



Climate Active Neighbourhoods

Newsletter N°4

Overview

| | | |
|---|-------|---|
| 5th CAN Meeting: Good Practices & CO ₂ Monitoring at the Neighbourhood Level | | 2 |
| Learning from One Another: Energy Poverty in France and the UK | | 3 |
| Partners in the Spotlight: Liège-Energie | | 4 |
| News: Youth Volunteer in Brest | | 5 |
| Upcoming Events | | 6 |
| Project Facts | | 6 |

5th CAN Meeting

Good Practices & CO₂ Monitoring at the Neighbourhood Level

On 21 and 22 March 2018, 35 participants of the CAN project met in Liège. At the centre of attention were the transferability of current good practices and the question of common criteria for evaluating the various project activities. Moreover, Climate Alliance invited CAN municipalities to participate in the development of joint recommendations for CO₂ monitoring at the neighbourhood level. Exciting site visits made the 5th working group meeting a great success.

In Liège, like at all project meetings, the partners were able to inspire each other to engage in new activities. Plymouth encouraged the others, such as the hosts, to make use of Facebook more often to communicate with residents.



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From Hastings the CAN partners learned about exciting events, such as DIY solar workshops, as a successful means to arouse interest on the neighbourhood level around the topics of energy and climate protection - Arnhem, would like to extend its approach with these kinds of events. The Brico-Bus from Brest, a pop-up and service bus that provides residents with information about energy savings in their homes, also showed great potential for being used by other cities in the future.

Faced with this diversity of activities, the partners next addressed the question of how to monitor those. While the effects of energy retrofits might be measured in terms of improved energy standards, changes in the well-being and health of residents are much more difficult to assess. Here too, however, the partners were able to learn from each other and succeeded in gathering a first set of common monitoring criteria and methods. Of particular interest in this context was Climate Alliance's offer to the partners to participate in a working group on CO₂ monitoring at the neighbourhood level. The European city network currently develops a methodology paper for German municipalities and intends to make its ideas available to European cities either. Partners from the Netherlands, Belgium and the UK showed interest in working on the topic together. Of course, other municipalities are also welcome to participate in the process!

These fruitful working sessions were completed by highly interesting site visits: CAN partners were given the chance to get to know the Maison de l'Habitat, an information centre for residents on energy savings and retrofits. They further visited the neighbourhood of St. Léonard where the City of Liège systematically addresses initiatives for cooperation.



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Learning from One Another: Highlights

Energy Poverty in France and the UK

It didn't take long for the partners from Brest, Plymouth and Hastings to realize what sets them apart from the rest of the CAN partners: They are all seaside cities and are therefore particularly exposed to moisture and mould in buildings. It only became clear at second glance, however, that this context could also lead to major synergies in the field of energy poverty.

In Brest, before CAN, the interdependencies between energy poverty and the health and wellbeing of residents were only superficially examined. Although they were well aware of the increased risk of asthma and allergies from mould and dampness in residential buildings, it was only the extensive research from England regarding

the connection with many further symptoms such as sneezing, red eyes or persistent skin rash that aroused the increased interest in Brest. It quickly became clear to them that insulation measures and a proper heating behaviour are not only important for the energy balance (and bill!) of a home, but play an important role for the health and well-being of the residents. Thus, at further working meetings the partners from UK shared their experiences with Brest. They have long been addressing the overall cost of energy poverty to society as well as the potential direct and indirect positive effects on public healthcare.

Brest is still in its early stages here. But they have already taken a big step forward by looking at the problem of energy poverty from a more holistic perspective. Moreover, they are already implementing the newly acquired knowledge: During their home visits, where they inform residents about energy savings, they have already included new indicators on health and well-being. A first evaluation of the extent to which the condition of the residents has improved following the measures implemented by the city is already underway. We can look forward to the results in June in Brest, where they will be presented at the CAN conference on energy poverty in Europe.



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For more information contact
[Gladys Grelaud](#), Housing Project Manager (Brest)

For more information about the conference
click [here](#)

Partners in the Spotlight: Liège-Energie

Interview with Gün GEDIK, Manager Liège-Energie

Why is Liège-Energie participating in CAN?

The City of Liège is an early signatory of the Covenant of Mayors and the Baseline Emission Inventory showed that about 50% of the CO₂ emissions at territory scale are related to the housing sector. Furthermore, Liège has one of the oldest building stock in Belgium and counts several precarious neighbourhoods where needs are huge, both in energy investments and in energy guidance. Still, the energy retrofitting rate is not higher than 1% per year.

What is your approach?

Generally speaking, with CAN, Liège-Energie and the City of Liège hope to increase this rate in the long term by motivating residents and responding to their individual needs. More specifically, we have developed the concept of the "Maison de l'Habitat", a central place of information and help about all energy and housing issues. This dispositive gathers different kind of public actors in order to provide visitors with the most comprehensive support possible.

Where are you standing right now?

Through CAN project, we were able to improve our approach towards citizens and better inform them on the public aids they can obtain. We also created partnerships with local NPO's which are being effective multipliers. Since the project started, we noticed a 47.5% increase of citizens contacting us to obtain those aids, and an increase of 59.71% of people engaging in retrofitting their housing.

