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MedGems, Mediterranean Governance for integration of Energy Management and Social policies

Good practices HEPS, Housing, Energy, Poverty and Health approach to tackle energy poverty

FINAL REPORT



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MedGems, Mediterranean Governance for integration of Energy Management and Social policies

Good practices HEPS, Housing, Energy, Poverty and Health approach to tackle energy poverty

Final report produced in the framework of the HEPS project.

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Layout design:

t&s – Traducciones y Tratamiento de la Documentación, S.L.

Project co-financed by Arco Latino (Latin Arch)

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Overall project management by:

Barcelona Provincial Council. Social Welfare Department. Attention to People Area.



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Barcelona**

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October 2017

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of the MedGems (Mediterranean Governance for integration of Energy Management and Social policies) project is to use public sector innovation to develop a governance model to overcome the administrative, cooperation, informative and financial barriers that are usually faced in reducing energy poverty at local and regional levels. The MedGems proposal is the result of Arco Latino's HEPS project (which designs an intervention for homes suffering from energy poverty from a Housing, Energy, Poverty and Health perspective).

According to an EPEE project¹ and based on Eurostat data, between 50 and 125 million people in the EU are at risk of energy poverty: around 54 million cannot afford to heat their homes in winter, and roughly equal numbers are behind in their electricity and gas bills or live in damp and leaky homes. The consequences of living in a cold home are numerous, leading to a high number of winter deaths, respiratory problems, increased hospitalisations and greater incidences of mental diseases, not to mention the negative effects this has on one's social life, relationships and children's education.

Energy poverty exists in all EU Member States: it is not limited to colder climates; it is as widespread in the southern EU in countries like Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece and Cyprus. According to the abovementioned project, the groups most at risk are retired and unemployed people, the working poor, those strongly dependant on the welfare system, elderly and disabled people, and single parents. A combination of three factors is generally considered to be at the root of energy poverty: low income, high energy prices and poor energy efficiency of the living space.

Challenges

Poor building stock in conjunction with the increasing rate of vulnerable households in the Mediterranean represent a challenge for ensuring basic energy services for the population at risk.

Another challenge common to both the Mediterranean and the rest of Europe is the successful creation of links between energy and social policies to face energy poverty. In its April 2016 Resolution² on meeting the anti-poverty target in the light of increasing household costs, the Parliament called on the Member States and the Commission to 'build bridges between social policy and energy policy'. In its December 2015 Resolution³, 'Towards a European Energy Union', the Parliament asked the Commission to present a communication on energy poverty, which would include a definition of energy poverty as well as indicators and be accompanied by an action plan for its eradication. It emphasised that energy is a public social good and that energy poverty should be one of the indicators against which the success of the Energy Union should be assessed.

¹ EPEE. European Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency. Intelligent Energy Europe funded project.

² <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P8-TA-2016-0136>.

³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P8-TA-2015-0444>.

The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) has underlined that it is the responsibility of Member States to ensure that they have an appropriate policy mix (social or energy policy) in place to inform and support vulnerable consumers. There is a need for a better understanding of the circumstances and conditions leading to energy poverty and how vulnerable customers could be better informed of the options available to them and better engage with the market.

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) says that energy is not a standard commodity and everybody should have access to it. It calls for national strategies to eradicate energy poverty and suggests that vulnerable households benefit from cost-effective energy-efficiency measures, in particular better insulation.

Meanwhile, municipalities and regional governments are the ones who deal daily with cases of energy poverty. Certain municipalities use some of the measures previously mentioned, but they are not usually part of a coordinated strategy between social and energy departments. Some regions and municipalities have deployed energy audits specifically for energy-poor households selected by social services, which is a step in the right direction in terms of integrating social and energy strategies. In this sense, Barcelona Provincial Council is promoting an intervention programme for vulnerable households that includes the energy and social perspective.

