



DEUTSCH-FRANZÖSISCHE KLIMAPARTNERSCHAFTEN FÜR DIE LOKALE ENERGIEWENDE
COOPÉRATION FRANCO-ALLEMANDE POUR LA TRANSITION ÉNERGÉTIQUE LOCALE

The simultaneous implementation of the German “Energiewende” and the French “Transition Énergétique” prompted both country’s governments to sign various cooperation agreements. As both “Energiewende” and “Transition Énergétique” put a strong focus on decentralization of energy supply, establishing close intercommunal cooperation is particularly promising.

The project TANDEM, which is jointly led by Klima-Bündnis and Energy Cities - both local authority networks – and co-funded by Germany’s Federal Environment Agency (UBA) and the French Energy Agency ADEME provides French and German local authorities with a unique opportunity to exchange experiences and create partnerships for climate protection having the following objectives:

- Creating broad mutual understanding for the respective situation, challenges and framework in energy and climate policy;
- Encourage exchanges with regard to obstacles and success factors concerning the realization of ambitious energy- and climate-goals and promoting mutual transfer of know-how;
- Stimulating close collaboration between local authorities from both countries while involving and supporting local stakeholders and citizens;
- Implementing initial stages of cooperation projects during the lifetime of the TANDEM project and creating a foundation for long-term cooperation;
- Raise awareness for demands, requirements and concerns of local authorities on a national and European level in order to strengthen their influence and enlarge their scope of action.

Stages:

1. *Mutual learning*

Sharing the same goal – boosting local energy transition – both countries have developed their specific techniques and approach. Based on research and interviews a comparative overview of existing practices, tools and experiences was created and made available to stakeholders from national organizations as well as to participating local authorities. It is supposed to serve as support tool for national institutions regarding the improvement and further development of instruments and as a mean to facilitate a better mutual understanding within the exchange between local authorities.

2. *Launch and implementation of French-German cooperation projects*

Cooperation projects shall be initiated by French and German cities and communities as well as local stakeholders (real estate developers, municipal utilities, energy cooperatives...) and private companies enabling the implementation of measures promoting the energy transition. A distinction is made between "partnership-projects" of generally 2 partners (building on existing non-energy related partnership projects or other existing contacts) and "topic-based projects" such as energy efficiency in schools with 4-10 partners. Participating local authorities are supported by providing information concerning aid programs and financing mechanisms.

3. *Dissemination of contents and project results*

Progress being made as well as results are published regularly. Communicating results to citizens of participating cities is of particular importance to create an interest for ongoing and future projects and involve citizens in activities. In the end of the current phase of the project (Sept. 2016), a closing seminar will be held. Results of as many local authorities and stakeholders shaping regional climate protection as possible will be presented. At the same time and as part of the Covenant of Mayors, recommendations will be made to improve energy and climate policies at both national and European levels.

Services offered by TANDEM

Initial consulting

Climate Alliance and Energy Cities act as contact and intermediary for all local authorities with an interest in a French-German Climate-Cooperation. The TANDEM-team gives advice regarding potential partners in the respective country and informs about the political and administrative framework.

Project Development Phase

Using the TANDEM-team's assistance, an initial contact is established exchanging the most important information. This can be done via phone or web conference or by setting up an actual meeting where a TANDEM representative or a translator is present.

Project Initiation Phase

After contact between representatives from German and French local authorities has been established and they might even have developed ideas and proposals for a joint project, TANDEM sets up contact to institutions offering financial aid, such as ADEME or the German Federal Environment Agency, in order to ensure financing for the project.

