

25-29 OCTOBER 2021
EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK
TOWARDS 2030: RESHAPING
THE EUROPEAN ENERGY SYSTEM



#EUSEW2021

ENERGY TALKS



INTRODUCTION

In the frame of the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2021, the consortium of the EU funded project PRO-ENERGY would like to express its interest to participate in the EUSEW Energy Talks that will take place in October 2021 via the online platform hosted by EUSEW, with the aim to hold a discussion on projects, solutions, ideas and actions in the field of sustainable energy.

THE “PRO-ENERGY” PROJECT

PRO-ENERGY is the acronym of the transnational cooperation project “Promoting Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings of the Balkan Mediterranean Territory”, co-financed by the Cooperation Programme “Interreg V-B Balkan Mediterranean 2014-2020”. The project started in late 2019 and ends in early 2022.

The common challenge of PRO-ENERGY is to improve energy efficiency of public buildings. This is a joint problem faced by the countries participating in the project (Greece, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Albania): old facilities; outdated building façades, materials and equipment (insulation, electrical appliances, cooling/heating systems etc.); low energy consciousness and awareness; lack of skilled civil servants; etc. all leading to high energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. Thus, it is more than evident that there is room for improvements in energy consumption and more efficient use of energy. At the same time, the exemplary role of the public sector should be promoted by increasing energy savings in public buildings.

PRO-ENERGY addresses all these issues by developing and implementing joint strategies and action plans, by increasing the competences of public buildings owners and operators, by developing and applying technologies and tools for reducing energy consumption in public buildings and by promoting good practices and results generated by the project to other local/regional/national entities in the wider Balkan-Mediterranean region. This way the project addresses the:

- policy and institutional level,

- human resources level, and
- the managerial systems level.

The novel energy saving technologies promoted by PRO-ENERGY refer to Behaviour-based Energy Efficiency; behavioural efficiency programs and strategies are a cost-effective way to reduce energy consumption, as literature and practice suggests.

The project's overall objective is to promote Energy Efficiency in public buildings in the Balkan Mediterranean territory and to create a practical framework of modelling and implementing energy investment interventions, through specific ICT monitoring and control systems, as well as energy performance contracting. The specific objective is to reduce by >20% energy spending in public buildings of the participating entities in one year after the implementation of pilot actions.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The main activities of the project are being summarised as follows:

- Existing situation analysis in terms of energy efficiency
- Good practices selection and benchmarking
- Joint strategy and action plan for increasing energy efficiency through behavioural change
- Joint criteria for selecting pilot public buildings
- Energy audits in pilot public buildings
- Capacity Building for Energy Managers
- Installation of smart meters in pilot public buildings
- Design, development and operation of a joint platform for monitoring and improving energy efficiency in the selected pilot public buildings
- Design and development of a joint cost-benefit analysis modeller for measuring the net present value of energy efficiency interventions
- Design of tailor-made Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs).

EXPECTED RESULTS

The project's expected results are the following:

- Increased energy efficiency in the participating territories:
 - 20% reduced energy consumption in one year after project implementation
 - 5 public buildings with improved energy efficiency
- Enhanced capacity of participating territories and other stakeholders:
 - 15 training sessions
 - 200 civil servants trained
 - 500 stakeholders from all territories trained
- Improved funding opportunities for energy upgrades through EPCs
- Increased awareness of local populations on sustainable energy policies and actions

EUSEW 2021 - ENERGY TALKS

The following pages present the contribution of the consortium of PRO-ENERGY on the basis of the requirements set for the participation in the Energy Talks, as described in the official website of the EUSEW2021. More specifically:

CONCEPT

Question: What is your motivation to give an Energy Talk?

Answer: We consider our participation in the EU Sustainable Week as a great opportunity to network and interact with stakeholders who are active in the field of sustainable energy and energy efficiency, overall, and exchange views and good practices.

Now that our project is coming to its end, we are eager to share the outcomes and results we achieved so as to multiply and transfer them to other interested bodies, as well as learn from peers on similar interventions and initiatives.

Ultimately, we could form alliances with like-minded organisations across Europe, with the aim to extend and enhance our efforts in other contexts. Taking into consideration that Energy Efficiency remains a top priority in the EU Agenda and the New MFF, we are planning already our follow-up actions for the next programming period.

Question: What is the expected outcome?

