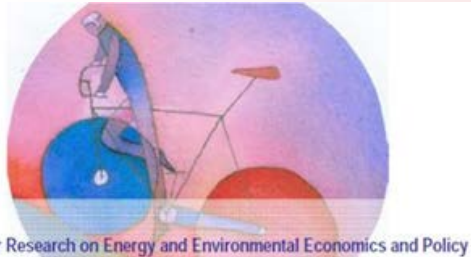


IMEAS Networking Event
Escaping the unconnected silos:
how to foster integration in low-carbon policy making and planning

Multi-Level Governance
for sustainable energy and climate policies

Tania Molteni
IEFE - Bocconi University

Turin, 28th June 2017



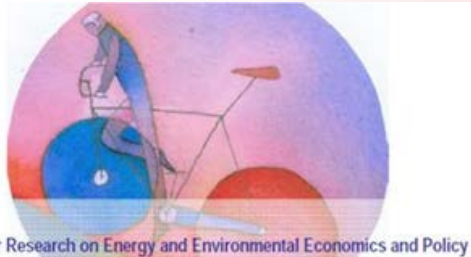
The Multi-Level Governance (MLG) concept

MLG refers to the participation of **different actors** in **policy-making** and **decision-making**, sharing a certain degree of **responsibility** and **authority**.

It includes **two dimensions**, the “**multi-level**” one which refers to the different **territorial levels** involved and the “**governance**” one which refers to the involvement of **governments and non-governmental actors** (Bache and Flinders, 2004).

The concept was firstly developed in the context of **EU studies** by Marks (1992), in particular the 1988 structural policy reform which introduced the use of partnerships within Member States for the administration of structural funds. It becomes a guiding principle of EU policies in the context of Partnership Agreements with regulation 1303/2013.

It is a key approach of **EU urban policy** as well, in particular of the recently elaborated EU Urban Agenda, which aims to be in itself a “new form of multilevel cooperation” among all key stakeholders.



MLG in EU climate and energy policies

Climate change governance has been increasingly defined “polycentric” and “multilevel” (Olstrom 2010 and 2012).

The MLG concept has been applied to the field of **global environmental politics** and specifically **climate change**, to represent the complex interactions between different state and non-state actors and levels in global climate governance (Hickmann, 2016).

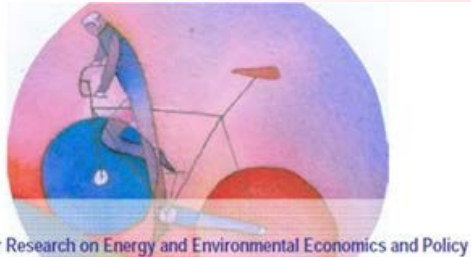
In **Europe**, MLG for climate and sustainable energy is very complex.

In several Member States, **competences on energy and climate** are split among **different administrative levels**. Regional and Local authorities exercise powers in relevant **non ETS sectors** (building, transport, agriculture, waste, etc.).

Energy and climate plans are developed by **national, regional, provincial, municipal governments**, as well as by aggregation of local governments.

Plans can be either developed on a **voluntary** basis or following **regulatory** schemes.

More than 8.000 municipalities have elaborated Sustainable Energy Action Plans under EU or national regulations or voluntary agreements (5.400 under the Covenant of Mayors).



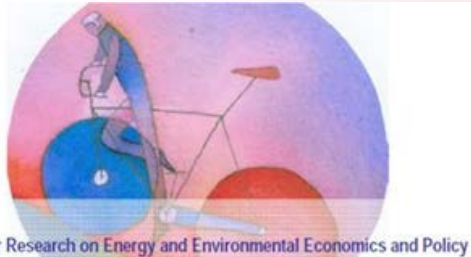
MLG in EU climate and energy policies

A key issue in EU MLG for sustainable energy is **coordination** and **integration** of policies designed and implemented at different levels (international, European, national, subnational), in order to guarantee their **consistency** and avoid mismatches (Daniell et al., 2010). Better coordination of policies at different levels can improve **effectiveness, efficiency, social equity of policies**.

Several **barriers** currently hamper the elaboration and implementation of integrated energy policies between sub-national governments (LEDS, 2014):

- **Financial barriers:** constraints and tightness of public budgets; lack of finance; difficulties in mobilizing private funding.
- **Political and institutional:** lack of a formal mandate for sub-national governments on climate and energy; misalignment between national and sub-national priorities; lack of coordinating mechanisms.
- **Knowledge and information:** knowledge gaps between sub-national levels and lack of data sharing, including the unavailability of comparable and consistent data on local emissions.
- **Capacity barriers:** lack of financial and institutional capacity to implement policies, as well as the lack of qualified staff and technical expertise to integrate climate in regional and local planning.

Identifying **cooperation mechanisms**, as well as the **success factors** for effective cooperation, can contribute to overcome the abovementioned barriers and enable such integration and policy coordination.

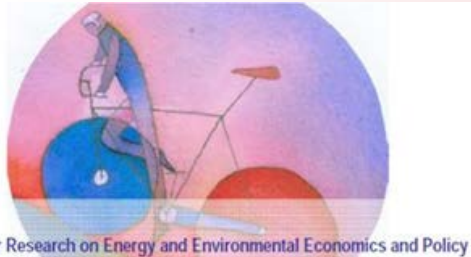


Coopenergy project

- The **COOPENERGY project (2013-2016)**, co-funded by the **Intelligent Energy Europe** programme of the European Commission, had as main objective the implementation and promotion of **effective cooperation models in sustainable energy planning** between Regional and Local public Authorities (RLAs)
- Among its activities, the project carried out a **EU28 survey** to collect **examples of MLG models** on sustainable energy and identify **60 best practices** across Europe



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union



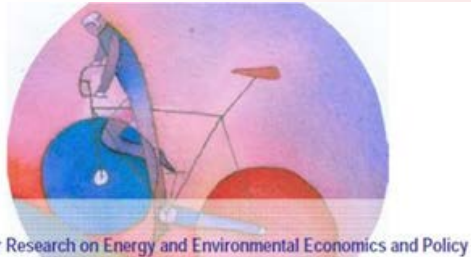
MLG models in Coopenergy

MLG models in the project were categorized into **two main areas of collaboration** and three thematic **pillars**:

