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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 - April 2006

Editorial

Energy Efficiency - at the top of the European Agenda

At the recent Spring Summit of Heads of State and government of 23-24 March, a first step towards a European Energy Policy was made. The savings target of 20% by 2020 was embraced by the European leaders. [...] All the more disappointing to note that the overwhelming majority of Member States are dragging their feet with the implementation. [...] It might not be long before Parliament, Council and Commission come up with even more stringent legislation concerning the implementation of the *Energy Performance of Buildings Directive* (EPBD). (Katrien Prins - DG TREN project officer)

Nevertheless, Display is one step ahead. The Display Campaign is preparing municipalities for the implementation of the EPBD by offering them the opportunity to take part in a European movement. Let us work together for a successful implementation of the EPBD at a local level. Be pioneers! Get your cities involved!



Shining Example - Energy Services welcomed in Guesthouse

This 1895-built Guesthouse has achieved an A rating for energy using a 15 year energy services contract. The building, owned by CFF (the Swiss Railway), is in close proximity to the Lausanne railway station and is rented by the Guesthouse managers.



The town of Lausanne has been developing a strong sustainable energy policy over several years and offers free energy audits as a part of its implementation. SIL, the Lausanne energy supplier, proposed that the CFF carry out such an audit and as a result they jointly agreed to undertake refurbishment of the building in accordance with the Swiss Minergie system of building performance accreditation. This led to the formation of an energy services contract which reflected CFF's aim to refurbish the building in a way that minimised its ecological footprint and achieved the best possible level of energy effectiveness. Consequently, the following improvements were made: 3 cm façade insulation, insulation of the roof and the basement ceiling, window replacement, installation of controlled ventilation with heat recovery and 62 m² of thermal solar cells installed for the production of warm water.



Under the energy services contract, these improvements were made at the energy supplier's (SIL's) expense: The Guesthouse managers would only pay for the energy they required, but were committed to the supplier for 15 years (the length of the contract). This would allow sufficient time for SIL to recover its investment costs, and also meant that it had an interest in selecting the most suitable technologies and installed/maintained them in accordance with best practice.



Through this approach the Guesthouse managers were able to reduce their energy consumption to 126 kWh/m²/a (A rating*) and achieve a B rating for CO₂ emissions.

For more details regarding this Shining Example:
http://www.display-campaign.org/page_158.html
www.lausanne-guesthouse.ch

* please note that the guesthouse was entered as a health centre as there is no option for guesthouses as building type in Display



'Display – Towards Class A' Award 2006

The 'Display – Towards Class A' Award recognises best municipal communication campaigns and will raise the awareness of building users about energy and water consumption, as well as the CO₂ emissions of public buildings.

The Award is open to all local authorities who are members of the Display Campaign. The deadline for sending the application forms is set for the 2nd June 2006.

The Towards "Class A" Award ceremony will take place on 26 October in Riga (Latvia), during the 3rd BISE Forum.

Welcome to Velenje – our first relay city in Slovenia

The city of Velenje lies in the North – East of Slovenia. It is mainly built on the surface of the valley Šaleška Dolina. The City of Velenje has 34.000 inhabitants and an area of 83,5 sq km, being the 5th largest Slovenian city.

The Municipality of Velenje did a strategic energy plan for the whole city in 2005 which includes analyses of the energy performance of public and other buildings. The energy indicators in the public buildings are currently higher than the European standards. For this purpose the Municipality of Velenje has been doing energy audits of public buildings, increasing the awareness of all the inhabitants concerning energy efficiency and also stimulating leaders of public institutions to be more energy sustainable.

We congratulate Velenje for joining the Display Campaign and for being our relay city in Slovenia. The calculation tool has been translated into Slovenian and we hope to see some more Slovenian cities joining the Campaign soon.



Partner portrait: Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)



The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the umbrella organisation of local and regional governments in Europe; its members are national associations of towns, municipalities and regions from over 30 countries.

The CEMR network on energy issues brings together local and regional government representatives dedicated to promote a more sustainable production and use of energy. The network works towards raising the profile of sustainable energy within local and regional governments, both among practitioners and elected members.

The aims of the network are to:

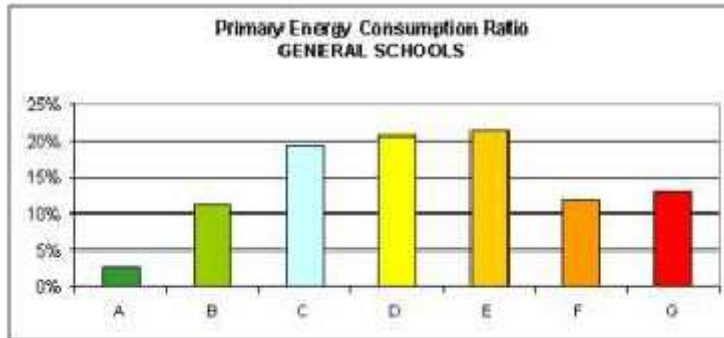
- provide timely input from local and regional governments to the formulation of Community legislation, programmes, actions and initiatives;
- collect and disseminate information relevant for local and regional governments throughout Europe;
- facilitate the exchange of experience between its members;
- contribute to the move towards a low carbon economy through developing a shared vision for the future of energy usage;
- promote the wide implementation of the Aalborg Commitments in relation to the energy, transport and climate protection objectives (www.aalborgplus10.dk).

Buildings are responsible for one third of Europe's energy consumption and therefore a major source of greenhouse emissions. Energy costs also represent an increasing budgetary burden for local and regional authorities. Hence it is essential to develop efficient ways to rationalise the use of energy. The Display™ Campaign is a practical example of how the requirement of the EU "Buildings Directive" on displaying energy information of public buildings can be implemented. Therefore the CEMR Network on Energy Issues is engaged in supporting the wide implementation of the Display™ Campaign.

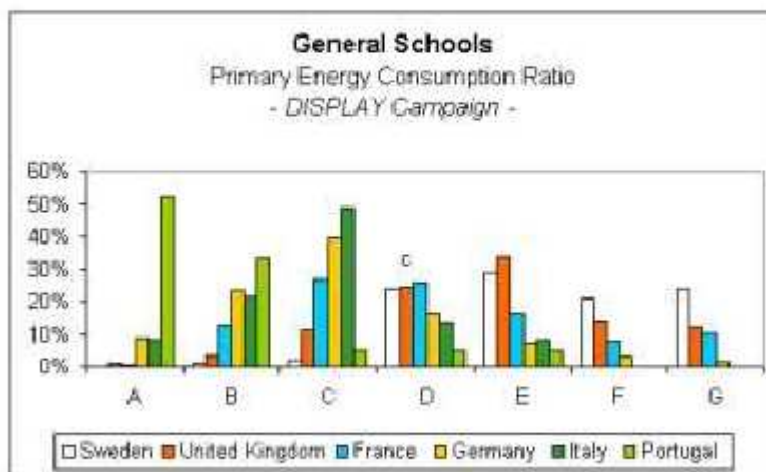
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When comparing the performance of the general schools per country, in general, the graph below indicates a classical bell curve with a peak in C (France, Germany, Italy) and a peak in E (Sweden, United Kingdom).



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