



**European Conference on Local and Regional Energy Management Agencies
6 November 2001 in Brussels**

Workshop 1 – RES in Buildings

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Workshop Conclusions

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Workshop on “energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in buildings”
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Preliminary conclusions and recommendations

1. RES and RUE in Buildings is one of the most important areas of activity of Local and Regional Energy Agencies and indeed a significant number of individual initiatives are worth to be disseminated. In particular, some actions are of particular interest for the application of energy efficiency policy and the preparation of future legislation (i.e. building permission in Tarragona).
2. Local and Regional Energy Agencies are active in energy efficiency legislation. As retrofitting and refurbishment often represent the most significant market share in the local construction economy, they would like to strengthen their action in this specific field.
3. These activities should be systematically accompanied by «soft» actions (information campaign, training, audits, etc.). The need for acting locally is largely recognised but a common European approach might be relevant in a few areas (evaluation of building energy performances, practical aspects of safety and health issues in promoting building sustainable concepts, natural cooling, ...).
4. Past activities mostly focused on technicalities and economic issues of energy efficiency and renewables in the building sector, but very little on behaviour aspects. The participants at the workshop strongly raised the need to exchange experiences on these aspects and to develop skills in social sciences and communication. All participants also agreed with the requirement for an appropriate structure, time frame and cost/benefit assessment to consolidate actions on behaviour aspects.
5. Even though the specific activity of Local and Regional Energy Agencies varies according to the local/regional context, the workshop participants recognised that their role is primarily to facilitate communication on energy related issues between public institutions, market operators and citizens. They should complement and not compete with existing structures and expertise in the building sector. The way local agencies are structured, managed and operated should allow adaptation to changing local environment.
6. To summarise, the participants at the workshop recommended that:
 - A limited number of common methodologies and evaluation tools are developed whenever appropriate;
 - Thematic initiatives are organised around energy efficiency legislation, in particular for refurbishment/retrofitting, and behaviour aspects;
 - The role of the Local and Regional Energy Agencies is defined considering their position with other local structures and expertise as well as the potential for self-supporting activity at mid-term.