ABSTRACT

This contribution will present the CHAMP Life+ Project. In short, it will show how to strengthen the local authorities’ capacity to respond to climate change effects through implementing integrated management systems. Local and subregional authorities play a key role in facing the challenges posed by climate change. As outlined in the Covenant of Mayors central document, towns and cities account directly and indirectly for more than half of the greenhouse gas emissions derived from energy use related to human activity. The signatory towns and cities then commit themselves to go beyond the objectives of EU energy policy in terms of reduction in CO2 emissions. This effort requires a highly integrated approach. Several EU policies and strategies (e.g. the EU Regional and Cohesion Policy, the EU Territorial Agenda, the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable Cities and the EU Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment) refer to an integrated approach as a key response. This is challenging and demands a good and competent organization and well-functioning local administration.

Within this framework, the main idea of the CHAMP project therefore is to develop extensive training programs and implement training facilities on integrated management for local and subregional authorities, with a specific focus on local actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation. This way, competence on integrated urban management will be widely disseminated and thus enable local authorities to implement an integrated management system efficiently.

In CHAMP local and subregional authorities from 4 countries will be trained in implementing an integrated management system to respond to climate change effects and the project will promote and disseminate the method and the model Europe-wide.
1 | Project background and reasoning

Europe, along with the rest of the world, finds itself at a critical confluence of climate crisis and economic crisis. The latest assessment report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the widely noted Stern Report on the Economics of Climate Change have lent new urgency to countering what may be humanity’s greatest challenge ever. Addressing this challenge will require a range of far-reaching policies: the development of more benign technologies, a boost in the efficiency with which energy and raw materials are being used, a critical reassessment of lifestyle and consumption choices, as well as economic structures, environmental restoration and mitigation efforts. It will also require adaptation to those changes that now seem irreversible. These changes amount to a fundamental ecological transformation of the economy. But these changes will not happen automatically. Without initiative and impulse from both public and private sector, the necessary changes will not happen sufficiently fast, or even not at all!

Local and subregional authorities play a key role in facing the challenges posed by climate change. As outlined in the Covenant of Mayors central document, towns and cities account directly and indirectly for more than half of the greenhouse gas emissions derived from energy use related to human activity. The signatory towns and cities then commit themselves to go beyond the objectives of EU energy policy in terms of reduction in CO2 emissions. This effort requires a highly integrated approach. Several EU policies and strategies (e.g., the EU Regional and Cohesion Policy, the EU Territorial Agenda, the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable Cities and the EU Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment) refer to an integrated approach as a key response. This is challenging and demands a good and competent organization and well-functioning local administration.

In responding to climate change, a local authority needs to be aware of EU policies, national strategies and programmes as well as local problems, resources and possibilities in order to find good solutions. The CHAMP project provides a comprehensive governance and management framework for local and subregional authorities to effectively and efficiently implement EU policies, strategies and legislation, commitments relevant to sustainable development of cities, towns and regions. It promotes an integrated management for sustainable development, focusing especially on managing climate change issues (i.e. mitigation and adaptation), with the intention to foster concrete actions for climate protection and adaptation.

2 | CHAMP actions and outcomes

2.1 | Impact on EU environmental and climate change commitments

The aim of the CHAMP project is to considerably contribute to fulfill the EU environmental and climate change commitments, legislations and targets in a cost-effective way by supporting local and regional levels through a competence development package on Integrated Management Systems (IMS). The creation of a EU 27+ capacity programme for integrated urban management means that local and subregional authorities will be trained to directly contribute to EU commitments under the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol to the EU objective of reducing greenhouse gases up to 2020 beyond within the post-Kyoto framework.

2.2 | Capacity building: Training hubs and training programs

The main idea of CHAMP project is to develop extensive training programs and develop training facilities in the EU 27+. CHAMP will implement the demonstration of training capacity in the four EU member states Finland, Germany, Hungary and Italy through the establishment of national hubs for training and support of IMS to the local level. The four national training hubs will support local and subregional authorities in their strive to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases through implementation of IMS.

Through the work of the national training hubs CHAMP will:

- pilot the use of the Capacity Development Package, containing focused and up-to-date contents and methods for capacity development for local and subregional governments;
- implement a train-the-trainers programme in the participating four Member States;
- produce a train-the-trainers programme ready for transfer to other EU 27+ countries to support local and subregional authorities in their work against climate change.

The national training hubs will carry out pilot capacity development programs on integrated management for local and subregional authorities in the four participating EU Member States with a specific focus on local actions for climate change mitigation. The national training hubs will significantly increase the number of local and subregional authorities using integrated management systems (IMS) by support and further the peer-to-peer implementation of integrated management systems in additional local and subregional authorities within their country.

