



PEACE_ALPS:

pooled services for local authorities

PROJECT SHEET



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The aim of the PEACE_Alps project is the deployment of large-scale climate/energy actions, through the implementation of pooled services in the fields of public buildings renovation, public lighting, energy management and climate change adaptation. Financed by the Alpine Space programme of the European Union, it includes eleven partners from six countries.

These services, intended to local authorities involved in Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) or any other energy planning, may concern, for example, the implementation of joint purchasing or shared technical services in a territory. In Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, they have been tested in collaboration with the regional nature parks for the renovation of public buildings and for climate change adaptation on various areas in Isère.



GOALS IN THE AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES REGION

- ∞ Undertake actions so that the Sustainable Energy Action Plans get operational in rural areas.
- ∞ Group local authorities around three energy transition themes: energy management, energy efficiency of the public heritage and climate change adaptation
- ∞ Achieve economies of scale through the pooling of means and resources.



ACTIVITIES

- ∞ Survey of public authorities on the levers and curbs for implementing their actions.
- ∞ Action learning on the "climate change adaptation" aspect of SECAPs.
- ∞ Reflection with the regional nature parks on the renovation of public buildings.
- ∞ Recommendations for decision-makers to favour pooled solutions.



ACTORS INVOLVED IN THE REGION

- ∞ Local public authorities.
- ∞ APARA (Association of Regional Nature Parks in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes).
CAUE (Council for Architecture, Town planning and the Environment), local energy distribution service operators, Cerema (Center for Studies and Expertise on Risks, the Environment, Mobility and Development), FFB (French Building Federation), CAPEB (Confederation of Building Crafts and Small Businesses), IERA (Energy Info Point in Rhône-Alpes), AGATE (Alpine Agency of Territories), Caisse des Dépôts, SPL OSER (French local public company).
- ∞ AURA-EE (Energy and Environment Agency in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes) and AGEDEN (Energy Info Point in Isère), French project partners.

TOTAL BUDGET



€ 1.94 M

allocated to 11 European partners

DURATION



**December 2015 –
December 2018**



TARGETS

The rural local authorities of the Alpin Space

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

► Survey of public authorities on the levers and curbs for implementing their actions

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Énergie Environnement sent a questionnaire to 129 local authorities from the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region and conducted 6 interviews with the territories, in order to identify the curbs and levers for the concrete implementation of the actions contained in their energy strategy. This survey allowed an emphasis on the lack of means, which can be human, technical and financial.

► Action learning on the climate change adaptation aspect of SECAPs

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Énergie Environnement (AURA-EE), at the regional level, and the AGEDEN Association (Energy Info Point in Isère) in the department of Isère (without the Grenoble urban area), have offered collective support to **local authorities wishing to better understand the vulnerability of their territory to the effects of climate change and develop an adaptation strategy.**

Three action learning sessions were organized in Lyon in 2017. They allowed the training of project leaders and elected officials, who were then able to train their colleagues from various services of the local authorities and hence to carry out adaptation works in a concerted way.

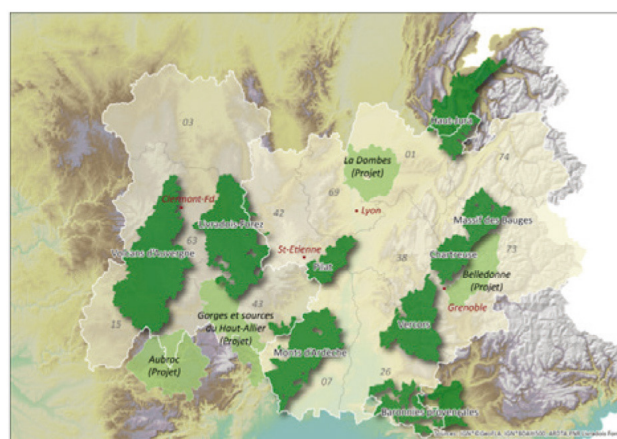
AURA-EE paid particular attention to territories with important agricultural or tourism issues and selected five territories in the region: the conurbation community of Arlysère, the association of local authorities of Pays d'Evian, the Pays Mornantais, the association of local authorities of Cluses-Arve and Montagnes and the Auvergne Volcanoes Regional Nature Park.