**Strategic energy planning/
Joint elaboration of strategic plans**

**Operational energy planning/
Joint implementation of operation
tools**

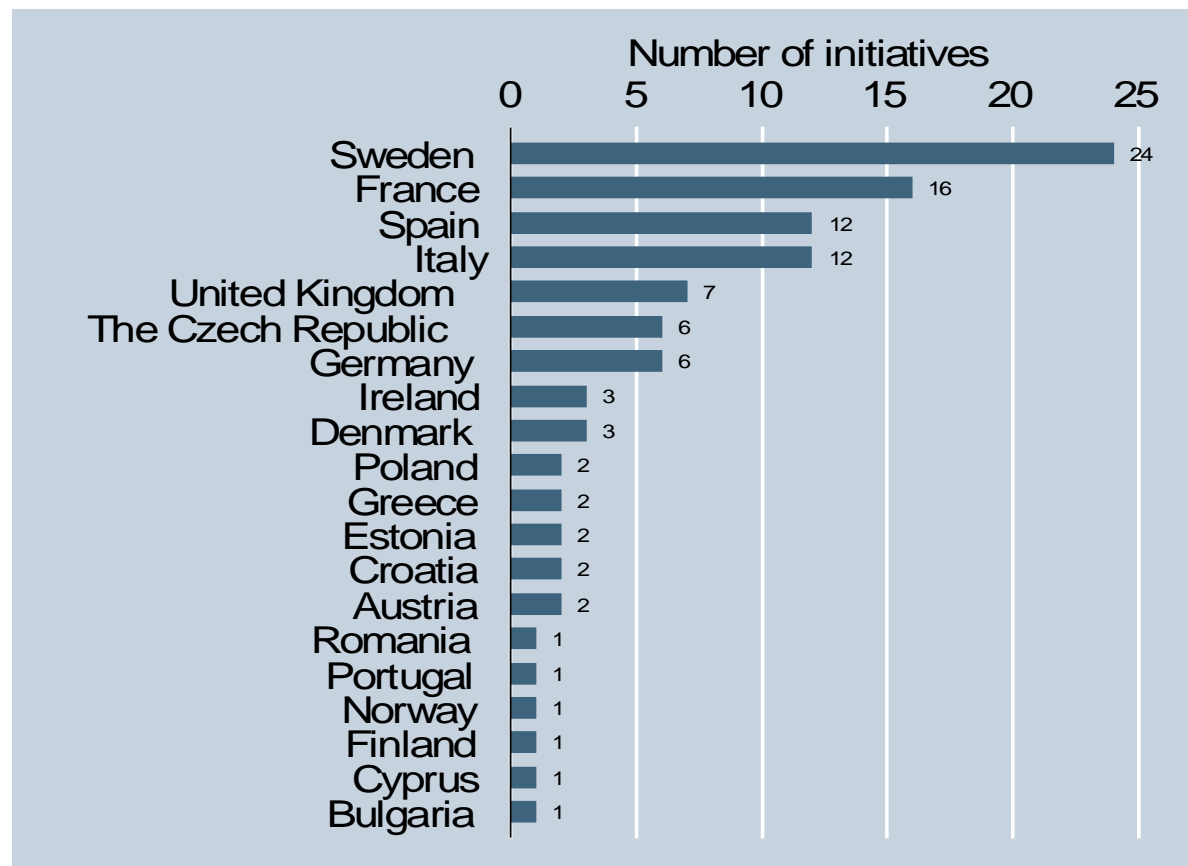
1. Financial mechanisms
2. Modelling, planning and monitoring for decision making
3. Awareness raising and stakeholders involvement

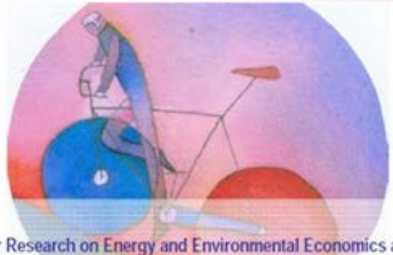


EU survey on MLG models

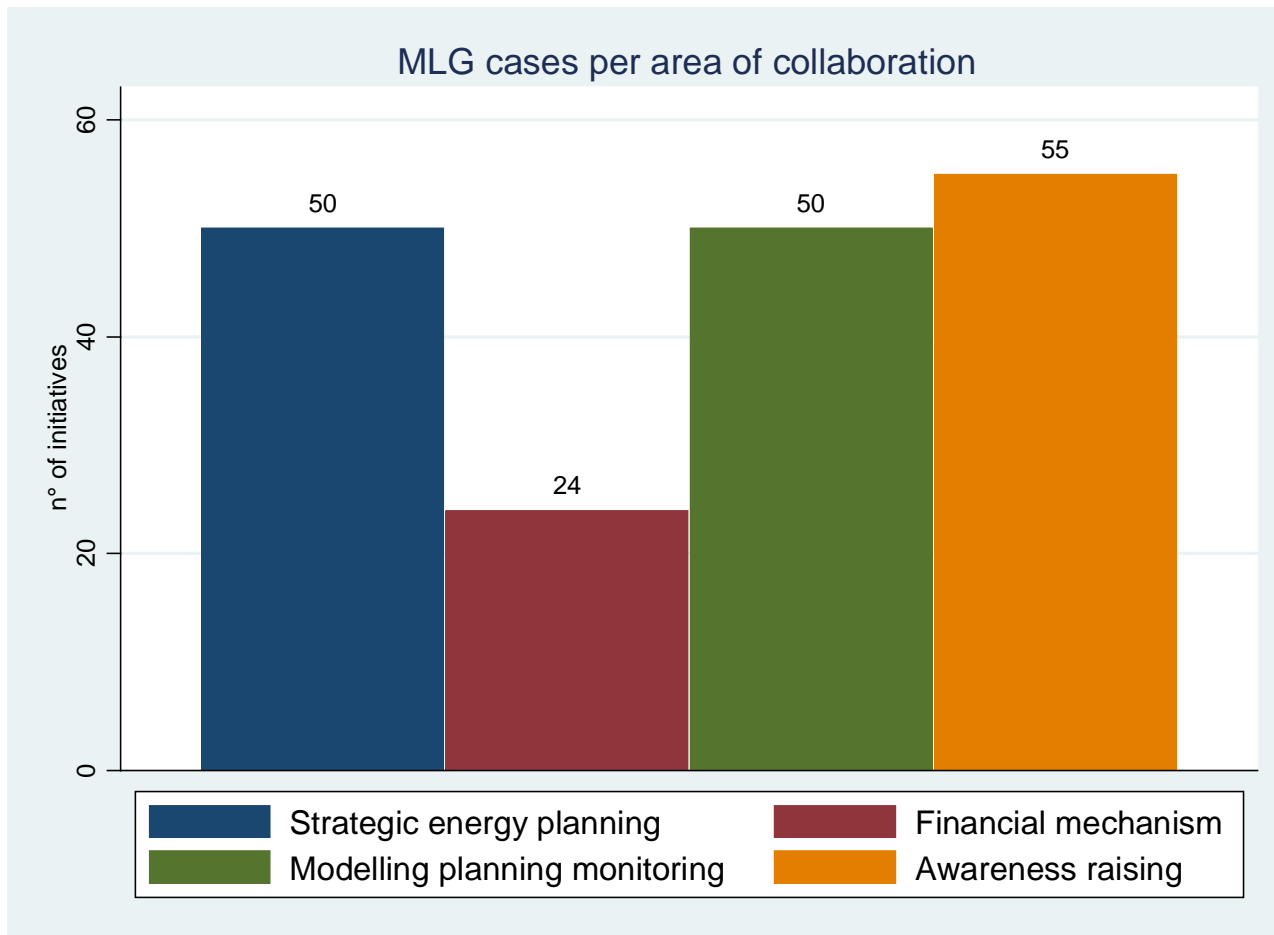
- A **questionnaire** was diffused to about **380 organizations** (254 Regional/Provincial authorities, 115 Energy Agencies, 20 other organizations)

