



Jointly for our common future

Inside this Issue

- ⇒ IPA CBC PROJECT “INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND UTILIZATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES IN THE CROSS-BORDER REGION”
- ⇒ TRACE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – JOINT EFFORTS FOR A COMMON KNOWLEDGE BASE AND ENHANCEMENT OF CAPACITIES
- ⇒ SOUTH EAST EUROPE PROGRAMME THEMATIC CAPITALIZATION STRATEGY

NEWSLETTER

published by the

“Albania-EU Energy Efficiency Centre” (EEC)

Address:

Blvd. “Gjergj Fishta”, No. 10, Tirana, ALBANIA

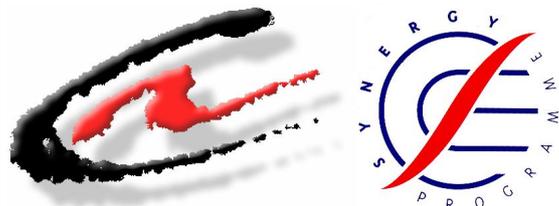
P.O. Box 2426

Tel: + 355 4 2233 835; Fax: + 355 4 2233 834

E-mail: info@eec.org.al

Internet: www.eec.org.al

THE ENERGY IN ALBANIA



THE ENERGY IN ALBANIA (NEWSLETTER)

Other issues are available on EEC website

PUBLISHED BY THE
“ALBANIA-EU ENERGY EFFICIENCY
CENTRE” (EEC)

ISSUE NO 63 • MARCH 2014

IPA CBC PROJECT “INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND UTILIZATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES IN THE CROSS-BORDER REGION”

1. Background

The South-western Region in Republic of Macedonia and the Korça Region in Republic of Albania are addressed as the cross-border region within this project. This cross-border region has a significant potential for utilization of renewable energy sources and implementation of energy efficiency measures. For example the area around Ohrid Lake has 232 sunny days per year, which is excellent amount of sunny days for utilization of solar energy. According to relevant studies/researches, around 80% of the households in the cross-border region had not implemented energy efficiency measures.

The utilization of renewable energy sources (RES) and implementation of energy efficiency (EE) measures can have positive influence on the industry and on the whole market. The percentage of energy poverty in the cross-border region (and in general in the two countries) is high as the energy cost. Living and working conditions are below standard, so utilization of RES and implementation of EE measures are needed and can effect the household budget. It also produces remarkable benefit to the general public and the regional and local self-government units.

Although the potential for utilization of RES and implementation of EE measures in the cross-border area is huge, the possibilities are not embraced. This is enormous problem for the area that needs to be resolved immediately. The project is con-

sistent with the principles and objectives of the national legislations and strategic documents in Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Albania. The project will meet the targets that are set in the following documents:

- Energy Efficiency Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Strategy for utilization of RES in the Republic of Macedonia until 2020;
- Renewable Energy Sources Target of the Republic of Albania;
- National Energy Efficiency Action Plan of the Republic of Albania.

The project is consistent with the principles and objectives of the European Union and according to the guidelines set by the strategy for sustainable development adopted at the Gothenburg European Council and the development strategy for employment under the Lisbon agenda.

Under such circumstances, feeling the responsibility of the role to play, the Albania-EU Energy Efficiency Centre (EEC) in collaboration with Macedonian Center for Energy Efficiency (MACEF) and financially supported by the respective EU Delegation to each country, in the framework of the project "Increasing Energy Efficiency and Utilization of Renewable Energy Sources in the Cross-Border Region" (IRECo), intends to carry out a set of activities to support the solution of the above-mentioned issues.

2. Project Description

The IRECo Project's objective is to determine and increase the utilization of Renewable Energy Sources and the Energy Efficiency in the cross-border region specifically in the south-western region of Republic of Macedonia and Korça region in Republic of Albania.

The overall objective of the IPA Cross-Border Programme Republic of Macedonia - Republic of Albania is to promote sustainable development in the cross-border area of these two countries. Referring to that, this region has a potential for development of activities in the area of RES and EE. The Sustainable Development (SD) is the linkage between economic, social development and environmental protection.

