



# Introduction

## Welcome to the second 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 the Energy Efficiency in Public buildings via behavioural change.

So far the partners have managed to reach a number of achievements including the finalization of the Joint Strategy as well as the finalization of the Energy Audits based on Joint criteria.

Behavioural change being at the core of the project is one of the main means for the achievement of the energy efficiency goals for the selected public buildings. In this frame, the partnership completed the questionnaire-based research for the assessment of the training needs of the employees and users of the public sector buildings that will participate in the training seminars. The partnership completed the training material on the basis of a set study guide and further implemented a

number of seminars took place in Cyprus and Bulgaria. Seminars in Greece will be implemented the coming period. Since the beginning of the project several delays have taken place mainly due to the restrictions that were caused due to COVID-19 pandemic. Still the partners managed to overcome such difficulties using smart tools including web means in order to meet and coordinate in the best possible way the future activities. The project will be prolonged to allow partners realise the rest of the activities to be implemented in the most efficient way.

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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 Meetings and Events (1/2)

## PRO-ENERGY technical meeting (via web-means), held on 6 April 2021

The meeting was organised by the lead partner of the project in order to coordinate on technical issues and specifically in relation to the Working Packages 3 and 4 for the finalization of the Joint Strategy and the Energy Audits as well as the finalization of the training material and completion of the seminars.



Representatives of all partners were present apart from representatives of the Albanian side. During the meeting the Lead Partner represented by the consultant, stressed the need to speed up with management related activities. Partners set timeframes in relation to the finalization of the Joint

Strategy in order to organise the public events and consultations in this frame. They also discussed the possibility to organise them via web means. Partners discussed also issues related to energy audits and difficulties faced due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19. Timeframes were set in order to finalise them by end of May.

## 3rd Project meeting that took place on 27 May 2021 via web means

The third project meeting of the partners took place via the use of web means in May 2021. The meeting was organized by the lead partner in order to continue discussions in relation to the development that took place in all Working Packages (WPs), overview the progress made to that point and set new timeframes 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 best way possible.

## 4th Project meeting held on 27 July 2021 via web means

The fourth project meeting was held on 27 July 2021. The main aim of the meeting was to continue discussions in relation to the development that took place so far and set the main targets in terms of financial and physical progress for the next period. The meeting also aimed at discussing strategic issues in relation to: project prolongation, budget modifications as well as updates in relation to the replacement of the AL partner. Partners discussed about the future activities in relation to Working Package 5 and especially the realization of the ICT platform that is one of the main outputs of the project, along with the CBA Modeller & Energy Performance Contracting-EPC.

Time-schedule up to project end – based on prolonga (1/3)

|   | Deliverable  | Responsible |
|---|--|-------------|
| 1 | 5 <sup>th</sup> Progress Report (period: from 01/07/2021 up to 31/12/2021)       | PBs         |
| 2 | Verification of Expenditures (period: from 01/07/2021 up to 31/12/2021)          | PBs         |
| 3 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Joint Progress Report (period: from 01/07/2021 up to 31/12/2021) | LB          |
| 4 | 6 <sup>th</sup> Progress Report (period: from 01/01/2022 up to 30/06/2022)       | PBs         |
| 5 | Verification of Expenditures (period: from 01/07/2021 up to 31/12/2021)          | PBs         |
| 6 | 5 <sup>th</sup> Joint Progress Report (period: from 01/07/2021 up to 31/12/2021) | LB          |
| 7 | 5 <sup>th</sup> Project Meeting  | LB-PBs      |
| 8 | 6 <sup>th</sup> (Final) Project Meeting  | LB-PBs      |

31/07/2021  
30/10/2021  
30/1/2022

© Project Meeting July 27, 2021

# PRO-ENERGY Meetings and Events (2/2)

Hybrid Conference under PRO-ENERGY Project held on 24 June 2021, in Plovdiv



RDA BSC SME (Agency for Regional Development with Business Center for Small and Medium Enterprises) held a hybrid conference (online and offline) under the project PRO-ENERGY for the first time. The Joint Strategy and Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, developed within the project, as well as the activities of AUER (Agency for Sustainable Energy Development) were presented. The participants got acquainted with the project and what has been achieved so far.

Reference was made also to the building that was chosen for the Energy Audit, the UARD (University of agribusiness and rural development). The building

was audited and energy efficiency measures were prescribed. Its certification is forthcoming.

**PRO-ENERGY: Training Seminars on Energy Saving in Public Buildings, 22-23 June 2021, via web means (CEA)**

On June 22-23, Cyprus Energy Agency held a two-day online training within the framework of the Interreg Balkan-Med project Pro Energy. The training which was addressed to civil servants, aimed at informing them about energy-saving best practices, but energy-efficiency enhancement through behavioral change.

