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The EPBD Buildings Platform is executed by a consortium of organisations led by INIVE EEIG

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 - > CETIAT
 - > CSTB
 - > IBP
 - > NKUA
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The project is carried out in close collaboration with a whole range of European Umbrella Organisations.

EPBD Buildings Platform: Overall context and activities

1 > The context

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) lays down requirements as regards:

- > the general framework for a methodology of calculation of the integrated energy performance of buildings;
- > the application of minimum requirements on the energy performance of new buildings;
- > the application of minimum requirements on the energy performance of large existing buildings that are subject to major renovation;
- > energy performance certification of buildings; and
- > regular inspection of boilers and of air-conditioning systems in buildings and in addition an assessment of the heating installation in which the boilers are more than 15 years old.

These requirements have to be implemented by the 25 EU Member States. The deadline for implementation was January 4 2006. Only for the 2 last requirements (certifications and inspections), Member States may, because of lack of qualified and/or accredited experts, have an additional period of three years (before January 2009) to apply fully.

Within these general principles and objectives, it is the individual responsibility of each EU Member State to choose measures that corresponds best to its particular situation (subsidiarity principle). However, it is clear that collaboration and information exchange can highly facilitate the implementation.

2 > EPBD related support activities by the European Commission

A successful implementation of the EPBD is a huge challenge and requires often rather similar types of activities by the Member States. Therefore, the European Commission Directorate General for Transport and Energy (DG TREN) is supporting several actions.

EPBD related support activities

- The EPBD Concerted Action
- The mandate to CEN for preparing EPBD related standards
- The EPBD related SAVE projects
- The ManagEnergy programme and the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign
- The EPBD Buildings Platform



www.epbd-ca.org

www.cenorm.be

http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/intelligent/projects/save_en.htm



www.managEnergy.net



www.sustenergy.org

EPBD Concerted Action

The EPBD Concerted Action (January 2005 - June 2007) aims primarily at information exchange between policy makers involved in the implementation of the EPBD in the EU Member States. The global objectives of the EPBD Concerted Action (January 2005 - June 2007) are:

- To enhance and structure the sharing of information and experiences from national implementation and to promote good practice concepts in activities required of Member States for EPBD implementation
- To create favourable conditions for an accelerated degree of convergence of National procedures in EPBD related matters.
- To complement the work of the Energy Demand Management Committee and its ad-hoc group on CEN standards and Certification exercises.

In the course of this project, a total of eight 2-days meetings are foreseen during which representatives of all Member States (about 80...100 persons) exchange information regarding various EPBD matters.

Mandate to CEN for EPBD related standards

The European Commission decided after consultation of the Member States experts, interest groups and CEN, that there was an urgent need for standards to support the EPBD. A mandate was given to CEN (Mandate 343) to develop a set of standards. The set is based on a list of 31 topics covering calculation, measurement and inspection procedures, including methods on the level of building components and systems. The aim is to offer within a short period (2004-2006) a clear set of well-harmonised standards for the basis of national procedures in the Member States. In particular the Member States with a very limited experience in the field of the EPBD could benefit from this in the short term. In addition, it will also increase the accessibility, transparency and objectivity of the energy performance assessment in the Member States in general. An overview of the CEN related activities is given in information paper P02.

EPBD related SAVE projects

In general SAVE projects in the frame of the Intelligent Energy-Europe programme are concerned with the improvement of energy efficiency and the rational use of energy, in particular in the building and industry sectors including the preparation of legislative measures and their application. In 2005 a significant number of projects were started to directly support in practice the efficient implementation of the EPBD (the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). The projects cover most subjects of the EPBD: Energy requirement for new and existing buildings, Energy certification, Inspection of boilers and air-conditioning system. Also in 2006 a number of projects are launched having the focus to support the implementation of the EPBD. Many of the other SAVE projects are also relevant to the implementation in the practise of the directive. An overview of SAVE activities is given in information paper P01.

ManagEnergy and Sustainable Energy Europe

These two initiatives are funded in the frame of Intelligent Energy-Europe programme.