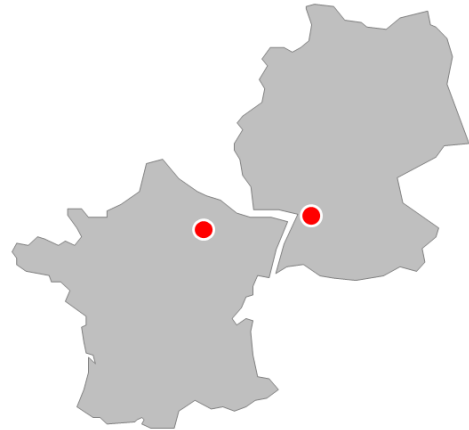
Project Realization Phase

TANDEM supports local authorities in the course of their joint project trying to provide help and assistance whenever it is requested and required – within the limits of its expertise and capacity.

Examples of existing partnerships

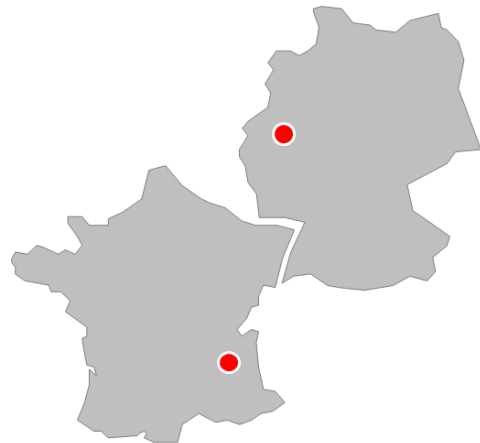
Epernay – Ettlingen

Epernay und Ettlingen have signed their partnership as early as 1953 – being the second oldest French-German town twinning. Though looking back on a long-lasting partnership accompanied by cultural and student exchanges, exchange regarding experiences in energy policy and climate protection was not covered. This changed with the TANDEM kick-off meeting in Strasbourg, where representatives from both local authorities met for the first time. Regular meetings have followed. In the meantime, Epernay and Ettlingen have conducted a staff-exchange and are in the final stage of the acquisition of a shared “Energy Consultation and Information Vehicle”.



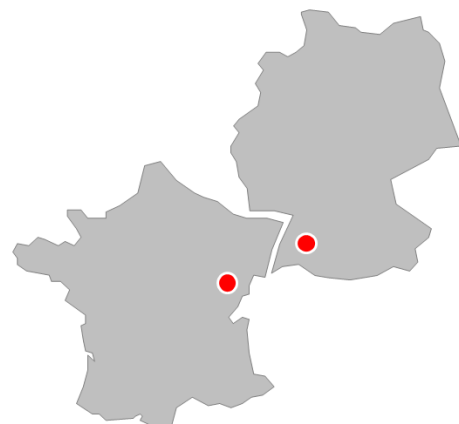
Grenoble – Essen

Essen and Grenoble are twin cities since 1979. Like with other twin cities, questions concerning energy policy played a minor role in the framework of the exchange at first. Thus the TANDEM kick-off represented a trigger in launching joint initiatives. As a first step documents were exchanged, amongst them Essen's candidacy for the European Green Capital and its concept for sustainable district restoration. Grenoble – possessing a municipal energy supplier unlike (most French authorities) - provided information about its action program “Mur Mur” and its organization of local energy supply.



Besançon – Freiburg

On occasion of the 50th year of their town twinning in 2009 both cities signed a declaration regarding their cooperation in energy and climate protection. It includes political exchange, subject-specific collaboration as well as contribution of companies with respect to energy and climate goals. Of particular interest is the project “200 families active for climate”, which started in 2009 and was realized in 2011/2012 in both cities. It addressed families and encouraged them to reflect their habits and behavior concerning energy, water, waste and mobility. In the context of this project, tight connections between families from both cities were created.



Tandem is a joint project of



Klimaschutz- und
Energieagentur
Baden-Württemberg
GmbH



KEA

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Project schedule

Duration: April 2014 – Autumn 2016

Project partners: Klima-Bündnis und Energy Cities

Other participating parties: KEA Klimaschutz- und Energieagentur Baden-Württemberg,
Deutsch-Französisches Institut (dfi)

Aid:

