

Clearinghouse Support - Paving the way for a better energy performance of buildings in the EU

Baltic Energy Conservation Agency, Poland

Summary

The Clearinghouse Support run as IEE project (contract agreement EIE/06/189/SI2.446815) is contributing to facilitate the implementation of energy savings in buildings and is linked with EU policy goals. The EU Green Paper on Energy Efficiency from 2005 and the Energy Efficiency Action Plan from October 2006 focus on the creation of economic and financial arrangements for energy efficiency investments – having as the overall aim to establish a European Clearinghouse for small-medium scale sustainable energy projects. Clearinghouse Support is a pilot initiative for the practical implementation of these policy goals by providing direct assistance to project owners. This assistance is organised in the form of Project Service Facilities (PSF) operating in Latvia, Lithuania, Region of Pomerania in Poland, Czech Republic and Greece (Crete). These are the catalysts for achieving ClearSupport's ambitious goal of initiating 100-200 specific building renovations. At the end of September 2009, 218 projects were supported by the five PSFs. Among of them PSF Pomerania has assisted 72 projects until November 2009. Project's further potential is to streamline project handling under a Clearinghouse, thereby addressing the huge need for sustainable energy investment in less developed regions of the EU.

End-user area	Target Audience	Technical
New buildings	Citizens	<u>Energy efficiency</u>
<u>Refurbishment of buildings</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Heating</u>
Transport and mobility	<u>Property owners</u>	<u>Cooling</u>
<u>Financial instruments</u>	Schools and universities	<u>Appliances</u>
Industry	<u>Decision makers</u>	<u>Lighting</u>
Legal initiatives (regulations, directives, etc)	<u>Local and regional authorities</u>	CHP
Planning issues	Transport companies	<u>District Heating</u>
Sustainable communities	Utilities	<u>Solar energy</u>
User behaviour	ESCOs	<u>Biomass</u>
Education	<u>Architects and engineers</u>	<u>Wind</u>
Other	<u>Financial institutions</u>	Geothermal
	Other	Hydro power
		Other

Context

- Baltic Energy Conservation Agency (BAPE SA) is active in the Pomeranian Province, North Poland
- The area of the province is 18 293 km² (5.6% of the country). The province is inhabited by almost 2.2 million people.
- There are many areas of high natural value in the province: 2 national parks, 9 landscape parks, 45 areas protected under NATURA 2000 program, as well as nature reserves.



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- There is great potential for energy conservation in building stock in Pomerania Region - Pomeranian Province's share of dwellings accounts for 5.2% corresponding to 692.000 dwellings in 2005. To a large extent, residential buildings in the Pomeranian province are old (table no.1 attached).
- Structural Funds are available for thermorenovation and RES at regional and state level. Projects have to meet specific requirements and follow strict procedures to be supported.

Objectives

Pomeranian Project Service Facility has specific objectives:

- to address public authorities, housing associations/municipalities having potential for larger scale building renovations
- to improve access to information regarding energy conservation
- to provide practical assistance to project owners on project identification and documentation by giving technical support in the field of thermomodernisation and renewable energy.
- to support developing thermomodernisation projects, follow specific application procedures, environmental procedures, and in parallel to inform on ways of financing energy saving investments and develop feasibility studies.

Process

The addressed target groups are: owners and administrators of residential and public buildings, institutions financing thermomodernisation projects, companies performing thermomodernisation.

The identified needs of the target groups encompass: financing of thermomodernisation projects (credits, loans, grants), technical solutions (projects improving energy efficiency and reducing heat demand), legal regulations (implementation of the Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings).

Financial resources and partners

ClearSupport project belongs to Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. The total cost of the project was equal to €1 638 616, EC contributed 50 % of the project's cost. The remaining 50% was covered by project partners' own funds.

The project was coordinated by ECNetwork from Denmark. Project partners included: Institute of Physical Energetics (Latvia), UAB ĀF-TERMA (Lithuania), SEVEN - The Energy Efficiency Center (Czech Republic), ZRMK - Building and Civil Engineering Institute (Slovenia), Technological Educational Institute of Crete (Greece), Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein Energieagentur (Germany), Berliner Energieagentur GmbH (Germany), The Danish Energy Authority, ALECTIA (Denmark), Fedarene (Belgium), FourFact (Sweden) and of course Baltic Energy Conservation Agency (Poland). The role of project partners was most of stimulation of energy efficiency projects, reduction of energy consumption and CO₂ emissions in the building sector, and creation of the decision making support tools for the potential investors.

Results

72 projects, supported so far by the Pomeranian PSF, result in the reduction of energy consumption equal **17 000 MWh/a**. **54 of the supported projects belong to the public sector (mainly hospitals, schools, health centres)**- energy consumption reduction= over 14 thousand MWh, and the remaining 18- to the residential sector (multifamily houses)- energy consumption reduction approx. 3 thousand MWh. Thermomodernisation activity includes complex measures: external walls insulation, roofs insulation, windows exchange, retrofitting of heating and hot water installations, installation of RES: solar collectors and biomass boilers.

The goals were exceeded. It was planned that each PSF shall initiate 40 projects, and 72 projects have been initialized by Pomeranian PSF.

Implementation of the forementioned projects results in CO₂ emission reduction equal to **6424,3 tonnes**. Over **500 people** have been taken part in trainings, and another **400** in several thematic debates organised during fairs (e.g. International Fairs – Technicon 2008 and Infrastructure Pomorze 2009). Performance indicators are presented in 3 tables attached.

Lessons learned and repeatability

Since 2006, when the project started, several factors influencing investors' decisions concerning RUE and RES in buildings have changed. 20x20x20 targets have been accepted (in Poland the target for RES in 2020 is 15%). Operational Programmes, enhancing RUE and RES measures) have been implemented both at the national and regional levels. The requirements for thermomodernisation credits admittance have been changed. The system of energy certificates is being implemented. All the measures listed above would not be possible without serious changes in legislation concerning supporting funds, public orders and public assistance. This process is still ongoing, some regulations still need to be changed, while others need to be corrected.

This situation prolongs decision the making process. The economic difficulties also increases insecurity.

PSF creation and existence of a unit supporting local self-governments and investors in proper preparation of projects seem to be a proper response to market needs. In order to ensure effective activity of PSF staff training was needed- new standards have been introduced, new computational programmes have appeared, new procedures of application for supportive fund have been accepted as well as new guidelines for environmental impact assessment of the planned enterprises and economic feasibility determination have been introduced. Due to interactions between project partners PSF staff was able to acknowledge new, innovative financing mechanisms and exchange information on revolving fund and ESCO, being widely practised in other countries.

Contact for more information:

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