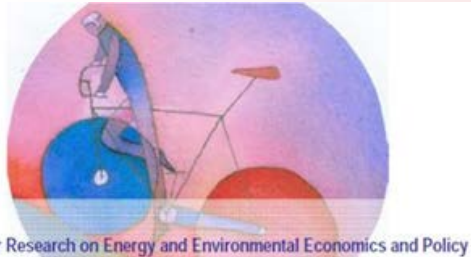
- Data presented are from **109 responses**



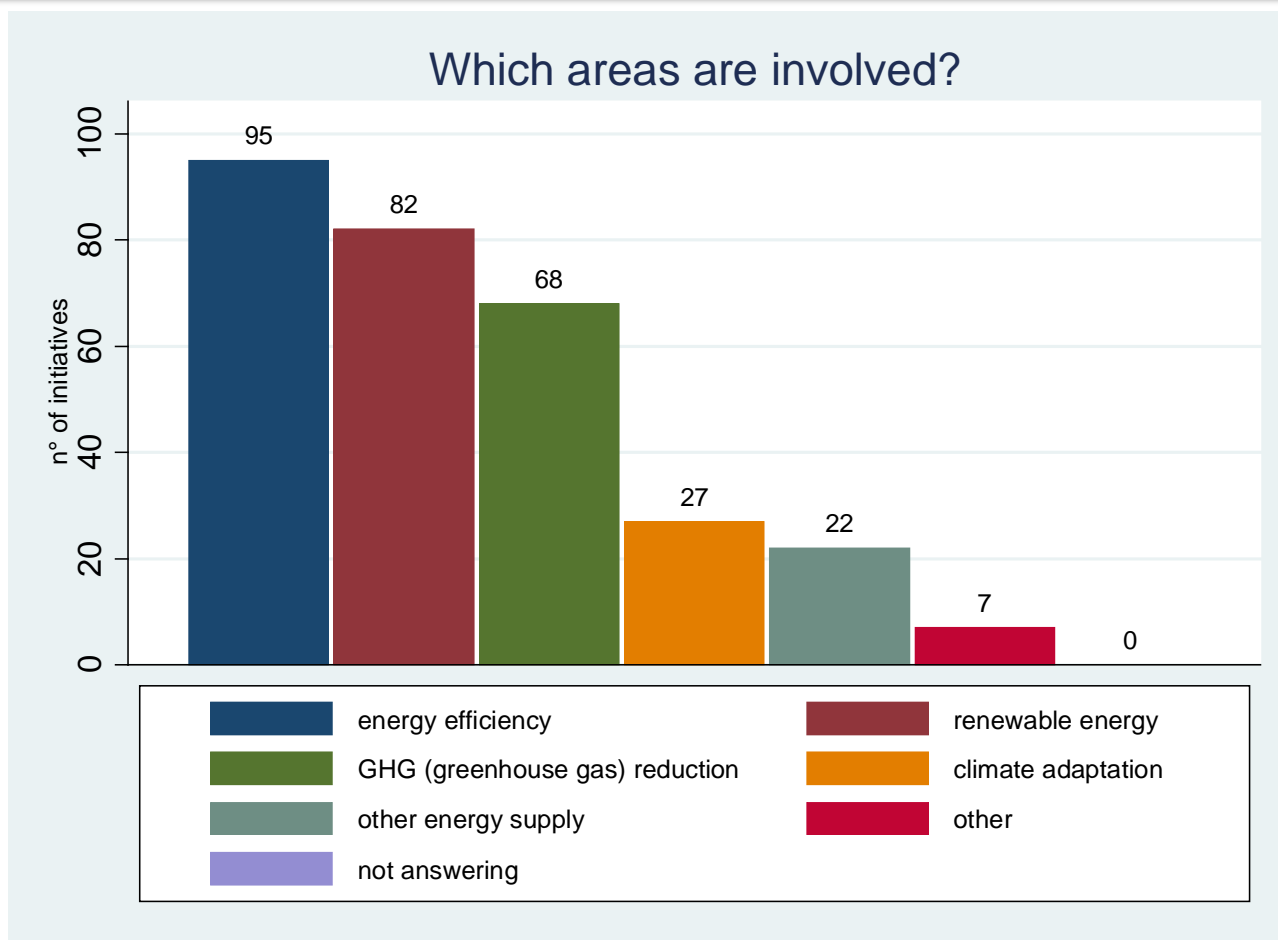


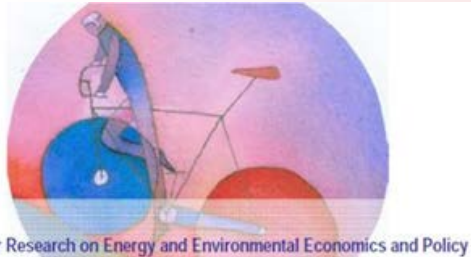
Thematic pillars involved in the collaborations