CHAMP will also develop and implement a training module for third parties, targeted especially for EMAS competent bodies and EMAS auditors. They will be made aware of the importance of integration of all strategic aspects of local and regional authorities, and in this way enabling the bodies to motivate authorities to improve the strategic aspects of EMAS; prospectively this would provide a framework for implementing IMS in EU 27+.

This will also lead to a further development regarding standardization of IMS by
training of auditors in EU 27+ countries on the implementation of EMAS into strategic aspects of a local/regional authority. Extensive capacity building will take place in the four countries (Finland, Germany, Italy and Hungary) through training workshops, online training via the e-platform and peer-to-peer evaluation.

2.3 | Awareness raising

CHAMP aims to raise the awareness on the IMS as an effective instrument to combat climate change among national authorities, EMAS competent bodies, EMAS auditors, subregional and local authorities as well as the public. This will be addressed through dissemination and promotion of the project processes and findings to a wide audience of policymakers and practitioners at EU, national, subregional and city level (national authorities, local and subregional authorities, local and subregional authorities’ associations, etc).

2.4 | Low-carbon footprint project management through an electronic platform

The project will demonstrate low-carbon footprint project management and implementation. For this purpose an electronic platform will be developed to support the low carbon footprint principle of the project and to secure the continuation of the project processes through the launch of an IMS network. The platform will be widely used for project activities in the national hubs as well as general overall project activities. The national training hubs will use the platform during their trainings. Included in the e-platform will be the project website, the capacity development package and will also refer to other useful tools. The platform will enable interaction through web conferencing, blogging; it will include a benchmarking function and chat rooms for exchange.

2.5 | Competence Network on integrated management systems

In CHAMP EU 27+ wide network structures including cities, regions and organizations working with integrated management will be developed. The network will serve as an EU-wide competence network on integrated management system co-operation between all the different actors, to enable effective dissemination of project results, communication support for practitioners in integrated management and serve as a sustainable framework for mainstreaming integrated management in the EU 27+.

3 | Capacity Development Programme (CDP) Package

3.1 | Concept of the CDP package

Building the necessary capacities and expertise is the key for the mainstreaming of local and regional Integrated Management Systems (IMS) throughout Europe. With the Capacity Development Programme (CDP), CHAMP addresses a range of relevant stakeholders and provides them with necessary information and training to implement, support, evaluate and disseminate Integrated Management Systems for climate change response or other relevant sustainability aspects. The target groups of the Capacity Development Programme (CDP) are:

1. Local and regional government staff, esp. sustainability coordinators;
2. Trainers and consultants of local and regional governments;
3. Auditors of EMAS and IMS in local and regional governments;
4. Multipliers for IMS in local and regional governments.

The CHAMP Capacity Development Programme (CDP) package will include guidance material, good practice examples and didactical advice for the different target groups. This material will be compiled and elaborated building on the guidance and tools which have been developed in projects s.a. Managing Urban Europe-25 to help local governments establish Integrated Management Systems. Taking into account the challenges of climate change, the CDP package will put the focus on adaptation and mitigation and elaborate complementary and targeted material for local governments to coordinate their activities towards sustainability and climate resilience. Providing support material for trainers, auditors and multipliers as well makes the CDP package a comprehensive instrument for the mainstreaming of IMS and the concerted actions of local and regional governments to fight climate change.

The CDP package will be made available through an online tool on the CHAMP e-platform and provide local and regional governments, trainers, auditors and multipliers with quick and targeted access to the contents of the CDP. Users will be guided through the extensive resource base in order to find and select relevant resources and compile their individual support kit through electronic shopping carts. In addition, the e-platform is intended to provide opportunities for the exchange of experience between the various users with others, but most of all with the national training hubs to adapt the CDP and keep it updated to changing framework conditions and alike.

3.2 | Structure of the CDP package

In order to reflect common material and overlaps between the four elements (key target groups) of the CHAMP Capacity Development Programme, the structure will be organised along the steps of the Integrated Management System Cycle which was developed within the Managing Urban Europe Initiative (see figure 3.1) and is in line with the official management systems EMAS and ISO 14001 to assure compatibility and thus ease the extension of EMAS and ISO 14001 to an IMS and
3.1 – The Integrated Management System Cycle (MUE-25 guidance)

Each of the sections in the Capacity Development Programme will comprise specific support material for the different target groups, as outlined above. Thus, the content overview shows as follows:

I. Introduction to CHAMP Capacity Development Programme
II. Foreword: How to use the CDP Package
III. Introduction: Local response to climate change through integrated management
IV. Step-by-step: The Integrated Management System for climate change response
0) Preparation (Organisational set-up, scope and ambition)
1) Baseline Review on management structures and sustainability performance
2) Participatory target-setting
3) Political Commitment
4) Implementation and Monitoring
5) Evaluation and Reporting
V. References and Glossary

The development of the CDP incorporates a survey on training needs of local and regional governments and builds on the results from EU-financed projects MUE-25 and ENVIPLANS, other projects concerned with integrated management and relevant guidance and training manuals, especially concerning an integrative approach to transport and energy issues linked with climate change.

