



Newsletter

APRIL 2022

EVENTS

NEWS & ACTIVITIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

PROJECT PARTNERS

Introduction

Welcome to the third PRO-ENERGY eNewsletter!

During this period, project partners of the PRO-ENERGY project continued to collaborate in promoting strategic cooperation in the Balkan-Mediterranean area aiming at the promotion of energy efficiency in public buildings via behavioral change.

So far Project Partners have managed to reach a number of achievements and finalise a lot of project activities including the energy audits for the pilot buildings identified within the project. Energy Performance Certificates were issued through the energy audits procedure for the PRO-ENERGY pilot buildings. Furthermore, the capacity building seminars for the energy managers in Greece were completed during the period November – December.

Project partners have proceeded to the supply of the smart meters to be installed in their pilot buildings which will guide the behavior of energy consumers in energy-saving actions and contribute to achieving a 20% reduction of energy costs in public buildings, thus increasing energy efficiency. In the coming period, the configuration of the smart meters with the Joint ICT Platform will be completed.

The partnership welcomed the new Project Partner, the National Agency of Natural Resources (AKBN) in Albania. The AKBN replaced the previous Albanian partner during September 2021, where he officially entered the PRO-ENERGY partnership. The new partner's area of expertise is the development and supervision of rational use of natural resources, according to the Albanian government policy and monitoring of their post-exploitation in mining, petroleum and energy, thus brought great expertise to the project activities with his entrance.

The project is officially prolonged for another four months in order to allow the efficient implementation and completion of the remaining activities, as well as the implementation by the new partner who must anticipate the implementation of all activities.

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PRO-ENERGY Meetings and Events

PRO-ENERGY Training Seminars on Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings, 25-26 November 2021 (Region of Epirus – Regional Unit of Thesprotia)

TREK Development SA, acting as a subcontractor of the Region of Epirus – Regional Unit of Thesprotia (Lead Partner), organised and implemented the training seminars in Igoumenitsa on the 25th and 26th of November 2021. The participants (civil servants, energy managers, etc.) were presented with the training material produced by the project in the previous activities and improved their knowledge of the energy efficiency in the public buildings (legal framework, energy savings ways, etc.). Upon the completion of the training sessions, participants had also the opportunity to evaluate the seminars in terms of organisation and training material.



PRO-ENERGY Training Seminars on Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings, 6-7 December 2021 (DAE)

On the 6th and 7th of December 2021, the Development Agency of Evia (PP2) implemented its training sessions via a two-day training seminar in Chalkida, Evia. The Development Agency of Evia completed training seminars on:

- The legislative framework for energy efficiency
- Energy-saving and good practices
- Proposals for sustainability
- Building Energy Management System

In general, the participants left the training seminars in Chalkida more informed and aware of the issue of energy efficiency in public buildings, with the promise to apply the information provided by this educational experience.



PRO-ENERGY 5th Project Meeting (via web means) held on March 14, 2022

On March 14th, 2022, the 5th partnership meeting of PRO-ENERGY took place via web means (ZOOM platform). The Development Agency of Evia SA (PP2) hosted the meeting and representatives of all partners, including the new partner (AKBN), participated in order to evaluate the status of implementation and discuss the next steps and activities to be completed with emphasis on the completion of the PRO-ENERGY Pilot Actions (WP5).

Furthermore, project partners discussed about the dissemination and communication activities to be organised, as well as financial and managerial aspects of the project. Timeframes were set for the next two months and up to the project's end.

Physical progress (up to 31/12/21) 1/2

Activity/Task	Work Package - Sub-work Package	Start Date	End Date	Actual Progress	Planned Progress	Actual Progress	Planned Progress	Actual Progress	Planned Progress
WP1 - Project Management & Coordination	WP1.1	2021-01-01	2021-12-31	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
WP2 - Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings	WP2.1	2021-01-01	2021-12-31	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
WP3 - Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings	WP3.1	2021-01-01	2021-12-31	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
WP4 - Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings	WP4.1	2021-01-01	2021-12-31	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
WP5 - Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings	WP5.1	2021-01-01	2021-12-31	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed

PRO-ENERGY First Session of Training Seminars on Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings, 18 March 2022 (AKBN)

On the 17th of March 2022, the National Agency of Natural Resources (PP6), implemented the first training session on promoting energy efficiency in public buildings of the Balkan Mediterranean Territory. The training is aimed at the capacity building of the Albanian stakeholders to support energy efficiency.

