

**SWH Systems Installed in a Thethi
Guesthouse, Albania**



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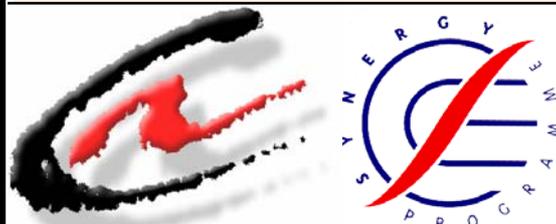
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THE ENERGY IN ALBANIA



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(NEWSLETTER)**

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**THE ON-GOING ACTIVITIES AND
NEWS IN THE FRAME OF THE GEF/
UNDP PROJECT "ALBANIA-SOLAR
WATER HEATING MARKET TRANS-
FORMATION AND STRENGTHENING
INITIATIVE"**

The activities of the Project during the first half of 2012 have been focused mainly in finalizing the draft National Renewable Energy Action Plan by the year 2020 with the base year 2009, and discussion of the legal acts prepared for the promotion of solar panels for hot water at a national/local level; capacity building of architects, professionals from the building sector as well as students from different faculties of Polytechnic University regarding the application of the SWH technology since the planning phase of the buildings; capacity building of Professional Training Centers to develop specific training courses for solar thermal systems; formalization of an agreement with the Albanian Tourism Association and assistance for a series of hotels to increase the quality of the already installed SWH systems associated with the awareness raising activities to promote SWH technology by the hotels which have not yet installed such a technology; capacity building of the installers of SWH systems; awareness raising of visual written and electronic media journalists to represent professionally the SWH issues in particular and renewable energy issues in general; monitoring of hot water consumption for study purposes; and installation of solar thermal systems by (i) the AKBN building, (ii) in three "Guesthouses" by the alpine area of Thethi, and (iii) in three Vocational Training Centers, respectively in Tirana, Dures and

Fier. Below are listed the up to now outputs of the Project according to the expected outcomes.

Outcome 1 - An enabling legal and regulatory framework to promote sustainable SWH market (policy)

- Following the drafting of laws/regulations to promote solar energy, a round table discussion took place with broad participation of all stakeholders and run by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, METE, (May 10, 2012). The project is available to assist even further, after the adoption of the renewable energy law, which is still in draft form, in anticipation of the World Bank comments.

- Following the request of the METE, the draft National Renewable Energy Action Plan is discussed and finalized (in previous 4 technical tables with participation of METE, AKBN and technical experts, and then in a round table discussion with broad participation from line ministries and other state institutions, academia, donors and non-profit organizations, organized on May 10, 2012 lead by METE). The draft plan sets a target for Albania of approximately 38 % taking into account all sources of renewable energy, with specific targets for solar water heating: the draft involves technical and legislative measures for the country until 2020, in line with the respective EU directives, the obligations to the Energy Treaty and the National Energy Strategy's objectives.

Outcome 2 - Enhanced awareness and capacity of the targeted end-users and building professionals to consider and integrate SWH systems into different types of buildings (information)

- Monitoring devices on the consumption of hot water for 20 families in three climatic zones in Albania are installed: first results of the monitoring are recorded, which will be used for research purposes to better definition of financial indicators of solar panels for hot water used in the country.

- The technical specifications are drafted and a bid process (international) is opened for the procurement of monitoring equipment for large SWH systems (surveillance of monitoring equipment installations and processing of data still expected from the international expert working in the field of solar panels' certification, after their procurement).

- Following the installation of solar panels for hot water and the supporting set of tools to better develop the specific courses for "Installers and Repairmen of solar panels for hot water" in three Vocational Training Centers, respectively in Tirana, Durres and Fier, it is realized also (i) the preparation and delivery of training manual for instructors of specific courses of all vocational training centers, (ii) training of instructors on the basis of improved curriculum approved by the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and (iii) a promotional event organized in Vocational Training Centre No.1 in Tirana with broad participation and in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the National Employment Service and the Directory of the Centre (by May 3, 2012).