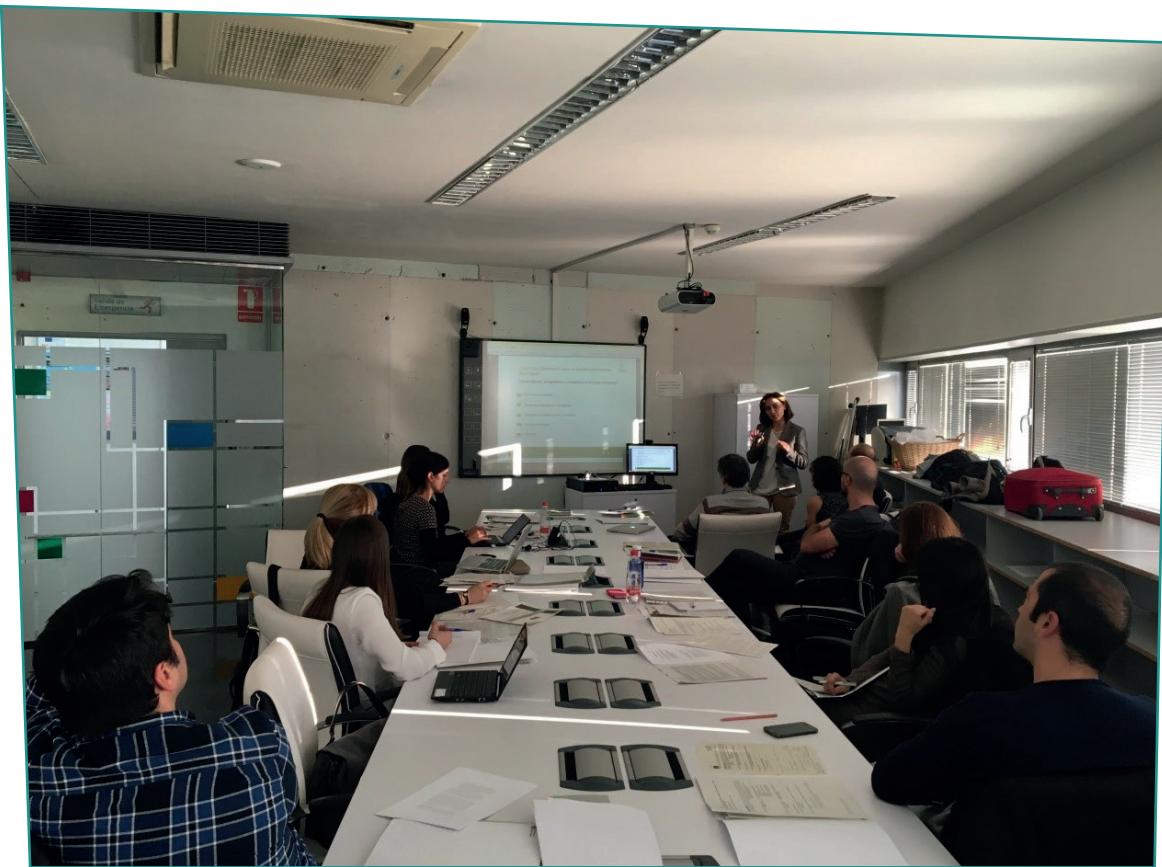
The local level is not without its shared challenges: a lack of coordination among different departments and stakeholders at local and regional levels to identify and manage energy poverty cases; a lack of comprehensive methodology integrating social, health, building and energy efficiency approaches to optimise energy consumption and comfort in vulnerable households, as well as financial constraints to the development of preventive interventions to combat energy poverty.

Objective and activities

The objective of the HEPS project, which designs an intervention for homes suffering from energy poverty from a housing, energy, poverty and health perspective and is financed by Arco Latino, was to bring these challenges onto common ground, to promote exchange among territories regarding their energy poverty management experience and to design a model of governance and a comprehensive intervention methodology for poor households at local level to be tested through a European-funded project.

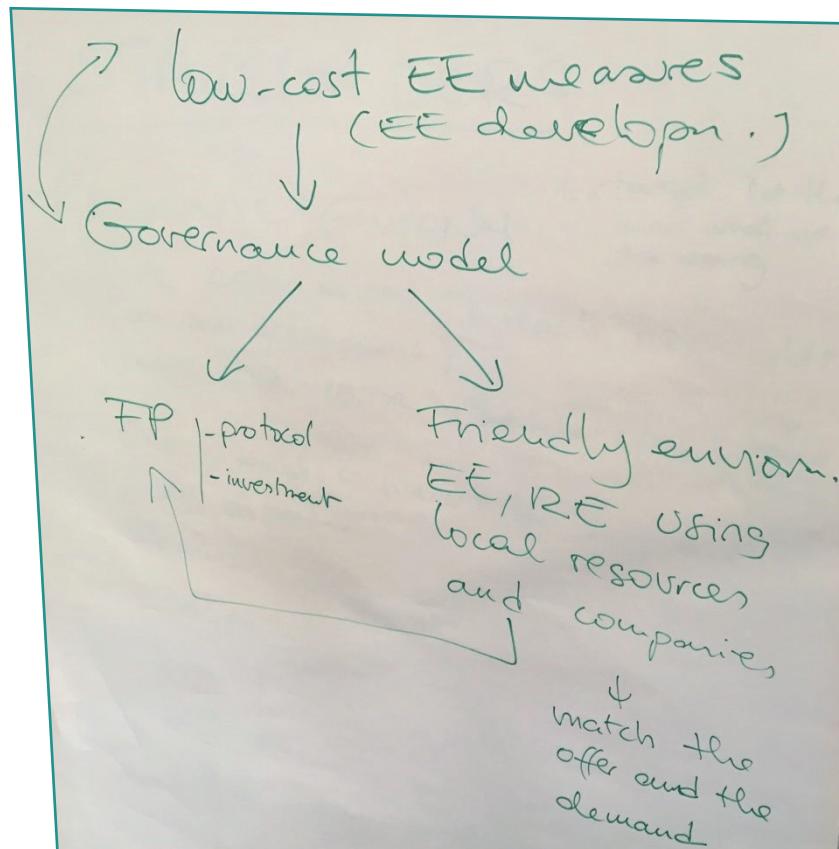
The main activities implemented through the project were the following:

- Organisation of **two experience-sharing and networking workshops** between the partners (Jaen Provincial Council; Barcelona Provincial Council; Granada Provincial Council; AGIRE, the Agency for Intelligent Management of Energy Resources; the province of Mantua; Metropolitan City of Turin):
 - Granada, 30 and 31 January 2017. The objective of the meeting was to present the partners' energy poverty-related practices; to debate about the strengths, challenges and transferability of the actions presented; and to design the main lines of a proposal to be presented to the Interreg MED Programme.
 - Barcelona, 23 February 2017. The objective of the meeting was to debate the MED proposal: project relevance, partners, work plan, pilot sites and budget.