The National Agency of Natural Resources completed the session on the following topics:

- Energy Efficiency Legislation in Albania
- Energy Efficiency Performance in Albania
- Energy Efficiency integration in public buildings
- Energy Performance in Building Sector in Albania
- What is new about energy efficiency in public buildings



Online Conference under PRO-ENERGY project held on April 14, 2022, by Region of Epirus – Regional Unit of Thesprotia

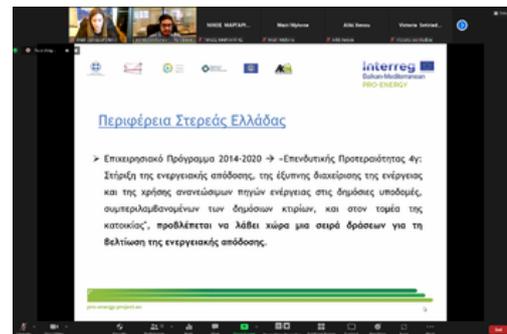
The Region of Epirus – Regional Unit of Thesprotia held an online conference dedicated to the PRO-ENERGY project. The event took place digitally on the 14th of April, 2022. The agenda of the conference included the presentation of the results of the work done within WP3 and WP4. The participants became acquainted with the project and its accomplishments thus far.

Of particular interest were the results of the activities of WP4 on the research carried out to identify the training needs, as well as the results of the evaluation of the training seminars that took place in Igoumenitsa during November 2021.

A virtual dissemination event took place by the Development Agency of Evia on the 15th of April 2022

On April 15, 2022, the Development Agency of Evia organized a local dissemination event in the framework of the PRO-ENERGY project “Promoting energy efficiency in public buildings of the Balkan - Mediterranean territory”.

The event was organized via digital means with the purpose to inform the participants about the research which have been carried out as a matter of the project implementations, and its results (existing situation analysis regarding the energy efficiency in the region of Central Greece, strategy and action plan for the increase of energy efficiency in public buildings, funding opportunities, etc.).



Reference was also made to the capacity-building trainings which were implemented, using the educational material produced by the PRO-ENERGY project.

At the end of the event, participants were encouraged to follow the project's social media pages to stay in touch with the project's future developments and final results.

Πρόγραμμα Συνεδρίου

11:00 - 11:15	Εγγραφή - Καλωσόρισμα συμμετεχόντων
11:15 - 11:30	Παρουσίαση Προγράμματος και Παρουσίαση έργου PRO-ENERGY
11:30 - 12:15	Στρατηγική και Στόχοι δράσης της Περιφερειακής Ενότητας Θεσπρωτίας σχετικά με την ενεργειακή απόδοση στα δημόσια κτίρια
12:15 - 12:20	BREAK
12:20 - 12:45	Εκπαιδευτικό Σεμινάριο PRO-ENERGY στην Θεσπρωτία
12:45 - 13:00	Κλείσιμο συνεδρίου

Διοργάνωση:

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΗΠΕΙΡΟΥ
ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΗ ΕΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΘΕΣΠΡΩΤΙΑΣ

Interreg
Balkan-Mediterranean
PRO-ENERGY
<https://pro-energy-project.eu/>



Other news and activities

European Commission proposes new Energy Efficiency Directive

The European Commission unveiled on Tuesday 5 April 2022 plans to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 60% before the end of the decade, saying the rest would be compensated with carbon removal. According to Frans Timmermans (Vice-President of the European Commission and responsible for the Green Deal), the plan emphasizes cutting emissions from transport and office buildings. As far as buildings are concerned, the idea is to use them less and better. "By reducing the number of buildings we use, by also changing the energy mix of the buildings, by using the money we save to make the buildings we have more energy-efficient and, hopefully, climate-neutral at some point," Timmermans said.

