

## PRESS RELEASE #5 (May 2021)

### POTeNT study visits are keeping the ambition high!

*Time for new online study visits for the 9 European partners of POTeNT, the Interreg project financed by the European Regional Development Fund, aimed at putting regional and local authorities at the heart of the energy transition process. In May and June, Ostrava, Parma, Pamplona, Stadtwerke Ettlingen and ALOEN are hosting 4 virtual events to share experiences and best practices.*

After a first series of study visits in early spring, online study visits are getting to the heart. During the semester 4 of POTeNT project, the partners and stakeholders are involved in **new online study visits**: some have already been carried out by the cities of **Ostrava, Parma and Pamplona** in the month of May, while others will be organised in June by **Stadtwerke Ettlingen and ALOEN**.

The City of **Ostrava** hosted a study visit on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May: the Czech city presented the utility system provided by the company OVAK (co-owned by the Municipality), highlighting in particular the importance of "smart metering system" implemented in the field of water distribution.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, the cities of **Parma** and **Pamplona** co-hosted a study visit on energy communities and self-consumption. Parma, with the cooperation of the local stakeholder AESS – Energy and Sustainable Development Agency of Modena, presented the “**Geco**” project, one of the first examples of green communities in Italy. With the support of the Climate KIC, AESS led the Pilastro-Roveri district in Bologna to manage and optimize the production and consumption of electricity at a community level.

On the other hand, Pamplona presented a pilot project of the Navarra Region aimed at promoting a collective self-consumption of photovoltaic solar energy.

Later in June, Stadtwerke Ettlingen and ALOEN will also host two online study visits. **Stadtwerke Ettlingen** will present its Community energy cooperative project, allowing its citizens to contribute financially to the expansion of renewable energies and be involved in the plants' revenues.

**ALOEN**, the Energy and Climate local agency of South Brittany, will close this round of study visits by presenting the good practice Bien Là -Innovative Local Energy Loop. The Local Energy Loop is a project aiming to match energy supply and demand at the local level by creating a local network of existing local actors. This networking is based on an open forum type of animation, a technique to bring out projects with local actors.

Hoping to be able soon to have not only virtual events, POTeNT partners in these months decided to go online and start taking advantage of these study visits: more accessibility, a

greater involvement of local stakeholders and more opportunities to learn more about each other's good practices!

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### **About Interreg POTEnT**

*POTEnT is a project aimed to foster the role of local authorities in energy transition. POTEnT is set to run until July 2022, followed by 12 months of monitoring of the results. The project is co-funded by Interreg Europe, a programme helping regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy by creating an environment and opportunities for sharing solutions thus ensuring that government investment, innovation and implementation efforts all lead to integrated and sustainable impact for people and place.*