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Housing stock in North-West Europe

Buildings are responsible for 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO2 emissions in the European Union. Older buildings account for a large share and are in urgent need of energy performance improvements. Indeed, half of the housing stock in most EU countries was built before the first thermal regulations in 1970. Yet with an average renovation rate of only 1%, change isn't happening fast enough to meet the EU energy efficiency targets. Municipal climate change mitigation strategies in the cities of North-West Europe are taking aim at this challenge, but major barriers to implementation exist. The integration of the private sector and especially the small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in mixed-used urban quarters can have a great impact on the municipal low carbon strategies.

Interreg North-West Europe Climate Active Neighbourhoods

European Regional Development Fund



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IMPROVING ENERGY PERFORMANCE ON A NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL

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Partners



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Climate Active Neighbourhoods - CAN

An adjusted approach:
 Municipalities support energy-efficient building renovation in SME

From 2016 - 2020 CAN supported bottom-up initiatives that change energy consumption paradigms on a neighbourhood level. In line with the EU Green Deal's "Renovation Wave Strategy", the second phase of CAN project (2021 - 2023) focuses on energy retrofit in SME and contributes to a green recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

The partly new CAN partnership jointly adapt the CAN cooperation methods to support SME and local climate initiatives. This new approach aims at strengthening commitment for energy savings in neighbourhoods while ensuring coherence between bottom-up activities and city-wide strategies.

Adjusted "face-to-face" methods (i.e. direct interaction and advice between local authorities and SME) and cooperation with "multipliers" (i.e. unions and frontrunners) will be applied to deliver GHG emission reductions in SME.

Examples of planned activities in 2021-2023

Motivating cooperation & participation

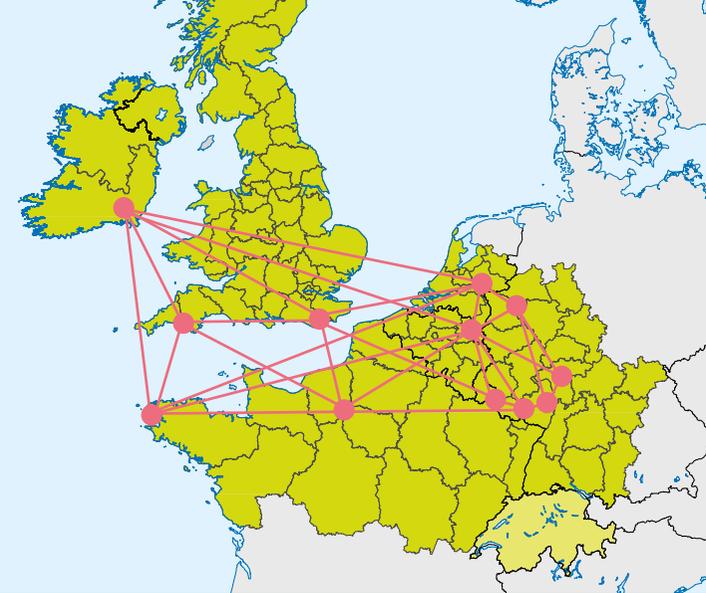
The city of Worms will adapt the energy caravan (free energy consulting) for SMEs with need of retrofitting and show them how to improve the energy efficiency of their business and reduce their GHG emissions. The support of local multipliers as well as a motivating campaign will help the cooperation with SMEs.

Shared responsibility

With CAN, Brest metropole wants to integrate the idea of reducing the carbon footprint in SMEs through the employees and thus improve the bridge between housing policy and economic sector. For this purpose, several workshops, challenges and a cultural event are planned.

Neighbourhood action

Together with the Local Enterprise Offices and the local authorities, the 3 Counties Energy Agency wants to reach at least over 100 SMEs to create awareness of energy transition and low carbon economy. The target sectors are manufacturing, offices, shopping centre or supermarkets as well as nursing homes.



Project Area

Benefit from transnational experiences

CAN goes off the beaten path, finding new ways to achieve sustainability and CO₂ reduction goals. Strong partnership between actors aware of the barriers to uptake of energy retrofitting strategies and willing to overcome them together will paves the way. Thanks to CAN's transnational work, various approaches can be explored and synergies leading to enhanced solutions can be created. Even public authorities outside of CAN's direct sphere of influence can benefit from project results through a transnational coaching framework.