



Energy performance of your public buildings: **Towards Class A Project**

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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 - February 2006

Editorial

"The status of implementation on this day, the well-known 4 January 2006 deadline, is [...] far beyond our most pessimistic expectations." (Eduardo Maldonado, Concerted Action steering group)

The 4 January 2006 has passed and with it the deadline for implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. However, no Member State has finalised the transposition of the directive into national law and the respective ordinances yet.

Display in contrast is ready and going and we are heading towards a major event – the first **TCA Award** ceremony. The Award competition was officially launched during the First Annual Sustainable Energy Communities Conference in Brussels on November, 29th 2005. We would like to encourage all municipalities and local authorities throughout Europe who are members of the Display Campaign to submit their application. **Deadline for application is June, 2nd 2006.** Further information, as well as the application form can be found at http://www.display-campaign.org/page_214.html.



The Energy Efficiency Week in Brasov, Romania – a Shining Example of communication





In October 2005 the energy management and environment protection agency of Brasov (ABMEE) organised an energy efficiency week in order to inform and empower the citizens regarding energy efficiency, exchange experiences with other municipalities and get support from authorities and other actors for the implementation of energy efficiency projects. In the framework of the Energy Efficiency Week three main events took place:

- Launching of Display in Brasov
- Launching of an Energy Info Point
- The first Romanian BISE forum ABMEE chose to organise these three events in the framework of one large one, as they believe that linking events together helps to raise awareness and media coverage.



Display - During the Energy Efficiency Week Display was launched in three schools. In each of the schools the pupils prepared a special event according to their school profile to celebrate the official launching event. For example one of them was a handball match. Moreover, every institution received 6 digital thermometers for temperature monitoring in the key points of their respective building. As follow-up, ABMEE will prepare a course module on energy efficiency to be implemented in those schools that are now part of the Display Campaign. As a result of Display the Municipality of Brasov has decided to retrofit two of the schools Scoala Generala and Liceul Sportiv. The third school, Liceul de Arta was retrofitted 2 years ago.



Energy Info Point – At the energy info point citizens can find, free of charge, useful information and advice on energy efficiency issues. There are also brochures, guides and a whole series of other useful material available. The launch was accompanied by two contests: a contest for sidewalk drawings and graphics for pupils and one contest for citizens.



BISE forum - The first Romanian Better Integration for Sustainable Energy (BISE) Forum was a two day event during which participants tried to come forward with practical solutions for the problems the East European countries encounter in their attempt to implement energy efficiency projects, problems which are quite specific and different from the problems of West European countries.

As indicators for measuring the success of the week the number of participants in each event, press coverage and the outcomes of each event were chosen. As to the first two indicators (number of participants and press coverage) the event was very successful with a large number of participants and broad media coverage both locally and internationally. The Energy Efficiency Week in October 2005 was the first event of this kind organized in Brasov. All stakeholders (local and national authorities, citizens, media) have been confronted with a new concept of improving their life comfort. Therefore results in terms of CO2 emissions and energy saved are expected to start being measurable in the course of 2006/07.

With the Energy Efficiency Week Brasov has organised an event well suited for applying for the Towards "Class A" Award which focuses on the communication activities of local authorities.

More information about the Energy Efficiency Week can be found at <http://>



Congratulations to...

...Valga – our new relay city in Estonia



The photo shows Mr Elmu Potter of the Regional Energy Centre in Estonia accepting the signed charter for Valga from Mr Gérard Magnin, the executive director of Energie-Cités.

Valga with its 14 700 inhabitants is situated in the south of Estonia right at the Latvian border. The town of Valga owns in total 22 buildings, of which the biggest share is made up of schools, kindergartens and administrative buildings. In 1995 renovation works mainly on heat sub-stations started. Other measures implemented are e.g. the installation of thermostatic valves, the replacement of old windows and several insulation works. These renovation works, together with the implementation of energy saving measures, have already led to a decrease in heat consumption of up to 20%. Nevertheless, there are still refurbishments to be carried out to also decrease energy and water consumption. As energy and water costs consume 10% of the city's budget, it is expected that with the help of Display substantial savings will be made.

Up to now 5 buildings are registered and the data for two more is already available. Thanks to Elmu Potter, who translated the calculation tool into Estonian, Valga is now able to enter buildings on its own.

...Kaunas – the first Lithuanian municipality to join Display

The city of Kaunas is situated at the confluence of the rivers Neris and Nemunas. In 1441 it became a Hanseatic city. Nowadays Kaunas is the second largest city in Lithuania and a cultural, business and industrial centre. Out of its nearly 40 000 inhabitants approximately 3 500 are students, studying at one of the city's seven universities.

To improve energy efficiency in public buildings many measures were implemented, e.g. improvement of the buildings' thermal insulation, installation of thermostatic radiator valves, balancing of the heating systems. And now they are starting the Display Campaign to improve their communication with the building users. The calculation tool has been translated into Lithuanian and we hope to see some more Lithuanian cities joining the Campaign soon.

...the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly - More than 10 local authorities join Display for a reduced rate

The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly consists of representatives from 22 city councils, along with a range of social, economic and environmental organisations. One of its main tasks is to help shape where and what types of development will meet the future needs of the region and therefore work towards a sustainable future.



Last year, after a presentation of Display during a seminar in York focussed on improving energy use in local council buildings, the Assembly agreed to become an Associated Partner of the Display Campaign and it was agreed that a special deal would be possible if ten or more members of the Assembly joined before the end of 2005. Thanks to the encouragement of Andrew Cooper and Ruth Sherratt this deal became a reality and now all the other local authorities from the region still have the possibility to join this year at a reduced rate.

The following City Councils decided to take advantage of this special offer: Bradford, Calderdale, Doncaster, Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, North Yorkshire, Ryedale, Sheffield, York and Wakefield.

Due to the success of this arrangement we have decided to make it available to all regions throughout Europe. Take advantage of this offer, get at least ten municipalities together and join for half price! Contact Ian Turner if you are interested in joining as an Associated Partner of the Display Campaign at www.energie-cites.org/ian



Partner Portrait: EnEffect

EnEffect Establishment The Centre for Energy Efficiency EnEffect is a non-profit NGO. It was established in Sofia in 1992 to support the Bulgarian state and local authorities in their effort to reach sustainable development by improving energy efficiency.

Objectives

- › Contribute to the implementation of energy efficiency policy at all levels in Bulgaria
- › Assist in the process of institutional development and capacity building in Bulgaria as a prerequisite for the initiation, development and implementation of energy efficiency programs and projects
- › Assist in the development of a local market for and promote local manufacturers of energy-saving materials, products and services
- › Assist in the transfer of technology and exchange of experience and information.

Priorities

- › Overcoming the barriers on the way to energy efficiency and introduction of incentives for energy savings
- › Development and management of demonstration and investment projects
- › Support municipalities in the elaboration of municipal energy efficiency programs
- › Education and training
- › Dissemination of information.

Major partners National government, local authorities, research and educational centres, companies and NGOs in Bulgaria, Global Environment Facility, UNDP, European Commission, UN ECE, USAID, Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, international networks, consultancy companies, institutions and NGOs from Europe and the USA

National and International Networks EnEffect is the secretariat of the Municipal Energy Efficiency Network EcoEnergy. The network consists of 42 Bulgarian municipalities and 1 municipal association. EnEffect is also acting as secretariat for the Regional Network for Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in Southeast Europe (RENEUER), whose members are municipalities, NGOs and companies from Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania and Serbia and Montenegro.

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