

PORTOS-Newsletter

Apr – Sep 2019

The project Ports Towards Energy Self-Sufficiency (PORTOS) began in the spring of 2019 with the purpose of fostering renewable energies and sustainability at ports. To such end, twelve institutions from Portugal, Spain, France, UK and Ireland have partnered, including: universities, R&D centres, enterprises and ports. The project is co-funded by the INTERREG Atlantic Area 2014-2020 programme and has a total budget of 2,625,295.14 €

The integration of renewable energy in the ports of the Atlantic Area is going to be evaluated, developed and promoted in the framework of the project. Particularly, *ad-hoc* renewable energy exploitation plans are going to be created for the so-called target ports. These plans will also be the base case scenario to develop new tools and decision support systems that will guide other ports – not only in the Atlantic Area, but also worldwide – on their way towards energy self-sufficiency.

In July, delegates of the PORTOS' partners met at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (FEUP), where the lead partner organized the kick-off meeting. Technical and strategic decisions were made to ensure the fulfilment of the project's objectives within the agreed upon deadlines. In addition, the delegates learnt about the low carbon port management experiences of the PECS project (Interreg 2 Seas) and knew the facilities of one of the target ports, the Port of Leixões in Matosinhos.

As soon as the project started, so did the coordination and communication strategies, as well as the capitalization of the results and outputs from previous projects. A multi-criteria analysis of the target ports has also started, which includes the identification of the best areas and resources for harnessing marine renewable energy.



In addition, the first OpenPort was celebrated on September 21 at the Port of Leixões. During this event, renewable energy was promoted and public awareness about the advances regarding sustainability and energy self-sufficiency at ports was raised. The research staff of the FEUP also presented the recent advances in the integration of wave energy into seaports.

In the following months, the universities and R&D institutions of the partnership are

opening their doors to high school students during the OpenLabs. During these events the partners' research infrastructures will be shown and the PORTOS's objectives will be divulged.

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