- The cooperation agreement with the Italian association CeLIM is finalized, due to which, the latter is expected to provide for three other Vocational Training Centers which develop specific courses for solar energy (in Shkodra, Vlora and Korça) and for the professional high school "Karl Gega" in Tirana, the same set of solar collectors and tools as it is already provided by the SWH project for Tirana, Durres and Fier, thus closing all the training cycle of VTCs. In addition, the Harry Fultz Institute is expected

to open a specific course for solar system installators and maintaince/repair in September, 2012.

- The programme is finalized, the experts are recruited (national and international) and the second phase of the training is carried out for the needs of architects, other professionals in the building sector and an interested group of students from different faculties of the Polytechnic University of Tirana and other non-public universities (during 28 - 30 March 2012, at the premises of Epoka University in Tirana) in the field of application of SWH systems.

- In cooperation with the German Development Agency-GIZ, three solar thermal systems are procured and installed to support three of the guesthouses in the tourist area of Thethi. Following, a promotional event is organised in Thethi (in July 2012) for public awareness on the use of solar energy for hot water, especially in relatively isolated areas and touristic places.

- A one-day training program is finalized and successfully delivered to the representatives of written and visual media to increase their capacity to professionally cover the issues/success stories related to renewable energies in general and solar energy in particular (on June 13, 2012).

- Upon their request, the project has procured and is about to install solar water heating systems in the central building of AKBN (actually going through a major renovation).

Outcome 3 - Increased demand for SWH systems by the availability of attractive end-user financing mechanisms or other delivery models, such as utility driven models (finance)

- As per the request for partnership by the Albanian Tourism Association (ATA), the project was presented at the Fourth Annual Conference of the ATA as an Official Partner, seeing it as a good opportunity for promotion of SWH systems to the ATA members, via a presentation during the conference course, through subsequent publications like membership CATALOGUE, or through the electronic bulletins of this association. Following, and in cooperation with, the project organized on 18 April 2012 the "Roundtable on legal, financial and technical assistance to facilitate the penetration of solar technology for hot water in the hotel/service sector in Albania".

- Several meetings are organized with the Municipality of Tirana for concrete cooperation between the Project and the Municipality for the selection of pilot projects in the kindergartens/day-care centers under the jurisdiction of the Municipality, which can be fitted with SWH systems in their reconstruction: the agreement is not been finalized, subject to be detailed by the Municipality.

Outcome 4 - A certification and quality control scheme applicable for Albanian conditions and enhanced capacity of the supply chain to offer products and services promoting sustainable SWH market (technology and business skills)

- The testing of solar panels has continued at the solar testing center (installed at the "Harry Fultz" Institute in Tirana). In the following it is expected a comprehensive training course for testing and evaluating the results from the international expert for certification (to be implemented by September, 2012).

- In cooperation with ATA an advertisement is announced for cooperation with hotels that have already installed solar thermal systems to participate in a practical training to improve their existing installations. In the following, and in collaboration with the Swiss consortium INFRAS, a training week is orga-

nized (21 - 25 May 2012) with a number of participating hotels in Tirana, Rinas, Durres and Shkodra. Training team composed of the Swiss consultant and the technical expert of the project, inspected the hotels, provided recommendations for each of them, and coupled the recommendations with the respective new installations' schemes.

- A training seminar for installers of solar water heating systems is organized on 22 May 2012: the Swiss consultant, following the theoretical material, has shared with all participants the findings of its first mission of November 2011, as relates to the wrong practice in the existing installations, and recommendations for their improvement, which are expected to significantly affect the growth of productivity of this technology in Albania. Training was conducted at the solar testing center at the Institute "Harry Fultz" in Tirana.

- Two study visits are organized (on 30 and 31st of May, 2012) by the solar testing center installed at the Institute "Harry Fultz" in Tirana, respectively by the (i) Students/professors of the Mechanical Engineering Faculty, Professional Master - I; and (ii) Students/professors of the Environmental Engineering Faculty, Master of Science - I, of the Polytechnic University of Tirana.