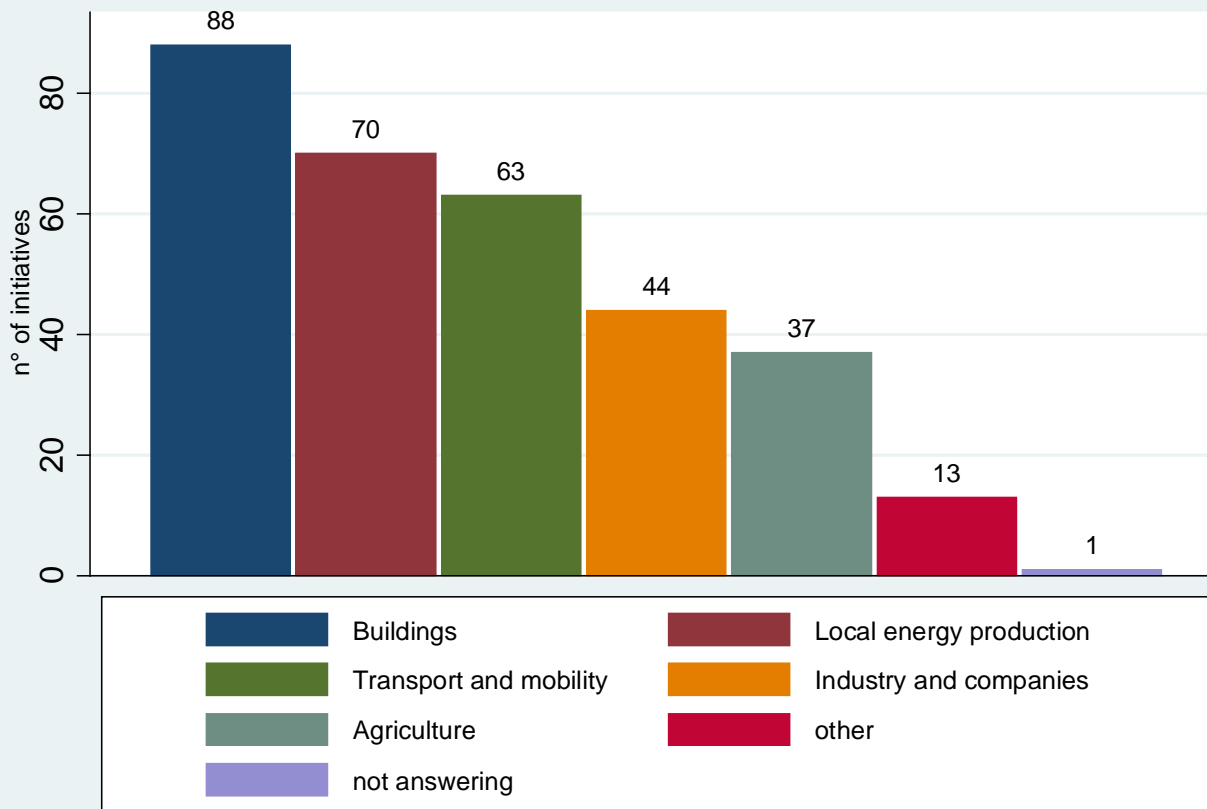
Areas involved

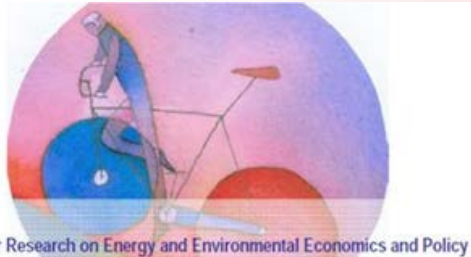




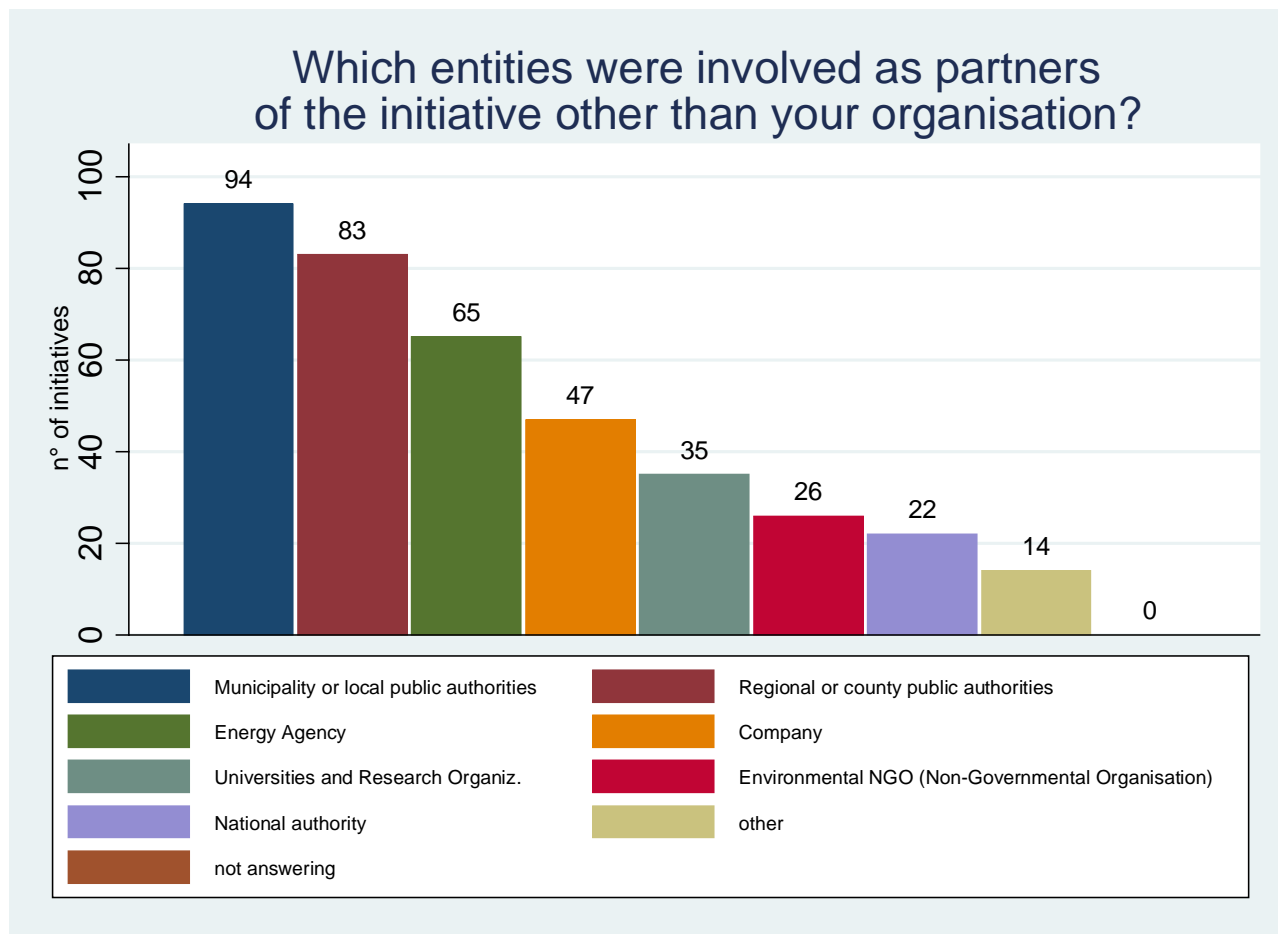
Sectors involved

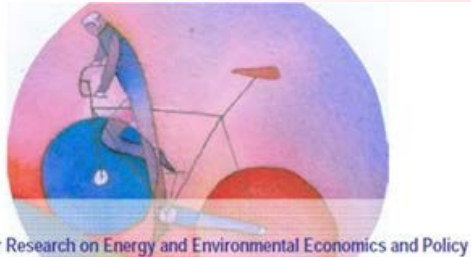
Which sectors are involved?





Partners involved

