

Renewable Community **Empowerment in Northern Territories**



Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014-2020

EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future European Regional Development Fund

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Issue 6

Project Objectives:

То increase the capacity of communities to develop their own solutions for reliable, energy efficient public infrastructure;

To maximise energy asset management in water services;

Knowledge exchange programme leading to increased awareness sustainable and public policy;

Robust, sustainable community projects that will be self-sufficient post NPA funding.

Lead Partner Update

After three great years the project is drawing to a close. Growing out of a previous project—WARES, which was aldo funded by the NPA, the RECENT Project has been a thor-oughly enjoyable journey, despite some bumps in the road along the way.

Over the course of the 3 years we have engaged with numerous communities across the partner member coun-tries of Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Sweden and Finland and this engagement has allowed us to produce a number of pilot projects relating to community resources and renewable energy. If you wish to look back at our previous newsletters or visit our website you can find information on many of the projects.

We have also developed many interesting reports as the we have also developed many interesting reports as the project has progressed—we produced a baseline report, a range of policy analysis documents looking at each partner region, a research agenda based on our experiences on the project and others—once again these are available via our website. our websites.

Finally we set out to produce three main "products" and these are all now in place. Our virtual learning campus is a key repository of a range of information and experience from our learnings on the project that can be accessed and used to help others wishing to carry out similar pro-jects develop their ideas. We have recruited a range of mentors from across the regions who are available, willing and able to help you develop your project or idea and the list of mentors is available via the Virtual Learning Campus website.

Finally our Policy Influencer Programme continued apace with events held across the regions giving access to policy makers for project partners to lobby local and EU policy makers

We have engaged with a wide and varied range of communities from across the five countries within the project partnership and many links have been forged that will hopefully allow for work to continue after the conclusion of the project!

Inside this newsletter we will look in further depth at the Virtual Learning Campus and Mentoring Program and some other project outputs.



For more in depth information or if you have any specific questions please contact Ewan Ramsay on <u>ewan.ramsay@irri.org.uk</u> or on + 44 (0) 131 290 2750.



Thank Yous

Action

As stated above, our project is drawing to a close and we would like to issue a range of thank yous to many people who offered their help and assistance across the course of our work. Firstly to each of the partner organisations-IRRI,

Renewables, May County May C. Council, ICH, Jokkmokk Municipality and University of Oulu.

Next we like would to thank the NPA secretariat, in particular Kirsti Mijnhijmer and Christopher Parker for being

available to offer help and encouragement at every opportunity and never being more than a phonecall away.

To all our pilot site partners who spent time with us and

helped us to realise our developing vision of community led renewable energy projects. even to those And who worked with us but where the work did not pro-gress, we thank you for your time and the learn-ing we got from you.

And finally a big thank you to everyone else who has interacted with us. Be it by attending one of our many events around the regions. By following and interacting with us on our various social media platforms such as Facebook Twitter. or Linked In.

To those who have visited our website and virtual learning campus and we hope will now continue to make use of the resources provided or seek out mentors to help develop your ideas in the future.

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Renewable Community Empowerment in Northern Territories

Virtual Learning Campus

One of the products emerging from the project was the creation of our online Virtual Learning Campus. The idea behind this was to enable a way of sharing the knowledge developed on the project and from our range of partners and allow this to last beyond the conclusion of the project.

There are multiple areas to the site. The campus is arranged either by topic or region which allows people to browse and find the information most relevant to them.

For example if you are interested in funding there is an area dedicated to investigating this. We have seen various methods of funding community led renewable energy projects through our work on this project and if you visit this section of the website you can pick out some ideas and examples that may help you get your own idea up and running. The site is also indexed by area. So if you are from Sweden and want information on how Swedish policy works you can visit this directly. This could also be useful if you are visiting from Ireland and want to see examples of how things are done in other regions, perhaps visiting the Finnish pilot sites section to get ideas and examples that you may be able to adapt for your own region.

Another key aspect of the site that could potentially be the most important is the inclusion of our forum. This allows all interested parties to register and post any questions. All of our mentors are also members and will hopefully be able to answer those questions or point you in the right direction.

To visit the VLC Click

https://recentnpa.net/





Final Research Agenda

A key output from our project involved establishing what areas we thought would be best served by future research and what areas we felt would be most relevant to further study. We were lucky in the project to have the University of Oulu and their fantastic research staff involved in the project.

