

VIOLET Newsletter 3

What is VIOLET?

Issues Addressed

VIOLET (preserve traditiOnal buiLdings through Energy reduction) is an Interreg Europe project to preserve traditional and heritage buildings by simultaneously integrating both topics into policy planning, management and monitoring through interregional cooperation. If energy efficient renovation is not addressed in a forward-looking way, buildings that are now a valuable asset to owners will become a burden in the near future. **VIOLET addresses the need for policy change to endorse the objectives of a building culture that is sympathetic to modern requirements of energy usage and carbon emissions, without endangering European architectural heritage.** Given the history of our continent and the EU commitment to achieve energy savings and carbon reduction, the above-mentioned challenges prove common to most European regions. Thus, VIOLET will make an important impact on sustainable development, growth, job creation and preservation of EU cultural heritage.



2030 EU Targets

The EU climate and energy framework sets three key targets for the year 2030: at least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels); at least 27% share for renewable energy; at least 27% improvement in energy efficiency. Given the important proportion of traditional buildings in the EU building stock, reducing energy consumption in traditional buildings will contribute significantly to reaching the 2030 EU targets. In terms of impact on growth and job creation, VIOLET addresses two of the main economic sectors in Europe, focusing on cultural tourism and on ICT.

VIOLET Long Term Vision

Thanks to a set of interlinked activities for interregional exchange, and communication and stakeholder involvement, VIOLET partners have developed 5 Action Plans to improve ERDF and local policy instruments on energy efficiency in traditional buildings.



VIOLET will achieve lasting results with actions related to these key requirements:

- Multisector approach
- Technological and non-technological solutions for energy efficiency renovation
- Application of monitoring tools
- Capacity building
- Communities of Practice (CoP)

Total budget: € 1,300,513.00

ERDF Funding: € 1,089,123.05



What's Inside?

What is VIOLET?	1
Regional Updates	2-5
Food for Thought.....	4
Communities of Practice.....	5
Partners & LSGs	6
Contact.....	6

VIOLET Ambassadors

The VIOLET Ambassadors form a trans-European ambassadors' network to provide lasting results that will extend well beyond the project's completion. [Find out more.](#)

 @VioletEUProject

 @violet_interreg

 <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13531753/>

 <https://www.interregeurope.eu/violet/>



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Regional Updates

Specificities of patrimonial buildings are now considered in the Regional policy of Nouvelle-Aquitaine

On the 29th of June 2020, the Région Nouvelle Aquitaine signed the VIOLET Action Plan. The region will now facilitate the implementation of some actions of the ambitious and mandatory regional plan for energy efficiency.



Last year, while the local experts gathered by French VIOLET partner (**Alec**) were working to find good solutions to improve policies on patrimonial buildings energy renovation, the Region was launching the concertation for its Regional Plan for Energy Efficiency (PREE). The alignment was favourable, especially as the region was aware of the lack of appropriate policy instruments for the energy retrofitting of this type of building.

VIOLET in Romania



A new call of proposals has been launched in the framework of 2014-2020 Regional Operational Programme, Priority Axis 5 "Improving the urban environment and preserving, protecting and sustaining the cultural heritage", Investment Priority 5.1 "Conservation, protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural patrimony".

The call is open until September 2020 and addresses central public authorities, territorial administrative units, religious units, non-governmental organisations from Danube Delta Territorial Investment Area. The financial allocation of the call is € 19.77 Million, of which ERDF co-financing is € 17.15 Million and the National Budget is € 2.62 Million. This investment priority finances restoration, protection, conservation and sustainable use of the objectives of UNESCO heritage, national cultural heritage (urban or rural) and local cultural heritage in the urban environment.

The Regional Operational Programme (ROP) 2014-2020 implemented in Romania is co-financed by European Struc-

VIOLET's work then fed the concertation of this mandatory and ambitious tool by the participation of Alec and some of Violet local experts group in workshops specifically focussed on the topic. This process led to design four actions for Violet Action Plan that will help the implementation of these actions under the PREE.

Before waiting the final agreement of the PREE (delayed in June 2020), the region wanted to experiment a bonus in some call for projects, when traditional buildings are concerned, launched in Autumn 2018. This action will be monitored during the next two years under VIOLET to be improved.

