

**Shining  
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## Foreword

The "Towards Class A" electronic newsletter is intended to keep you posted on the activities and progress of the "Towards Class A - Municipal Buildings as Shining Examples" project (2005-2007). The "Towards Class A" project is co-financed by the European Commission's DG TREN. It is aimed at anticipating and accelerating the implementation of the European "Buildings" Directive through the extension of the European Display™ Campaign.

Energie-Cités - November 2005

## Shining Examples – The Casa Municipal Do Ambiente in Almada

### What are Shining Examples?

The idea behind "Shining Examples" is to promote good practice so that local authorities can learn from each other and discover that "shining examples are everywhere and in a town near to you". A Shining Example does not necessarily have to have a high efficiency rating – a rapid increase in efficiency, for example, or original marketing strategy can also be worthy of this title.

### "Sustainability begins at home" – The Casa Municipal Do Ambiente (Municipal Environmental Building) in Almada (PT)



The Casa Municipal Do Ambiente is situated in the centre of Almada. Following the implementation of Local Agenda 21 in Almada, this building was refurbished with the aim of providing an appropriately (energy and environment conscious) home for the Environmental Planning Department, Ecolibrary and the Local Energy Management Agency of Almada.

The fact that the building had been built in the 1930's meant the greatest challenge was to maintain the original architectural design features while at the same time incorporate energy and environmental concerns – to match both the aims of Almada's Local Agenda 21 process and the aims of the organisations it houses.

The reason for selecting it as a Shining Example was its comprehensive refurbishment realising energy efficiency measures in all the main fields: building envelope, lighting and appliances and heating/cooling. Furthermore, a tight monitoring and evaluation network was established including, for example, heat metering and monthly energy

readings. The results of these evaluations are communicated to the staff in internal meetings. This resulted in a high level of awareness as well as the identification of new energy-saving opportunities. In 2005 the building was rated A for its energy performance, B for CO2 emissions and C for water consumption.

All of these measures make it a role model for other local authorities planning interventions on their buildings.

For further information on Shining Examples:  
[http://www.display-campaign.org/page\\_41.html](http://www.display-campaign.org/page_41.html)



## Towards "Class A" Award

The Towards "Class A" Award will recognise **good municipal communication practice** and aims to raise the awareness of building users about the energy and water consumption, as well as the CO2 emissions of public buildings.

The Award shall also offer an incentive for municipalities to improve or compare their communication strategies, ultimately leading to the improvement of their buildings' performances towards Class A or to become "Shining Examples".

The most important criteria for the evaluation are:

- Visibility
- Diversity of supporting communication materials
- Public participation
- Innovation
- Integration and replicability

Participation is open to all municipalities and local authorities, who are participants of the Display™ Campaign.

**The award ceremony is set for spring 2006.** Further details will be given in the next edition of the newsletter early next year.



## Partner Portrait - EuroACE

In 1998, 20 of Europe's leading companies involved with the manufacture, distribution and installation of a variety of energy saving goods and services joined forces as the European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE).



This initiative followed an invitation from the former European Commission's deputy director general of Environment to attend a meeting in Brussels where companies were informed about the importance of reducing energy consumption in buildings - responsible for over 40% of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions.

The challenge was set: why don't you work together to ensure this happens?

Since that time, EuroACE has been in continuous dialogue with those in the European Union charged with developing programmes, both to assess and realise this potential. EuroACE has commissioned several substantial research documents, intended to facilitate effective policy making in this area.

The EuroACE member companies are involved with the manufacture, distribution and installation of a variety of energy saving goods and services. They together employ 438,000 people and have a turnover of 70 billion euro.

EuroACE's mission is to work together with the European institutions to help Europe move towards a more sustainable pattern of energy use in buildings, and therefore reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, one of the principal climate change gases.

As a partner in the Towards Class A project, EuroACE is involved in determining what makes municipal buildings participating in the Display campaign 'Shining Examples' for others to follow. EuroACE is working

with municipalities, building on its members' European networks, to produce Shining Example case studies for promotion via the Display website. Representatives from EuroACE's membership will also form part of the jury which will decide on the recipients of Towards Class A award for the best communication strategy.

Links: EuroACE website: [www.euroace.org](http://www.euroace.org)  
 EuroACE's objectives for 2005/6: [www.euroace.org/objectives.htm](http://www.euroace.org/objectives.htm)

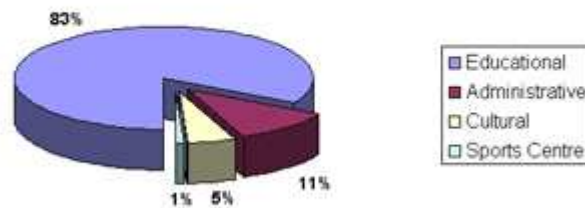


## Display™ Campaign results update

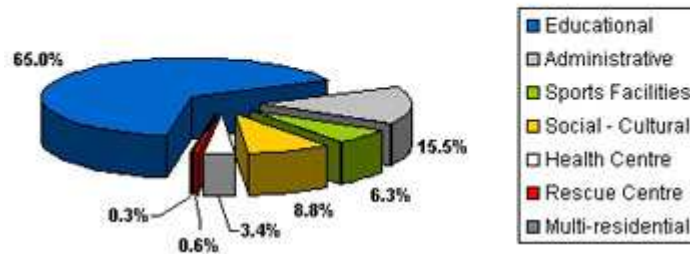
There are currently 114 cities from 19 countries involved in the Display™ Campaign of which 99 are registered on the website. More than 1950 buildings representing 11 building types have been entered. The results of the most recent statistical analysis are presented below.