Last year, the EU executive had already announced that it would halve the number of buildings it manages in Brussels - from 50 to 25 by 2030. The adopted announcement said the remaining office buildings will be used more flexibly, with dynamic collaborative workspaces and increased teleworking, which has already become commonplace since the Coronavirus outbreak in 2020. In buildings themselves, on-site energy production will be developed using solar photovoltaic panels and solar water heating.



Europe's Renewable Energy future

Europe is in the latest of a long line of energy crises going back to the 1970s, with wholesale gas prices surging and energy bills soaring for households and businesses across the continent. With energy prices at record highs, policymakers face a decisive moment in the energy transition. To make this the last energy crisis and affordably meet the European Union's (EU) net-zero target,

EU leaders need to boldly scale-up renewables at an unprecedented rate. According to Sushil Purohit, the President of Wärtsilä Energy and EVP Wärtsilä Corporation, Europe stands on the precipice of a once-in-a-generation moment to transition quickly and definitively to renewables, cutting emissions and harnessing the potential of unlimited clean power. To understand the opportunity, a predominantly renewable-based power system was modeled and will build by 2030. For more information on the topic: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy/opinion/europes-renewable-energy-future/>

Plovdiv, Bulgaria: The RDA BSC SMEs – part of INVEST project



The vision of the INVEST project is to create a modern single European university that meets the needs and requirements of the new generation of Europeans as leaders in promoting a sustainable way of life in the regions. The coordinator is the Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra. In addition to UARD (University of Agribusiness & Rural Development), the consortium also includes the University of Thessaly (Greece), the University of Applied Sciences Karelia (Finland) and the Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands). The UARD is a pilot building in Bulgaria during the PRO-ENERGY project.

At the end of the project, 10 general BSc programs, 4 MSc and 2 PhD language courses and living labs should be created. As an associate partner, UARD has attracted the RDA BSC SMEs for working on preparation of Living Labs in partners countries as well as on bachelor's and master's programmes, incl. programmes of "Sustainable Communities in Energy Transition" with study units as "Energy Policy and Advocacy", etc.

More information about INVEST: <https://www.invest-alliance.eu>

Upcoming Meeting and Events

European Commission proposes new Energy Efficiency Directive

In 2022, the European Energy Efficiency Conference presents the far-reaching transformation of policies, technologies, and markets for achieving climate neutrality. Find out how to raise the pace of change, how we can increase acceptance, trigger investments, and get things moving – full speed! The event offers delegates a comprehensive package of 5 conferences.



The conference will take place on April 7-8, 2022, at Wels, Austria. The region of Upper Austria is an ideal location for this conference: Through significant increases in energy efficiency and renewable energy, GHG emissions from buildings were reduced by 39 % in 10 years. 60 % of all space heating and 31% of the primary energy in Upper Austria already come from renewables.

Information here:

<https://www.wsed.at/fileadmin/WSED2/2022/Drucksorten/WSED-2022-EnergyEfficiencyConference-Programme.pdf>

7th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency

June 2022
7th IEA Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency

Co-hosted by Denmark and the International Energy Agency

The Global Conference will bring together decision-makers from government, industry, and civil society to focus on how international ambition for energy efficiency can be translated into faster and stronger real-world progress.

It comes at a crucial moment as governments ramp up ambition on climate change while tackling the new energy shocks of the 21st century. It will focus on early implementation, both to keep on track for the global path to net zero, and to tackle the immediate and pressing energy security and market pressures. It will build on IEA's (International Energy Agency) recent work on how to reduce energy import dependence while strengthening progress towards net zero imperatives.

The event will take place on June 7-9, 2022, in Sønderborg, Denmark. For more information visit here:

<https://www.iea-events.org/energy-efficiency>.

EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) 2022

The European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) will take place from 26 to 30 September 2022 in a hybrid format. The European Sustainable Energy Week is the biggest annual event dedicated to renewables and efficient energy use in Europe. It consists of a series of activities to build a secure energy future for Europe. It brings together public authorities, private companies, academia, NGOs, and consumers to promote initiatives to save energy and move towards renewables for clean, secure and efficient power.



More details:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/be-ready-eusew-2022-2022-02-16_en.

Project Partners

Presentation of Project Partners

The project is a collaboration between two national authorities, two development agencies, and two energy agencies 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



NATIONAL AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, 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 European Union or the Programme's management structures.

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