



# Climate Leaders Exchange Programme Report

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Task 4.5 Climate Leaders Exchange Visits (M10-M36)

Prepared by:  
**ENERGAP**



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## Introduction

One of the aims of the REMARKABLE project is to support climate leaders to achieve climate neutrality within a region. The subject of this report, the Climate Leaders Exchange Programme describes the aim to assist leaders, enabling an “in-depth exchange on all issues relating to the energy transitions and climate neutrality on local level and exchange of experiences between the leaders and with the hosting organisation personnel as well”. As a result, the climate leaders were inspired by the best practices from across Europe. ENERGAP undertook the organisational role of planning the visit hosted by ESV In Austria. This report consists of the guidelines provided by ENERGAP to prospective hosts for visit proposals, the visit proposals themselves and details of the final visit to Linz, Austria.

Although originally due by August 2022, this deliverable was finalised in August 2024 because the exchange event in Linz took place in May 2024. The delay can be accounted for by the unexpected difficulty in attracting participants in the early stages of the project, before REMARKABLE was fully established and the value for climate leaders guaranteed. Gratifyingly, however, the postponement of the Climate Leaders exchange resulted in the Observer’s and Climate Leaders exchanges coinciding and naturally the two events complimented. Consequently, climate leaders gained knowledge not only from peers, but also from external parties, which contributed to the creation of better-formulated climate neutrality roadmaps.

## Working visits for Leaders

### Instructions for the organisation of Working visits for Leaders

Potential hosts should begin by identifying local projects and initiatives that align with the topics of Climate Leadership and/or Climate Neutrality. From there, a programme for the working visit can be initialised, including core topics, topics specific to the locality and site visits. The content to be discussed under each topic should be thoroughly detailed in the visit proposal.

To align with Tasks 2.4/4.2/4.3, the agenda should include opportunities to present progress on Climate Neutrality Roadmaps, allowing participants to share their experiences and discuss challenges, differences and potential opportunities.

Strategies to select suitable leaders for working visits:

- In part a self-selection process – project partners advertise the opportunity to network with other Leaders by taking part in the visit, encouraging the participation of curious, open individuals.
- Encourage specific people whom partners wish to apply.
- Climate Leaders that were more active and engaging during the development of CNRs will have priority in selection.



A minimum of 10 participants should be present at each visit.



## Starting point for the organisation of Working visits for Leaders

Partners, alongside stakeholders and leaders prepared programmes for each proposed visit location and discussed the potential benefits and weaknesses of each. Their proposals are detailed below.

## Visit Proposals

### LOCATION OF THE VISIT: MARIBOR, SLOVENIA

#### RESPONSIBLE PARTNER: ENERGAP

Short description of the content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visit to the natural swimming pools – developing and implementing the idea <a href="http://www.sktmradije.si/vodni_park_radlje_ob_dravi">http://www.sktmradije.si/vodni_park_radlje_ob_dravi</a></li> <li>2. Visit shared space and green area in the town centre (small town) - developing and implementing the idea</li> <li>3. Visit to green urban areas in Maribor (middle size city – 120.000 inhabitants) - planning activities for green city link to TRIO</li> <li>4. Smart building renovation projects - <a href="https://rra-podravje.si/agencija/kreativni-park-drava">https://rra-podravje.si/agencija/kreativni-park-drava</a></li> <li>5. Visit to Learning polygon for self-sufficiency and sustainable living for households <a href="http://www.ipvo.si/poligon-dole">http://www.ipvo.si/poligon-dole</a></li> </ol>
Duration	1,5 – 2 days
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to see the results of climate neutral planning and how projects were implemented</li> <li>• to follow the planning of climate-neutral building renovations</li> <li>• to see the development of a learning polygon, and observe how climate-neutral living might be accomplished.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to share the information and experiences</li> </ul>

### LOCATION OF THE VISIT: UPPER AUSTRIA, AUSTRIA

#### RESPONSIBLE PARTNER: ESV

Short description of the content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit to pioneer municipalities that have implemented a range of projects for the energy transition.</li> <li>• Learn about their ambitions, projects and activities for the energy transition, especially in the fields of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ renewable heating (including district heating) for public and private buildings</li> <li>○ activities for citizens and local companies for the energy transition</li> <li>○ Gain insight into key programmes and initiatives in Upper Austria that are supporting the (local) energy transition, e.g.: Programme against energy poverty, Programme for the Renewable heating transition</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Duration	1.5 – 2 days
Goals	<p>The exchange visit aims to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• permit an exchange with forerunner municipalities, and gain insight into their ambitions, projects and activities and how they are dynamising the local energy transition in all sectors.</li> <li>• learn about already implemented projects and how they are contributing to achieving climate neutrality goals</li> <li>• hear about sustainable energy in Upper Austria and key programmes and initiatives supporting the local energy transition</li> </ul>

