

## **SAVE AGE steps into next project phase with concrete energy efficiency support activities for care homes**

*Without doubt the thorough baseline analysis and energy audits of European-wide 100 care homes lead to important insight and know-how about energy consumption in the care sector. In the second project phase of SAVE AGE this know-how has to be now transferred into useful cooperation activities with care homes, their roof organisations and other stakeholders of the sector. For this aim the German SAVE AGE partners start a series of seminars, workshops and activities with the 10 German pilot homes and other networking partners.*

The energy audits and the intense discussions with 10 German care homes have shown, that most organisations are rather 'strategic' regarding the cyclic renovation of the buildings and the heating, ventilation and air conditioning plants. Where built, installed and maintained well these buildings can provide the best living comfort and quality also at very low energy consumptions. What very often makes the difference is the so very well known 'human factor'. Care homes with more or less the same building standard can differ also by 100 % in energy consumption for example when the heating and ventilation plant control devices are not well adjusted, when rooms are ventilated by staff too long even with the room radiators turned on or when heating trolleys and refrigerators in the kitchen are not used in a proper way.

In some of the German homes up to 13 MWh of heating energy and 5.5 MWh of electrical energy per resident and year were consumed. Both amounts are sufficient for heating a whole single-family house and supplying a household of 6 persons for a whole year with electricity. Time to act! Also because the best practices show that these values can be halved for electricity and reduced by 70 % for heating. "And we think we can even become better" states the director of one of the role model homes.

In a series of seminars, workshops and activities the German partners will develop and implement a training and coaching scheme for the management and the staff of care homes. This will be done in close cooperation with representatives and staff of the 10 pilot care homes. As special feature for the initiative 20 students of the Stuttgart Media University presently develop suitable materials for motivating energy saving behaviour. The aim: The director shall be right after all!