- The preparation, creation and submission of the project **MedGems, Mediterranean Governance for integration of Energy Management and Social policies**, to the Interreg MED Programme 2014-2020 (Priority Axis 1: Promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth).





To develop the proposal, which counted on the support of Ecoserveis, partner research was carried out which resulted in the following partnership: Jaen Provincial Council (leader); Barcelona Provincial Council; Granada Energy Agency; AGIRE, the Agency for Intelligent Management of Energy Resources of Mantua; Metropolitan City of Turin; Cyprus Institute; the municipality of Zagreb (Croatia); the municipality of Fier (Albania); the Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES); and the region of Thessaly (Greece).

Several associated partners were also involved in the proposal: Arco Latino; the Agence de l'aménagement durable, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Energie de la Corse (AUE); the municipality of Badalona (Barcelona province); the municipality of Castelldefels (Barcelona province); the municipality of Ulcinj (Montenegro); ASTER, the services agency of the municipality of Mantua (Italy); the Energy Efficiency Cluster of Catalonia; the Primorski Tehnoloski Park d.o.o. (Slovenia); the Center for Economic Development & International Relations (Albania); the University of Granada; the province of Granada; the Andalusian Regional Government (Junta de Andalucía); the Spanish Association of Environmental Sciences (ACA); several consumers' associations and municipalities from Andalusia; the Ministry of Energy of Cyprus; the Technical Chamber of Cyprus; and the Electricity Authority of Cyprus.

MedGems uses a multilevel governance model to tackle energy poverty using preventive measures in a scalable, comprehensive and economically sustainable way.

The main objectives of the project are:

- The development of an integrated and transferable governance model that incorporates all relevant actors in the value chain to provide low-cost energy efficiency services to vulnerable households. The aim is to test and develop a governance model that incorporates energy management and social policies in tackling energy poverty.

- Demonstrating that preventive measures on energy poverty can be funded by optimising public funds and the economic savings generated thanks to energy efficiency measures in public buildings. The MedGems project aims to show how energy poverty costs, even if they require initial investment, can be funded by optimising the current public budget. Public buildings have great saving potential when energy efficiency solutions are applied, which in turn frees up funds for delivering energy efficiency services to vulnerable housing.
- Capacity-building among public and private actors on how to integrate energy poverty management. Energy poverty requires the involvement of very different departments and actors and that social, energy, building and health aspects be taken into account. MedGems integrates these dimensions and ensures good knowledge management among all the actors involved.

The main activity of the project is to test a governance model for energy poverty that integrates social and energy policies and involves public authorities and SMEs. It does this by creating synergies between two approaches (energy and social) that traditionally have been used separately but which can multiply the positive effects when combined.

The plan is for different areas to implement the pilot for an energy intervention programme (EIP) for vulnerable households, the ultimate goal of which is to increase household energy efficiency as well as the wellbeing and empowerment of occupants. The methodology used for the EIP will be based on previous experiences from partners and other EU projects and complemented with the health and social aspects that have been tested in some partner regions. At the same time, energy efficiency measures and a campaign to improve energy efficiency in public buildings, using solidarity to engage the public, will be implemented. These will free up funds from the public budget, showing how the costs of preventive measures can be integrated into current budgets.

Eight pilot sites have been chosen to cover representative MED areas and urban/rural and coastal/island areas, as well as different levels of governance (municipality/province/region). They are the provinces of Jaen and Barcelona and the Granada Energy Agency in Spain; AGIRE, the Agency for Intelligent Management of Energy Resources of Mantua and the Metropolitan City of Turin in Italy; the municipality of Zagreb in Croatia; the municipality of Fier in Albania; and the region of Thessaly and its islands in Greece.

This holistic approach is what gives the project its added value. It is expected to demonstrate that preventive measures to fight energy poverty can be launched with an optimisation of public funds and a small initial investment, and by integrating the knowledge, competence and resources of relevant departments (welfare, health, and energy, as well as buildings).