Expected results	to share the information and experiences
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## LOCATION OF THE VISIT: TIPPERARY, IRELAND

### RESPONSIBLE PARTNER: TEA

Short description of the content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit to local deep retrofit of community buildings</li> <li>Visit to local authority climate projects</li> <li>Engagement on local community energy project</li> </ul>
Duration	1-2 days
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To understand major deep retrofit projects from a community lens</li> <li>To deepen understanding of community and local authority best practice in developing community flagship projects</li> </ul>
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to share the information and experiences</li> </ul>

## LOCATION OF THE VISIT: MADRID, SPAIN

### RESPONSIBLE PARTNER: ESCAN

Short description of the content	<p>Final selection will be based on the availability of the proposed sites, but these are the proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit to <i>Madrid Assembly building</i>, with new materials for energy savings</li> <li>Visit Philips-Signify to learn about modern lighting (street and indoor)</li> <li>Visit to the Smart City of Rivas Vaciamadrid and its management platform</li> <li>Visit sustainable installations and buildings in Fuenlabrada</li> <li>Visit the “insulation room” at Isover Saint-Gobain factory, with modern insulation materials and engage in a case at their premises</li> </ul>
Duration	1,5 days (from 9:30 on Day 1 to 15:00h on Day 2)
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To learn in practice about sustainable buildings, lighting and smart cities</li> <li>To visit real cases of projects where measures towards climate neutrality have been applied</li> <li>To exchange experiences with leading Spanish organizations (public and private)</li> </ul>
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide a better understanding of different solutions and materials supporting energy sustainability and climate neutrality</li> </ul>

## LOCATION OF THE VISIT: LYON and its surroundings, FRANCE

### RESPONSIBLE PARTNER: AURA-EE

Short description of the content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to create citizen enthusiasm around Energy Communities</li> <li>How a positive energy territory is setting itself up to achieve its goals by 2050</li> </ul>
Duration	1-2 days
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To visit local and citizen projects for heat and electricity production and understand their connection with the local public authority</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To exchange with the elected representatives on 1) the energy renovation plan for municipal buildings and the support fund for small municipalities, 2) on the deployment of solar energy with the creation of a local brand and 3) on the setting up of a transition Academy to acculturate the whole population of the territory to climate neutrality challenges</li> </ul>
<b>Expected results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To share the information and experiences</li> </ul>

Following careful consideration of the visit proposals, including budget, timing and value for leaders, it was decided that one visit would take place and the visit to Linz, Austria was selected.

## Working visits for Leaders in Linz, Austria

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2024

### Objectives of the meeting

- Leaders meet leaders: exchange with forerunner municipalities and energy agencies from seven EU countries and be inspired for your energy transition journey! Gain insight into their projects and activities, and how they overcome challenges to dynamise the local energy transition!
- Learn about already implemented projects and how they are contributing to achieving climate neutrality goals. As an example, see attached with this report a PowerPoint presentation given at the visit in Linz by Dr Noëlle O'Connor.
- Visit pioneer municipalities in Upper Austria that have implemented a range of projects for the energy transition
- Hear about sustainable energy in Upper Austria and key programmes and initiatives supporting the local energy transition

### Outcomes of the meeting

- Leaders were happy to meet in person, to exchange ideas, see new projects and brainstorm about opportunities for future work.
- Many different projects were presented by leaders, covering various areas and topics. These presentations and subsequent discussions garnered insights into the type of work being done in each country, the nature of communities across Europe including differing historical and cultural background and bolstered inter-cultural communication skills.



- 2 highly advanced municipalities in the Linz region were visited and their work presented. Leaders discussed with mayors and other stakeholders about planning and implementing issues, financing for climate neutrality and roadmap implementation.
- Site visits enabled participants to gain a deep understanding of the subject at hand. They also provided the opportunity to discuss, ask, learn and comment. It was much appreciated by all visitors.





