



EmPowering low carbon economies

POWER is a €5.8m interregional programme aimed at driving Low Carbon Economies partly funded through INTERREG IVC in 7 European regions. Nine projects are funded under POWER.

POWER - Learning from each other

There are 7 Universities directly involved as partners in POWER sub projects and many more contribute by speaking at and attending POWER interregional events. Madelyn Marrero Meléndez (MMM), Professor at the University of Seville shares her experience on how it is working at her institution in a short interview with Janet Borgers (JB), POWER programme manager.

JB: Why did your University choose to be involved with the POWER Programme?

MMM: Our research group have a previous experience of INTERREG as external experts contracted by the Instituto Andaluz de Tecnología (IAT) in the project SUSPURPOL. From this past experience with the Environment Centre (tEC) our group decided to work together again on topics related to Sustainable Construction in the TRISCO Project led by tEC.



JB: Who works on your POWER Project? - only academic staff or do you involve some of your students and researchers?

MMM: Undergraduates (900 in two years) and graduates (4 master thesis directly related to the TrIsCo project) students have participated in the project development and the project activities. The latter have taken place through master thesis topics related to the project activity. Also the academic staff: 7 professors from the ARDITEC research group have participated and of course our administration staff are involved as well.

JB: Have you exchanged ideas or experience with other Universities as a result of your participation in POWER?

MMM: We have not exchanged ideas with other Universities, so far.

JB: Well I hope you will attend the POWER Programme final event on 21 September where the other universities participating in POWER will be represented and possibly forge links for future projects.

JB: What do you believe will be your project's key achievement to contribute towards a 'low carbon economy'?

MMM: Three main activities have contributed towards a 'low carbon economy'. First, the project activities have been part of a new subject, Sustainable Construction, in the School of Building Engineering, last year about 250 students participated in the project activities. In the present year about 600 students are registered in the subject. The students have a better knowledge about the impact their decisions have on the CO2 emissions of their building projects. Second, the International Conference on Energy Saving in Buildings, involved about 100 people from the construction industry, more specifically, technical architects, architects, students, local government agencies, like Consejería de la Vivienda (Andalusia Housing Department) and Agencia Local de la Energía (Local Energy Agency of Seville), Agencia Andaluza de la Energía (Andalusia Energy Agency), private enterprises, etc. The third activity, relates to our research work, in the development of a simple CO2 assessment tool which can be used by dwellers in order to calculate their emissions and change their behaviour. The tool will be available in several web pages, i.e. Arditec, POWER, and the Environment Centre.

JB: Thank you very much for taking the time to talk me. It is really encouraging to learn that the POWER Programme reaches through several layers of the University and beyond, through your work on the TrIsCo Project. It is especially satisfying to know that so many students will have a better understanding of the need to design buildings with zero or low CO2 emissions in the future. I will also be interested to see how individual residents respond to your CO2 assessment tool for the home. *Buena Suerte con su proyecto!*

Youth and Schools Programmes

From the outset of the POWER Programme, several of the regions and indeed some of the sub projects felt that engaging with the youth and schools programmes is key to changing behaviours. The young are a persuasive and natural conduit to converting their parents to more sustainable behaviours. This is taking place in a multitude of actions.

Here are some different examples of work, undertaken through the POWER programme, carried out with school aged children:



- Stockholm Environment Institute involved in the TRACIT project, in Estonia, run an interactive cartoon which has an enormous following reaching more than 40% of children across Tallinn. They will be promoting the latest version as of 18 May which features cycling. See the cartoon on: <http://powerprogramme.ning.com/forum/topics/launch-of-an-educating>
- An educational schools programme has been delivered to all students at the Prangli School, a small school in the Viimsi Municipality, Estonia, to make them aware of the challenges and opportunities and the need to adopt sustainable behaviours in their island community
- The Environment Centre leading the TrIsCo project has so far visited 8 schools reaching more than 500 children delivering workshops on climate change, energy saving, renewable energy, local seasonal food and packaging and water conservation. Recent feedback: *"It was a fabulous morning and really supporting our current project of Eco Schools. We would really like to have you back again to work with perhaps the other year groups in our school."* Jo Mumford, Denys School. tEC has posted their tips on running successful interventions in schools on the POWER Policy Forum: <http://powerprogramme.ning.com/forum/topics/schools-education-programmes>

Existing Good Practices on work with schools shared with the POWER Partners:

- Through Staff Exchanges at the regional level, Maria Paola Dosi made the other regions aware that Emilia Romagna runs a Sustainable Schools Programme and a programme called Environment Graduates.
- Marisa Borra identified their existing schools programme in Andalusia as a best practice and shared the information via the POWER Policy Forum

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Alex Greenway (alexgreenway@seeda.co.uk) Preliminary results will be made available at the POWER Programme Final Event in Brussels in September 2011 and the final evaluation report will be available at the end of October.

POWER Programme Policy Coordination

We are pleased to inform you POWER has appointed AURORA Knowledge Capital Ltd to assist with the policy coordination work. As explained in a recent email to sub project partners, AURORA and the Policy Working Group will be reviewing your results from early July 2011. If you have policy recommendations to make; whereby a change to a regional policy or strategy would improve your field of work or transform your results to the mainstream - this is your chance to let key players in your region know about it - and POWER will do all possible to try to influence the regional authorities to have these recommendations adopted. We also know that some projects have taken recommendations to the National level, please do report on this too.

The recommendation should be a clear concise description of what needs to be changed with a link to the hard evidence that through your project work is the evidence base to support the proposed change. (Please give the name of the policy or strategy you have or are aiming to influence in both the local language and in English). Representatives from AURORA may contact you on points for clarification. The Aurora team representatives involved with this work are: Sally Kneeshaw, Abi Freeman and Alison Partridge.

Please send us your results or preliminary results by 1st July 2011 at the latest to power@seeda.co.uk (marked draft if they are preliminary results).

For further information: <http://www.powerprogramme.eu>