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## NEWSLETTER

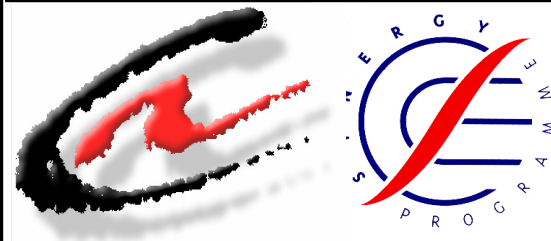
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**THE ENERGY IN ALBANIA**



## THE ENERGY IN ALBANIA (NEWSLETTER)

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### MUNICIPAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLANNING IN ALBANIA - IMPLEMENTATION OF STAGE 3

#### 1. Background

The existing municipal and public buildings do not fulfil the Albanian Energy Building Code conditions, they have walls with a high coefficient of thermal losses and bad insulated windows & doors, and consequently they result with great energy/heat losses. With continuous increase of the energy tariffs, the focus on energy efficiency issues is increasing, and more capacities and skills are needed to ensure a sustainable development at the municipal level in Albania.

The year 2012 is the sixth year that the Norwegian Government is supporting an Energy Efficiency Capacity Building Programme in Albania, and one component of this programme is dedicated to support awareness raising and capacity building in the Albanian Municipal Sector. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has commissioned ENSI - Energy Saving International to implement the programme on "Municipal Energy Efficiency Planning in Albania". Stage 1 & Stage 2 have been successfully completed and funding has been provided for implementation of Stage 3 - continuation of Municipal Energy Efficiency (EE) Planning in Albania. The MEEP Program implemented by ENSI is composed by two elements: 1. Introduction of Principles of Municipal EE Planning and capacity building to municipal staff members, and 2. continuing support to the previously trained municipalities in implementation of the developed Municipal EE Plan.

Under such circumstances, feeling the responsibility of the role to play, the Albania-EU Energy Efficiency Centre (EEC) in collaboration with Energy Saving International AS (ENSI) and financially supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the framework of the project "Municipal Energy Efficiency Planning in Albania - Stage 3", has carried out a set of activities to support the solution of the above-mentioned issues.

## 2. Project Description

The Municipal Energy Efficiency Planning (MEEP) Program, implemented by ENSI in collaboration with the EEC, is designed to be implemented in three Stages. The MEEP Program is aiming to increase the awareness about energy efficiency possibilities in the municipal sector, as well as to increase the knowledge and skills on how to prepare Municipal Energy Efficiency Plans. The Stage 3 of MEEP Program, for the new 5-6 municipalities, is organized in two phases and has included the following main activities:

### Phase 1

- Selection of new municipalities. A team of 2-4 municipal specialists from each municipality (covering managerial, technical and economic duties) will be established.
- Organising of five Training Sessions for the participating municipalities, presenting the following main topics:
  - Opportunities and barriers for energy efficiency (EE) in Albanian municipalities (incl. legal framework);
  - EE measures in buildings, street lighting, water utilities, energy supply, etc.;
  - Utilisation of renewable energy sources;
  - Operation, maintenance and management of facilities;
  - Project financing and business planning;
  - Municipal energy efficiency planning.
- Supporting the Municipal Specialists in preparing a MEEP Concept Paper for their respective municipality.

### Phase 2

- Developing an Energy Audit in three different municipalities. EEC has developed the energy audits according to the methodology for which training and tools were provided by ENSI.
- Supporting the Municipal Specialists in preparing MEEP as well as in presenting the MEEP to their City Councils.