## Final Agenda

### Leaders Exchange Visit

14-15 May 2024, Upper Austria

#### Objectives of the meeting

- leaders meet leaders: exchange with forerunner municipalities and energy agencies from seven EU countries and be inspired for your energy transition journey! Gain insight into their projects and activities, and how they overcome challenges to dynamise the local energy transition!
- learn about already implemented projects and how they are contributing to achieving climate neutrality goals
- visit pioneer municipalities in Upper Austria that have implemented a range of projects for the energy transition
- hear about sustainable energy in Upper Austria and key programmes and initiatives supporting the local energy transition

#### Where

Energy Academy of the OÖ Energiesparverband (Energy Agency of Upper Austria)  
Adress: Landstrasse 45, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Linz, Austria

#### Agenda (draft)

##### 13 May

Travel to Linz

Evening: optional dinner if enough participants have already arrived

##### 14 May

##### 9.00 Start of the Leaders Exchange Visit

- Welcome and introductions
- Interactive exchange session on best practices: participants present their projects and solutions (Part 1)
- Lunch



REMARKABLE LEADERS EXCHANGE VISIT



### **Afternoon site visits**

- Site visit tour by bus to pioneer municipalities in Upper Austria that have implemented a range of projects for the energy transition.
- Meet the mayors and hear about their approaches!
- Visit of their installations, especially in the fields of renewable heating and high-performance renovation of public buildings.
  - **Municipality of St. Martin im Mühlkreis**
    - Presentation of energy transition projects in municipality
    - Q&A
    - Site-visit: heating plant ÖkoEnergiePark St-Martin i.M.
  - **Municipality of Kronstorf**
    - Presentation of energy transition projects in the municipality
    - Q&A
    - Tour of the newly renovated municipal office (historic building from 1898)
    - Second stop at the Smart Village, innovative new housing development with small heating plant

### **18:15 Networking Dinner**

## **15 May**

### **9.00 Start of the second day**

- Continuation of the interactive exchange session on best practices (Part 2)
- programmes and initiatives in Upper Austria supporting the (local) energy transition, e.g. programme against energy poverty, renewable heating transition
- Group work and deeper exchange on key topics of interest
- Light lunch

### **13.00 End of the Leaders Exchange Visit and travel home**



REMARKABLE LEADERS EXCHANGE VISIT



## Participant List

First name	Last name	Municipality / Organisation	Country
Sara	Font	Escan s.l.	Spain
Ainhoa	Mata	ICAEN	Spain
María del Puy	Domínguez	EREN	Spain
Diana	Prsancova	FEDARENE	Belgium
Anne	Chancrogne	Municipality of Messimy	France
Joël	Baud-Grasset	Haute-Savoie Departement	France
Vianney	Chrétien	AURA-EE	France
Catherine	Premat	AURA-EE	France
Ivana	Hlinková	Energy Centre České Budějovice	Czech Republic
Christiane	Egger	OÖ Energiesparverband	Austria
Karin	Danner	OÖ Energiesparverband	Austria
Megan	Gignac	OÖ Energiesparverband	Austria
Manfred	Lanzersdorfer	Municipality of St. Martin i. M.	Austria
Christian	Kolarik	Municipality of Kronstorf	Austria
Sukanya	Saikia	Tipperary Energy Agency	Ireland
Morgan	Lahiffe	Clare County Council	Ireland
Conor	McDonagh	Limerick Clare Energy Agency	Ireland
Noelle	O'Connor	TUS	Ireland
Ivana	Dubrave	City of Križevci	Croatia
Nikolina	Rukavina Šojat	City of Križevci	Croatia
Vlasta	Krmelj	ENERGAP	Slovenia
Alan	Bukovnik	Municipality of Radlje ob Dravi	Slovenia
Uroš	Rozman	Regional Development Agency	Slovenia
Lina	Gellermark	Energy Agency Malardalen	Sweden
Susanne	Andersson	Kalix Municipality	Sweden
Isabella	Katsimenis	Energikontor Norr	Sweden
Domen	Bančič	IRI UL	Slovenia

## Conclusion

It can be concluded that the visit to Linz, Austria was a success. It attracted 27 climate leaders and observers in comparison to the required 10 per trip at initial planning stage and left a resoundingly positive impression on those in attendance. Of benefit on a personal level, participants remarked in the ethnographic survey of D2.1, that the visit offered valued networking opportunities and enhanced their inter-cultural communication skills. The visit also provided value for the communities served by climate leaders, in that the climate neutrality roadmaps developed for their regions were more innovative and resilient as a result. Following the visit, roadmaps could be inspired by practical examples and the knowledge from experts from across Europe.

## Photos