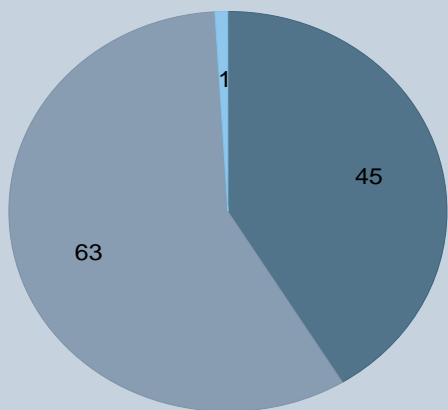




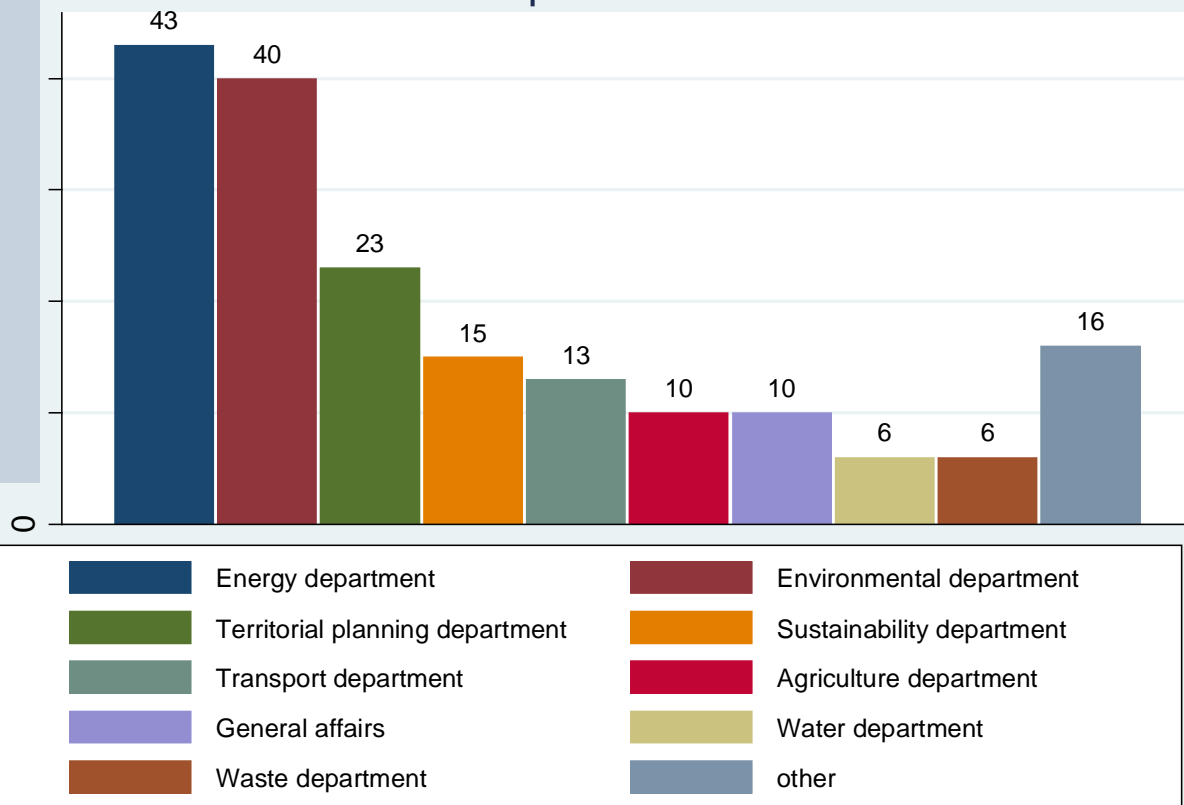
Other departments involved

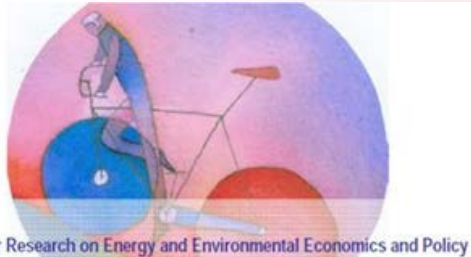
Beyond your department, have other departments of your regional authority been involved?