### Distribution of Building Types

Distribution of 1005 buildings 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005

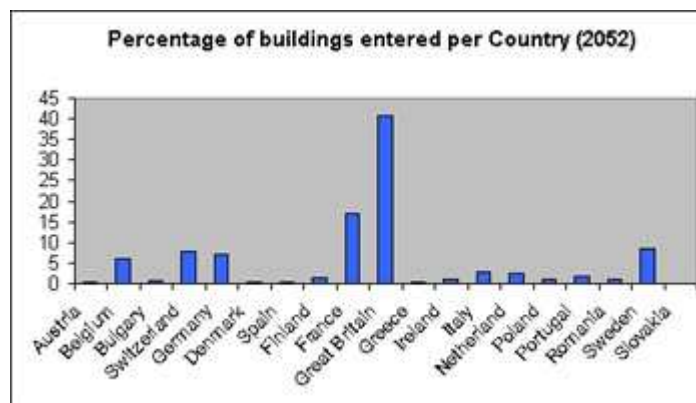


Distribution of 2052 building types 1st Nov 2005



The choice of building types within the calculation tool has evolved since the start of the project: Initially 'general school' was the only building type available, while in March 2004 there were four building classes available to the users of the tool, by June 2005 the choice had increased to 11 types ranging from rescue centres to multi-residential. The results can easily be seen when comparing the two graphs from March 2005 and October 2005. While in March, 83% of the buildings registered were educational, this number had decreased to 65% in October. As the numbers of buildings entered increases by building type it will become easier to fix precise benchmarks per building type before the end of the year.

### Number of Members and Buildings per Country

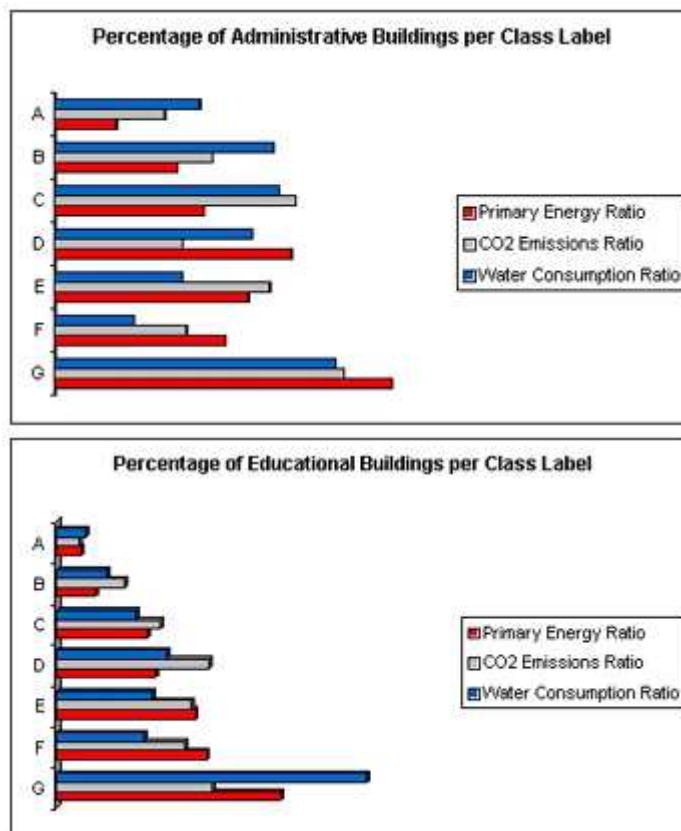


## Member cities per country

Austria	1	Greece	2
Belgium	1	Ireland	12
Bulgaria	2	Italy	7
Switzerland	9	Netherlands	3
Germany	6	Poland	1
Denmark	1	Portugal	3
Spain	2	Romania	1
Finland	1	Sweden	1
France	51	Slovakia	1
Great Britain	11		

Currently more than 2050 buildings have been entered. This constitutes a remarkable increase from the 1350 buildings registered at the end of May this year. Forerunner is the municipality of Durham in Great Britain with more than 400 buildings entered. This is also the reason why Great Britain has a high percentage of buildings per country, as can be seen in the graph above, even though they have 11 cities involved compared to the 51 in France.

## Distribution of Buildings According to Class



As there is insufficient data for all building types it was considered more suitable to show a selection of building types with sufficient data, namely administrative and educational, rather than put all the building types into one graph.

These two graphs indicate that in general the statistics follow a classic bell curve. However, there is consistently a peak in the G category thus showing the need for a 'towards Class A' help centre where municipalities can seek advice on practical measures to improve the rating of their buildings.