## 3. Project Implementation during Phase 1

The Albanian municipalities selected for the Stage 3 of MEEP Program are: Municipality of Shkodra, Fieri, Elbasani, Librazhdi, Pogradeci, and Erseka. The participants from these municipalities have received manuals and tools tailored for working with energy efficiency in the municipal sector. The Norwegian experts have provided guidance and support during the homework periods, aimed at ensuring good progress and concrete results. The EEC experts have provided technical support to the mentioned 6 municipalities selected to participate in the Stage 3 of MEEP Program. During 2011, the Phase 1 (of Stage 3 of MEEP Program) has been fully implemented. A set of four Training Sessions has been organized by EEC and ENSI, for the Albanian municipalities included in this Energy Efficiency Capacity Building Programme. The main Outcomes from Phase 1 are:

- Consultants and Municipal Specialists have been trained through a set of four Training Sessions;

- Energy Efficiency Teams have been established and started their work;
- Buildings Database has been established;
- Financial Sources have been identified;
- Barriers have been identified;
- Demo Projects have been identified (three Energy Audits);
- MEEP Concept Paper for each of 5 municipalities has been prepared and Municipality Administration has approved them.

Technical support between the Training Sessions has been focused to support the participants of the Stage 3 of MEEP Program during the process, mainly by assisting with their homework assignments as well as to prepare a Municipal EE Plan (to be presented for the City Council). Based on that, 5 municipalities have prepared their MEEP Concept Paper and the respective Municipality Administration has approved them.

## 4. Project Implementation during Phase 2

During 2012, the Phase 2 (of Stage 3 - MEEP Program) has been fully implemented. The Training Session No. 5 has been organized by EEC and ENSI, in June 2012. The main Outcomes from Phase 2 are:

- Demo Projects have been developed (three Energy Audits);
- Buildings Database has been fully operational and updated continuously;
- Energy Efficiency Teams have been institutionalised;
- Financial Sources have been described;
- Municipal EE Plans have been developed;
- First Year Action Plans have been developed;
- Municipal EE Plans have been approved for implementation.

In addition to the Training Sessions, EEC has also assisted the mentioned groups of municipalities to benefit from technical support in between the training sessions and also with a follow up effort to prepare for each municipality a Municipal Energy Efficiency Plan as well as to conduct three Energy Surveys & Audits in the municipal buildings. The selected municipal buildings are: Kindergarten No. 3 in Fieri, School "Salo Halili" in Shkodra and Kindergarten "Persefoni Treni" in Pogradeci.

On October 10th, 2012 the EEC and the Albanian Association of Municipalities (AAM) in cooperation with ENSI have organized the Information Seminar "Energy Efficiency in Albanian Municipalities - Challenges and Possibilities", a Norwegian - Albanian cooperation programme. This Information Seminar is organized in connection with the finalization of the Municipal EE Programme in Albania, supported by the Norwegian Government. The goal of this Information Seminar was to bring together local stakeholders in the field of energy efficiency and to present results and lessons learned from various programmes and to discuss possibilities for utilization of the energy efficiency potential in Albania.

## 5. Final Remarks

The project has started in November 2010 and has been completed in October 2012. This project is considered as an important step in introducing to the Albanian municipalities the issues such as efficient management of energy resources, thermal insulation of existing buildings stock and consequently brings steady improvements in the long term. At the end of the Stage

3 of MEEP Program, the officials from the selected municipalities are able to conduct Energy Survey & Audit and prepare the technical report for financing the proposed energy efficiency measures. The above-mentioned municipalities have completed their Municipal Energy Efficiency Plan and have started the work for its implementation. In accordance with the self-governance law for municipalities, and related obligations, the Energy Efficiency Planning can also help Albanian municipalities to reduce their expenses for energy as well as for water, space heating and cooling in municipality buildings, and to allocate the money saved for other necessities. Also it could become a way how to cope with energy poverty and to improve the social welfare on the municipal level in Albania.



**Dr. Eng. Edmond M. HIDO**  
**Director**  
**Energy Efficiency Centre**

## **PRESS RELEASE ON LAUNCH OF THE ALBANIAN CONSULTING NETWORK**

The EBRD BAS Albania and Albanian Consultants Network (ACN) cordially invited members of the press to the Launch event of the newly established "Albanian Consulting Network". The event took place on Thursday, 6 December 2012, 16:00 - 19:00 in Tirana, Hotel Tirana International. The newly established ACN will inform the consultants in the country and all related stakeholders of its mission and activities.