- No
- Yes
- not answering

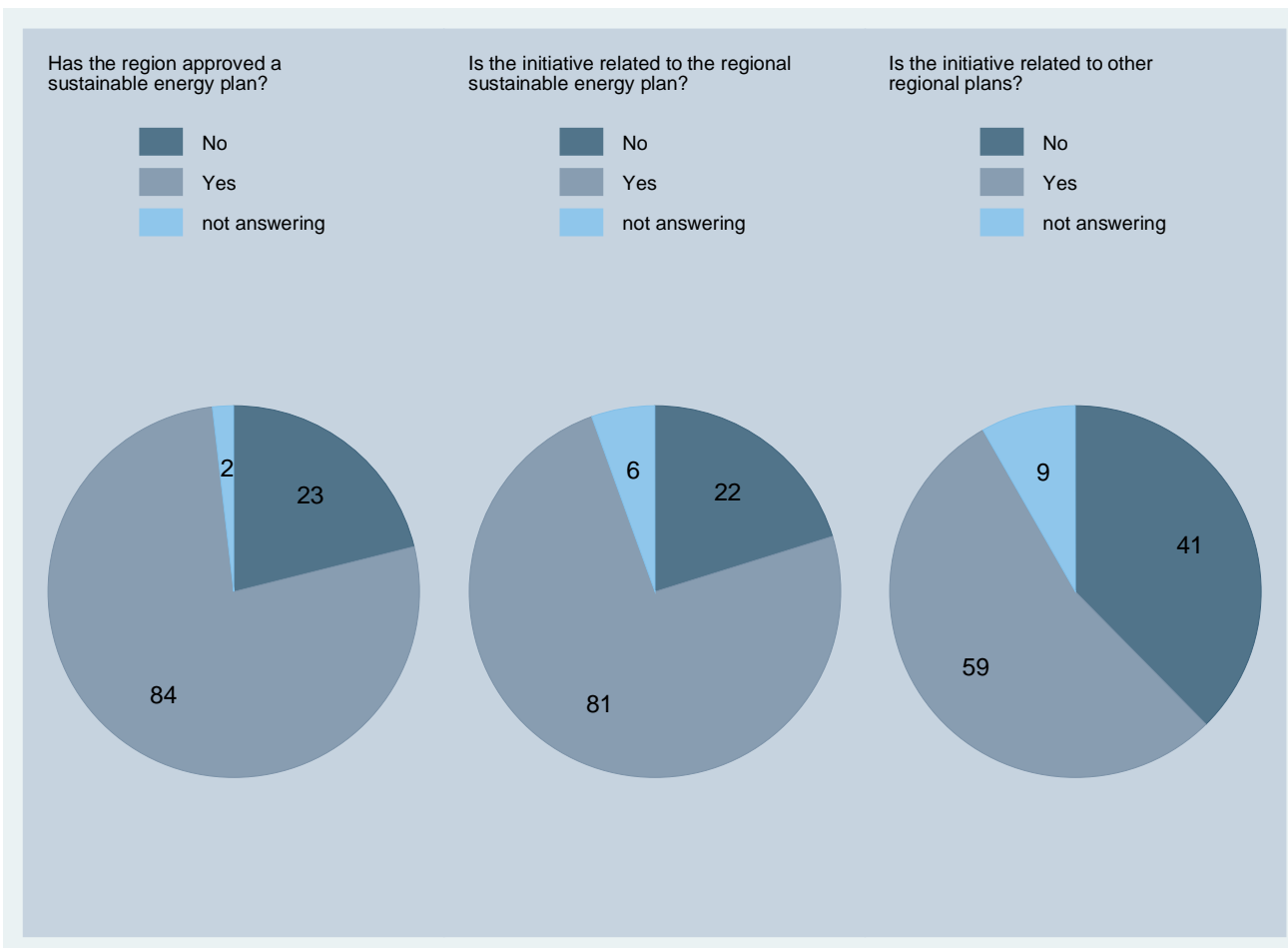


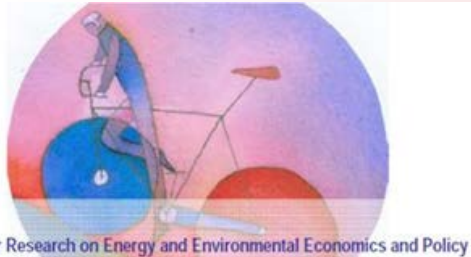
Other departments involved



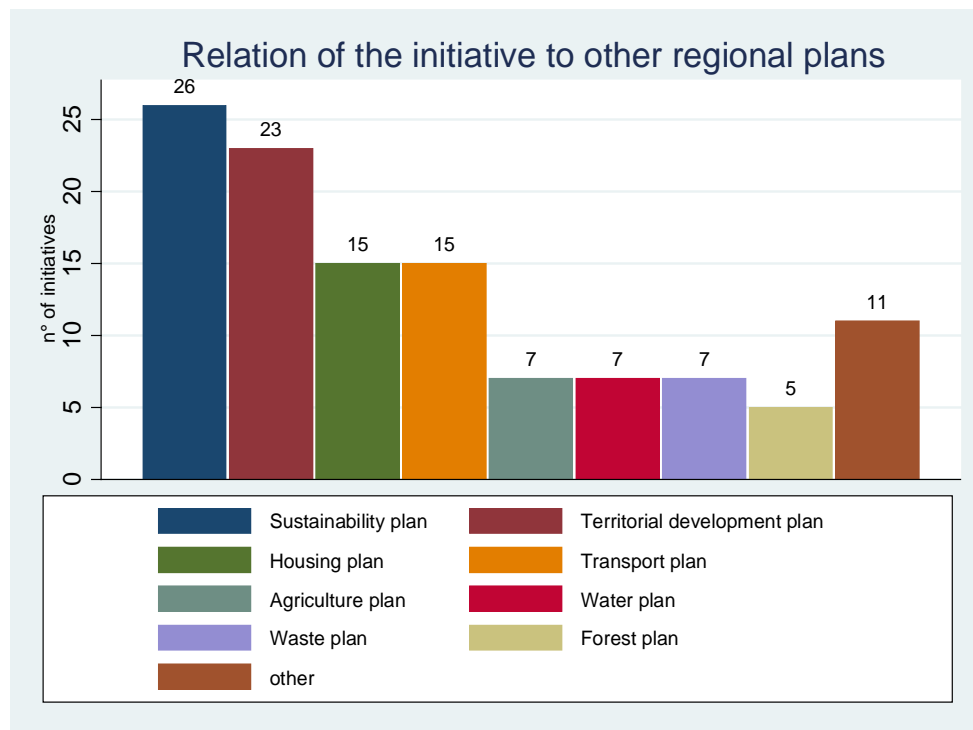
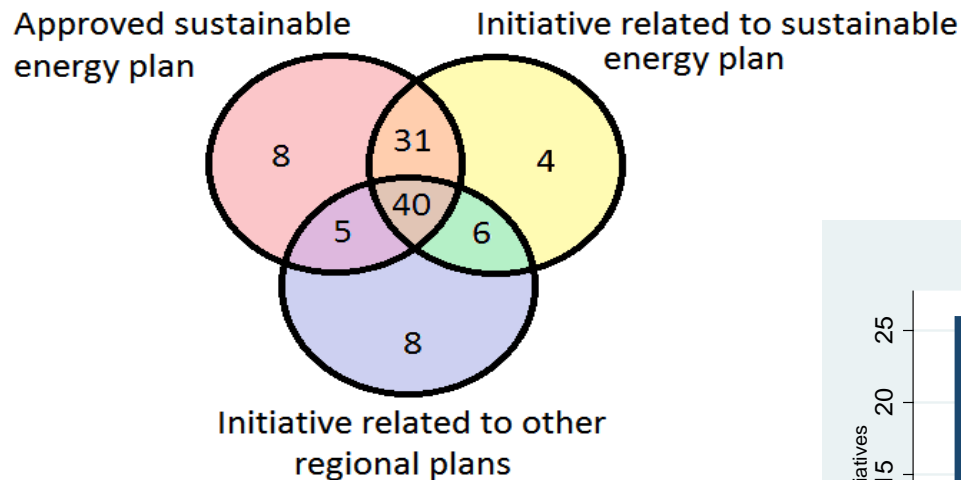


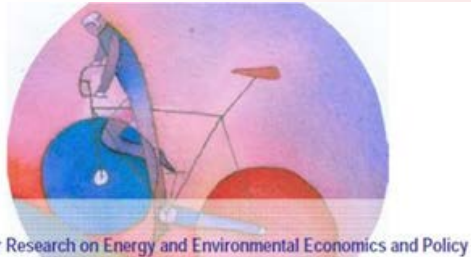
Link with regional SEAP and other regional plans