A second action concerns training sessions for civil servants who are processing files for funding on energy efficiency and with a focus on tradition buildings. The aim is to raise awareness and to disseminate to project owners. The third action is an operational device for the energetic renovation of individual houses with an added activity to collect feedback on traditional buildings. The last action is a "warning document" for project owners, not to technical and user friendly, with the objective to give some alerts on some specificities like when the building is a traditional one.

It is expected that this typology of buildings will take their part in energy transition, both from project owners and policy makers. These first actions will launch a first set of solutions but some others, discussed under VIOLET are coming forward, like the initiative of the Dutch VIOLET partner in Middleburg on solar panels.

tural and Investment Funds and managed by the Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration. The VIOLET Action Plan for the **South-East Region of Romania** aims to extend and to improve the impact of Priority Axis 5.1. "Conservation, protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural patrimony" within Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020, in terms of energy efficiency by revising and updating the patrimony projects' monitoring methodology.



A historic building rehabilitated within 2007-2013 ROP in Romania

VIOLET Good Practices — Examples from Partners

Cyprus Energy Agency (CEA) gives an update in regards to their Action Plan implementation

CEA's Action Plan, has been approved by the Joint Secretariat in early May and submitted to the Managing Authority for endorsement in June 2020.



While Cyprus Energy Agency (CEA) was waiting on the official response from the JS for the approval of their Action Plan this May, they began working on the implementation of Action 3 “Issuance of Guidebook for the energy upgrade of heritage buildings” and Action 4 “Interdisciplinary Seminars [courses] for professional training”, as included in their local Action Plan. For Action 3, CEA is mainly working internally in order to create the main outline of the guidebook with the introductory/essential information and then we will arrange meetings with the relevant Departments and key-stakeholders [members of the local CoP], in order to further discuss those and reach to the final version of the Guidebook [autumn 2020]. It is noted that the bilateral meetings with the key-stakeholders were postponed due to the Covid-19 situation.

On the other hand, for Action 4, CEA has prepared the documents for submitting the seminar to the Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus [HRDA] in order to establish co-funding and to attract more professionals of the field. CEA also appointed the instructors for the lectures which will have a duration of 3 days per cycle. Currently the application is under evaluation from the HRDA the seminars and upon successful application, the seminars will be implemented from late 2020 until 2021.

It is noted that Action 1 “Recommendations for the EU level recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive” was completed during the 1st Phase of the project, but there are some delays in regards the release of the new official legislation. More specifically, the official release of the legislation was expected in March, but it was delayed. Currently, the new [draft] legislation which includes CEA's suggestions based on VIOLET's outputs, has been approved by the Cabinet and within July is expected to be finalised through the voting of the Parliament.

Action 2 “Issuance of Energy Performance Certificates for heritage buildings”, was also completed during the 1st Phase of the project, but some additional activities were implemented for the 2nd Phase as well. Those included the implementation of ‘reversed scenarios’ for some of the buildings, meaning the study of scenarios which will compare a typical restoration against restorations which adapted energy savings measures, in order to quantify the impact of the applied actions. Official letters have been submitted to the Antiquities Department, in regards the results of these “reversed scenarios”.

Regarding the endorsements of the Action Plan, official letters were sent to the Managing Authority [Energy Service], but also to the Town and Planning Housing Department (Sector of the Preservation of Cultural Heritage) and the Antiquities Department, in order to endorse the Action Plan. The action is still pending. For more information on CEA's Action Plan, read the [full article](#) on our VIOLET project website.



Traditional houses in the Village of ‘Pera Oreinis’ of the Lefkosia District in Cyprus

In addition to the above, CEA has participated in the consultations for the National “Long-term renovation strategy” for the energy upgrade and the decarbonisation of the existing building stock by 2050 (required by the EU for all MSs). Aspects of VIOLET (and VIOLET itself) are included in the National Strategy, under the section ‘Research and innovation in the field of energy efficiency of buildings’ for aspiring future actions. The strategy was released in May 2020.

Finally, based on the current programming, the extra activities (informational events to key-stakeholders), which have been approved by the JS, will be implemented towards the end of the year and will run till the next year.