BEST PRACTICES

Energy audits and intervention in homes facing energy poverty

Promoter	<p>Diputació de Barcelona (Barcelona Provincial Council)</p> <p>The Barcelona Provincial Council is an intermediate local authority operating in the region of Barcelona. It promotes the progress and welfare of its citizens by providing municipalities with economic, technical, technological and training support and through the coordination of services. Its territory covers 24% of the total area of Catalonia and includes 311 municipalities, comprising over 5.5 million people.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the energy efficiency of homes facing energy poverty. • Reduce expenditure on basic electricity, water and gas. • Improve the quality of life of the beneficiaries.
Description	<p>The programme is based on two visits to homes facing energy poverty, identified by the local social services.</p> <p>The first visit is made by at least two technicians, one specialized in energy efficiency and other in social intervention.</p> <p>During the first visit, actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An energy audit: monitoring electricity consumption, analysing invoices and consumption habits, and collecting social information and ascertaining the perceived health of the people living in the dwelling. <p>During the second visit, actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of elements to improve energy efficiency (such as energy-saving light bulbs, weatherstripping the windows, timers, power strips with a switch, door draft stoppers, etc.). • Personalized advice on energy efficiency at home. • Personalized advice about possibilities for optimizing contractual conditions with electricity, water and gas suppliers and mediation with the companies, with the permission of the beneficiary. <p>The programme also includes a group training session on energy consumption at home, invoice analysis and consumer rights.</p>
Agents involved	<p>The project is promoted and managed by the Social Welfare Department, the Environment Department and the Housing Department of Barcelona Provincial Council, which offers the programme to the municipalities of the province of Barcelona.</p>
Target group	<p>Vulnerable households, identified by the local social services (Barcelona province).</p> <p>The pilot programme mainly involved low-income households, of which 54% had children, 21% were people with disabilities and 12% were seniors.</p>

Type of measures implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy audits. • Installation of materials to improve efficiency energy (of which almost half are light bulbs). • Group training sessions. • Mediation with energy supplier companies. • A report for each intervention and for each local council and an overall report for Barcelona Provincial Council. <p>The report for each intervention includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumption of electricity, gas/fuel and water in the home. • Proposed contractual adjustments with the supplier companies. • Advice on consumption habits and best practices. • Estimated future consumption, applying the tariff adjustments and new consumption habits. • Other actions that require more structural investments to reduce energy demand in the future.
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-sector work incorporating the social and energy perspective. • Empowerment of beneficiaries (individual assessment and group training sessions). • Personalised intervention. • Mediation with energy supplier companies. • Impact assessment.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to emphasize the health perspective. • How to involve the supplier companies. • How to develop broader interventions for household energy efficiency. • How to involve the beneficiaries as active agents.
Website	http://www.diba.cat/web/benestar/auditories
Contact details	Gemma Parera – pareraam@diba.cat





Workshop to provide knowledge and resources for tackling energy poverty

Promoter	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Government of Catalonia, Barcelona Provincial Council and the Catalan Energy Institute
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide local-level professionals with knowledge, resources and tools to tackle situations of energy poverty. • Exchange best practices.
Description	<p>This workshop aims to provide knowledge, resources and tools to professionals working with local social services to enable them to tackle energy poverty.</p> <p>The tools and knowledge focus on the information and advice that can be given to homes affected by energy poverty (e.g. grants and measures for saving water and electricity, reading invoices, etc.), as well as the exchange of experiences and best practices.</p>
Agents involved	<p>This workshop is the result of a collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Government of Catalonia, Barcelona Provincial Council and the Catalan Energy Institute.</p> <p>This initiative is part of the Catalan agreement to fight poverty and the different resolutions of the Parliament of Catalonia regarding the dissemination of and information and training on measures to tackle energy poverty.</p>
Target group	Professionals working with local social services.
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources and tools for professionals on the front line, so they can better detect and respond to energy poverty. • Group training with professionals from different municipalities so they can exchange resources, experiences and best practices.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the programme throughout the whole territory of the province of Barcelona. • Adapting training contents to the new legislation.
Website	http://treballiaferssocials.gencat.cat/ca/detalls/Article/Taller-de-coneixements-i-recursos-per-a-situacions-de-pobresa-energetica-00029
Contact details	Ramón Albornà – albornarr@diba.cat

Passa l'energia	
Promoter	Diputació de Barcelona (Barcelona Provincial Council)
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the consumption of electricity, gas and water in different public buildings through the application of best practices in energy consumption and the involvement of municipal employees and users of public facilities. • Allocate the amount saved to achieving better energy equity among households in the municipalities. • Reduce CO₂ emissions and contribute to meeting the goals to reduce the impact of climate change (and fulfil the Covenant of Mayors). • Raise the public's awareness of energy poverty in their community. • Improve the management of public buildings. • Involve municipal employees in the success of local projects.
Description	<p>A set of resources is given to the municipalities to promote energy-saving measures in public facilities and a part (or all) of the savings is used for energy poverty projects.</p> <p>The aim is to improve energy management in public buildings; reduce CO₂ emissions; involve public employees in a solidarity project; create energy poverty awareness in the municipality; and achieve additional resources to be used to help vulnerable families.</p>
Agents involved	The agents involved are the staff of the Environment Department of Barcelona Provincial Council, who coordinate the project, and the municipalities of the province—political staff, because their leadership is needed, and technicians. Local social services are also involved; they determine to which projects the money from the savings will be invested.
Target group	The project's main target group are the workers at the public facilities, as they are the target of the campaign to further saving actions. The other target group is the families that benefit from the projects in which the savings are invested.
Strengths	This is a campaign where everyone wins, where energy savings are promoted from the point of view of solidarity.
Challenges	Encouraging motivation at the political level and also among the managers of the municipal facilities. This project does not require a large financial investment but it does require a great deal of time.

