

Newsletter No. 4

April 2013

Editorial

The SAVE AGE project joins 13 partners from 10 European countries and 100 residential care homes. The project proved to be the most important European initiative addressing energy efficiency in residential care homes for the elderly. During the project the partners discovered that energy efficiency in residential care homes is often being neglected and that the potential for energy savings is really vast.

Since the SAVE AGE project is coming to the final phase, our last, 4th newsletter deals with the final press conference and interesting summaries of activities in four different participating countries, namely Greece, Portugal, Italy, and Slovenia.

For more information on SAVE AGE please visit www.saveage.eu.

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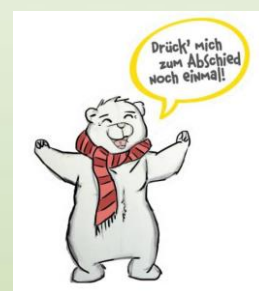
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Remarks at the Conclusion of the SAVE AGE Project

The main aim of the SAVE AGE project is to increase energy efficiency in residential care homes through raising awareness among management and residents. Our analyses have shown that residential care homes for the elderly lack knowledge and awareness regarding energy efficiency and are generally quite reluctant to acquire new technologies. The main concern of care home's management is to provide care of the best quality, while technical energy issues tend to be neglected.

We discovered that there are big differences among European countries regarding temperatures in various rooms. If European standards on temperature would apply, considerable energy savings could be achieved. In one quarter of analysed residential care homes lights are always on, even when nobody is in the room. The most inefficient behaviour is room ventilation while heating or cooling systems are on – this practice can be found in half of the buildings.

Knowledge on energy efficiency was improved by implementing 20 workshops and trainings in the participating countries with more than 540 participants. Useful practical application of knowledge is available on-line as a library of best available techniques for individual categories, such as air conditioning, ventilation systems, heat systems, washing and drying machines, lighting, energy management, and so on.



Creative door hangers (Italy), workshop in Portugal and Eddie, the polar bear (Germany)

Based on the results of the energy analysis, SAVE AGE is now focusing on measures to improve energy awareness and behaviour of employees and residents. Integration of possible solutions into the daily routine has been discussed together with the pilot facilities.

In the last months, partners have been working with national energy efficiency managers to give residential care homes practical consulting support. Residential care homes are provided with knowledge, creative visibility signs and promotion materials. A free Benchmark Tool can be downloaded from the project's website to calculate the energy consumption of a residential care home. For further information please visit www.saveage.eu.

Final Press Conference – Ljubljana, 4 April 2013

The final press conference took place on 4 April 2013 in Ljubljana. There were 78 participants who wanted to know more about project's results and future cooperation possibilities.



Participants at the press conference, Mr Darko Ferčej and Ms Laure Deschaintre

At the beginning of the conference, Mr Darko Ferčej from E-zavod, project's lead partner, presented the background of the project, its goals, activities, and results. The next speakers Ms Laure Deschaintre (Solites, Germany), Mr Daniellle Raspini (ASP Martelli, Italy), and Mr Boris Koprivnikar (ASIS, Slovenia) presented the current energy situation in residential care homes in their countries and several interesting best practices, dealing with the visibility measures campaign, visibility pilot actions and the 'save ageing' sensor, and a comprehensive information system for energy management. The conference was concluded by Mr Pau Garcia Audi from Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI), who presented Intelligent Energy Europe Call for Proposals 2013.



Mr Danielle Raspini, Mr Boris Koprivnikar and Mr Pau Garcia Audi

The participants of the conference were reporters, representatives of Slovenian residential care homes, energy managers and advisers, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and so on; they all were very satisfied with the conference and gave us a really positive feedback.

For more information on best practices please visit www.saveage.eu.

Partners' Experiences

Greece

Continuous support is offered to several residential care homes in Greece in order to "save energy". Support to managers, employees and residents led to interesting findings, leading to remarkable energy savings. Detailed action plans were elaborated to support potential energy investments.

A successful result of the continuous support to care homes is the example of the CHURCH CARE HOME OF KATERINI METROPOLIS. The actual needs were taken into consideration along with the increase in energy prices in Greece. The detailed energy audit offered several options for energy savings. Moreover, possibilities for funding were identified and analysed, leading to financial support from the Greek Rural Development Programme. The investment included installation of a photovoltaic system, energy efficient heating system, energy efficient kitchen equipment, and energy efficient washing-drying equipment.



Visibility signs and a newly installed photovoltaic system

Another residential care home has installed a photovoltaic system, solar collectors for pre-heating of hot water (see photo), and converted the heating system to be powered by gas. Moreover, some residential care homes have proceeded with major energy rehabilitation projects (2.5 M€ budget) or targeted actions for energy savings (around 30,000 € budget) with the help of donations or capital achieved with previous energy savings.



Portugal

In Portugal, workshops were organized at five residential care homes for elderly people. Electrical engineers presented some good and bad practices with the help of simple analogies. At the end of the workshops, participants were encouraged to play the “Energy Efficiency Game”, which was created to change their everyday behaviour in the future. The game consisted of a computerized “board”, where three different teams had to find their way to energy efficiency, fulfilling some challenges and questions. The main goal of the game was to remember energy efficiency advice and good practices, even after the workshop.



The board game and visibility stickers

The participants also received some visibility signs to be spread all over the residential care homes, trying to remind the residents and employees to close doors to keep the room temperature, switch off the lamps when leaving a room, switch off the TV from the outlet when not in use, not taking the elevator if possible, and not letting tap water running unnecessarily. All stickers have catchy sayings with word playing. The lighting sticker has the particularity of having phosphorescent letters, hence, when a person switches off the light, they will only see the glowing letters thanking them for that action. It is a kind of positive reinforcement. We are not telling them what to do; we are thanking them for doing it.