VIOLET in Spain

The approval of the Spanish Action Plan developed in the context of the EU VIOLET Project, which happened in February 2020, is a key moment in the development of the project.

On the one hand, it constitutes the end of Phase 1 of the project, in which this strategic document has been drawn up containing the actions and measures required to improve regional policies in the field of the rehabilitation and conservation of historical buildings of architectural and cultural interest by introducing energy improvement criteria that do not affect the intrinsic values of this type of building. On the other hand, VIOLET is now in Phase 2 of the project, which means, implementation, monitoring and compliance with the measures proposed in this document.



VIOLET Partners convene at the Presidential Palace of Junta de Andalucía at the 2018 WISE Conference in Seville

Specifically, in the case of the Andalusian Action Plan, these actions and measures are aimed at the OT 6 of the Andalusian ERDF Operational Programme 2014-2020, specifically, priority line 6.c. "Conservation, protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage", the Programme for the Rehabilitation of Heritage of Architectural Interest of the Regional Ministry of Development, Infrastructures and Territorial Planning (PREPIA) and the VIVE Plan.

Food for Thought



...Contrary to the restoration of monuments, buildings of traditional architecture need to have a continuous and sustainable use in order to keep the building 'alive'. However, not all uses are appropriate for all historic buildings. On the one hand, modern society demands the addition of new technological, sanitary or other installations and amenities, which requires re-arrangement of the interior or addition of space. On the other hand, modern materials and techniques make the restoration process easier and less expensive than in the past. Nonetheless, these alterations often undermine the heritage value of the building and find they key balance is of a major importance...This is where VIOLET comes in.

—Cyprus Energy Agency, VIOLET Partner

At this moment, it is essential to count on the involvement and commitment of the various institutions in the development and implementation of the VIOLET Action Plan, both in the implementation of the actions or measures and in the monitoring and compliance with them.



Given the relevant role of the Managing Authority (European Funds General Director) as the responsible for the regional policy to which the Action Plan of the VIOLET project address to, its support and collaboration has been and is fundamental in the whole process. And for instance, once **AVRA's Action Plan was approved by Interreg Program (February 2020)**, the General Director support was required throughout a **Letter of Endorsement to the Action Plan that has been finally signed the 25th June 2020**.

As it has been said, Phase 2 of VIOLET project started in January 2020 with the implementation of VIOLET Action Plan. One of the main actions of this strategic document, **the regional policy change (action 1.1), has been already achieved, which means that energy efficiency improvement has been included in the conservation, reactivation or rehabilitation of cultural heritage in OT6, priority line 6c.**

Conservation, protection, promotion and development of the natural and cultural heritage. Particularly among the results for the specific objective OE 6.3.1 Promote the protection, promotion and development of the cultural heritage; among the actions and interventions for the protection, promotion and development of the cultural heritage — and, for instance, among the selection criteria principles.

Read the full article on AVRA's Action Plan on our [website](#).

Middelburg's Progress

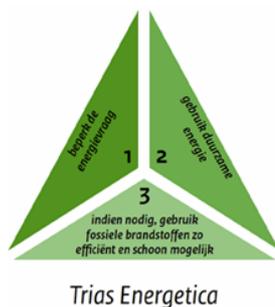
The Municipality of Middelburg has adopted an expeditious approach to stimulating owners of historic buildings in making their properties more energy efficient.

The outcome of intensive consultations and discussions with local stakeholders is the use of the doctrine "Trias Energetica", which guarantees a healthy indoor climate. With this tool the owner is provided insight in which measures he/she can take in the Trias Energetica:

Step 1: Reduction of energy consumption

Step 2: Usage of sustainable energy sources and installations

Step 3: Usage of non-sustainable energy sources in the most efficient way



Middelburg has also added a step 0. In this step, professionals of their regional heritage inspection draw up a *Monument Passport*, in which all the energy saving measures that could be taken for the specific building are recorded.

Despite all the olive branches they were given, owners were reluctant in taken energy saving measures. It appeared that in most cases they did not know where to start.



Thanks to the VIOLET project, the Municipality of Middelburg was able to introduce a trial by making a Sustainable Monument Coach available to owners of historic buildings. He/she gives advice about which measures are best suited for the building, taking into account its

historic value, and guides the owner through the whole process. The owner is unburdened as the coach takes care of all necessary actions such as requesting and comparing quotations and applying for building permits.

