



September eNewsletter

Pilot project for low-energy building in Gabrovo (Bulgaria)

The Gabrovo municipality is one of the leading municipalities in Bulgaria for implementation of energy efficiency policies, and repeatedly initiates and completes ambitious projects.

Completion of the 'Sun' kindergarten to Passive House (PH) standards is an essential element of the overall policy of Gabrovo to promote energy efficient buildings. The project was developed with the support of EcoEnergy.



Given the high demands for energy efficiency, the shape and orientation of the two-storey building and the interior arrangement of the rooms have enabled maximum heat gains from sunlight and minimal thermal losses. The concept of the project is to attain energy class 'A' for net energy demand according to Bulgarian regulations and at the same time following the concept and complying with the PH standards for provision of year-round comfort at minimum exploitation costs.

According to PHPP calculations, the building has an energy heating demand of 9kWh/m²a. This small amount of additional energy for heating will be provided by an air to water thermal pump. Comfort will be ensured by floor heating and highly efficient ventilation with heat retrieval. A solar system with a selective collector will be used for hot water. There is a possibility for connection to the district heating network as an additional emergency measure in very low temperatures.

As the public procurement procedure was based on 'lowest price' criteria, it took an ambitious act by the municipality to keep to the PH standard. The municipality agreed to cover the difference between construction to PH standard and construction to minimal requirements from its own budget.

For more information, click [here](#), or contact ecoenergy@ecoenergy-bg.net.

Padova (Italy) implements high energy efficiency standards for local buildings

On 25 July 2013, the municipality of Padova (Italy) issued a document containing proposals on the new Sustainability Energy Regulation in the presence of institutional leaders and representatives of local stakeholders. This document introduces new energy and environment criteria and objectives through the improvement of building standards and renewable sources, with specific mentions of mitigation and adaptation. The draft of the document was produced by the Urban Planning, Environment and Private





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Building Office through a participatory path that began in November 2012. This was within the framework of the Forum Agenda21, which has involved key stakeholders in local municipalities.

The document is aligned with the EU Directive 31/2010, and states that from 31 December 2018 all new private constructions will have to be “close to zero energy” i.e. with very high energy performance. In their Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) the municipality of Padova oversaw the adoption of the sustainability regulation in order to introduce the principles of **eco-compatibility aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions**, improving the built heritage, promoting building interventions that seek to improve overall energy performance, and supporting the construction sector in the city.

Green Energy Week raises awareness on Crete (Greece)

At the beginning of April 2013 the Regional Energy Agency of Crete (REAC) invited six Cretan municipalities: Hersonissos, Heraklion, Minoa Pediadas, Malevizi, Festos, and Rethymnon - all signatories of the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) - to co-organize the first Green Energy Week on the island. The event involved five ‘Energy Days’ from the 3 – 7 June 2013. All six municipalities are currently preparing or improving their Sustainable Municipal Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) under the framework of the Covenant Capacity project and are closely cooperating with REAC for this purpose.



In order to ensure maximum impact and participation, the Region of Crete provided not only technical but also financial support to participating municipalities by partly covering communication expenses. Technical support was provided through written guidelines and meetings, while financial support acted as a reward for the signatories and as encouragement for those interested in signing the CoM in the future.

With the support of a great number of local stakeholders including cultural and professional associations, and local groups of volunteers and cyclists, municipalities responded to the invitation of the Energy Agency of the Region of Crete and within a few months time they managed to have a full program of activities raising awareness about sustainable energy consumption on the island. The program included celebratory events, educational activities aimed at children and lectures targeted at adults. It was published on the websites of the municipalities, the Region of Crete and the social media of REAC, while a press conference with the six mayors and the President of the Region also took place. It is hoped that the Green Energy Week will become a regular event in the Cretan calendar involving the active participation of all 24 of the island’s municipalities.

For more information, contact energy@crete.gov.gr





Renewable Energy Systems Training gets impressive results

Public Administration Training and Coaching on Renewable Energy Systems (PATRES), an IEE-funded project launched in 2010, was recently completed with excellent outcomes.

PATRES set out with ambitious objectives, actively involving local authorities in seven European countries (Italy, Spain, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Romania and Estonia). A decision was made to tackle the issue of promoting the use of RES systems and energy efficiency in private and public buildings based on building regulations, on Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) provided for in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors and on green public procurement (GPP) guidelines for local authorities' purchasing policies.

PATRES created an ad hoc package, comprising two main, complementary stages. First there was a training phase, complete with visits to examples of national and international best practice, to provide local authorities with the up-to-date technical knowledge and skills to implement sustainability in their policies. Secondly, the most committed participating institutions were helped to develop pilot actions for devising and adopting their own new policy tools.

The results speak for themselves: 160 local building regulations and 23 GPP regulations were adopted by the local authorities, 80 cities and towns signed the Covenant of Mayors and more than 100 SEAPs were approved.

A full final report and models for replications are available at: www.patres.net

For any additional information: patres@area.trieste.it

Sustainable municipal development in all areas in rural Slovenia

The municipality of Šentrupert, (Slovenia) founded in 2007, has embraced a model of municipal development that must be sustainable in all respects. They created a development strategy until 2025, indicating the implementation of projects in the field of green energy such as the renovation of the local primary school, a low-energy nursery built entirely of wood with a wood chip boiler, and a charging station for electric cars.



As regards heat, electricity and food self-sufficiency the municipality is planning a biomass cogeneration plant and building a four ha greenhouse complex at the prison in Dob. The predictions show a saving of €1 million staying in the municipality. The municipality is also planning a wood processing centre in land acquired from the Ministry of Defense. In the future the centre will produce all the wood chips for heating





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and electricity production in the prison, the school complex and district heating in the municipality. In addition, a reuse centre for the purpose of collecting and recycling unwanted furniture was established.

The municipality benefits by creating opportunities for employment and income among local people, and there is a possibility of employment for at least 50 prisoners from the production of energy and vegetables. The estimated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is about 2,700 tons.

Learn more about it [here](#) or write to sasa.kek@skupnostobcin.si.

2| UPCOMING EVENTS

“Covenant CapaCITY at Local Renewables” study tour in Freiburg!

Are you starting up or looking for ideas to improve your municipal Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)? Need ideas for measures? Want to become more ambitious? Solve problems?

Be inspired - share useful guidance, great ideas and tips on how to proceed with developing and financing your SEAP.

Local political decision-makers keen to learn about municipal energy policy, technical staff working on a Local Action Plan are welcome to join:

- Study tour 23-24 October 2013 - Visit Freiburg and the Solar region (Germany):

1.5 days power-packed with energy and ideas. A great programme – introducing local policy, cool strategies, exemplary approaches, ideas, inspiration – for you!

For more information contact covenant-capacity@iclei.org



Procurement & Financing Workshop at Local Renewables

A free, all-day Covenant CapaCITY workshop on improving financial access to sustainable energy roll-out will be held on 25 October 2013 in Freiburg, Germany. The workshop is open to local decision-makers, municipal staff and representatives of local government associations and energy agencies.

For more information and registration, contact covenant-capacity@iclei.org



For more upcoming Covenant CapaCITY events visit our [event calendar](#)

