



1st CAPITALIZATION MEETING
Thursday 10 October 2013
IAT, Sevilla

Wordcafé session outcomes and conclusions.

Group 1 (coordinated by Fabio Tomasi – AREA Science Park)

Discussion theme: *How to support local and regional authorities in fostering Energy Efficiency in buildings*

There was a common agreement that usually the key energy requirement for buildings are set at national level according to EU directives, regions and local authorities can in any case play a key role and therefore it is paramount for the EU to support them in the process. In most European and Mediterranean countries regions or even local authorities can set higher standards and more ambitious goals, urban planning, building regulations and practices and the way they are implemented have a significant impact on the construction market, citizens behavior and finally environmental impact.

A common problem for regional and local authorities in most of the Mediterranean countries is that national legislation is very often unclear, confusing and contradictory and constantly changing making a demanding task for the local authorities to keep they regulations and practice4s updated and understand what they can do and what they cannot.

Representatives from many projects illustrated the methodologies that proved to be more effective in supporting local or regional authorities in implementing their energy policies:

- Training combined with a tailor made coaching by external experts connected with a promotion of networking and peer reviews methodology. Actions aiming at the political level should focus on strategy, those aimed at the key staff on local authorities on writing good regulations.

Public officers very often spend their times exclusively inside their organization with very few opportunities of exchanging experiences and know how It has been suggested that this networking approach should be implemented at two different levels:

- at national level since the framework is the same and so the lessons learnt and the best solutions can be easily replicated;

- at European level to widen the perspective, learn from different experiences and have new innovative idea. Transferring ideas from other countries where the institutional, cultural, economic and climate framework is different, is not an easy task and a lot of adaptation is required. Therefore it is suggested to held a final session in which a discussion facilitated by some expert is focused on finding proper way for adapting the most promising ideas learnt abroad.
- The realization of pilot action or pilot plant as an open lab to test new technologies and solutions is also appreciated. A common trademark of these pilot activities should be an easy replicability of the solutions identified.
- Development and update of databases or surveys with real data (energy certificate are not always an accurate depiction of the actual efficiency of a building) on building energy efficiency in order to provide regions with proper data on the state of the art in their region. Ideally there should be a single European database in order to have comparable data.
- Technology roadmaps in order to provide local authorities with technology trends and let me define their policies considering emerging technologies.
- To support local authorities signing the Covenant of Mayor in developing their SEAP (a demanding task for most municipalities).
- Providing softwares for monitoring energy consumption.
- Building capacities actions in engineering and management for local authorities local staff. Public authorities modernization Is particularly important in Mediterranean countries.

At the group participated also representatives from regional or local authorities and the support they asked from their side is, beside what illustrated above:

- At present mobilizing proper funds for public investments is a major problem for local authorities in all local authorities. Most of them find difficult even providing basic services to their citizens and therefore are not able to make investments even if these in the medium or long term would lead to considerable budgetary savings. In this frame fragmentation of the different funds available is also a big problem since it increases significantly the administrative burden in managing different programs and rules. Concentrating the available funds for investments in a single container would be an ideal solution for local and regional authorities.
- A way to support the renovation of low incomes families is a major challenge

In general terms the results of all European projects should be easily replicable.

It is also suggested by the participants to the discussion group to the MED JTS to organize capitalization workshops open to a wide range of stakeholders in which projects with similar outputs presents their results. These workshop should be very specialized focused on a key topic without thje digression of the classical project presentation.



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Group 2 (coordinated by Pablo de la Rosa - IAT)

Discussion theme: *How to support the construction market, enterprises and final users, fostering innovation in companies in the field of energy efficiency in building?*

The conclusions of the abovementioned discussion theme, are divided in three main domains, in accordance with the different actors that could support the companies to foster innovation in the field of energy efficiency in building: construction market, enterprises and final users.

✚ Construction market

Regarding the construction market domain, the following issues have been highlighted:

- An ESCO model could be implemented in order to foster the building refurbishment, able to be adapted to singular regions characteristics and features, such as the type of building construction, weather conditions, etc.
- A solution to the problem of reducing the costs of energy efficiency implementation in buildings has to be found, since it currently increases the price of buildings considerably.
- A long term plan for the sector should be established, that should not be affected by changes in government.
- Local and regional governments should apply energy efficiency measures in their buildings thus to provide general society with an example, that could also profit the construction sector.

✚ Enterprises

Regarding the enterprise domain, the following suggestion have been proposed:

- The introduction of the Life Cycle Assessment into construction products could improve the manufacturing activities and boost the enterprises of the sector as well.