Outcome 5 - The provided support institutionalized and the results, experiences and lesson learnt documented and disseminated (including monitoring, learning, evaluation, and their feedback for adaptive management)

- The estimations on the penetration of solar water heating systems for industry are finalized in addition to updating the relevant analysis for the residential and service sector (for the analyzed period).

- A concrete proposal for the Internet website dedicated to solar energy is shared with the representatives of AKBN: the new webpage is designed, while the data upload is expected from the AKBN to be done soon.

For more information, kindly visit the webpage of the Climate Change Programme: www.ccalb.org under the SWH project.



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ALBANIA HAS A VERY HIGH POTENTIAL FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

In the framework of the activities of the EU funded Project "EUbuild EE", Mrs. Aygen Erkal, the Coordinator for Business Development at IMSAD (Association of Turkish Building Materials Producers) gives her opinion on the progress achieved so far by this project.

Where does the project for "improving energy efficiency in con-



struction sector" (EUbuild EE) consists of and how did it started? - IMSAD, the Association of Turkish Building Material Producers, has been working on Energy Efficiency (EE) and Financing EE in Turkey for more than 7 years now. We are trying to get government's support on the subject, have them give the due importance to it and we are working on developing new cooperation or strengthen the existing ones. The first EU Project EUbuild was focused on "Awareness rising about Potential Impact of the EU Accession and Cooperation in the Building Materials Sector" with partners from Bulgaria, Romania, Belgium, England and Turkey. So results of our first Project have initiated the second one.

In this partnership, why were Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia and Belgium selected? - EU call for proposals of new projects opens for different regions. This time it was for Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. And then you have to have at least an EU member partner as well. It is very important to choose the right (trustworthy) partner since it is a 2 year project.

What has the project managed to achieve up to date, as we know the project will be finished by the end of this year? - Activities are going according to the plan. All the roundtable meetings have been finished in all the partners apart from media ones, project website is on (www.eubuild.com), country reports have been prepared about the current situation of the partner countries on financing EE in buildings, a declaration in Istanbul Conference and a manifest in Brussels Meetings have been announced and shared with related institutions and representatives of related sectors there has been some new cooperation initiated between the participants of the project activities, the project activities are being visible in partner countries by using media, brochures, newsletters and other visibility materials and emailing all the partners has made the project visible on their websites. We started using social media as well, have prepared a Facebook page for the project recently. So we are trying to do our best to raise the awareness of the related parties including the end users.

Why this project is important for all participating partners and countries? - Because Energy Efficiency and Financing EE is important for us. We are all developing countries with a current account deficit one way or other. And we are all energy importing countries. We all are trying to overcome the negative effects of the last economic crises. Of course we are not saying that saving energy is going to solve all these problems but it is obvious that it will help immensely especially if the governments support the idea as well. Of course only governments' support is not enough, all the related sectors including finance, public, private, energy as well as universities, NGOs, CSOs, and BROs should do their best too.

Albania, what is its position in relation to project accomplishments? - The Albanian project partner is the "Albania-EU Energy Efficiency Centre" (EEC). The EEC's staff and other Albanian experts, involved in the project, are doing a great job by accomplishing all the project activities in time and reaching very good results.

What is missing in Albania in order to further improve the energy efficiency in construction sector? - Albanian Energy Saving Potential is very high in all economic sectors and the Building stock has the highest energy saving potential for Albania and implementing the measures in these sectors Albania

might reach the EE targets. By increasing EE in all sectors in general and Building Stock in particular will become possible to increase energy security for the country, which will help to maintain same economic growth and reduce trade deficit for the country. There are some issues:

- Albanian society has been educated and trained to think more energy supply projects and very little about energy savings projects for many years.
- Primary legal base is not completed regarding EE in building and all secondary legislation has to be revised accordingly.
- A lot of time is spent to prepare projects on EE especially to be easy understandable from the Banks.
- New models for financing EE, including soft loans and low interest rate loans, are missing.
- The Energy Efficiency Fund is still missing.
- The ESCO concept is not yet approved and its legal base is missing to develop projects especially in public buildings stock.

