

## THE EUROPEAN PROJECT POWERTY TO ACHIEVE INNOVATIVE RENEWABLE SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE ENERGY POVERTY KICKS-OFF IN SEVILLE

**The Andalusian Energy Agency is leading this project in which France, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Poland and the United Kingdom also participate.**

The Andalusian Energy Agency, entity assigned to the Regional Ministry of Finance, Industry and Energy of the Andalusian Regional Government, organised in Seville on the 12th and 13th September 2019 the **Kick-off meeting** of the European project [POWERTY \(Renewable energies for vulnerable groups\)](#), framed in the [Interreg Europe](#) programme, and with a budget of 1.1 million euros (83.6% cofinanced by the European Commission), which aims to **facilitate that the vulnerable groups affected by energy poverty can use renewable energy through the promotion of low cost innovative solutions.**

During the Kick-off meeting, with the active participation of all partners, the different **thematic axes** on which work will be carried out during the project were specified, such as new innovative renewable energy technologies aimed at vulnerable groups, including collective and urban systems, new financing formulas for renewable energies suitable for vulnerable groups, improvements in the regulatory framework and empowerment of the vulnerable groups and social innovation to stimulate citizen participation of these social groups.

Another highlight of the meeting was the intervention of the **University of Manchester**. After a brief presentation of the work of the [European Observatory for Energy Poverty](#), the University of Manchester presented a methodology to characterise energy poverty, as well as other successful practices that have been

developed in other countries of the European Union and are related to renewable energies and energy poverty.

Additionally, the Andalusian Energy Agency detailed the different organisational, management, financial and communication aspects of the project, in accordance with the Interreg Europe programme.

POWERTY partners had the opportunity to learn about the initiative “[Ola Solar de Lebrija](#)” of the non-profit company [ECO00](#) (\*) **during a technical visit to the town of Lebrija (Province of Seville)**, where the Town Hall of Lebrija has ceded the roofs of 11 municipal buildings to house photovoltaic installations, with a total power of more than 200 kW. The highlight of this initiative is that it is a collective renewable energy installation, which generates clean energy in a community, while promoting citizen participation and supporting an economy that is more respectful of the environment and people.

Project partners also learned about other works carried out by [ECO00](#) in collaboration with labour insertion bodies to **make it easier for vulnerable groups to enter the renewable energy market**, as well as other activities related to these groups.

### **Project partners**

The consortium of this project is formed, under the leadership and coordination of the Andalusian Energy Agency, of the Energy Agency of Plovdiv (EAP) in **Bulgaria** (one of the European countries with the highest rates of energy poverty), the Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes Energy Environment Agency (AAURA-EE) in **France**, the Agglomeration Opole Trust (AOT) (a federation of 20 municipalities in **Poland**) and the Public Investment and Development Agency of **Lithuania** (VIPA). Also noteworthy is the participation in the consortium of the University of Manchester in the **United Kingdom**, which leads the [European Observatory of Energy Poverty](#), an initiative

promoted by the European Commission and responsible for analysing all European initiatives in the field of energy poverty.

*(\*) ECOOO forms part of the “stakeholders” group of the POWERTY project (support entities that develop an activity directly related to the theme of the project), together with other entities such as consumer organisations, energy cooperatives, non-profit organisations, energy companies, Andalusian universities and research centres and "ethical banking" financing entities, among others.*