been found that not all town-halls had access to advice to reduce municipal electricity consumption and this stimulated the creation of new businesses that can cover this service in benefit of all inhabitants.

Overall, after the first year of operation, the territorial impact generated in the first edition of the ENFOCC project has been very positive. A second phase will be presented to the next round of call for cooperation projects in Catalonia.



Lessons

Although there are always context-specific parameters to take into account when initiating a project, ENFOCC ensured that some energy-saving actions are transferable to any territory.

The accumulated experience through several programming periods on inter-programmes and transnational cooperation has allowed the continuous project-ideas sharing among LAGs and will inspire many of them to continue with the actions and methodology tested in ENFOCC.

It would have been easier to cooperate if calls from different Spanish and French RDPs would have been somehow coordinated.

Additional sources of information

www.desenvolupamentrural.cat/