# **ENCORE Newsletter – JUNE 2022**

ENCORE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONS OF EUROPE

### ENCORE AND IFAT IN MUNICH, BAVARIA

From 30 May to 1 June, the ENCORE Steering Group took place in Munich, Bavaria. The topic of discussion during these days was **climate action** and **climate adaptation and mitigation**, especially focusing on water management. The meeting also included a meeting of experts, organized through the TAIEX programme of the European Commission.

As part of the programme in Munich, a visit was made to the IFAT congress, one of the world's largest trade fairs on sustainability in water management and waste processing.

If one thing became clear after the Munich meeting, it is that all regions in Europe have a huge task to adapt to the changing climate. We need each other's expertise and knowledge to meet these challenges.

During this ENCORE/TAIEX meeting, the DG CLIMA (European Commission) called for sharing knowledge and experiences. The major challenges we face no longer call for pilots, but for upscaling to (large-scale) financially viable projects. ENCORE is happy to respond to this call, partly by drawing up position



papers and continuing to discuss with relevant organisations how this can be achieved.

In addition, the Steering Group has expressed the desire to involve other ENCORE members more actively in the network. It is up to all of us to make this happen.

In this overview, we would like to share with you the main outcomes of the three-day meeting. In addition, we will share some other developments in the ENCORE network.

#### TAIEX

Through the European TAIEX fund, **ENCORE members were invited to bring experts** with them to Munich in order to exchange knowledge. The experts presented regional problems and solutions within the theme of climate action, and specifically water management. The regional approach to climate adaptation and mitigation; reacting and anticipating to the changes in our climate, was discussed. The ENCORE members were positive about the link between the TAIEX programme and the Steering Group meeting. By involving experts in the meeting, a strong programme was created in which regions challenged each other to think critically about their own policies and to learn from each other's experiences.

The Steering Group expressed the wish to organise ENCORE meetings and TAIEX expert meetings together more often.

## IFAT

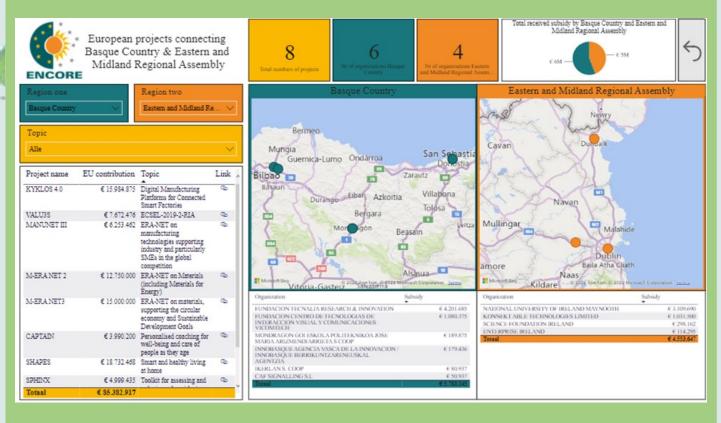
The IFAT trade fair took place in Munich, at the same time as the ENCORE meeting. IFAT is the World's Leading Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management. During this fair we, as ENCORE members, were **welcomed by the Bavarian Minister** for the Environment and Consumer Protection, and a number of experts also had the opportunity to explain their topics in **flashlight presentations**.

The attendees were impressed by the enormous size of the fair, and emphasised that visiting the next edition of this fair could be of great value to the executive departments of the individual regions.

## **NETWORK TOOL (ENCORE DASHBOARD)**

We have been working on the digital tool to map the existing cooperation between the ENCORE regions (This digital tool can be found by <u>CLICKING HERE</u>).

The purpose of this dashboard is to provide insight into how regions cooperate with each other within Horizon programmes. This makes it easier to approach relevant parties who can strengthen cooperation. We would like to hear (i.e. Gelderland as chair of ENCORE), how we can improve this tool.



#### **POSITION PAPER**

The Steering Group has expressed the wish to be more active in putting important topics for the regions in the field of sustainability on the agenda in Europe. It has been decided to do this by means of position papers that focus on a specific topic. **The first position paper to be** written by the ENCORE network will focus on climate action. This will be worked on further in the coming month. The idea is to highlight specific situations where objectives and regulations are in conflict with each other. Examples are hydropower plants and biodiversity in a river, or the installation of wind turbines and spatial considerations (housing, nature, defence).

#### **ENCORE & YouthCORE Conference Arnhem**

From **25 - 29 September 2023** the ENCORE & YouthCORE conference will take place in Arnhem, Gelderland. The 3 ENCORE themes will be central, and young people, politicians, administrators and civil servants will discuss ENCORE objectives and strengthen cooperation around all sustainable themes. In the build-up to the conference, we want to involve politicians more closely.

## IRELAND

The **next ENCORE Steering Group** meeting will take place in the region **Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly**, Ireland. This will be from **4** - **6 October 2022**. It will focus on another main theme of ENCORE, namely circular economy. A TAIEX meeting will probably be organised at the same time. We will keep you informed about this.