3.2 | Implementation of CDP

The CHAMP training concept employs a “learning by doing”-approach to develop the actual capacity of the national training hub to train the trainers. This means that after the initial coordination and agreement on the training concept, the national training hubs will conduct trainings for local consultants and trainers in the respective countries. Training hubs and newly instructed trainers will then - together - realise the first series of five IMS training workshops for local and regional authorities, in accordance with the steps of the IMS cycle and using the training material given in the CDP package. Individual mentoring of the participating local and regional governments will complement these workshops.

Development of a certification scheme for IMS trainers who have successfully taken part in the initial training and have supported at least one IMS management cycle is planned. Periodical renewal of training licenses can ensure continuity and regular updates in the training method applied by the IMS consultants and trainers.

At the same time, auditors and possible multipliers of the IMS for local climate response will be invited to regional information seminars and provided with individual support through the national training hubs. The envisaged European Network for Integrated Management Systems shall enable co-ordination and exchange between the different actors addressed and involved.

4 | Project proceedings in Italy

In Italy, some preliminary results for the CHAMP project have already been achieved. The national training hub for disseminating integrated urban management in local and subregional Italian authorities has been set up, in formal cooperation between Ambiente Italia and the association Coordinamento Agende 21 Locali Italiane (CA21L).

Four awareness raising events have been held in different Italian locations:
. 2nd of April, Rome – within ECOPOLIS expo&conference 2009;
. 26th of May, Milan;
. 29th of May, Florence – within TERRA FUTURA fair-meeting 2009
. 18th of June, Enna (Sicily).

The main aim of these events has been the recruitment of 10 local authorities committed for the pilot implementation of the project. In order to increase their interest to join the project, some strong key elements for the selection of pilot local authorities have been clearly pointed out:
. commitments: to participate in 5 training workshops on IMS, to develop or further implement an IMS in response to climate change effects, to disseminate the project results;
. minimum requirements: to have already implemented a local Agenda 21 or a EMAS/ISO14001 environmental management system or a sustainability/climate change action plan;
. additional requirements/criteria for selection: compliance with the Aalborg Commitments and/or Covenant of Mayors; participation in other EU projects on IMS (MUE-25, Enviplans) or in CA21L working groups;
. benefits: to face the climate change challenge based on integrated management experiences successfully applied by other local authorities; to join a training project on climate change mitigation and adaptation developed within the European Sustainable Towns and Cities Campaign, thereby training the local authority staff on integrated management for climate change response within an international network; to exchange experiences and good practices with other European local authorities;
. road-map for the pilot implementation (see Figure 4.1).
At present, many local authorities have already declared their interest in joining the project: 9 municipalities, 5 provinces, 1 network of lake districts, 1 water resources management authority.

5 | Conclusions

CHAMP aims at developing and establishing the knowledge base and framework structures for mainstreaming integrated management in EU 27 especially targeting climate change. Today there is no existing support function for local and regional governments nor an EU-wide training programme in Integrated Management Systems (IMS). However, IMS can be used as the key tool in local and regional authorities to battle climate change and move towards sustainable development. Based on previous projects under the EU Community Framework there are various manuals and guidance papers that could form the basis for a coherent training and capacity development programme on IMS at the local level. Even less experiences are available for an application at sub-regional level.

CHAMP will demonstrate:

- the possibility of implementing an EU-wide training and capacity development programme for Integrated Management Systems at local and sub-regional level linking the variety of different sectoral EU policies and strategies;
- that capacity development for Integrated Management application will lead to a more coherent, more effective and more efficient implementation of EU and national policies and in that way strongly contribute to solving existing threats to the urban environment and especially climate change;
- How sustainable structures for capacity development by establishing both national training hubs and a network structure serving as reference for those delivering and receiving training in the future can be developed;
- How a carbon neutral e-platform can substitute activities affecting the climate change.

Means to demonstration will be the development of reference examples and cases for both training hubs and applied integrated management in cities and sub-regions in the participating countries. The pilot will be done in the 4 core countries (Finland, Hungary, Germany and Italy) but dissemination to the regions surrounding these countries will prepare for an upscaling of the demonstration.
References

In: http://www.unep.org/civil_society/Publications/index.asp
University of Copenhagen, 2009, Synthesis Report, Climate change – Global risks, challenges & decisions.
In: http://www.climatecongress.ku.dk