This initiative should be linked to a governmental plan for increasing the percentage of the nearly zero energy building stock.

- A public database with examples of innovative technology uses should be established. In order to make it user friendly, only the most important data should be uploaded and displayed to the enterprises of the sector.
- The introduction of the Building Information Modelling (BIM) into the sector companies along with the spreading of obtained results could improve building sustainable design and trigger future actions.

Final users

Regarding the final users domain, the following suggestions have been proposed:

- A public information concerning, on the one side, the type of refurbished buildings in the region and, on the other one, the public administrations involved in the such procedure, should be granted.
- In order to improve the behaviour of citizenship, taxes could be implemented by governments in accordance to energy consumption level or energy certification of buildings.



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Group 3 (coordinated by Miguel Marco Fondevila - CIRCE)

Discussion theme: *How to change behaviours of citizenship and their buying inclination in renovation of buildings.*

The conclusions and initiatives presented next are the result of summarizing the opinions and proposals of the three groups of participants. Most of them had similar understandings of the behavioral challenge, yet a relevant number and variety of alternatives brought in.

The specific theme and the way it is presented, suggested a two steps approach to discussion. In the first stage, the focus was placed on 'What is or needs to be changed and why?' Secondly, the possible initiatives, policies and actions addressing those needs which may be a solution, were listed and analyzed by the different groups. The three main aspects to be changed regarding the behavior of citizens in restoring or buying buildings are the following:

1. Low perception of real costs of overconsumption of energy. This insufficient perception affects the economic costs, but also the environmental, social and long term impacts.
2. Insufficient know-how and/ or availability of efficient solutions and technologies, by the citizens themselves, as well by professionals in areas such as plumbing, electricity technicians, installers, etc., who may not promote the most efficient options.
3. Adopting energy efficiency as buying criteria is mainly linked to already sensitized consumers and citizens. In fact, there are stakeholders and actors who are not really interested in the promotion of energy efficiency, and who use their marketing means to avoid a shift from consumers towards energy efficient behaviours.

As stated previously, the three groups' discussions produced a significant number of ideas, some related to other initiatives already going on, and some to future potential projects and initiatives. Although some of the ideas selected may have an impact in more than one of the problems highlighted, most of them are directly related to the aspects to be changed stated in the previous paragraphs. Therefore, they are presented with the same logic:

1. Low perception:
 - 1.1. More awareness campaigns are needed, specially at schools and education centers, so children interiorize the importance of resource rational use.
 - 1.2. Better marketing, branding or labeling tactics should be used to promote energy efficiency, so it really gets to the public and stays in their minds.
 - 1.3. Some 'public exposure' actions could be approved, such as rending publicly accessible the households' levels of consumption, or promoting games and competition amongst residential or business buildings, where the lower consumption gets the prize or reconnaissance.
 - 1.4. Promoting the use of home monitoring devices which may inform the consumers about their appliances performance, as well as bring closer the commitment to reduce energy consumption.
2. Know-how and availability
 - 2.1. To develop a specific pack or set with easy to install measures and devices, which may be friendly to consumers, and widely disseminated by public authorities. It may serve as a first step towards installing more intense measures of energy efficiency.
 - 2.2. Promote and enforce the need for professionals' training and update, probably using systems based on certifications, labeling or homologation, so trust and understanding is built up between professionals and users.
 - 2.3. Enhance the information systems and tools, by including more details and energy efficiency specifications within the docs needed when buying a house, or establishing information points throughout the cities or within the public buildings, so citizens can ask and be promptly informed.
3. Energy efficiency as buying criteria
 - 3.1. Most of the measures proposed are linked to taxation schemes, whether overpricing taxes for poor efficiency standards, or deducting taxes to buildings and improvements increasing the energy efficiency.
 - 3.2. Frequently, the new measures for energy efficiency are confronted to its excessive cost. The scale economies approach, maybe under the umbrella of public agencies which may widely offer standard improvements with much lower prices, could be a good solution for citizens and markets (higher sales may decrease prices).
 - 3.3. In line with the previous point, the services provided by ESCOs could be extended and made more accessible, if the public authorities act as umbrella and coordinator. In this manner, the ESCOs services could reach thousands of buildings in both the residential and tertiary sector, by only being 'officially' supported.

Finally, as transversal initiatives which promote energy efficiency and renewables, and do so from a high commitment and responsibility spirit, the participants pointed out to the good initiatives undertaken by civil society with organizations such as the energy cooperatives, or the purchasing groups. Smart grids and IT devices are also seen as means to extend awareness

and control over consumption rates, thus favoring consumers' empowerment and responsibility towards the energy consumption impacts.