Website	http://www.diba.cat/web/mediambient/passaenergia
Contact details	Pau Aguiló – aguilobp@diba.cat

Passa l'energia!



Awareness-raising campaign: Vecinos por el Clima

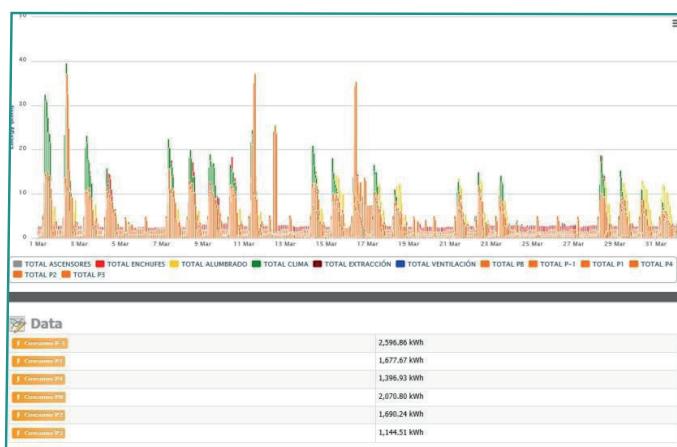
Promoter	Granada Energy Agency (Agencia Provincial de la Energía de Granada)
Objectives	General awareness-raising campaign aimed at inhabitants of municipalities in the province of Granada. The main objective of the campaign is to put into practice the campaign's energy tips over the course of four winter months, providing participants with energy meters to control their energy consumption.
Description	Awareness-raising campaign: Vecinos por el Clima
Agents involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial government (leader and supporter) • Municipalities (local supporter) • Local organisations and associations (networking and supporting) • Citizens (active participants in the campaign)
Target group	<p>Mainly inhabitants of suburban and rural areas (province of Granada). All participants were accessed by means of their local municipalities and associations/organisations.</p> <p>Once they indicated they were willing to participate, we provided them with a guide and a hotline for support as well as the name of a person in the town hall responsible for giving local assistance to each participant in the municipality.</p>
Strengths	This awareness-raising campaign bases its model on the European project Energy Neighbourhoods II, which is collaborative and brings together resources from different local administrations for a single purpose.
Challenges	Up until now it has only been possible to reach some municipalities; the main hurdle is the resources small municipalities dedicate to this issue. It is also not easy for inhabitants to balance participation with their daily life; we want to improve this aspect.
Website	www.apegr.org
Contact details	Gonzalo Esteban – areatecnica@apegr.org



Online energy audits within 'Vecinos por el Clima' and the Gramas app

Promoter	Granada Energy Agency (Agencia Provincial de la Energía de Granada); Diputación de Granada (Granada Provincial Council). Created in 2001 as a part of the European SAVE initiative, this is now the main instrument used by the Council when undertaking sustainable energy policies in the region.
Objectives	Measure the general energy consumption profile of private houses by taking a few minutes to fill in the online energy audit checklist developed for the campaign.
Description	<p>Online energy audits within 'Vecinos por el Clima' and the Gramas app.</p> <p>The energy audits consist of an online checklist with some tips at the end.</p> <p>The initial steps are the same as with the awareness-raising campaign. As part of the campaign, every participant is suggested to complete an energy audit at the beginning. Thus, everyone is made aware of their strengths and weaknesses and has a general idea of which tips to implement during the campaign.</p>
Agents involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial government (leader and supporter) • Municipalities (local supporter) • Local organisations and associations (networking and supporting) • Citizens (active participants in the campaign)

Target group	<p>Mainly inhabitants of suburban and rural areas (province of Granada). All participants were accessed by means of their local municipalities and associations/organisations.</p> <p>Once they indicated they were willing to participate, we provided them with a guide and a hotline for support as well as the name of a person in the town hall responsible for giving local assistance to each participant in the municipality.</p> <p>We worked in different municipalities with social housing, achieving important improvements (such as the insulation of a façade on one of the houses). Significant savings were achieved in some cases, helping to increase these families' income.</p> <p>We held courses for local actors, who keep on supporting inhabitants even after the campaign is finished.</p>
Type of measures implemented	<p>Mainly behavioural measures, as it is difficult to convince families whose main interest is saving energy for economic reasons to make investments. Nevertheless, all participants were given tips on possible further improvements that could be made through investment.</p>
Strengths	<p>This awareness-raising campaign bases its model on the European project Energy Neighbourhoods II, which is collaborative and brings together resources from different local administrations for a single purpose.</p> <p>Inhabitants not only know what must be done, but also can put the advice into practice. Through their own best practices, they can see the energy savings in their own home and save real money.</p>
Challenges	<p>Up until now it has only been possible to reach some municipalities; the main hurdle is the resources small municipalities dedicate to this issue. It is also not easy for inhabitants to balance participation with their daily life; we want to improve this aspect.</p>
Website	www.apegr.org
Contact details	Gonzalo Esteban – areatecnica@apegr.org