The Sustainable Development is a pattern that aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for the future and the generations to come. Referring to this, SD according to EU is described as a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The utilization of RES and increasing of EE are the most reliable path towards achieving the sustainable development.

The energy is a key factor for development. Utilization of RES and increasing of EE also protects the environment and is not compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The actions proposed by this project envisage joint study on possibilities for utilization of RES and implementation of EE measures in the cross-border region. This study is aiming at protecting and valorizing the natural resources of the region which is in direct correlation with the IPA Cross-Border Programme's specific objectives.

Partners in this project are two non-governmental organizations and two regional authorities so this cooperation is deepened and sets an example for developing cooperation of common interest between:

- MACEF - Macedonian Centre for Energy Efficiency, Republic of Macedonia.

- EEC - Albania-EU Energy Efficiency Centre, Republic of Albania.
- Centre for Development of the South-west Planning Region, Republic of Macedonia.
- Korça Regional Council, Republic of Albania.

Other objectives of this project are improving the living and working conditions; addressing energy poverty; decreasing the CO₂ pollution; promotion of utilization of RES and protection of the natural resources.

3. Activities under the Project

The IRECo Project has started its work to perform the following main activities:

Activity No. 1 - Project Management: A project team has been set in the partner countries. These teams will make necessary arrangements for the project implementation as well as project reporting.

Activity No. 2 - Raising Awareness Campaign: This campaign will aim to raise awareness of residents in the Korça Region. This will be a very important result of the project and is envisaged to be implemented by the joint team. Proper planning of the campaign will be provided through a survey that will be conducted in the Korça Region (AL).

Activity No. 3 - Educational Programmes for the General Public: Two public interactive lectures (seminars) for the citizens, SMEs and local institutions in the Korça Region (AL) will be prepared and organized. The main focus of the seminars will be different aspects of EE and the approach of optimal utilization of RES in this region.

Activity No. 4 - Building Capacity for the Municipal Administration: Trainings are aimed for capacity building of the local and regional administration in the Korça Region (AL). Participants will have the opportunity to obtain direct information on available technologies and products for utilization of RES.

Activity No. 5 - Determination of the RES and EE Potential: This activity includes the harmonization of national legislation with EU as well as the analysis of the data for determination of the potential for RES and implementation of EE measures. For this purpose a joint expert group will be formed. The expert group will determine potential buildings for the pilot project.

Activity No. 6 - Determination of the Possibilities for Utilization of RES and Implementation of EE: A study for determination of the possibilities for utilization of RES and implementation of EE measures will be performed.

Activity No. 7 - Pilot Project - RES and EE Potential in Action: This action includes the conduction of 4 Energy Audits of Public Buildings owned by Local Authorities.

4. Final Remarks

The IRECo Project has started in October 2013 and it is expected to be implemented within December 2014. This project can be considered as an important step in introducing to the Albanian Local Authorities the issues such as efficient management of energy resources, implementation of EE measures including thermal insulation of existing buildings stock and consequently bring steady improvements in the long term.

The project will support awareness raising and capacity building on energy issues for the specialists of the Local Authorities (municipalities and communes). Information and

the publicity of the project and its activities should help the public to get acquainted with the benefits of utilization of RES and implementation of EE measures.



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

TRACE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – JOINT EFFORTS FOR A COMMON KNOWLEDGE BASE AND ENHANCEMENT OF CAPACITIES

1. TRACE Project

The TRACE Project started in October 2012 and it aims to support local and regional administrations in the South East Europe to the significant role they have in developing, upholding and advancing policies and mechanisms for improving the energy efficiency in buildings. The TRACE project is being co-funded under Priority Axis 2 - Protection and Improvement of the Environment of the South East Europe Programme, achieving the corresponding objectives through the Area of Intervention (AoI) 2.4 - Promote energy and resources efficiency.

