

## **Towards an analysis framework of Positive Energy Districts' governance**

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**Abstract** Initiatives for the Clean Energy Transition (CET) that target re-thinking how energy systems are planned in urban districts such as Positive Energy Districts (PEDs), and that exploit more synergies between different sources of energy call for new forms and practices of collaboration and agreements between a diverse constellation of stakeholders. With this, we mean municipalities, private owners, citizens, real estate developers, energy solutions and technology providers, and housing associations, among others.

The objective of this study is to propose a framework of analysis of the governance of Positive Energy Districts. To do this, we carried out a preliminary exploratory work on leadership and stakeholders' relations in the cities involved in the EU project Plan4CET: Parma, Helsingborg, and Pamplona. During a project meeting held in Helsingborg this year, we organized working groups with the partners of the project and we collected data on experiences of leadership and collaboration practices in initiatives for CET. The data, consisting of notes of the participants prompted to fill out a form with three questions and discuss in the groups and notes of the group leaders during the group discussion and during the plenum session, revealed some key aspects that should be further investigated to deepen the understanding of the dynamics of collaboration and to draft an analysis framework for comparing leadership and collaboration practices in PEDs.

The following topics emerged from the exploratory work. Collaboration experiences seemed characterized by unclear roles and contribution, non-existent formal and informal procedures, and seemed to suggest that new ways of working and new collaborative forms are needed and should be tested. This indicates the need to investigate further roles, responsibilities and practices in PEDs. Lastly, it emerged very clearly that the 'initiative spirit' or the previous experience and competencies of some individuals are very crucial for the start and progress of the initiatives.

With these preliminary results in mind, we plan to analyse leadership, planning processes and dynamics among stakeholders involved in planning Sustainable Neighbourhoods in selected case studies in Italian cities of medium to large size (Cesena, Parma, Turin). In two of these cases the processes for evaluating, planning, and implementing actions towards Positive Energy Districts are carried out within the framework of European research projects where research organizations or universities are involved.

By collecting data in the three selected case studies (ongoing) we plan to verify the validity of our analysis framework, and we expect to establish it as a tool for the

analysis of leadership and stakeholders' collaboration practices of PEDs.