We established that managers in Portugal are very interested in energy efficiency and keen on improving their installations. In all five workshops we had a good interaction with people posing several questions and commenting on their practices explaining why they did it and why they thought it was correct.

SAVE AGE

Save Energy

green energy for elderly



Italy

In order to disseminate the SAVE AGE results and to improve awareness in residential care homes, we decided to design some tools. We prepared a graphic calendar to catch attention with useful energy saving advice for each month. 300 copies were printed and sent to residential care homes all around Italy. We also prepared a SAVE AGE kit with door hangers, an institutional folder with energy efficiency advice for management, and a normative folder with advice for the employees. With the help of the analyses carried out at the beginning of the project, we established that the most critical areas in residential care homes are the laundry room and kitchen, so we decided to pay special attention to the staff working with kitchen and laundry appliances.



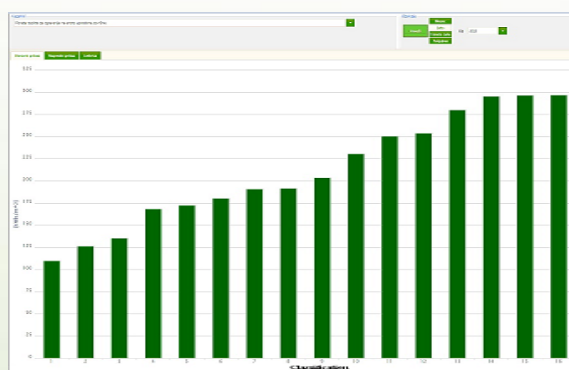
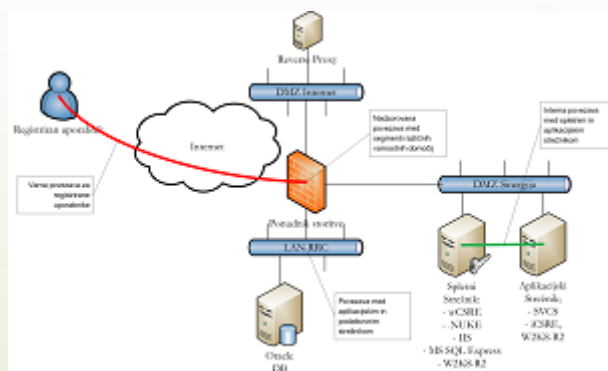
SAVE AGE calendar, stand at Autumnia, children's visibility signs

To spread the results of the SAVE AGE project, we published articles in some Italian newspapers and magazines; we also had several meetings with decision makers and energy advisory companies. In 2011, we participated at Autumnia (exhibition dedicated to the environment, agriculture and food) in Florence with our own stand to distribute SAVE AGE materials and best practices.

In order to strengthen the intergenerational cooperation, we decided to promote energy efficiency in public schools in Florence. We asked children to help us with slogans and pictures that will remind the employees and residents to behave in an energy efficient way. They produced some very creative and interesting visibility signs.

In Italy, the SAVE AGE project has reached a lot of people; from participating residential care homes, to other homes for the elderly and even schools. We expect at least three residential care homes to reach 25% - 30% of energy reduction until 2014, all thanks to the SAVE AGE project and implemented energy efficiency measures.

Several Slovenian residential care homes have already realized the importance of energy efficiency and have joined the central system for energy management on the level of Association of Social Institutions of Slovenia. The system was established within the SAVE AGE project in January 2011 and by now, 22 residential care homes have been actively involved in the system. A basis for energy, environment, and cost efficiency evaluation is represented by an umbrella information system for energy management – CSRE.



The implementation costs of system for energy management and other joint measures (such as joint purchase of electrical energy and fossil fuels, optimization of the network access charges, supervision of accuracy of statements of accounts, etc.) are negligible in the comparison with the achieved effect. On average, savings for an individual organization are 8 times bigger than the project's costs.



In order to improve residents' and employees' energy behaviour, we decided to prepare visibility signs to be used in residential care homes. With the help of students of graphic and interactive communication we prepared material for reminding residents and employees to behave in an energy efficient way.

The Association of Social Institutions of Slovenia has devoted a lot of time and effort to improve the energy situation in Slovenian residential care homes. The awareness on energy efficiency will continue to improve with further implementation of different measures, continuous reporting, auditing and comparisons.

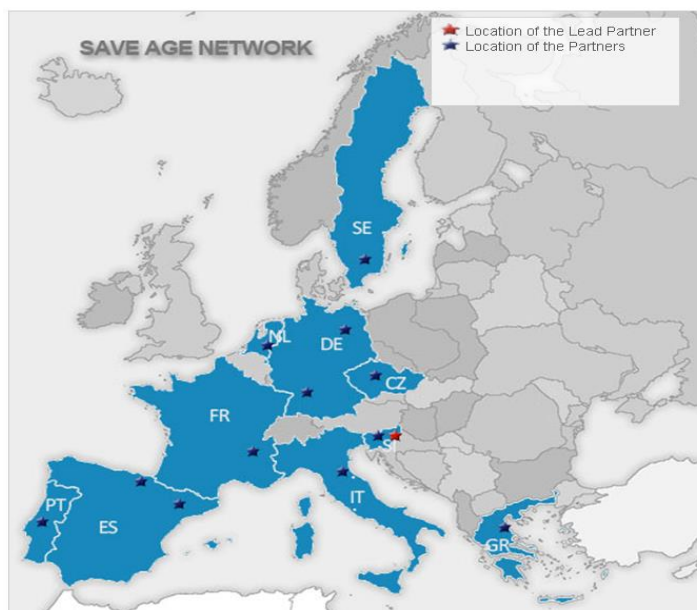
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Participating Partners In 10 European Countries



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