The event was honoured by Mr. Enno Bozdo, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economy Trade and Energy. Mr. Bozdo, in his welcoming speech has emphasised the current need for creating conditions to develop the consulting services in Albania. The establishment of ACN will facilitate the offer of more services for the Albanian SMEs in order to improve their competitiveness and support their internationalization.

Mr. Fabio Serri, the Head of EBRD Tirana Office has participated in the event in order to welcome this initiative and emphasise the EBRD support to the private sector in Albania. Mr. Miha Svent, EBRD SBS Team Head of Regional Programme has stressed the crucial role of the EBRD BAS Programme in supporting the consultants in Albania to raise the market at the levels when the creation of ACN has become an imperative. The ACN mission, activities and programme has been presented by the Board members of the association. The Chairman of ACN, Mr. Arben Memo in his presentation was focused on ACN role in bringing together the professional consultants to encourage, promote and develop the consultancy services in Albania according to the highest international standards. Developments of consultancy in Albania and ACN programme and action plan have been introduced by Board members Mrs. Monika Farka and Mr. Ilir Rembeci. The event was honoured by Mrs. Ekaterina Ignatova, Director of the Bulgarian Association of Management Con-

sulting Organizations. She has talked about the role that ACN can play in the Albanian consulting market and has shared her knowledge on the International and European professional standards in consultancy.

BAS has contributed significantly to the development of business consultancy as a profession. It has actively supported the establishment of a formal representation of professional consultants in Albania. Through BAS projects and trainings, Albanian consultants have developed commercial and professional skills. The initiative of the group of local consultants supported by BAS Programme in Albania was accomplished in January 2012, when they formally registered the ACN. For further information please contact EBRD BAS Albania: Tel/Fax: (04) 2259 439; (e-mail: [basalbania@ebrd.com](mailto:basalbania@ebrd.com))

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF EUBUILD ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT**

### **1. Background**

Around 40 % of total energy demand in the EU is consumed in the buildings stock (residential and service sectors). Within this context, it is needed to promote the improvement of energy performance of buildings within the EU through cost-effective measures. The concept of energy efficiency has become an essential part of development strategies and is considered a significant resource, which aims to reduce energy dependence and contribute to environmental protection. The greatest potential for improving energy efficiency (EE) is to reduce energy consumption for heating by improving thermal insulation in buildings through using energy efficient materials and reducing the number of households using electricity for heating. This results in the growing need for financing projects which have the improvement / increasing EE as their final result. New energy efficiency policies such as public-private partnerships, preferential loans, voluntary partnerships and risk-sharing instruments can help overcome these barriers and trigger increased investments.

Local and regional governments have essential roles in energy policy and key competences to contribute to EE. Although governments should make the necessary arrangements to adopt EU directives and applications it is still quite difficult to apply the same EE regulations in every country. It is crucial to create collaborations between civil society organisations, universities, research institutions, public and private sectors to improve EE financing in European countries.

Project partner countries (Albania, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey) have different applications and legal requirements in EE financing. There are many financial barriers as well as the lack of legal arrangements. Financial barriers which encapsulate initial cost barrier, risk exposure, the debates on appropriate discount factors, the nature of the financier, and controversial evaluation methods, is another important obstacle to increased energy efficient homes. These different barriers mean that when the market is left alone, there is too little investment in energy efficient refurbishments. Traditional financing mechanisms follow strict standards: reproducibility obligations and quick rates of return among them. Specific instruments need to be implemented to overcome such financial barriers.

