

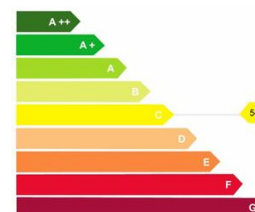


## Project Fact Sheet

Created: September 2007

### Pilot actions to develop a functioning market for energy performance certificates (BUDI)

<b>Programme area:</b>	SAVE, Multiplying success in buildings
<b>Status:</b>	Completed
<b>Coordinator:</b>	Gerhard Bucar Grazer Energieagentur Ges.m.b.H., Austria E-mail: <a href="mailto:bucar@grazer-ea.at">bucar@grazer-ea.at</a> Tel: +43-316-811848-13
<b>Partners:</b>	LandesEnergieVerein, Austria City of Dublin Energy Management Agency Ltd., Ireland Jyväskylä Teknologikeskus Oy, Finland Building and Civil Engineering Institute ZRMK, Slovenia Rhônâlpénergie-Environnement, France Berliner Energieagentur, Germany
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.buildingdirective.org">http://www.buildingdirective.org</a>
<b>Objective:</b>	Accelerate the successful introduction of energy performance certificates
<b>Benefits:</b>	Transparency of the energy performance of buildings and associated energy savings
<b>Keywords:</b>	Buildings Directive, Energy Performance Certificate, Pilot Action
<b>Duration:</b>	01/2005 – 02/2007
<b>Budget:</b>	€ 971,780 (EU contribution: 50%)
<b>Contract number:</b>	EIE/04/182/S07.38670



#### Short description

The overall goal of this project was to accelerate the successful introduction of energy performance certificates. The project had a focus on the regional level. Examples and showcases for the implementation of energy certificates in the 6 participating regions in Austria, Ireland, Germany, Slovenia, Finland and France are developed and the tools, guidelines and certificates are provided to all interested countries and regions in Europe. For relevant building segments the issuing of energy performance certificates has been tested. A focus in all regions was on apartment blocks and public buildings as shining examples.

#### The objectives of the action were:

- Creating regional information and competence centres which will disseminate their practical experiences
- Carrying out pilot actions for two important target groups: public buildings and apartment blocks
- Supporting these target groups in the broader implementation of energy performance certificates through information, tools and advice
- Developing training for independent experts to assure a sufficient number of qualified experts; carrying out one training seminar per country
- Developing guidelines and accreditation schemes to assure the quality level of the certificates and experts; developing implementation and quality assurance procedures
- Transferring the results and gained experiences to interested key actors in other regions in Europe

## Achieved results

In spite of the delay in the national implementation of the EPBD, the aim of awareness raising and information of the target groups is highly achieved. The pilot actions helped – in spite of using not the final versions of the calculation methods – the attending housing companies and public authorities to introduce the energy performance certificates in their organisations.

- **A main result of the market analyses of each region was the enormous demand of EPCs in the different regions** in the first years of implementation of the EPBD. For example in the Greater Dublin Area there are 577,538 residential buildings (single family houses & apartments) and 76,312 public and commercial buildings, it has been estimated that annual sales and rental transactions will require approx. 65,291 EPCs and approx 400 qualified experts to calculate them. The future will show if this enormous demand can be satisfied in time.
- Although there was a delay of the transposition of the Energy Performance Building Directive (EPBD) at the nation levels in all member states between one and two years, **305 draft energy certificates** for apartment blocks and for public buildings could be issued. More than **80000 certificates could be initiated** through training workshops and consulting services.
- Training seminars for independent experts have been developed to inform about the energy performance certificates and calculation methods, **203 experts were trained** so far – training is ongoing after the projects end.
- Comprehensive information material and special tools to prepare the target groups for the implementation of the EPBD have been worked out and disseminated. (**798 information packages distributed**)
- The partners created regional information and competence centres and disseminate all relevant information concerning the energy performance certificates. Other information activities consisted of direct contacts, informal meetings, workshops and newsletters.
- A web site and a project leaflet as basis for various dissemination and networking activities to ensure the international transfer of experiences have been worked out. (**7000 visitors on the web site, 75.000 hits**).
- Information folder were printed and disseminated in each region (**4180 folders distributed**).
- **Posters** have been produced for presentations on fairs, workshops and conferences.
- Within **special workshops** for key actors (housing companies and public authorities), **470 people** could be informed.
- More than **40 presentations** on various events have been held to reach the target groups.
- With **20 distributed newsletters** the project team has addressed about 7297 persons.
- More than **50 special consulting services** for housing companies have been done.
- Many actions for the international transfer of the experiences and results have been taken. The project team held an open information day to communicate the status of implementation and first results of the project at the conference “Clean Energy Power 06” in Berlin.

## Lessons learnt

- Energy certificates are in deed an excellent starting point to initiate energy efficiency measures in buildings. For example in Austria, one of the attending housing companies started to refurbish two blocks of flats towards A-class. The certificates will be an important instrument with a great positive impact on the building sector in terms of awareness raising and energy efficiency.
- Comprehensive and accurate information for the building owner is important, because some surprising results are shown. For example in Ireland, apartments apparently built to the same standard could vary from a B rating to an E rating, depending on the heating system (electrical or gas) and the position of the apartment on the block (plus or minus 20% of average). There are also sizable differences between the calculated and measured data. The certificate should be explained very well for the building owners to establish understanding and awareness. There is also an immense demand for information of the end-user. Particularly, information about energy efficiency and the usefulness of the energy performance certificates should be communicated with priority, not the legal pressure. Information must go on!
- The project shows a high demand for qualified independent experts, good training of these experts will be the next important challenge. Calculated energy certificates contain some uncertainties, because some experts are not trained enough to apply a strong methodology, the data used are often not checked enough and for economic reasons some experts calculate certificates fast and imprecise.