Energy optimisation

Promoter	Diputación de Jaén (Jaen Provincial Council), within the framework of the OPTIMIZA'30 programme with the municipalities of the province of Jaen
Objectives	Promote sustainable energy management at municipal facilities. Use energy efficiently. Raise public awareness of the efficient use of energy and subsequent savings as measures to fight against climate change.
Description	By carrying out an analysis to optimise energy use, a set of measures can be drawn up with which to reach an agreement with the supply companies so that the necessary adjustments can be made. In addition to proposed changes in tariff and contracted power capacity and the result of the electricity consumption analysis, future electricity consumption must be adjusted to the established schedule for each hourly discrimination rate (HDR), which is included in the annex to the report. The corresponding adjustments to the electrical installation must also be made by competent personnel, should they be necessary for the correct operation of the optimised installation.
Agents involved	Jaen Provincial Council and municipalities
Target group	58 municipalities in the province of Jaen
Strengths	At the moment the conclusions obtained from the 22 completed studies show that by making modifications to the power capacity and tariffs contracted for the necessary supplies, economic savings of between 3.65% and 22.79%, depending on the municipality, can be gained.
Website	https://www.dipujaen.es/conoce-diputacion/areas-organismos-empresas/areal/energia/
Contact details	Sonia Bermúdez López – sonia.bermudez@dipujaen.es



LEGNOLAB project

Promoter	The Metropolitan City of Turin (CMTO), which has many years of experience in the field of energy planning and the promotion of the wood energy sector.
Objectives	Study, identify and test technical, financial and administrative solutions for the environmental energy qualification of private housing stock, through the use of locally sourced wood construction and wood energy.
Description	<p>The CMTO is cooperating with Savoy to develop a set of instruments for public administrators and businesses aimed at rethinking public housing through from the point of view of sustainable energy.</p> <p>It develops actions based on the supply of wood energy and wood construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools for the aggregation of land ownership and the creation of associated entities. • Organisation of the supply chain and qualification. • Tools to enhance the entrepreneurial capacity-building of local forestry towards the direct supply of energy solutions. • Provision of social support in the households and at-risk communities. • Adoption of intervention protocols developed as part of the project and their integration into current administrative practice by municipalities.
Agents involved	UNCEM (National Union of Mountain Municipalities, Communities and Local Authorities), which represents 552 mountain municipalities, 50 mountain unions of municipalities, 5 provinces, 2 BIM consortia, Formont and the Pra Catinat Consortium.

Target group	<p>The territory of the Lanzo Valleys comprises 21 municipalities grouped into two mountain municipalities.</p> <p>The Lanzo Valleys have undergone dramatic depopulation since the 1900s. The total resident population has gone from over 32,000 in 1861 to just over 17,000 today.</p> <p>The territory requires widespread development, both in anthropic and natural terms.</p> <p>The quality of local housing, especially that built during the boom years of second home ownership, is often low, especially from an energy point of view.</p>
Contact details	Elena Apollonio – europa_cooperazione@cittametropolitana.torino.it

SalvE - Let's save Energy	
Promoter	AGIRE, the Agency for Intelligent Management of Energy Resources, at the request of the province of Mantua
Objectives	<p>Raise the public's awareness of environmental problems and particularly of how to reduce energy and water consumption.</p> <p>Inform families of the opportunities foreseen at a national level (income tax deductions) for private investment in energy-saving solutions.</p> <p>Let families know about the importance of correct boiler maintenance.</p>
Description	AGIRE, at the request of the province of Mantua, carried out the SalvE project, a campaign to distribute 3,500 packs of energy-saver light bulbs and water flow reducers. A first stage took place at the ForA-gri Exhibition, a trade fair organised by AGIRE on renewable energy sources applied to the agriculture sector (2,000 kits distributed). The second stage involved distribution in many of the province of Mantua's 70 small municipalities during the weekly city market (1,500 kits distributed). In each city, a van, appropriately marked for the purpose, was parked in the centre of the market, while AGIRE staff distributed the packs along with information on energy saving at home.
Agents involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGIRE • Province of Mantua • Municipalities in the province of Mantua
Target group	Families living in the 70 municipalities of the province of Mantua (southern-eastern part of the Lombardy Region, Italy).

Strengths	When directly supplied in the territory, public body services and activities are always very well accepted by the public. In this particular case, the strategic support offered by AGIRE in achieving the objectives was greatly appreciated by citizens, given the staff's extensive expertise. They were able to answer a variety of requests for information on energy-saving measures to be implemented in families' homes.
Challenges	Promoting energy saving in the province of Mantua, where the critical environmental situation, particularly in regard to traditional energy production, requires an enormous amount of effort to facilitate sustainable development through cleaner and greener energy use.
Website	www.agirenet.it
Contact details	AGIRE, for the province of Mantua www.agirenet.it Tel. +39 0376 229 694



CONCLUSIONS

Energy poverty—which refers to the inability to keep a home adequately warm; living in a dwelling with a leaky roof, damp walls, floors or foundation, or rot in window frames or floors; and arrears on utility bills—is one of the main challenges that local communities are currently facing.

