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**Organisation:** Energy Cluster Zealand (EKCS)

**Job Title:** Senior Consultant

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**I will participate as:** A prospective project leader

**Short description of organisation:** EKCS is an independent municipally owned regional company with the aim to support municipalities in the Region of Zealand (Denmark) with their transition towards a sustainable green energy system.

**Main areas of expertise:** Strategic energy planning, biomasse and ressource utilisation, energy transition at local level, public involvement, models for business development and co.-creation for municipalities, GPP

**Previous, relevant EU project experience:**

PRIMES

<http://primes-eu.net/>

Bioenergi Sjælland

[www.bioenergisjælland.dk](http://www.bioenergisjælland.dk)

**Project proposal Acronym/Title:** ActiPPP Activating public private partnerships in SEAPs

**Call topics of interest:** EE09 Engaging and activating public authorities

**Short description of project idea:** The project aims at addressing the transition from writing a SEAP to ensuring the implementation of specific actions in the plan through multi-stakeholder and multi-level cooperation.

Local authorities have shown their commitment through the Covenant of Mayors to set ambitious targets to drive this transition. However, the need for multi-stakeholder engagement makes it difficult for the public authorities to activate their action plans towards implementation.

This project seeks to address how municipalities in their ongoing development and implementation of SEAPs can engage relevant stakeholders, e.g. energy companies and utilities in partnerships to ensure that implementation of SEAP projects will be a part of the long-term strategy of these stakeholders.

The approach taken will be a bottom-up partnership approach between municipalities and their local, regional and national energy companies.

**Main objectives:**

- Support the continual update and expansion of integrated data and mapping within the municipal SEAPs to identify relevant actions in a timely manner
- Develop strategic partnerships with a shared understanding of the need for transition, aimed at securing SEAP robustness
  - o Sharing data and mapping efforts
- To engage major stakeholders on a local and regional (potentially national policy) level and build a shared understanding about the optimal use of local and regional resources to secure commitment across actors to the implementation of strategic energy actions
- To create fora for dialogue with multiple stakeholders to build consensus on roles, opportunities and potential synergies in available options for strategic energy actions
  - o Co-creation of business models
- Secure regional and international collaboration and knowledge-sharing about local energy planning, access to data and sustainable energy public-public or public-private business models, with a view to accelerate action implementation

The project will consist of five work packages of which two are Project management (WP1) and Dissemination and Replication (WP5).

**WP 2: Building a culture of ongoing data collection and mapping for robust SEAPs**

This work package aims to mainstream continual SEAP development into the organisational culture of public authorities. As the energy system and surrounding socio-economic situation is in a constant transition, the work and update of SEAPs should be ongoing.

Awareness of the value of data in energy planning and of the various potential sources of data is needed to ensure the robustness of local energy planning.

This work package will focus on 1: expanding the public authorities' data access and 2: build closer relations with other public or private entities possessing relevant data sources for informed energy planning. A focus will also be on 3: building capacity within the public authorities concerning the utilisation and analysis of data.

### WP 3: Securing broad commitment to feasible energy actions

This work package aims to align commitment and sense of ownership across major energy actors at local and regional level to various strategic energy actions.

The energy system involves a multitude of actors at various levels and capacities when looking across from resource base over energy production, distribution and consumption. Depending on the actions envisioned, implementation is unlikely to occur if major actors across the value chain have opposing views on strategic energy actions.

Thus, establishing strategic partnerships between core public and private stakeholders to 1: facilitate dialogue in the planning process can 2: result in a stronger sense of shared ownership and commitments.

These partnerships, i.e. with energy and utility companies, should not only focus on the public authority action plan, but also ensure 3: integration of SEAP projects of common consensus into the strategies of these stakeholders too. This will likely 4: increase the sharing of data and finally 5: activate key actors for collaboration on implementation of energy actions.

Establishing dialogue fora at municipal and regional level, in order to identify the barriers and possibilities for such collaboration is deemed necessary, while also the national level might need to be involved to secure 6: coordination and knowledge-sharing regarding barriers or synergies.

At European level, the experience gained from creating synergies with local and regional stakeholders will vary substantially. Joint learning from the knowledge created on collaboration models with various sizes of energy- and utility companies or other stakeholders can potentially 7: lead to shared concepts or approaches for public authorities to activate key stakeholders for energy transition.

### WP 4: Formalisation of partnerships with a view to realise energy action implementation

This work package aims to ensure the establishment of development teams between the various collaborators in order to address specific actions in the SEAPs and move to implementation.

The joint collaboration between municipal, public and private actors in selection of strategic energy actions will secure room for the 1: more in-depth collaboration of specific initiatives.

For specific actions, collaboration and engagement of multiple stakeholders across the value chain relevant for the action can enable 2: innovative solutions through co-creation of business models.

Each specific action forum should link up relevant actors vertically and horizontally to 3: ensure transparency regarding the contribution needed and significance of each actor's role in reaching implementation.

Collaborating on possible models for implementation should lead to a 4: shared sense of relevance and benefits across organisations and citizens.

Significant learning is available from former energy projects and co-creation experiences across European actors and from some European projects. This 5: knowledge needs to be activated and expanded for use by public authorities at all levels to reach European energy targets.

**Expected impact of the project:** The regions will be able to take their SEAPs into action thus triggering energy saving and the production of renewable energy. The total amount to be achieved will depend on the participating regions.

A main impact will be a much stronger integration of plans at a horizontal and vertical level. Through collaboration and partnership development with energy and utility companies and other relevant stakeholders, horizontal integration between plans will create a strong platform for implementation. This integration will also secure alignment with national and international targets which these companies have to

meet and plans will thus also be in better alignment with the EED and other national and supranational policies and directives.

The amount of consumer/stakeholder engagement will depend on the actors most relevant to engage in order to bring the action plan forward and will thus be dependent on the regional context. Some regions may work with few larger actors whilst other regions will work with multiple actors operating at a more local scale.

**Environmental and socially important impacts:**

The aim of the action plans is to contribute to the transformation of the energy system towards a sustainable green energy system whilst securing cheap and reliable energy supply.

Environmental impacts will be a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a reduced dependence on fossil fuels.

An energy transition driven by the local level will secure that the transition is aligned with local goals and objectives. These could include development of local business, energy efficient and affordable housing (increased attraction of local housing market and elimination of energy poverty), and enhanced local environment.

Equally important will be the active involvement of local stakeholder and citizens securing engagement and commitment to the energy transition at the local level.

Barriers and obstacles that may determine the impact of the project:

Transnational collaboration and learning will be challenged by the different ways nation states choose to implement energy directives, policies, taxes and subsidies. These structures will have an impact on the different business models and PPP to be developed in the different regions.

Another obstacle to transnational collaboration and learning will be the difference in structure and size of energy and utility companies. Large transnational energy companies characterize some regions, whilst small public owned companies characterize others.

It is expected that it will be easier to find common interest and actions with local and regionally based companies and thus common strategic goals should be easier to agree upon. This will be a far greater challenge with national and transnational companies, however the impact if strategic goals are aligned will be far greater.

To meet energy transition towards 2050 all municipalities will need to act both at the large scale company level and through stakeholder approach at citizen level. Thus experience gained by one region with engaging with one type of actors will support other regions at a later stage in their implementation of their action plans.

**Profile of partners sought (cities, regions, consultants, other, geographic location...) and expected role in the proposal:**

Organisations representing an amalgamation of municipalities, who have signed the Covenant of Mayors and who have completed the first production of strategic energy action plans. Universities and other knowledge sharing institutions who can support the development of energy actions and implementation of SEAPs in a local context. Actors with experience in business models and innovative PPP for sustainable energy actions. Regional and national level district heating associations, industry associations for EE.

**Specific countries/regions/cities you are keen to collaborate with:**

**Confirmed partners:** In discussion

**Any specific technologies / businesses / business sectors you are keen to collaborate with:**

There is no particular focus on specific technologies as such, although the focus from the lead partner will be on increasing the energy production of wind, utilising surplus industrial heat, increase energy efficiency in the district heating system and using locally sourced biomasses in the energy system.

There will be a focus on business models and PPP as well as strategies on co-creation.