This pilot will be monitored and the outcomes used as input for revision municipal policies regarding historic buildings.

By exchanging knowledge with partners from the Interreg Europe VIOLET project, Middelburg has developed a policy for allowing solar panels to be placed on listed buildings. An exception are buildings with slate roofing. Solar panels pose an increased risk of fire and the buildings with slate roofing are fairly all top listed monuments. We do not want another Notre Dame disaster.



Middelburg has placed a test setup under a part of the slate-roof of their historic town hall building. The slates are heated by the sun and that energy is used for heating or warm water supply.

A new product development looks promising as a solution for using solar energy on buildings with slates, which is invisible from the outside and with a low risk of fire. As a pilot project, this system has been installed under the slates of the beautiful historic town hall. Check out the short video about this project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kE-S5Pdh8zA>

VIOLET Communities of Practice (CoP)



The 6th semester Community of Practice (CoP) meetings of the project partners of the ERDF funded VIOLET Project took place during July 2019 and December 2019. The 6th semester CoP meetings of the VIOLET Interreg Project and dealt extensively with the work related to the development of the Action Plan and Phase 2 monitoring activities.

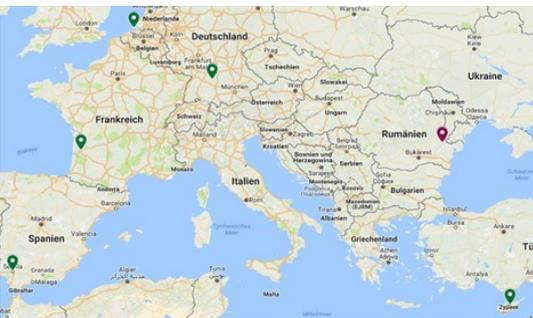
Partners worked with their local CoPs to influence their policy instruments and to identify any additional policy that could benefit of the VIOLET exchange. Each partner has taken advantage of different tools in order to receive adequate feedback for its development. View the full [6th semester CoP report](#) on our website.

VIOLET Newsletter 3

VIOLET Partners

Through cooperation among five regions at different stages of development and one expert advisory partner, VIOLET fosters a multisector, integrated planning approach bringing together organisations in charge of energy efficiency and cultural heritage on regional and EU levels.

Map of Project Partnership



VIOLET Partnership



South-East Regional Development Agency (Romania): The lead partner, an NGO & a non-profit body of public utility responsible for the development policy programming and implementation in the SE Region of Romania.



European Institute for Innovation - Technology: An applied science organisation supporting the adaptations of regions to respond to the fast pace of development, in a variety of sectors.



Cyprus Energy Agency: A non-governmental, non-profit organisation that contributes actively to the conservation of energy resources and the quality of life.



The Public Agency for Social Housing and Refurbishment in Andalusia: A Public Housing Service focused on improving and upgrading the public participation and organisation of almost 85k dwellings.



Municipality of Middelburg: A municipality at the southwest coast of the Netherlands (capital of the Province of Zeeland) with 1300 listed monuments.



Local Energy Agency of the Bordeaux metropolis and the Gironde: Alec supports up-stream/downstream implementation of policies for energy & climate, offering neutral expertise for local stakeholders since 2007.

Project partner information

Partner	Country	Contact
South-East Regional Development Agency (Lead partner)	Romania	Nina Irimia 0040339732414
European Institute for Innovation - Technology	Germany	Chris Ashe 0044 7852669277
Cyprus Energy Agency	Cyprus	Savvas Vlachos 00357 22667716
The Public Agency for Social Housing and Refurbishment in Andalusia	Spain	Marta Romero García 0034 955 405 484
Municipality of Middelburg	Netherlands	Henk de Kunder 0031 118 67 52 83
Local Energy Agency of the Bordeaux metropolis and the Gironde	France	Valérie Degrange 0033 556 0053 38

Contact:

Nina Irimia

Lead Partner (SER DA)

nina.irimia@adrse.ro

Keep in touch on all VIOLET events, news & breakthroughs. Follow us on social media:

@VioletEUProject

@violet_interreg

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13531753/>

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/violet/>



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