Participants had the opportunity to attend a range of sessions related to the Energy Efficiency legal framework, Green Public Procurement and Energy Saving Best Practices through behavioral change.

**PRO-ENERGY: Training Seminars on Energy**

**Saving in Public Buildings, 1st July 2021, Electromechanical Service**

The Sustainable Energy Research Group Frederick University, acting as a subcontractor of the Electromechanical Service, organized a training seminar on the 1st of July at the PIO building in Nicosia entitled Energy Saving Practices in Buildings of the Public Sector. The seminar was organized for the project “Promoting Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings of the Balkan-Mediterranean Territory - Pro-Energy” that is implemented under Programme “INTERREG Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-



2020”. Speakers at the seminar were Mr Nicholas Panayides from the @EMS, Dr Paris Fokaides of Frederick University Cyprus and Ms Soulla Kara of the Cyprus Energy Agency.

# Other news and activities

## New Energy Directive 2021

On 14 July 2021, the European Commission published a proposal for recasting the EU Directive on Energy Efficiency. The main aim is to stimulate EU efforts to promote energy efficiency and achieve energy savings in the fight against climate change



The initiative is part of the Commission package of proposals “Delivering on the European Green Deal”, with a view to reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and the ultimate objective of becoming climate neutral by 2050. It interlinks with a number of today’s other proposals, notably the revised Renewable Energy Directive, the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) and the new Social Climate Fund, and the revision of the Effort Sharing

Regulation. More information here: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-proposes-new-energy-efficiency-directive-2021-jul-14\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-proposes-new-energy-efficiency-directive-2021-jul-14_en)

## Rating the smart readiness of EU buildings

The smart readiness indicator (SRI) is a common EU scheme for rating the readiness of buildings to use smart technologies, which was introduced in the 2018 revision of the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive. SRI will help raise awareness of the benefits smart building technologies bring for creating healthy, energy-efficient and comfortable buildings, including via building automation and electronic monitoring of heating, hot water,



ventilation and lightning. More information here: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/rating-smart-readiness-eu-buildings-2021-aug-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/rating-smart-readiness-eu-buildings-2021-aug-19_en)

## European Energy Efficiency Conference 2021

European Energy Efficiency Conference 2021 took place from 22 to 24 June in Wels/Austria aiming at boosting economic recovery with energy efficiency. Europe has the ambitious goal of becoming the first climate neutral continent by 2050. The Green Deal and the EU Climate Law are first concrete steps. The current economic challenges are also an opportunity to accelerate decarbonisation and to create a fairer society and a more competitive economy. In 2021, the conference - attracts over 400 participants from over 50. More information here: <https://fedarene.org/>



# Upcoming Meetings & Events

## Citizen's Energy Forum, December 2021

As last year, the event is being organised by the European Commission in collaboration with the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), Ireland's independent energy and water regulator. The 2021 edition of the forum will take place on 2nd and 3rd December and it will be a "hybrid" event - both on site and virtual - taking into account the uncertainty of travel due to COVID and to open up for a larger participation. More information, registration and a draft agenda will be shared on this page after summer. For social media: #En4Cit.

More information here:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/>



[events/citizens-energy-forum-2021-dec-02\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/citizens-energy-forum-2021-dec-02_en)

## EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) 2021

The EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) will take place on 25-29 October 2021 under the theme: 'Towards 2030: Reshaping the European Energy System'.

Last year, EUSEW went completely digital and this year you will be able to find us online once again. The event will comprise a 3-day digital policy conference, the EUSEW Awards, the second European Youth Energy Day as well as various networking activities. Participants will also have access to online side events and Energy Days, digital events taking place all over Europe.

Registration will open in September. For social media follow: #EUSEW21. More information here: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/eu-sustainable-energy-week/eu-sustainable-energy-week-eusew-2021-oct-25\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/eu-sustainable-energy-week/eu-sustainable-energy-week-eusew-2021-oct-25_en)

## Covenant of Mayors Ceremony 2021

The Covenant of Mayors Ceremony 2021 will be an opportunity to discuss a new chapter of the Covenant of Mayors initiative, with a new political commitment organised around four main topics: commit, engage, act and network. These topics will be reflected in a series of panels with key representatives of EU institutions and of European municipalities. The ceremony will also help keep momentum and illustrate the leading role of local governments in implementing the energy transition and climate action, a few weeks before COP26 in Glasgow. The ceremony will be held online and accessible to all across Europe and the world, although primarily addressed at Covenant signatories, prospective signatories, and other stakeholders interested in the work of the Covenant of Mayors.



# 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 ENERGY AGENCY, Cyprus**



Department of  
Electrical and  
Mechanical Services

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL  
SERVICES, Cyprus**



**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, Bulgaria**



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY, Albania**

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