



**CONCERTED ACTION  
ENERGY SERVICES  
DIRECTIVE**



# **Public Sector: national, regional and local initiatives - links between SEAP and NEEAP**

## **Executive summary**

**WGR 3.1**

**Core Theme 3  
Working Group Report 1**

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The main objective of Core Theme 3, Working Group 1 was to analyse the link between Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) and National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAP) in terms of meeting the objectives of the Energy Services Directive (ESD) in the Public Sector (PS). A secondary objective was to highlight the potential benefits of common activities undertaken in the implementation of the ESD, the NEEAP and the SEAP.

The following conclusions were drawn from the report and discussions at the 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting:

- Few Member States (MS) used the 1<sup>st</sup> NEEAP as an opportunity to develop the PS as a leader in energy saving, but a visible improvement can be seen in the 2<sup>nd</sup> NEEAP, in which the PS plays a much more important role.
- There are many signs that the European Commission (EC) efforts to wake up local and regional leaders are going to be a success. The gap between national, regional and local policies is noticeably being bridged.
- In local communities, even those who are signatories to the Covenant of Mayors (CoM), there is still very little awareness of the CoM and the SEAP.
- At present a PS oriented link between the implementation of the ESD, the NEEAP and the SEAP is rather weak and plays a marginal role in ESD related activities.
- Almost all CA ESD representatives see the SEAP as a useful tool and are of the opinion that future closer co-operation between implementation of the ESD, the NEAP and the SEAP should provide positive results in the PS.
- However opinion differs as to whether the PS should play a leading role in the SEAP. It is thought by some that effective actions implemented through the NEEAP and SEAP are not necessarily suitable for implementation in the PS.
- Since a “mass movement” at a local/regional level is necessary in order to achieve the 2020 targets, extensive roll-out of the CoM should be preceded by training of the managers and local staff involved. Municipalities must consistently be supported by national governments in their efforts to reduce energy consumption.
- Energy data from the SEAP could be valuable as nationwide reference data but the procedure for gathering data should be standardised and a sufficient number of cities must be involved.
- Reliable, commonly available and accepted methodologies for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction should be applied so that results obtained at different levels e.g. in municipalities are comparable and can be used in benchmarks.

Recommendations were formulated as follows:

- EU and national support for ESD implementation should include adoption of aggressive energy efficiency policies and programmes at the local level which can significantly improve on existing energy use trends in local communities.
- If properly co-ordinated with regional and local activities, ESD implementation can be sped up and made easier by adopting the best solutions from the local level and ensuring higher political commitment at local / regional levels. Policies should be promoted that expedite the permitting and siting of low carbon or energy efficient distributed generation such as renewable energy sources (RES) or combined heat and power (CHP).
- Steps to standardise energy data should be undertaken so that data originating from the CoM can be aggregated and used as reference data. To make this system work, co-operation between local governments and energy utilities should be encouraged. Standard procedures for data sharing between utilities and local governments should be developed, whilst still protecting individual privacy. This could be undertaken as part of the common trend for building Smart Grid infrastructure.

- MS should seek co-ordination between the implementation of the NEEAP and the SEAP. The same applies to other programmes such as the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan), the CONCERTO initiative and Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE). Mandatory emission or energy reduction targets are an aggressive option governments may use to encourage municipalities to take action on energy efficiency. This in turn provides an opportunity for co-operation between the ESD, the NEEAP and the SEAP as the targets of these are convergent or even identical.
- The results and lessons learned from energy efficiency programmes initiated under the NEEAP and the SEAP should be gathered and shared with others involved with the planning and implementation of energy efficiency programmes.
- Other local and regional programmes should be explored and harnessed to demonstrate the exemplary role of the PS.
- The main drivers for the preparation and implementation of the SEAP, as well as problems encountered were also identified as being very similar to those typical for ESD implementation.

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The Concerted Action for the Energy Services Directive II (CA ESD II) was launched by Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) in May 2011 to provide a structured framework for the exchange of information between the 29 Member States during their implementation of the Energy Services Directive (ESD).

For further information please visit [www.esd-ca.eu](http://www.esd-ca.eu) or contact the CA ESD Coordinator Lucinda Maclagan at [lucinda.maclagan@agentschapnl.nl](mailto:lucinda.maclagan@agentschapnl.nl)