Making buildings of public and private sector 20% more energy efficient by 2020 is among the main targets of the European Union according to Europe 2020 energy strategy and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) Recast (Directive 2010/31/EU). That target can only be accomplished with the local and regional authorities acting not in isolation but as partners. National, regional and local public authorities are required to put in a lot of effort in order to implement the recast EPBD and at the same time develop policies and mechanisms to make buildings more efficient.

TRACE Project contributes to the transfer of know-how and the exchange of good practices between administrations and other interested stakeholders, making more efficient the transnational partnership of authorities at all levels, ensuring the effective implementation of joint actions and facilitating in that way the implementation of the strategy of the European Union towards making the building sector more efficient.

2. WP3 – A Source of Knowledge and Cohesion

As it was set in project goals, one of the main objectives is the transfer of know-how among territorial administrations in South East Europe on energy efficiency in buildings. In this regard a special focus was dedicated to activities and sub activities of the third working package (WP3) of TRACE Project. Starting from October 2013 all project partners have been actively and intensively involved in identification of good practices and exchange of information through a collection of data, surveys and field researches.

Each partner has reviewed and identified the role that territorial administrations play in the field of energy efficiency in buildings and in the implementation of the EPBD. Furthermore, collaboration schemes between national and territorial administrations for the implementation of the EPBD have been investigated and evaluated. Within project framework a report which will identify those collaboration schemes which would increase the role of territorial administrations and would improve the energy performance of buildings will be determined and published. As the project has put a special

focus to perception and experience of people involved in their daily activities with EPBD implementation, a field research gathered and analysed the views and opinions of field operating inspectors on the energy efficiency in buildings by means of e-questionnaires. Focus was set in the identification of problems, limitations and difficulties that differentiate the practice from the planned framework in order to identify strengths and weaknesses in improving energy efficiency.

Another issue investigated was also the differentiation of the regulatory regimes, the operational environments and markets result to significant differentiation of the impact of the energy performance certificates in improving energy efficiency in buildings. This activity identified and analysed good practices regarding the use and impact of the energy performance certificates in the local society and the market. Indicative areas of investigation included: legislative framework, use of certificate ratings in real estate advertisements, influence of the certificates on inducing energy saving investments.

Furthermore, considering that rise of awareness is the key of success, project partners have collected the good practices on the conception, implementation and monitoring of information campaigns for improving the energy efficiency in buildings. Indicative areas of investigation included identification of topics and communication needs, adoption of creative/communication approaches, concepts and tools, selection of appropriate target groups, strategic approach and ways to demonstrate benefits, selection and use of cross presence in various media, basic information and initial advice to private households, public authorities and companies. In addition to above activities, the TRACE Project has investigated also in relation to financial options and incentives regarding energy efficiency.

A survey on current funding programmes and possibilities for the improvement of energy efficiency of buildings was carried out and also good practice examples of rules and regulations that stimulate energy efficiency investments in buildings were identified by each project partner.

This abundant information is the input for knowledge base that project is building and which will be available to stakeholders and general public. On the other side it will also contribute in meeting the goal for enhancement of capacities of territorial administrations in South East Europe on energy efficiency in buildings.

3. WP4 – Dedicated to Convey Knowledge

In regard to defined goals, TRACE Project partners were engaged during November - December 2013 in identification and definition of training objectives as well as assessment of training needs among executives within territorial administrations on issues related to the improvement of energy efficiency in buildings in general and the implementation of the EPBD in particular.

Preliminary defined indicative topics consisted in:

- Energy performance labelling of buildings;
- Use and impact of energy performance certificates;
- Certification schemes and provisions for independent experts carrying out inspections;
- Financial aspects influencing EE in buildings;
- Collaboration schemes of national, regional & local public administrations for the implementation of the EPBD;
- ICT solutions and tools and information campaigns.

These topics were thoroughly consulted among project partners and a ranking and screening matrix was used to assess the issue. In addition a Questionnaire was prepared and filled by 9 project partners: Municipality of Piraeus (Greece), City

of Zagreb (Croatia), Province of Perugia and Province of Mantova (Italy), Gabrovo Regional Administration (Bulgaria), Energy Agency of Savinjska, Šaleška and Koroška Region - KSSENA (Slovenia), Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency - SERDA (BiH), Centre for Promotion of Clean and Efficient Energy in Romania - ENERO (Romania) and Albania-EU Energy Efficiency Centre - EEC (Albania).