Answer:

- ✚ Raise awareness about PRO-ENERGY outputs and results
- ✚ Replicate / transfer knowledge to interested parties
- ✚ Build alliances with like-minded organisations across EU
- ✚ Stimulate dialogue with regard to energy efficiency and behavioural change
- ✚ Capitalise outputs and results of PRO-ENERGY and similar projects in the frame of the new programming period.

Question: What interactive elements are planned to stimulate discussion and debate with the participants?

Answer:

- ✚ Brief presentation of the project major outcomes and results, so as to instigate dialogue with participants
- ✚ Polls including a set number of questions addressed to the participants (open questions or multiple-choice questions) that will run in parallel with the presentation. Such questions may refer to their background and similar actions and activities that they have taken in the area of energy efficiency.

- ✚ Open questions that will be addressed following the presentation (in the frame of 10 min Q/A)

Question: What actions will you take to promote your presence among the EUSEW participants and beyond?

Answer:

- ✚ All project partners will actively participate and interact in several sessions organised during EUSEW 2021 (Policy Conference and Extended Programme)
- ✚ The project will announce and disseminate its presence in EUSEW Energy Talks via several means (project website, project social media accounts, partners' official websites and social media, Balkan Med Programme official website and social media etc.)

CONTENT

Question: What are the key elements of the proposed contribution?

Answer: The key elements of the proposed contribution are summarised as follows:

- ✚ Improved energy efficiency
- ✚ Reduced dependence on energy imports
- ✚ Mitigation: greenhouse gas emissions reductions
- ✚ Energy Performance in Buildings
- ✚ Investments in new low-carbon technologies
- ✚ Grid infrastructure
- ✚ Increased capacities & awareness of local societies on energy efficiency& savings practices & the respective benefits

Question: How do these fit with the EU sustainable energy policy agenda, the European Green Deal, and the activities needed to implement the clean energy transition?

Answer: The aforementioned key elements are interlinked with the EU sustainable energy policy agenda, the European Green Deal, and the activities needed to implement the clean energy transition as follows:

- ❖ **EU Green Deal**: links to main actions under the EU Green Deal as follows: i) climate change mitigation and adaptation, ii) prioritisation of energy efficiency and improvement of public buildings' energy performance, iii) empowerment of consumers and help EU countries to tackle energy poverty
- ❖ **Energy Union Strategy**: two dimensions of the Energy Union such as: i) Energy Efficiency and ii) Climate action, decarbonising the economy.
- ❖ **Clean energy for all Europeans package**: a number of laws under this package as follows: i) Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EU 2018/844), ii) Directive 2010/31/EU and Directive on Energy Efficiency ((EU) 2018/2002) - currently both under review
- ❖ **National energy and climate plans (NECPs)**: areas covered by NECPs such as: energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reductions
- ❖ **National long-term strategies**: areas covered such as: i) total greenhouse gas emission reductions, ii) emission reductions and enhancements of removals in individual sectors, including electricity, the heating and cooling and buildings sector (residential and tertiary), links to other national long-term objectives, planning and other policies and measures, and investment
- ❖ **2050 energy roadmap (2011)**: prerequisites to achieve its goals: significant investments in new low-carbon technologies, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and grid infrastructure

Question: What are the solutions and benefits for society?

Answer: Solutions and benefits for the society linked also with the EU Green Deal targets in improving the well-being and health of citizens and future generations are summarised as follows:



Renovated, energy efficient buildings



Cleaner energy and cutting-edge clean technological innovation



Increased capacities & awareness of local societies on energy efficiency & savings practices & the respective benefits

INNOVATION

Question: What innovative features does your contribution include?

Answer:

The innovativeness of PRO-ENERGY lies on the fact that most energy efficiency measures involve technological interventions, but will equally have to rely on people adjusting their energy consumption behaviour. To do so, consumers should be provided with meaningful, clearly communicated and continual feedback. PRO-ENERGY focuses on non-domestic consumers (employees/visitors etc. of public buildings), because in this segment initiatives are normally delivered at the organisational level and there is no direct link to personal wealth of the individual users. Motivation for those users to engage in energy efficiency behaviours is therefore very different from domestic users and must rely on corporate and social responsibility objectives and reinforcing societal norms. Behaviour change measures at work may inspire consumers to act differently at home increasing thus multiplier effects.

Back in 2016 when the project was visualised, but even after 3 years, in 2019, when it was officially launched, the behavioural aspect in energy efficiency was not sufficiently explored. We believe that this is still underestimated or ignored and would like to highlight it through concrete examples and demonstration actions of our project.