



**Project Acronym :** INNOVATIVE THINKING

**Project Title :** Actions and Strategies for Sustainable Growth through Community Networking and Innovative Thinking

**Coordinator :** Dals-Eds Kommun (Sweden)

**Website :** [www.innovativethinking.eu](http://www.innovativethinking.eu)

## ABSTRACT

The project time is from December 2006 until May 2009. Under 2007 to 2009 the partners, who are located over Europe (Sweden, Latvia, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands and Bulgaria) will work with the process to overcome existing barriers within the communities. The aim of the project is to establish and implement an action plan in each community as a joint agreed document with key community stakeholders, such as utilities, buildings owners, transport companies, municipal/district councils and NGOs, as well as politically accepted in the community. This will include concrete actions, such as investment plans, as well as plans and actions for information and training. It will be based on designed status of RES/RUE (including transport) status and possibilities per community.

Outcomes of the project:

Community status reports – overview of present energy situation and key barriers for sustainable development regarding energy, that can be used as building blocks for innovation strategies and awareness raising;

- Community strategies for the transition towards a sustainable energy community;
- Community action plans – concrete actions to overcome the barriers for energy efficiency and renewable energy project implementation;
- European conference on local community processes towards sustainable energy and energy saving in transport, housing and industry; arranged during 2009, also broadcasted via internet;
- Booklet on Good Examples in all phases of the process;
- Guideline for Community processes towards sustainable energy and energy saving in transport, housing and industry (“lessons learned”).

To describe the concept of “Innovative Thinking” there is the definition of innovation: “The term innovation means a new way of doing something. It may refer to incremental, radical, and revolutionary changes in thinking, products, processes, or organizations.” (M.Mckeown, 2008. The Truth About Innovation, Pearson/Financial Times. ISBN 0273719122). This project focuses on the process of making a joint commitment in the community, in order to establish long-term sustainable development of the community towards an energy efficient and renewable energy (including transport) dedicated community striving towards reduced dependence on fossil fuels. Building a sustainable future needs involvement of both politicians and decision-makers, as well as community market actors utilities, key energy users in the community, consultants etc. Thus involving all these people necessarily needs a focus on the PROCESS and a process like this takes time. Why more and more municipalities and cities have high ambitions concerning climate change and want to become Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)? This becomes evident in the Covenant of Mayors (<http://www.eumayors.eu>), which has now been signed by 372 cities with many more likely to follow this example. This is very good news, but it is one thing to have ambitions and it is quite another fulfilling them. For a municipality to actually reach their goals they need their citizens and other stakeholders. The municipal organization can give directions and can lead on the path, but most of the action has to take place outside the municipal organizations. In the Innovative Thinking project we sought out ways to involve the wider community of citizens and stakeholders in the fight against climate change.

## PARTNERS

Municipality of Dals-Ed – **Sweden**; Swedish Municipality of Tanum – **Sweden**; Kommunalförbundet Dalsland/Energiråd Väst - Energy Agency of West Sweden – **Sweden**; Milieudienst Regio Eindhoven – SRE - **The Netherlands**; SenterNovem - **The Netherlands**; Ekodoma – **Latvia**; Azienda Intercomunale Municipalizzata Acqua e Gas – AIMAG – **Italy**; Agenzia per l’Energia e lo Sviluppo Sostenibile di Modena –AEES – **Italy**; Severn Wye Energy Agency Ltd - SWEA - **United Kingdom**; Swindon Borough Council - **United Kingdom**; Stroud District Council - **United Kingdom**; Fundación Cartif – **Spain**; Agencia Provincial de la Energia de Ávila – APEA - **Spain**; Association Municipal Energy Efficiency Network EcoEnergy – EcoEnergy – **Bulgaria**.