Outputs of the training needs assessment have shown that the most important topics are the Legislation (specific sub-topic EPBD Directive, the obligations arising under the directive of the Regional and Local Governments) and Financing EE and RES in buildings (specific sub-topic possible funding sources for implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy in buildings). Based on the feedback provided by project partners a Core-training & Study Visit will be held in Vienna on 28-30 April 2014 within the framework of the TRACE Project. It will also serve as Training of Trainers in function of other activities to come. Experience and good practices from other similar European programmes, such as the training methodology employed in the ENER - SUPPLY Project was also taken into account in the development of the training programme.

Next, a series of events will take place and will be a good opportunity to present the most creative and effective ideas and approaches on information and communication campaigns demonstrating the benefit of energy efficient buildings. These activities will provide a forum for discussion, present and exchange of good practice experiences and learning on the themes of the project; an opportunity to look closely at different approaches, reflect on own practices and develop a transnational perspective. The interaction will promote a policy debate and contribute eventually to recommendations of improvement within the local, regional and national policies for the energy efficiency in buildings and the implementation of the EPBD.

For further information and specific dates and locations of such activities as well as the outcomes please, visit <http://see-trace.eu/en>



Elis SALA
Project Manager
Energy Efficiency Centre

SOUTH EAST EUROPE PROGRAMME THEMATIC CAPITALIZATION STRATEGY

The SEE Thematic Capitalization Strategy created last year has already produced valuable achievements both at Programme and projects' level. At Programme level, the different events organised have achieved, among others, the creation of synergies between projects and the production of [useful documents for the preparation of the future](#) transnational programmes in the South East Europe area. An [Analysis of the contribution of the SEE Programme to meeting socio-economic challenges](#) in Southeast Europe, a [Library of the outputs produced by the SEE projects](#) (with more than 450 outputs so far) and a publication to be delivered this year are other interesting achievements of the SEE Capitalization Strategy.

At project level, many joint activities are being organized and some Poles have already produced very relevant outputs thanks to the work done by several projects working together.

er. SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme encourages the continuity of activities within Pole in 2014 and also has communicated with the JTS about new activities and outputs to be able to disseminate them through our website. It's very important to get up-to-date information of the Poles in the [SEE Capitalization Strategy website section](#).

The last South East Europe Programme Annual Event will take place next 24th (full day) and 25th (half day) September 2014 in Ljubljana (Slovenia) so mark your calendars to join in this year conference. The 122 projects approved within the four calls for proposals launched by the SEE Transnational Programme have achieved valuable results, contributing to the overall territorial development in the South East Europe Region.

The programme is coming to its end and the 2014 event is named to be the closing conference to review, assess and present all the achievements gained since 2007 including the SEE Capitalization Strategy. In this sense, the floor will be given to project participants in a certain moment of the event to explain in a dynamic way the joint activities and outcomes achieved thanks to this initiative. The session will be interactive aiming to catch the attention of the audience, including visual elements such as pictures and videos. At the same time, the future European Territorial Cooperation programming period has been developed during 2013 and the new three transnational programmes in the area (Adriatic-Ionian, Danube & Balkan-Mediterranean) are being defined.



The conference is aimed to highlight and showcase the added value of the SEE Programme since 2007 and to link it to the future of ETC in the area. Apart from the traditional sessions, some field trips will show to all interested participants the achievements gained by several SEE projects in the area of Ljubljana and the changes produced in people's lives. Moreover, a Photo Exhibition will show some projects' results through images. All (closed and open) SEE projects are invited to participate in the now open [SEE Photo Competition](#) to be able to be present in that exhibition.

See you all in Ljubljana in September.



Eloy Gómez GIRÓN
Communication Manager
South East Europe Transnational
Cooperation Programme
Joint Technical Secretariat