Interreg
Balkan-Mediterranean
PRO-ENERGY
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Introduction

Welcome to the first PRO-ENERGY eNewsletter!

PRO-ENERGY project strives towards Promoting Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings of the Balkan Mediterranean Territory. Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), PRO-ENERGY's challenge is to improve energy efficiency of diverse public buildings (schools, museums, innovation centres etc). Participating territories face the common problems of old facilities, outdated/ degradated building façades, materials& equipment, low energy consciousness & awareness, lack of skills of civil servants, leading to high energy consumption & CO2 emissions. The project aims at finding solutions on how to enhance energy efficiency in public buildings in the Balkan Mediterranean and to create a practical framework for modelling and implementing energy investment interventions through specific ICT monitoring and control systems. The consortium consists of 6 partners from Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Albania that have joined their forces to address the above issues.

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PRO-ENERGY will promote Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings of the Balkan Mediterranean Territory through the creation of a practical framework for modelling and implementing energy investment interventions through specific ICT monitoring and control systems Economy practices.

PRO-ENERGY in detail

With focus on behavioural energy efficiency, PRO-ENERGY aims to address all issues by developing & implementing joint strategies & action plans, increasing competences of public buildings owners & operators, developing & applying technologies & tools for reducing energy consumption in public buildings & promoting good practices & results

generated by the project to other local /regional/ national entities in the area.

The project addresses the policy & institutional level (Joint Strategy & Action Plan), human resources level (Capacity Building for Energy Managers) &the managerial systems level (open-source ICT Platform &CBA Modeller &Energy Performance Contracting-EPC). The novel energy saving technologies promoted by PRO-ENERGY refer to Behaviour-based Energy Efficiency.

Behavioural efficiency programs & strategies introduce a cost-effective way to reduce energy consumption, as literature &practice suggests.

Clean Energy initiatives are twofold processes which produce energy by means of renewable energy sources (RES) or by finding ways to make efficient use of existing energy at hand.

Deployment of RES requires heavy investment, takes time to pay-back &entails the existence of a solid/effective legislative framework. On the other hand, energy-dependent regions &countries are struggling to find ways to become less dependent, even at the slightest possible scale.

A modern & proven approach is the concept of "Behavioural Energy Efficiency", a set of tools that trigger, sensitise, advise & finally drive individual users towards practical & measurable actions for their personal &everyday use of energy resources. Studies reveal that a 3-4,5% reduction in energy consumption may be achieved through simple rules ("switch off the lights when leaving the room", "maintain a steady temperature on the thermostat") that may reach 15% when rules are driven/ supported by a consistent information system at the hands of the energy user.

Alongside, data analytics techniques (open to all) imposed through the ICT platform & the design of a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) tool (open to all) will produce a hands-on modeller for measuring net present value of energy efficiency interventions.

Pro-Energy Meetings and Events

Kick-off meeting in Igoumenitsa, Greece

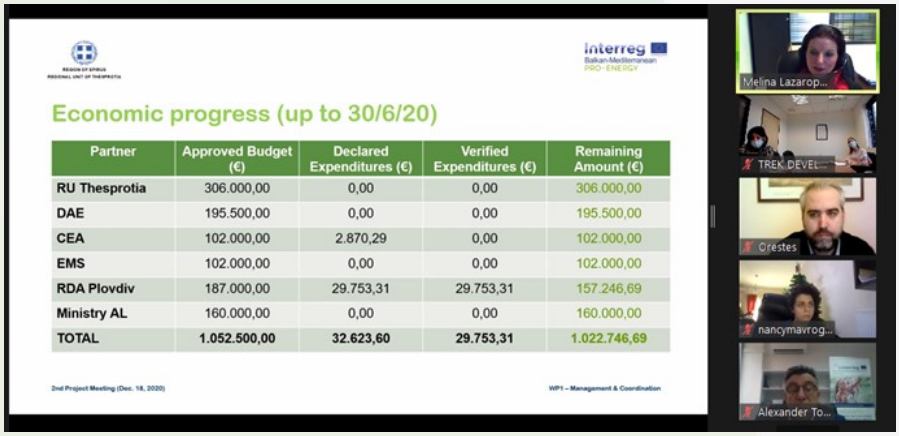
The kick-off meeting of the PRO-ENERGY project took place on Thursday, 30th of January 2020 in Igoumenitsa, Greece.

It was hosted by the lead partner Region of Epirus -

Regional Unit of Thesprotia. Partners discussed issues related to the specificities and rules of the Balkans - Mediterranean Programme - one of the two European Union programmes for transnational cooperation, in which the Republic of Bulgaria participates in the period 2014-2020.

Details were also discussed regarding each of the project work packages and activities related to project management and coordination, communication and dissemination, the development of a joint

regional analysis, strategy and framework, the capacity building of energy managers as well as the presentation of PRO-ENERGY in the next EU Sustainable Energy Week conference.