From that expertise and knowledge we present our Final Research Agenda.

Water, energy and climate are inextricably linked. Energy and water demands are increasing worldwide, while climate change affects the availability of both. Disturbances in the supply of energy and water can cause tensions or crises and access to safe water sources and supply of energy is a health and well-being concern. There has been a lot of attention on cybersecurity of late. However, much less attention is paid to the safety and security of municipal infrastructures such as water and wastewater networks, power supply, access to heat and other critical sources of energy.

The expectation is to build secure and resilient systems that provide critical services for the people of the Northern Periphery and Arctic region, with sustainable use of northern natural resources. Collaboration and interaction across ecology, geography, hydrology and architecture will also be needed planned, with considerations of public health and well-being. The key issues are reducing climate change impacts, while safeguarding water resources, reduce natural resources use, ensure the security of energy provisioning and contribute to the sustainable growth of the region.

The full Research Agenda can be read by visiting our website

http://recent.interreg-npa.eu/

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Mentoring Program

The Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme region is full of remote, rural communities spread across a wide geographical space. A number of these communities are fragile in their existence, often caused by a wide range of reasons and many years of under investment in infrastructure and community development. The mentoring programme is one of the three products that will spin out of RECENT upon its conclusion. We will develop a mentoring approach that will support communities similar to what was achieved in a previous NPP project called SMALLEST.

Mentoring contributes to the development of stakeholders by providing them with support, expertise and networking opportunities. The aim of the RECENT Project Mentoring Programme is to build the capacity of communities and to manage communityowned energy and water assets in a financially stable and sustainable manner. It aims to develop decentralised renewable energy utilising those assets for the long term. This will be achieved through training, support and mentoring.

While traditional mentoring processes focus on the benefits derived by mentees, of the experience of the mentor, the RECENT project is looking to promote a two-way mentoring process, which benefits both parties. Participants in the mentoring programme will share their knowledge, expertise and environmental goals in a mutually respectful, supportive way which will leads to transnational knowledge exchange by effective stakeholder engagement. Therefore, the mentoring programme will help break down barriers and creates opportunities for success. This will in turn save energy and reduce carbon emissions. Mentoring is a coaching process in which an experienced individual (the mentor) advices a junior partner (mentee) on their skills and experience. This type of pairing is known as one to one mentoring. Mentoring assists those who are facing barriers in progressing forward with a project or who may lack knowledge about a particular technology or service.

Most mentoring is based on one senior or experienced mentor working with a single less senior or less experienced mentee.

If you are interested in seeking out a mentor, or indeed in being considered for becoming a mentor, please get in touch with us.

For more information visit the mentoring section of our Virtual Learning Campus

https://recentnpa.net/static/ mentoring.html



View of Hapranda

Pilot Sites



Over the course of the 3 years of the project our partners interacted with multiple communities across the regions and this led to us successfully engaging in developing at least 24 pilot sites—indeed we managed to surpass this number by one and engaged with many more besides.

The sites incorporate a vast range of technologies from wind turbines to solar PV to heat pumps and come from a wide and varied selection of regions, histories and backgrounds. This variety has allowed us to learn a lot and find ways in which some ideas from one region may be implemented or adapted for use in other regions that may not immediately appear similar.

If you wish to find out further information about our range of pilot sites there are various ways to do so. Visit our virtual learning campus which contains information on various sites in each region. Look through our previous newsletters which produced inside information on some examples of the work we were doing, or check out our brochure listing each of the pilot sites with a range of information including a summary, the type of technology installed, the cost of the installation, payback time and energy generated.

Then take those ideas away and see what you can do for your own community!

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Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme

2014-2020

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KEEP IN TOUCH WITH INFORMATION ON NORTHERN PERIPHERY ENERGY ISSUES, FOLLOW THE RECENT SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS!

The European North is one of the areas that will undergo significant changes in the coming decades due to climate change. Climate change is likely to challenge the provision of water services and local water and energy infrastructure. Projected challenges include precipitation induced flood events and increased run-off especially in winter and spring months and, in the summer, increased competition for water.

The impacts of climate change may also open new possibilities for the remote NPA regions that could make the region become a major energy producer. The 5 partner countries are some of the top regions of the world as regards the amount and quality of water. While water is abundant, providing water services in these regions is energy intensive. To become more efficient and smart in this area is therefore a significant objective.