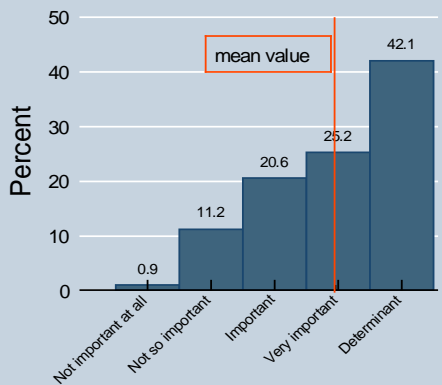


Link with regional SEAP and other regional plans

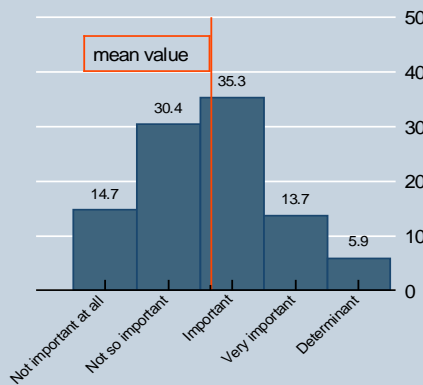




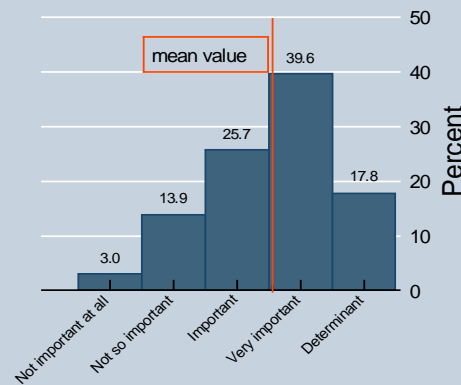
Enabling conditions



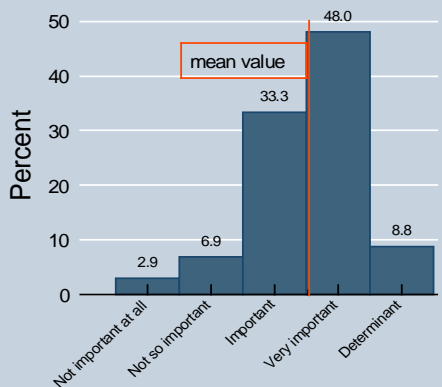
Political commitment



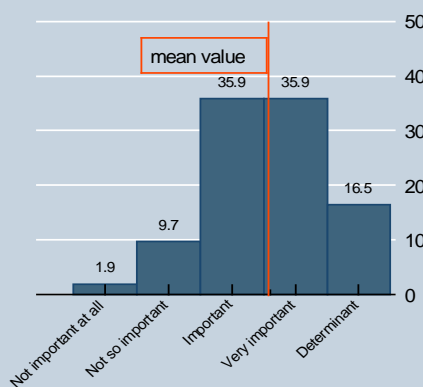
Regulation



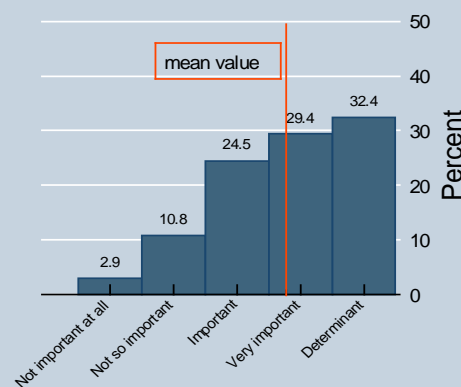
Technical assistance



Pooling of resources



Joint planning



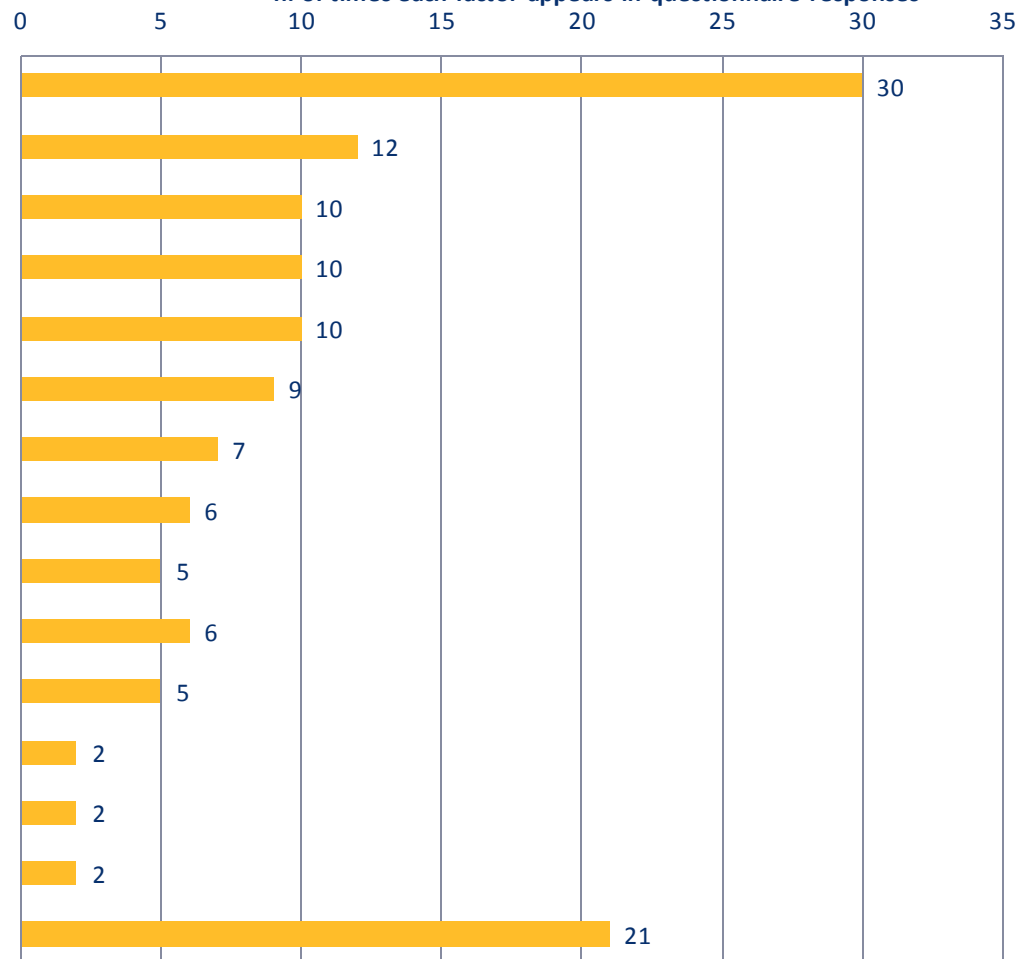
Access to funds

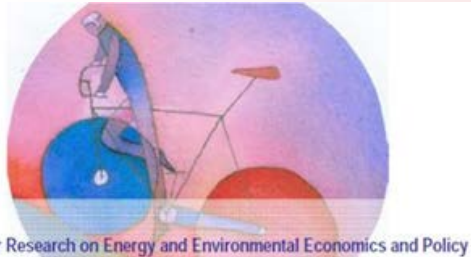
Success factors



Weakness factors

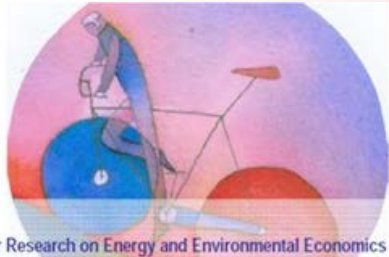
n. of times each factor appears in questionnaire responses





Conclusions

- **MLG** is a necessary framework for **climate protection and sustainable energy policies**, since no single actor or policy sector can fulfil alone climate and sustainable energy goals.
- MLG for sustainable energy in **Europe** is taking place through **several forms of cooperation** between **public authorities** at different levels (international, European, national, regional, provincial, local) **and private stakeholders** (companies, professional associations, financial institutions, citizens, NGOs).
- The EU-funded project **Coopenergy** identified 109 examples of collaboration initiatives between regional and local authorities and other stakeholders on sustainable energy, across different thematic pillars.
- **Energy efficiency** is by far the most relevant area involved in collaboration initiatives, followed by renewable energy and GHG reduction; **buildings** and **transport/mobility** the most relevant sectors concerned.
- In addition to **Regional and Local Authorities**, other partners frequently involved are **companies** and **energy agencies**.
- More than half initiatives has seen the **participation of other regional departments** (on average one or two additional departments), which most frequently are the energy or the environmental ones.
- A majority of the regions involved in these initiatives has approved a **sustainable energy plan**, and most of initiatives are **related to this plan**. A bit more than half of initiatives are related to **other regional plans**, mostly often to the **sustainability** or **territorial development plans**.
- **Political commitment** emerges as a key enabling condition as well as success factor of these initiatives, together with **partnership working** and **governance/process management**
- **Lack of funding** is the main reported weakness factor.



Thanks for your attention

tania.molteni@unibocconi.it