## 2. Project Overall Objective & Achieved Results

The project EUbuild Energy Efficiency is the acronym of the Sectoral Collaboration Project with regard to Financing Energy Efficiency in Buildings within the frame of EU Regulations and Legal Arrangements. General objective of this project is to contribute to the development of the financial instruments and mechanisms in order to build up the market for energy efficient products and methods in the partner countries. This project has led to full familiarization of the building material business representative organizations, finance sector and governmental bodies with the energy efficient applications. The project activities has helped both finance and building materials industries, in project partner countries, to improve their capacities on financing energy efficient applications and generate sustainable construction methods in buildings. The project has 7 partners from different Balkan and European countries which come from various sectors, public and private bodies and NGOs. All activities of this project has been implemented under the leadership of the Association of Turkish Building Material Producers (IMSAD) of Turkey and in close coordination with Albania-EU Energy Efficiency Centre (EEC) of Albania, Council of European Producers of Materials for Construction (CEMPC) of Belgium, Chamber of Economy of Sarajevo Canton of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonian Center for Energy Efficiency (MACEF) of Macedonia, Montenegrin Employers Federation (MEF) of Montenegro and Belgrade Chamber of Commerce (BCC) of Serbia. In the project, there are also 47 associates that represent a quite large range of related institutions which have contributed to the project activities and the visibility of the project.

The main Achieved Results are:

- Creating further synergy both among the public authorities, the private sector, and the European partners in the project partner countries. The project brochure has introduced the project to public and private sector members, relevant official authorities and the end-users.
- Exchanging information, expertise and experiences among partner organizations through several conferences and inter-country study visits. The first international conference has been held in Istanbul (Nov. 2011) to announce the start of this project and to introduce it to all key players and media. A Declaration prepared by project partners has been signed during the conference before all participants and the public. The second international conference has been held in Brussels (June 2012) within the framework of "Energy Week" activities. The signature ceremony of the Manifesto took place during the conference. Partners of the project have made two study visits (to Macedonia and Germany) in order to see best practices action plans, legal arrangements in partner countries. These field visits have contributed to create strategic collaborations and helped to make action plans about EE in their countries.
- Organizing 5-6 Round-table Meetings (for each partner country) have demonstrated to be a successful tool. Round table meetings have been organized for professionals from different sectors. The participants of these Round-table meetings have been from the relevant public institutions (ministries & agencies), construction companies, building material producing companies, architects, academicians & university staff, financial sector & banks, NGOs, and Media.
- Designing an interactive web-page in English through which stakeholders have had access to information and procedures re-

garding EE financing. The project partners have designed also a facebook page. Information on energy efficient financing applications, best practices, photos from various activities and project outputs have been posted on these two web-pages and they have been updated through cooperation with project partners.

- A project team has been set in each partner country and these teams have made necessary efforts for the preparation of a Country Report and a SWOT Analyses for each partner country.
- A research on energy efficiency regulations and incentives in the project partner countries has been conducted in compliance with the EU Directives and comparison with the EU countries. Results of the research have been combined in a Guidebook in English and Turkish. The Guidebook has aimed to present the current poor situation on financial support on energy efficiency in buildings, a SWOT analysis and comparisons between Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and EU for the first time as well as to give conclusions and recommendations.
- Promoting a European network of building material and banking sectors in cooperation with the partner organizations in order to generate new models in EE financing.
- Developing a platform in which members of the institutions in the project partner countries have shared their expertise and experiences. In addition, the representatives of both governmental and private sector bodies have been informed about energy efficient applications in construction and finance sectors.

## 3. Final Remarks

The project EUBuild EE has started in December 2010 and it is implemented within December 2012. IMSAD as the leading project partner has been responsible for budget management and coordination of day-to-day activities of the project. The partners and associates of the project have helped to create public awareness about energy efficient applications in Turkey and in Balkan countries. The project has created a network for exchange of expertise and experiences. This project is considered as an important step in introducing to the Albanian stakeholders, researchers and decision-makers the EU experience in the Field of Energy Efficiency as well as the possibilities and best options for Energy Efficiency in EU Accession countries and Albania. The successful implementation of this project is very crucial to the further creation of energy efficiency financing market for a sustainable change in Albanian Building Stock. The Albania-EU Energy Efficiency Centre (EEC) will promote and advocate the energy efficiency through all the country and consequently bring steady improvements in the long term. The main deliverables and the project findings could be found at the EUbuild EE website (<http://www.eubuild.com>).



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