

DATA ACTION in The Basque Country, ES

Data sharing: key issues & local needs

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Introduction

The main objective of the Data4Action project is to improve local authorities' access to energy data. Organizations from eleven different European countries participate in this project, which is co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. This document summarizes the situation and objectives of Data4Action in the Basque Country.



Objective

The objective of Data4Action in the Basque Country is to develop the existing Local Sustainability Observatory in order to collect more precise and complete energy information at municipal level and to be the basic tool for the monitoring of COM and LA21, through the collaboration between the regional energy and environment agencies EVE and Ihobe providing more efficient services to municipalities.

Sharing information on sustainable energy in the Basque Country

The Local Sustainability Observatory gathers valuable information that is used to assess the effort and effectiveness of local sustainability policies in the Basque Country. The information provided by the Action Plans and sustainability indicators is managed by a computer tool called MUGI 21, developed by Udalsarea 21, the Basque Network of Municipalities towards Sustainability, which is available to all its member municipalities. This application enables an integrated management of the Local Agenda 21 process, while at the same time exporting data to the MUGI 21 environment of the Udalsarea 21 Technical Secretariat, which coordinates the Basque Country Local Sustainability Observatory. It also enables users to extract indicators for the network as a whole in order to gain a global overview of the progress of the various processes. Based on this vast and valuable database, the network publishes a biennial Local Sustainability Report which outlines and interprets the results obtained, providing average indicators and serving as feedback and reference for the local processes themselves. In the future, 19 municipalities that have joined the Covenant of Mayors in the region will be able to use the tool for the monitoring of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans and calculate green house gas emission for reporting the progress of the plan. This tool will become the reference for sustainable energy data collection and supply at local level for all the municipalities in the Basque Country.



Sources of information at local level

Energy	Sector	Information source	Quality
All energies	Municipal facilities	For some sectors the resellers provide tools to summarize all the invoiced energy during a period. If not, invoice-by-invoice analysis by the municipality is required.	Very high
Electricity	Per sector	Electricity distribution system operator provides the information divided by sectors	Very high
Natural gas	Per sector	The distribution system operator provides information disaggregated by tariffs, not by sector	High (total) Medium (sectors)
Diesel oil, gasoline	Transport	Top-down estimation knowing the total use at a provincial level, using auxiliary indicators like no. of cars.	Medium
Heating oil, LPG	All sectors	Top-down estimation knowing the total use at a provincial level, using auxiliary indicators.	Medium
Solar thermal	All sectors	Estimation from different sources: grants and the new building certification database.	Medium
Biomass	Households	Surveys, building energy certification database.	Low
Solar PV, Wind, hydro	Electricity production	Estimation derived from a database of installed capacity per municipality	Medium

Main problems to overcome

- Some municipalities have a great number of electricity consumption points; there is a need for efficient tools to gather and organize the total electricity consumption in the municipal facilities.
- The top-down approaches carried out to calculate the use of transport fuels and non-gridded fuels hardly reflect the efforts made by the municipalities to improve sustainability, as the information available to make the estimates has a low quality.
- Small municipalities generally have a lack of technical capacities to have a complete control of energy information and make the best use of it.
- There are different approaches to work in energy sustainability at municipal level, with different information needs.

To overcome these issues, it is necessary to work with the local gas and electricity distribution companies to improve the quality of the data; tools need to be developed to facilitate access to the information from the electricity and gas meters, to estimate the use of un-gridded energy use at a municipal level, and to have common formats and platforms for monitoring energy use at a municipal level and for helping access to this information.

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