[Read More](#)

For more information on the Maison de l'Habitat click [here](#)



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For nearly 10 years, through his work at Liège-Energie, Gün Gedik has been helping people access financial aids to renovate their homes.

Gün GEDIK

Manager Liège-Energie

Tel. +3242215647

Mail: direction@liegeenergie.be

News

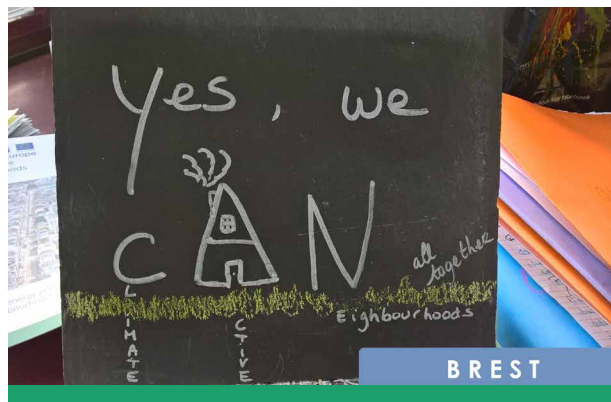
Youth Volunteer in Brest

It is Raffaele Viaggi's second visit to the beautiful coastal city of Brest. At first he came during his studies of urban planning and European policies, today he is in Brest as a participant of the Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY) initiative which is part of the European Solidarity Corps. IVY offers young Europeans the possibility to be part of a European project and to experience cooperation across European borders. Raffaele wants to make a contribution to climate protection and to help combat energy poverty in Brest. For five months the team in Brittany can be pleased about his dynamic support.



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Raffaele is convinced of CAN and sees the project as a vivid example of how the EU directly influences the lives of its citizens. „Energy visits and retrofits like those implemented in Brest produce direct impacts on energy consumption and bills. Moreover, Europe has never been closer to its citizens' most basic need: staying warm during winter“, Raffaele explains. During his stay in Brest he has the opportunity to get to know both the European and the very local dimension of CAN. At local level, he will try to mobilize the inhabitants of the Bellevue neighbourhood for climate protection. To this end, the team has already set up a working group with around 20 active residents, all of them full of ideas for raising awareness on climate change and energy efficiency in their neighbourhood. Raffaele is also pleased to take Brest's work to a European



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level. Therefore he is involved in the planning of the big CAN conference in June in Brest on the topic of energy poverty. It is the combination of both activities that he enjoys so much - to be active in a small neighborhood “where everyone knows everyone” and at the same time “to be part of something bigger” which allows him “to be inspired by colleagues in other cities in North-West Europe”.

It goes without saying that the team in Brest is very happy about Raffaele's support. Gladys Grelaud, CAN Project Manager, sums up the added value of an IVY Volunteer as follows: “Raffaele brings in a breath of fresh air; it is about an external perspective. I'm sure that will bring CAN forward”. The other CAN partners envy Brest, but are also looking forward to profiting from Raffaele in his remaining months in Brittany.



For more information about the Interreg Volunteer Youth initiative click [here](#)

For more information about the CAN conference on energy poverty click [here](#)

Upcoming Events

CAN Web Meetings

24 May 2018
"Spreading Results: The CAN Practice Cube"
(Climate Alliance)

8 June (tbc)
"Democratising Local Energy Supply"
(Hastings Borough Council)

CAN Working Group Meetings

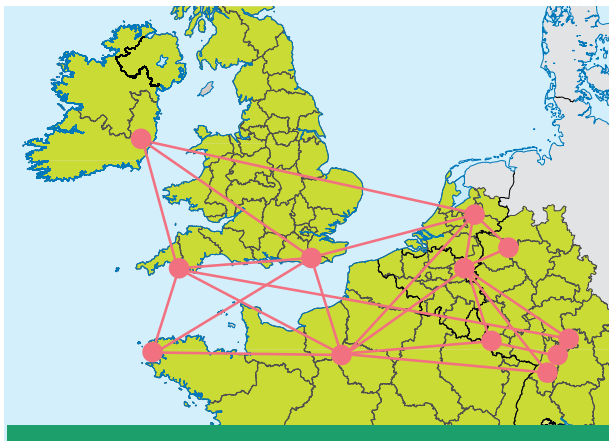
22 June 2018, Brest
25-26 September 2018, Plymouth

Further Events

21-22 June 2018, Brest
[CAN Conference "Energy Poverty in Europe"](#)

Project Facts

The Partners



The transnational partner network of CAN

- Climate Alliance (Lead Partner)
- Optivo with Hastings Borough Council and Energise Sussex Coast
- Gemeente Arnhem
- Brest métropole with Brest Emergence
- Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz
- Stadt Essen
- Liège Energie with Ville de Liège
- Plymouth City Council
- EPAM Seine-Aval with Mantes-la-Jolie
- Stadt Worms

[Read more](#)

Contact

Climate Alliance
Svenja Enke
CAN Communication Manager
s.enke@climatealliance.org

Facts

Duration

February 2016 to October 2019

€ 7.8 million total project budget
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