Four other territories were chosen in Isère and supported by AGEDEN: the association of local authorities of Oisans, Matheysine, Pays Roussillonnais and the Chartreuse Regional Nature Park.

The support provided within the project and co-financed by the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, aimed to allow the local authorities to **know the main impacts of climate change** on their territory (pre-diagnosis), to reinforce a **transversal approach of adaptation** in the policies and actions of the local authority and to implement an **operational adaptation strategy**. Moreover, the objective was to define the **first possible actions**, such as, for example: creating a network of observers, raising awareness and training the services of the local authorities, in relation with the most concerned territorial actors, as well as implementing operational actions in the short and medium term, as improving summer comfort, preserving water resources or managing risks.

► Reflection with the regional nature parks on the renovation of public buildings

A collective reflection conducted by APARA (Association of Regional Nature Parks in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes) and AURA-EE was conducted in 2017 and 2018, with the objective of accelerating the energy rehabilitation of public buildings in the parks. The initial premise was that by merging and pooling means and services, or even by grouping scattered projects across different territories, it should be possible to build renovation plans capable of achieving significant economic and energy results and therefore to mobilise financing and the sustainable building sectors.



The regional nature parks in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, involved in the PEACE_Alps project (Map source: APARA)

The work, followed by a steering committee composed of regional nature parks, territorial actors of the energy renovation sector, such as local energy distribution service operators, the Region and ADEME (French public Agency for Environment and Energy Management) concerned the three following aspects:

- **Questioning the use of public buildings in the parks:** considering the issue of optimisation and pooling of the public buildings' uses, especially those who raised a problem following the merger of municipalities or inter-municipal associations. Pooling, first of all, the building use in order to optimise their occupancy is indeed a prerequisite for the rehabilitation of buildings. A new Cerema tool on the evaluation of buildings in terms of use and users has been tested in the Vercors Park.
- **Provide energy renovation solutions for the architectural heritage, in connection with the local know-how:** the issue of a building typology was then addressed, renovation solutions were defined by type, local know-how and materials were taken into account in the proposed solutions. An inventory of projects was carried out and case studies were analysed in detail, in particular in Chartreuse, in the Bauges and in Haut-Jura.
- **Pooling the projects for the energy renovation of buildings in parks:** during the first part of the work, AURA-EE proposed a strategic matrix to facilitate the development of inter-municipal renovation plans based on energy audits provided by the parks. In addition, a legal and financial analysis was conducted with the ESPELIA firm to find the most relevant legal arrangements in order to set up a group of renovation projects.

Three models were analysed:

- In the first model, a public body for inter-municipal cooperation is pilot of a heritage renovation plan integrating the communes' buildings;
- In the second model, the municipalities organise their works in the form of a public order grouping;
- In the third, it is a third-party operator, such as a local public company, a public interest grouping or a semi-public company, which manages the project.



PROJECT RESOURCES AVAILABLE



“Strategies for adaptation to climate change and implementation in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes territories“ (in French)

The action learning organised in the context of PEACE_Alps enabled to supply the resource centre of AURA-EE with new case studies on the issue of adaptation to climate change. At the end of the works, each accompanied local authority prepared a fact sheet, which is updated each year by the regional agency. They allow to highlight the climatic characteristics of the territory, its adaptation objectives, the context in which this policy was implemented, and they present the undertaken works, as well as the main elements from the diagnosis and the action plan.

This document was produced by AURA-EE and published in September 2018.

<https://bit.ly/3bumNNa>



“Matrix for a strategic presentation of building audits“ (in French)

This matrix presents, in columns, the building audit data (possible grouping by municipality and territory) and on the rows the actions to be carried out (grouped by investment lots). It particularly allows to highlight the energy and economic issues related to the refurbishment of the built heritage, as well as the impacts on the firms.

Using such a matrix on a territory enables, first of all, to obtain statistical data on the global stakes: buildings, their consumption and the necessary investments for their renovation. This Excel file can be added to the audit reports which are financed by ADEME. It is then filled in by the engineering office that carries out the audit.

<https://bit.ly/363WNa8>



“Financial approach: general principles and Excel spreadsheets per building and group of shared buildings“ (in French)

This Excel spreadsheet is a practical tool for generating an investment plan for different building renovation scenarios, presented in the form of tables and graphs. These are automatically generated and filled according to a number of assumptions entered in different tabs of the file.

