

The European Utility Week - Financing Deep Renovation

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ENERFUND at COP22

The European Utility Week: financing deep renovation

Dr Alexandros Charalambides, coordinator of the ENERFUND project, chaired the *“Financing & Funding”* Session of the *“Intelligent Building Europe”* track of the European Utility Week that was held in Barcelona in November 2016.

During this session, financing solutions for energy retrofit projects were discussed, including national grant support schemes for the private sector as well as supporting instruments available to clients.

Dr. Charalambides said that *“From the discussions and the presentations which took place during the session, two main outcomes have been extracted: Investors require reliable and easily accessible data and politicians and decision makers could play a key role, for the promotion or the removal of various energy retrofitting measures. For example, in Spain, any expenses engaged by Governmental Bodies on retrofitting count towards national debt and are not currently allowed”*.



Alexandros was also interviewed by Energerati.com, where he presented the preliminary findings of ENERFUND and the current obstacles for energy retrofitting of buildings:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tuxJ5hrB4k

A report on EPC Status in European countries

Research was carried out under the scope of ENERFUND, with the aim to document the current status of implementation for buildings' Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) within different EU member states.

For most countries, EPCs were successfully introduced in 2006-2007. However, some significant issues remain to be addressed, with the need to harmonize EPC between countries and the necessity to provide additional data in EPC reports. For example, the qualifications and requirements to become a licensed expert, authorized to issue EPC, vary widely from one country to another, with impacts on the quality of EPC in some areas.

Furthermore, the general public do not have a sufficient understanding on EPC and therefore shows low interest in it. Finally, energy efficiency recommendations accompanying EPC are often too generic, based on aggregated data with no details on specific measures and costs.

Forty six (46) past or ongoing initiatives related with EPC from 12 European countries were also examined. Energy refurbishment, establishment of strategies and market assessment were the most common focus for these initiatives. This “benchmark” of past initiatives will be used by the ENERFUND team to improve its own work and find potential synergies.

EPC implementation in the real estate market.

A survey conducted in all countries involved in ENERFUND contributed to better understand the role of EPCs in national real estate markets and provided useful data for the ENERFUND tool. Different issues were investigated, such as:

- EPC contents and ownership in each country
- The availability of EPC information
- How EPC are handed over when renting or selling a real estate property
- The EPC's information available on real estate transactions
- The role of real estate agents and web portals regarding EPC and energy efficiency promotion
- How EPCs are displayed in public buildings
- Perception of EPC on the real estate market
- Legal framework : conflicting and supportive legislations
- Major barriers and opportunities for deep renovation



A summary report was elaborated and will help to tailor ENERFUND's activities according to the real estate markets' needs and specificities.

Latest news: ENERFUND at COP22 in Marrakesh (Morocco)



The French partner of ENERFUND consortium, the NGO ENERGIES 2050, was highly involved in the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which took place in Marrakech in November 2016, with more than 30 events and two booths in the area for negotiators and in the one for civil society.

During the two weeks conference, the partner had the opportunity to present the project in several side-events related to energy and buildings refurbishment, meet key stakeholders in the fields as well as to disseminate the project at its two booths. The outcomes of these activities will be used to enhance the project's results and visibility.



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