After the termination of the joint project, will you have other collaborations in this field? - Since EE and Financing EE is not a time limited issue, of course we will go on working about it in the near future. As partners we are discussing a couple of new project ideas where EE is always included one way or other. We can of course have different partners or additions as well.

What will be the main expected results, once the project will be completed? - First of all, for the first time in each of the partner countries, a Country Report on EE in Buildings and Financing Methods has been prepared. Now our researchers are working on combining these reports and preparing a Guide Book with recommendations to each related sector including the governments at the end. On the second hand, one of the main targets of these types of projects is the improvement of networking and cooperation between related institutions that I believe we are achieving with 6 partners and 47 associate partners. More than 30 roundtable meetings, 2 Study Visits and 2 international conferences also are helping this target. And of course, awareness rising is another important issue although very difficult to measure.



MANIFESTO

HERE IS THE PRIMARY 5 ACTIONS IN FINANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS

(Design-Experience-Learn-Operate-Monitor and Finally Gain More than What You Invest)

The Declaration, announced by IMSAD, Association of Turkish Building Material Producers and partners, within the framework of "EUbuild EE-Financing Energy Efficiency in Buildings" project in November 2011, mainly pointed out general requirements for providing energy efficiency concerns and actions in the building sector by emphasizing the need of an impulsive force of the Governments. After analysing the SWOT analyses of the project partner countries, **Albania-EU Energy Efficiency Cen-**

tre (EEC), Bosnia Herzegovina Sarajevo Canton Chamber of Economy (CESC), Macedonia Energy Efficiency Center (MACEF), Montenegrin Employers Federation (MEF) and Serbia Belgrade Chamber of Commerce, it has been derived what is in common on financing issues with regards to energy efficiency in the building sector. It should be noted that the **Manifesto** comprises basic primary actions on financing energy efficiency in buildings and there should be detailed interpretations of these actions, stated below, on the basis of each and every country's specific conditions.

1. **Governmental policies are the base for the EE implementations** especially while differentiating voluntary/mandatory energy efficiency applications in favour of being more mandatory together with incentives and punishments.
2. **Integrated building stock information, measurement and monitoring system** should be developed in order to determine reference and maximum available energy saving potentials within the specific building types (residential, commercial with their sub-sectors) for true application of energy performance certification and contracting.
3. In order to lead market formation with regard to financing energy efficiency, the starting point should be by **learning from the others' experiences** but also learning by doing with more implementation projects have utmost importance.
4. Investments on energy efficiency are the type of investment that **gain more than what you invested** which is bearing 3E-energy-economy-environment management. Investment on energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) applications = Direct impact (gain only by EE/RE measure itself) + Indirect Impact (environmental i.e. reducing GHG; lower energy dependence i.e. high energy security) + Induced Impact (Social i.e. more employment, increased comfort levels, improved health and productivity).
5. In order to reduce the differences between what is targeted and what is realized for the sake of the investment on energy efficiency, performances from material to energy consuming systems should be **designed, installed, operated and monitored properly**.

We, as the organizations with signatures below, continue to study to realise these primary actions explained above. We believe that these actions will be the fundamental steps towards our sustainable future.

 IMSAD, Ass. of Turkish Building Material Producers	 Hüseyin Bilmeç (Turkey)	 EEC, Albania-EU Energy Efficiency Centre	 Edmond Hido (Albania)
 CESC, Sarajevo Canton Chamber of Economy	 Ruzmira Mandić (Bosnia Herzegovina)	 MACEF, Macedonian Energy Efficiency Center	 Makedonka Dimitrova (Macedonia)
 MEF, Montenegrin Employers Federation	 Drazen Karadaglic (Montenegro)	 BCC, Belgrade Chamber of Commerce	 Anđjela Sofić (Serbia)