The poor building stock in the countries of the Mediterranean area, in conjunction with high numbers of vulnerable people that continue to rise, represent a common challenge for ensuring basic energy services for the population at risk. At the same time, these growing energy poverty rates compromise public budgets, especially those for welfare.

Local and regional authorities deal on a daily basis with the increasing cases of energy poverty in this area. Actions are mainly taken either from a social perspective (direct assistance and subsidies to vulnerable families) or from an energy perspective (without specifically tackling the situation of the vulnerable families), and they usually do not involve all the relevant stakeholders in the value chain.

Preventive measures integrating social policies and energy management are being developed in some areas as best practices. However, low-cost energy efficiency services for vulnerable houses are not consolidated and face certain challenges: the lack of links between social and energy policies as well as housing and health policies; budget constraints and the lack of coordination among different departments and stakeholders at a local and regional level in identifying and managing energy poverty cases.

Municipalities and regions also have experience in improving energy efficiency in public and private buildings, which can be capitalized on to improve energy efficiency in vulnerable households and to build capacities among the municipalities' different departments' staff. Public savings through energy efficiency can also be used to help finance social interventions, as many public buildings offer a great opportunity for energy and economic savings through the implementation of low-cost measures.

One of the lessons learned through the project is the importance of tackling energy poverty by using an integrated governance model that boosts the development of low-cost energy efficiency services for households and allows an integrated approach that includes social, health, housing and energy issues to be applied.

There are good practices in place that employ comprehensive energy poverty intervention methodologies, but strategies must be developed to scale up the implementation of these practices and transfer knowledge throughout the Mediterranean area and its cities, provinces and regions.

For this reason, it is necessary to collaborate, exchange experiences and develop a common model for energy poverty management, which is precisely what the aim of the HEPS project has been. Its main result, MedGems, aims to consolidate a transnational network to involve more public authorities and to reinforce the impact of the common actions.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Barcelona Provincial Council
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Granada Energy Agency and Granada Provincial Council
<http://www.apegr.org/index.php/es/>



Jaen Provincial Council
<https://www.dipujaen.es/>



AGIRE, Agency for Intelligent Management of Energy Resources
and the Province of Mantua
<http://www.agirennet.it/newsite/index.php/it/>



