



50 000 & 1
SEAPs

D2.4 Report on open centralised training sessions for EU Municipalities and supporting structures, including inputs received

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Executive summary

The 50000&1 SEAPs project provides a coherent approach to integrating Energy Management Systems (EnMS) with Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) according to energy management standard such as ISO 50001 and European Energy Award, as quality management certification system for municipalities committed to sustainable energy planning. It aims to help municipalities overcome the barriers blocking institutionalisation of their action plans and reinforce internal structures and procedures for high-quality, long-term, energy policy and planning. This ensures that sustainable approaches to local energy policy and planning are spread and strengthened further across Europe.

The 50000&1 SEAPs project has organized two Open Training Sessions addressing key actors - Local Authorities and their supporting structures with the objective of sharing knowledge and providing hands-on support to the set up and implementation of the EnMS+SEAP approach.

Starting from the practical experiences of the consortium partners and the work of the municipalities that are currently implementing this methodology, the sessions provided an opportunity for participants to learn more about the 50000&1 SEAPs approach. The sessions shared tips, tools, and recommendations, and the opportunity to discuss in groups the challenges and barriers to the implementation of sustainable energy action planning with a focus on energy management.

The discussions highlighted how data collection remains a key barrier to be overcome in order to plan appropriately and consistently with a clear baseline. Not only data remain hard to access at an appropriate quality level, but often the cooperation with distribution operators remains simply on a voluntary basis instead of being regulated by law. This results in very diverse panorama through European States. Financing is also a major concern for municipalities, which face not only difficulties in providing adequate investments for the implementation of specific measures, but also the challenges of funding expert positions able to carry out the work for the municipality, or for a group of them (e.g. joint funding for a local energy managers). Finally, a wide range of specific contexts and situations can impact on the success of the EnMS+ SEAPs. It is therefore crucial to fully understand the local context in order to plan the measures and optimize the results. This includes decisions on what technologies to use for RES generation, as well the identification of buildings for energy efficiency measures with highest impact on cost and emission reduction.

A strong political commitment is a precondition for the successes of the EnMS+SEAP approach as it requires medium-term vision as well as adequate resources (both financial and in terms of capacity) for its implementation.

Cooperation with all relevant stakeholders (public, private, non-profit, etc) is key to a successful implementation of the measures identified, and fostering bottom-up initiatives can prove to be a strong asset for the successful implementation of the measures. For this reason effective communication is important not only in securing support, but also to build an alliance for the success of these measures with the society and the relevant stakeholders.

Finally, linking and exchanging with other municipalities across Europe facing similar challenges and looking for innovative solutions is crucial in order to acquire additional knowledge. Peer-to-peer exchanges as well as coaching opportunities (such as the ones provided by the 50000&1 SEAPs project within its **coaching programme**) are key to learn new approaches, share tools and recommendation to move from planning to effective implementation.



Picture 1: The 50000&1 SEAPs consortium