Economic progress (up to 30/6/20)

Partner	Approved Budget (€)	Declared Expenditures (€)	Verified Expenditures (€)	Remaining Amount (€)
RU Thesprotia	306.000,00	0,00	0,00	306.000,00
DAE	195.500,00	0,00	0,00	195.500,00
CEA	102.000,00	2.870,29	0,00	102.000,00
EMS	102.000,00	0,00	0,00	102.000,00
RDA Plovdiv	187.000,00	29.753,31	29.753,31	157.246,69
Ministry AL	160.000,00	0,00	0,00	160.000,00
TOTAL	1.052.500,00	32.623,60	29.753,31	1.022.746,69

2nd Project meeting that took place on 18 December 2020 via web means

The second meeting of the partners took place via the use of web means in December 2020. The meeting was organized by the lead partner in order to continue discussions in relation to the development that took place in a number of Working Packages (WPs) and more specifically: WP1, WP2, WP3.

Representatives of all partners were present apart from representatives of the Albanian side. The Project Officer was also present.

Partners set new timeframes and milestones for the new period and until the official end date of the project in September 2021.

All partners were engaged to speed up the activities and ensure the sound implementation of the remaining actions in the most efficient way.

Other news and activities

Participation of the Regional Development Agency in a meeting of the Plovdiv Region Development Council, Bulgaria

Mr. Velizar Petrov and Alesandar Tonkov from RDA with BSC for SMEs as its members participated in the work of the Regional Council for Development of Plovdiv Region. Velizar Petrov informed the members of the Regional Development Council of Plovdiv Region about PRO-ENERGY project - Promoting Energy Eciency in Public Buildings of the Balkan Mediterranean Territory under the INTERREG Balkans - Mediterranean programme 2014-2020 and the upcoming first project meeting in Igoumenitsa - Greece as well as, and expressed his hope for a fruitful cooperation with municipalities of Plovdiv Region under the new project. More information can be found here: http://rda-bg.org/en/index.php/news/single?id=141

Energy Efficiency in public buildings

On 25 February 2020, during the meeting of Regional Council for Sustainable Energy Development at Regional Administration - Smolyan Mr. Velizar Petrov, the Executive Director of RDA BSC SMEs (Regional Development Agency with Business Support Centre for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises – Plovdiv and Aleksandar Tonkov from RDA with BSC for SMEs presented the project PRO-ENERGY: Promoting Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings of the Balkan Mediterranean Territory, co-funded by the Transnational Cooperation Program "Balkans - Mediterranean 2014-2020".

The meeting also discussed topics related to the obligations of municipalities and district administrations under the Energy Act and ENERGY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES ACT annual reports and deadlines for submission to the Sustainable Energy Development Agency.

The municipalities of Smolyan Region presented information about the participation, milestones, stages and progress of projects in the eld of energy efficiency in 2019 and 2020.

More information can be found here: http://rda-bg.org/en/index.php/news/single?id=136

Other news and activities

Energy Efficiency 2020

Energy Efficiency 2020 is the latest edition of the International Energy Agency's (IEA) annual update on global developments in energy efficiency. Through analysis of data, policies and technologies, it provides a comprehensive view of energy efficiency trends worldwide.

Energy efficiency plays an essential role in accelerating clean energy transitions and achieving global climate goals. This year's report focuses on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on energy efficiency and global energy markets this year, as well as analysis of 2019 trends.

By analysing the inclusion and impacts of energy efficiency in stimulus packages, the report also highlights the role of efficiency in supporting sustainable recovery efforts around the world by creating jobs and stimulating spending while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

More information here: https://www.iea.org/events/energy-efficiency-2020

Location data for buildings related energy efficiency policies

Energy efficiency constitutes one of the five dimensions of the European Commission's Energy Union Package 1, designed to enhance energy security, sustainability and competitiveness.

European energy policy is reflected in several Directives; the present document focuses on two main Directives concerning the efficient use of energy in buildings (Directive 2010/31/EU Energy Performance of Buildings – EPBD) and national energy systems (Directive 2012/27/EU Energy Efficiency Directive – EED). More information here: http://URL https://

e3p.jrc.ec.europa.eu/node/156

Guidebook: "How to Develop a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)

The EU committed itself to reducing its overall emissions to at least 20 % below 1990 levels by 2020. The Covenant of Mayors is a European initiative by which towns, cities and regions voluntarily commit to reducing their CO2 emissions beyond this 20 % target https://e3p.jrc.ec.europa.eu/articles/guidebook-how-develop-sustainable-energy-action-plan-seap

Project Partners

Presentation of Project Partners

The project is a collaboration between three national authorities, two development agencies and one energy agency in the Balkan Med area. Each of the project partners has a specialized role depending on their type of expertise and bringing in the project complementary skills which are important in achieving the project's objectives.

REGION OF EPIRUS-REGIONAL UNIT OF THESPROTIA, Greece

DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF EVIA, SA, Greece

CYPRUS ENERGY AGENCY, Cyprus

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, Cyprus

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, Bulgaria

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY, Albania

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The contents of this e-Newsletter are the sole responsibility of the PRO-ENERGY project partners and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union or of the Programme's management structures.

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