Metropolitan City of Turin
<http://www.comune.torino.it/en/>

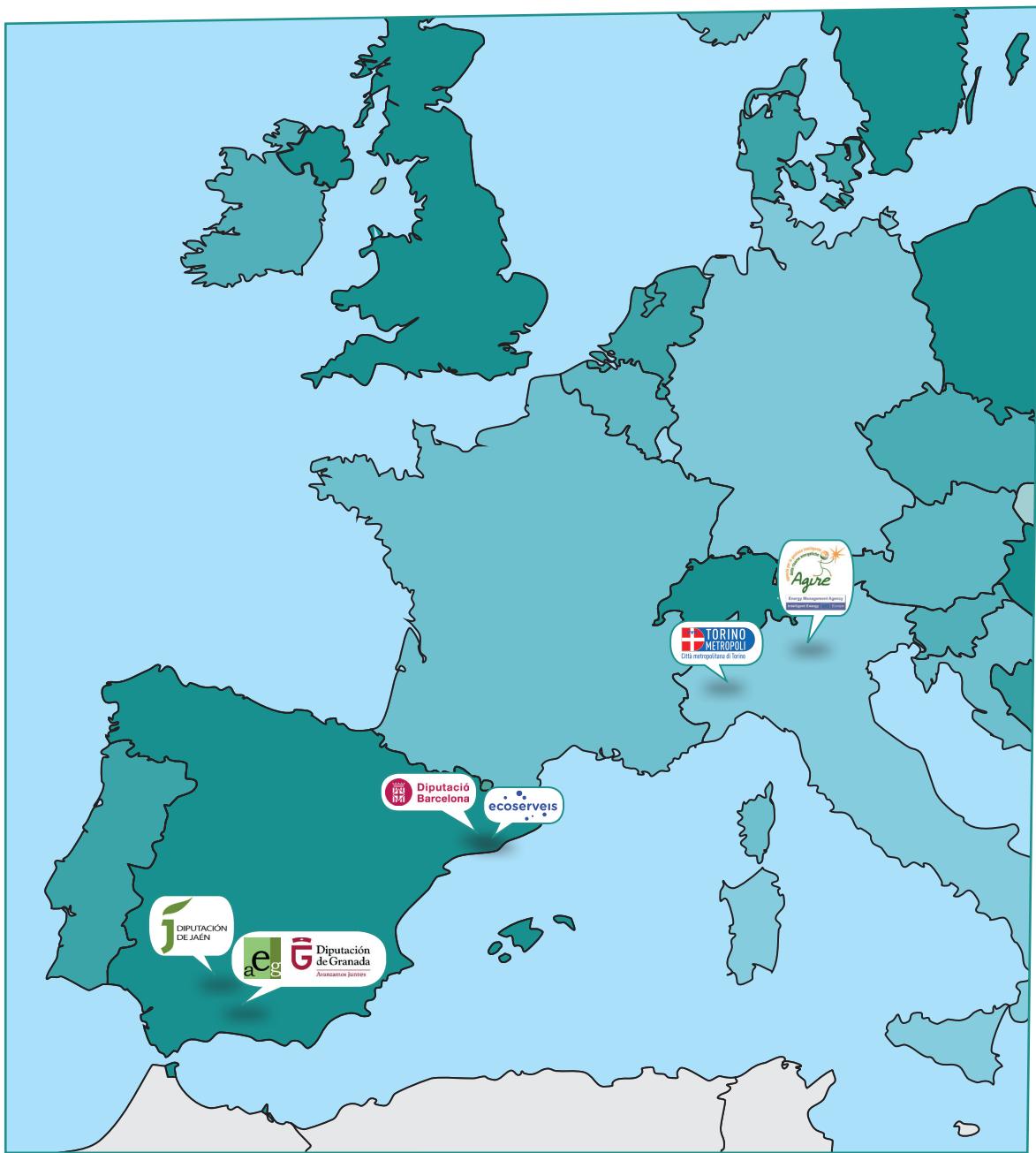


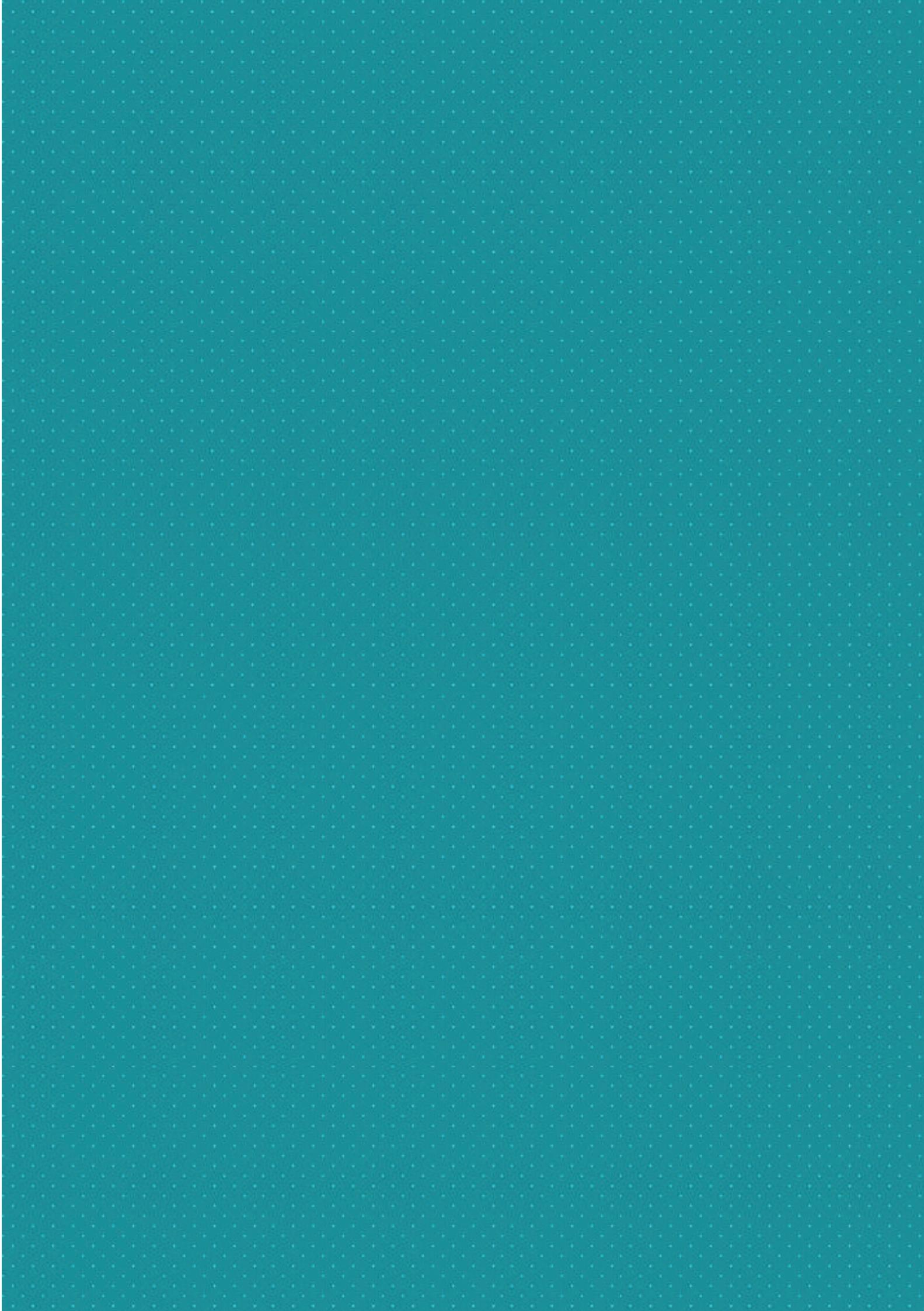
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Project co-financed by:
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