

TRACE Newsletter n.1

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Jointly for our common future

START-UP

WHY?

Buildings account for around 40% of Europe's total final energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. The sector has significant untapped potential for cost-effective energy savings. Increasing energy efficiency is among the main goals of the European Union. It is embedded in Europe 2020, the EU's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The EU has introduced legislation to ensure that the buildings consume less.

Monitoring Committee has confirmed the approval of TRACE project application for co-financing by the South East Europe (SEE) Program. Official start date of the project is: 1st of November, 2012.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The overall objective of the project is to support local and regional administrations in South East Europe to develop, uphold and advance policies and mechanism for improving the energy efficiency in buildings. This objective will be achieved through the development of transnational partnership, which facilitates the exchange of experience, knowledge and good practices among its members, and the implementation of joint actions on this matter of strategic importance. The results of the project will be systematically disseminated and will be openly available to anyone interested without constraints.



ABOUT SOUTH – EAST EUROPE PROGRAMME

The project is funded under the 4th call for proposal of the South-East Europe Programme (www.southeast-europe.net). The South East Europe programme is a unique instrument which, in the framework of the Regional Policy's Territorial Cooperation Objective, aims to improve integration and competitiveness in an area which is as complex as it is diverse. The programme is supporting projects developed within four Priority Axes: Innovation, Environment, Accessibility, and Sustainable Growth Areas - in line with the Lisbon and Gothenburg priorities, and is also contributing to the integration process of the non-EU member states.



PARTNERSHIP

The TRACE consortium brings together 2 regional administrations, 4 local administrations (2 cities & 2 provinces), 5 energy agencies, 1 regional development agency, 1 university and 1 centre for public management/governance from 9 countries. The topic addressed by TRACE is consistent with priorities and policies of these administrations, as they have key competences in the field of energy efficiency as planners, permits delivering authorities, implementers of the EPBD as well as owners of an important stock of real property.

The consortium also comprises national, regional and local energy agencies that play a crucial role in energy efficiency, as they provide information/advice to energy users, technical assistance and policy advice to public authorities. One University and one centre for public management/governance participate in the consortium as well, acting as knowledge partners.

All partners have had previous experiences of participating to EU territorial cooperation projects and have acquired relevant experience in the importance of transnational issues and the added benefits for the resolution of common issues across European Countries. All partners have established strong networks of contacts either at the regional, national or international level.

PARTNER	OFFICIAL NAME	COUNTRY
PIRAEUS	Municipality of PIRAEUS	Greece
WU	Vienna University of Economics and Business	Austria
GABROVO	Gabrovo Regional administration	Bulgaria
RAV	VARNA Regional administration	Bulgaria
SOFENA	Sofia Energy Agency	Bulgaria
KDZ	Centre for Public Administration Research	Austria
CRES	Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving	Greece
BRESCIA	Province of Brescia	Italy
PERUGIA	Province of Perugia	Italy
ENERO	Centre for Promotion of Clean and Efficient Energy in Romania	Romania
KSSENA	Energy Agency of Savinjska, Šaleška and Koroška Region	Slovenia
SERDA	Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency	Bosnia and Herzegovina
ZAGREB CITY	City of Zagreb	Croatia
EEC	Albania-EU Energy Efficiency Centre	Albania

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the major challenges faced today by countries in South East Europe and beyond is the reduction of energy wastages and the improvement of energy and resource efficiency.

This is necessary if Europe wants to find solutions to the threats posed by its increased dependency on energy imports, dwindling supplies of fossil fuels and soaring carbon dioxide emissions. A fifth of Europe's energy is wasted because of energy inefficiency and wastages.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to support local and regional administrations in South East Europe to develop, uphold and advance policies and mechanism for improving the energy efficiency in buildings.



To collect and analyze good practices on the use and impact of the energy performance certificates and on the financial incentives for improving the energy efficiency of buildings.



To develop and share knowledge resources and field experience reports on the current role and on the views and opinions of territorial administrations in South East Europe on energy performance of buildings.



To facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices through activities and events that will address existing needs, namely: study visits offering an opportunity to look closely at different approaches and transnational thematic workshops discussing and exchanging good practice experiences and promoting a policy debate.



The capacity building of executives within territorial administrations in order to acquaint the necessary know-how for promoting energy efficiency in buildings.



To develop territorial operational plans and policy recommendations for territorial public administrations on the issues related to the energy performance of buildings through analysis of territorial strategies and policies for the implementation of long-term energy efficiency targets buildings.



To set up appropriate structures, which will identify and prioritize energy efficiency investment possibilities as well as initiate leverage of public and private sources of finance.



To raise awareness regarding energy efficient buildings through extensive and systematic communication activities and to maximize sustainability of project results post SEE funding.

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