A comparison is possible with a baseline condition that is previously defined. A cost evaluation in the absence of a project is therefore included in the analysis. The tool also takes into consideration the energy costs evolution, the loans and the eventual subsidies associated to the project, depending on the scenarios. Finally, the financial plan provides information for choosing between the different scenarios.

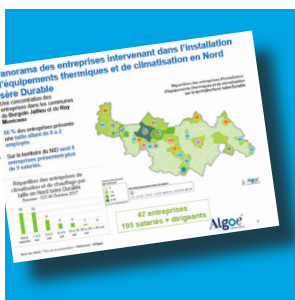
<https://bit.ly/2WyrzVB>



“Detailed analysis of possible legal arrangements for implementing rehabilitation actions for shared buildings“ (in French)

The analysis (2017) describes the possible arrangements and proposes a comparison table of their advantages/disadvantages and their strengths/weaknesses. It details then the two preferred arrangements, selected by the steering committee: the public order grouping and the public interest grouping. In addition, an Excel spreadsheet prepared by ESPELIA, allows to compare the impact of the setup on the balance sheets, for a project or a group of projects.

<https://bit.ly/3dOsmaW>



“Study on the professional sector for the energy renovation of public buildings in Nord-Isère Durable“ (in French)

AURA-EE launched, in 2018, as part of the STEPPING European project, a study to establish a state of play on the energy renovation offer of companies in the “Nord-Isère Durable” territory and more specifically on the heating and air conditioning companies. It assessed the capacity of local companies to respond to a bundled offer of Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs), in the form of an analysis of opportunities and obstacles. The specification of this study is available for the territories willing to conduct this type of analysis. The results of this study, produced by Algoé Consultants, can be downloaded.

<https://bit.ly/3cBnHZJ>



“How to implement energy action plans“ Video for local authorities (in English)

This video explains how local authorities can implement shared solutions for their energy transition projects.

<https://bit.ly/3a84jIR>



“Online handbook“ (in English)

A collection of the experiments carried out by the European project partners was realised in the form of a Prezi presentation.

In this collection, we also find recommendations for decision-makers for promoting shared solutions, as well as some testimonials of structures that benefited from bilateral exchanges between countries which were partners in the project.

<https://bit.ly/2xdI3rU>



FUTURE PROSPECTS

▶ PEACE_Alps, winner in 2018 of the EUSEW competition on sustainable energy in local authorities

Each year, the European Commission organises the European week for sustainable development ([EU Sustainable Energy Week](#)). It is the largest event dedicated to renewable energy and to energy efficiency in Europe. The 13th edition was held from 4 to 8 June 2018 in Brussels and its theme was: “Lead the clean energy transition”.

In this context, the competition “[EU Sustainable Energy Awards](#)” aimed to reward the most innovative projects of 2018 in the field of energy transition. With prizes awarded by an expert jury and European citizens, the Awards competition highlights new ways to shape Europe’s energy future.

The PEACE_Alps programme was rewarded for the [Public Sector Award](#) and chosen as the best project on sustainable energy and involving local authorities.

More information on the EUSEW programme on [their website](#)

▶ A platform dedicated to the implementation of local action plans

This exemplary project aimed to transmit information in an organised way and therefore the “PEACE_Alps Helpdesk” platform has been created. It is opened to all and it allows to share knowledge, tools and concrete initiatives in the context of the implementation of energy and climate action plans. Link to the platform (<http://helpdesk-peace-alps.auvergnerhonealpes-ee.fr/fr.html>)

▶ A call for participation for the communes in natural parks in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes in 2019

In 2019, APARA will make a call for participation for the constituent communes that would be interested in implementing one of the grouping scenarios evaluated in the project.

The selected options are the following:

- For small works, opt for a model of grouped public order.
- For more important works and/or global renovation works, plan a shared Assistant to the Contracting Authority, sustained by one inter-municipal association, a regional nature park or a local authority that has the means to assure it.
- If choosing the option of an ambitious territorial strategy, the recommendation is to work with a local public company, a public interest grouping or a semi-public company.



... TO FIND OUT MORE

- The project website: www.alpine-space.eu/projects/peace_alps/en/home
- AURA-EE website: www.auvergnerhonealpes-ee.fr
- The AGEDEN webpage on the project: www.ageden38.org/collectivites-et-service-public/programme-europeen-peace_alps/

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Project sheet made by AURA-EE

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