



# Forum activities of HOMABs: experiences from Lappeenranta / Finland

By Lake Saimaa,  
only two hours from Helsinki

### Excellent connections

Lappeenranta–Helsinki 215 km - by train 2 hours

Direct flights: Milan-Bergamo, Italy 3 hours

Green Leaf winning award 2021, WWF Earth Hour City Challenge

Winner 2014 and 2016, EU Climate forerunner as one of the EU Mission

City. Member of Green City Accord, ICLEI, Covenant of Mayors, Circucal

City Declaration



FOUNDED IN  
**1649**

CITY OF LAPPEENRANTA

**73.000**  
INHABITANTS

**1.000**  
KILOMETERS  
OF SAIMAA SHORELINE



# What is a collaboration forum for HOMABs?

HOMABs = **H**ome **O**wners of **M**ultifamily **A**partment **B**uildings

-the aim is to bring together the decision makers (i.e board chairmen and board members) of HOMABs in the same city / region / district / neighborhood

-the purpose is to establish a forum, which becomes a regular meeting place where HOMABs can promote their energy efficiency

-HOMABs have similar renovation & energy efficiency & renewable energy needs / targets

-all members participate in the forum activities voluntary and the forum has no official association status

# What are advantages of collaboration forum?

- a rewarding meeting place for information exchange for board chairmen & board members
- a place where, good practices, good (or bad) experiences, information and know-how are shared
- increasing information about measures to reduce energy consumption and the use of renewable energy
- promoting good and energy efficient way of living
- place to plan joint EE-measures, especially when the members have similar needs / target regarding renovation & energy efficiency & renewable energy
- a place, where EE-experts and service providers can be invited to talk about the services & opportunities they are providing

# Collaboration forum in a nutshell



# Establishing collaboration forum, experience of Lappeenranta

-forum activities started at the beginning of 2021 with support of [Motiva](#) (=Sustainable development company in Finland) and [Energiavirasto](#) (=Finnish Energy Authority).

-regional Energy Advisors gathered HOMABs to join the forum. Preparation phase took about 3...4 months -> at the beginning big challenges -> how to map „right persons“ (=decision makers of HOMABs = board chairmen & board members)

-> In Finland every HOMABs has an external „housing manager“, who is an expert of house holding activities -> this service is provided by „housing manager company“ and each HOMAB has an contract with company -> not possible to use customer data of these companies due to data protection & GDPR rules

-> a lot of „manual work“, after the first contact found -> the next ones were easier

-first meeting in Feb 2021, currently regular monthly meetings between Sep – May

-active HOMABs ~20...25 + visitors / presentators in each meeting (=EE-experts, service providers, renewable energy experts, EV-charging experts etc...)

# Samples of presentation topics provided by experts at Lappeenranta HOMAB forum

Solar panels installation possibilities

EV charging possibilities

Energy saving options and ventilation heat recovery methods

Existing air conditioning systems

Responsibilities and responsible sharing table for HOMABs

Energy communitites

Heat pumps

Indoor Air quality

How to prepare to the shortage of energy and increasing prices

Down a degree -energy saving campaing

Geothermal heat and ground water areas

Group procuments

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)

# Step - by - step -process to establish forum

(Based on Lappeenranta experience)

## Step 1

-Clarify how HOMABs and board chairman / members can be reached to join the forum. Also consider, if contact information could be available for example via building manager service companies or other existing data sources.

-Advertise the upcoming forum establishment for stakeholders on websites, social media channels, event calendars, newsletters and during other relevant events

-Connect all relevant local stakeholders like cities, associations, energy companies, organizations promoting energy and climate issues

-Commercial advertising channels can also be used



# Step - by - step -process to establish forum

## Step 2

-Ensure, that the first forum event will have sufficient number of participants

-Collect relevant confirmations of participants before the event

-Decide, will the event be organized as hybrid / on-site / on-line. Based on the format of event, ensure that the facilities are suitable. Suggested to organize some catering services for participants to get them involved, if the event is on-site / hybrid

# Step - by - step -process to establish forum

## Step 3a

-In the first forum meeting, discuss and agree jointly in deep cooperation with the participants the targets and the way to achieve them and all other practical arrangements.

-Take the introducing round of all participants. Ask the participants to describe their HOMABs and briefly also own personnel background. What are their plans and targets regarding energy efficiency, renovations, energy investments, renewable energy etc in their HOMAB.

-The agenda of the first meeting could be for example following:

### 1.The basic idea of the forum

- general information about energy efficiency and existing EE-services

### 2.Introducing of participants and discussions

- expectations and wishes

- current status of HOMABs buildings (implemented renovations and future plans)

### 3. First presentation(s) by EE-expert(s)

### 4. Next meeting

# Step - by - step -process to establish forum

## Step 3b: at the first forum meeting initial questionnaire

Initial questionnaire will clarify possibilities how to organize the cooperation within forum members, issues to be taken in the agendas at future forum meetings and other wishes.

1. Contact information of the representative of HOMAB (name & e-mail address)
2. Basic information of building (name of building association, address, year of construction)
3. Total number of apartments and construction area (m<sup>2</sup>)
4. Describe with your own words relevant details of the building
5. Describe the current plans of renovations and EE-measures and if you would like to receive more information/training to implement those plans
6. Describe measures/activities, if your HOMAB would possible be interested to organize "group procurement" in cooperating with other forum members
7. Good (or bad) practises & examples, in which have experience and you would like to share with others
8. Other wishes for activities of forum

# Step - by - step -process to establish forum

## Step 4

Agree how to continue with forum activities. For example following items shall be decided:

- 1) who will be the convener of the next meeting
- 2) what is the meeting frequency
- 3) what is the most suitable time schedule for meetings (at day time or after working hours etc)
- 4) topics and presenters/experts for the next meeting and who will contact them
- 5) will the meetings be organized as online or face-to-face or hybrid
- 6) communication and advertising
- 7) the sharing of presented material to participants
- 8) agree the exact meeting time of the next event

# What next in the near future?

- collaboration forum module is an essential part of Interreg BSR project “Renowave”
- facilitate to define a roadmap (for example at Võru region) to establish collaboration forum and create frameworks for forum
- aiming to develop and test extended – OSS module (One Stop Shop) based on pilots in cooperation with HOMABs
- provide a guide, which assist and gives advises for the establishing process
- phases still under more detailed planning and which will be implemented later:
  - implementing of energy audits for HOMABs
  - based on deep analyse of the results of audits -> start to plan the implementing phase of practical EE- measure(s) for HOMABs
  - implementation as joint “group procurement” (->cheaper unit prices, more attractive in the service provider point of few etc...)

# HOMABs in Lappeenranta



# HOMABs in Lappeenranta



# LAPPEENRANTA

Thank you!!  
Aitäh!!

[lappeenranta.fi](http://lappeenranta.fi)  
[greenreality.fi](http://greenreality.fi)

  
LAPPEENRANTA  
SUOMEN ILMASTOPÄÄKAUPUNKI

