

The E.D.E. Energy Strategy: Systematic Work On Energy Efficiency

Efficient use of energy is a widespread and well understood concept in economy that is indispensable component of everyday business. Reason for the above is the competitiveness. We are finding out in practice, that is completely in case of efficient energy use in buildings and especially RCHEP, where the RCHEP owners came across the concept only in recent years. The main drive for the changes in mentality is EU policy in field of environmental changes, and consequently legislative changes, state action plans, subventions, development and demonstration projects, pressures of the public, higher awareness among users, etc.

However, in reviewing the situation in this area you can still find that in most of these buildings no one systematically dealt with the problem of energy consumption. More often they are directors who want to reduce the cost of energy bills. However, austerity measures in such cases normally are not carried out systematically but they depend on the current initiatives, information or offers.

Systematic energy management is only possible by integration of the two areas, setting up an umbrella energy management and use of good information support that at all times provides relevant information about what is happening to the consumption, comparing the performance of the same type buildings on the basis of key energy indicators, at the same time it represents a friendly tool that can be used by different user profiles.



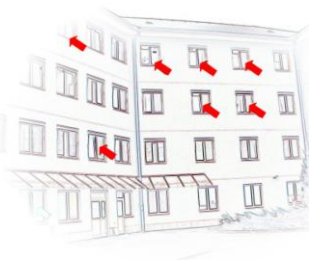
Among others, these are also objectives of the project Save Age, which includes partners from 10 EU countries. Energy management and hence deductive approach of analysis and transfer of best practices and techniques to individual RCHEP based on knowledge and experience of specialised institutions is the foundation of the E.D.E. energy strategy. Only the latter will represent a key document of the project and the basis for systematic work on energy efficiency.



Can we expect more from the project as stack of paper? Certainly. After the conclusion of the project we will know more at the level of E.D.E.. We will be better acquainted with common consumption and costs of energy of the members, key indicators of efficiency of type RCHEP, will be known, systematically the potentials in individual sections will be estimated and much more. Theoretical considerations on the potentials, which in general rating exceed 20% of existing energy will have to be proved in the case studies. So rather than just theory, the practice is ahead of us.

In countries involved in the project the partners are already intensively working on project tasks.

SSZS in Slovenia for example already integrated into operations pilot modern information management system of energy that represents the Best Available Technique in this area. At the same time the need for umbrella energy manager was shown immediately on the level of SSZS. **High cost of energy and water per inhabitant, that exceeds 2 times the same cost per family member in private homes** and planned investments in the rehabilitation of some buildings are just additional reason for a systematic approach to this area.



Such responses confirm that we are on right track. Interest in measures that improve energy efficiency is high, if we would know to meaningfully and systematically present these measures on concrete examples, that are comprehensive and known to care homes management. At the same time it is necessary to offer practical solutions for sustainable monitoring of the energy parameters and most of all permanent provision of expert support. Only in this case the measures could be effective on short-term as well as on long-term, the results achieved, and the dissemination of results will be the the best incentive to systematically address this area in large number of homes across Europe.