ManagEnergy aims to support the work of individuals and organisations working on energy efficiency and renewable energies at the local and regional level. The main tools are training workshops and online events. Additionally information is provided on case studies, good practice, European legislation and programmes

The **Sustainable Energy Europe 2005-2008 Campaign** aims to raise public awareness and promote sustainable energy production and use

The envisaged deliverables include:

- A **website**;
- A monthly **newsletter**;
- Various **databases** covering publications, standards, software tools, events, etc.
- Approximately **50 EPBD information papers** covering a wide range of topics such as National implementation status, CEN status, SAVE projects, highlights of EPBD related conferences, European activities, etc.
- A **helpdesk** with FAQ list;
- An active **collaboration** with ManagEnergy, Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign and other European actions and leading European Conferences.
- An **active support** to Member States and stakeholders through Helpdesk and targeted actions.
- **Special reports** prepared at the request of the EC.

The databases

- The implementation of the EPBD is the topic of many workshops, conferences, training events, ... at regional, national and European level. The **events database** database will give an overview of these events.
- Information on relevant EPBD related publications will be compiled into the **publications database**. For each publication, there will be an abstract. For all free publications without copy-right restrictions, the full publication is also available in pdf-format.
- A **standards database** will contain information about the most relevant CEN standards in relation to the EPBD implementation.
- A **software database** of available tools contains also information on other building energy related tools.

among individuals and organisations, private companies and public authorities, professional and energy agencies, industry associations and NGOs across Europe.

3 > The EPBD Buildings Platform: What can you expect from it?

The EPBD Buildings Platform has officially started in January 2006 for a period of 2 ½ years (till June 2008).

The website www.buildingsplatform.org

The website is the central element in the whole dissemination strategy of the EPBD Buildings Platform. In principle, all information which is generated in the context of the Platform should be found here. A first version of the website is operational since the beginning of April 2006. A more advanced version is planned for the autumn of 2006 and should include multi-language features.

The newsletter

In order to allow a regular and efficient information exchange with interested people, there is a monthly newsletter. This newsletter will only be distributed in electronic format. From the autumn of 2006, a database driven newsletter is foreseen allowing more providers of information and also contributions in different languages.

A free subscription to the newsletter can be done through the website.

The databases

An easy and centralised access to information is a key objective of the Platform. Therefore, databases play a key role in the dissemination strategy of the Platform.

Information papers

Information papers (IP) are relatively short papers (typical length of 2 to 8 pages). Its main purpose is to inform a wide range of persons of the status of work in a specific area.

The helpdesk

An electronic helpdesk is part of the Platform. Answers on a wide range of EPBD related questions will be given there, whereby an increased amount of information will become available as function of time. In addition, national representatives and representatives from major associations will have the possibility to raise specific questions through a private part of the website. These questions and answers will in a later stage become available for all interested persons.

Also, there will be a list of possible contact persons in the Member States for handling specific questions.

4 > The work of the Platform is organised around themes

The EPBD covers a wide range of requirements. In order to set up an efficient communication around these topics, the work has been split up in 5 so-called themes. These 5 themes are briefly described.

Theme "Certification procedures"

This theme comprises topics as e.g. which methodologies are suitable for existing buildings (data collection), how is quality assurance of tools handled, information on effectiveness and public acceptance of certificate schemes (information on costs, benefits, information as function of building age and type), what is the effectiveness of energy saving recommendations,...

The planned Information Papers (IPs)

- > Information papers on **EPBD implementation** are foreseen regarding implementation of the EPBD at national level (country reviews) as well as overall at European level (e.g. overall status regarding the energy certificates, inspection of boilers and air conditioning,...)
- > It is foreseen to have twice a year an IP regarding the status and progress of those **SAVE projects** which support the implementation of the EPBD. These projects are managed by Intelligent Energy Executive Agency (IEEA).
- > Information papers on **standardisation activities** describe the status, progress and planning of those CEN standards which are directly linked to EPBD implementation.
- > Information papers on **EPBD related conferences** will present the highlights of those major European conferences where EPBD related aspects are a major topic on the agenda.

Theme "Inspection of boilers and air conditioning"

This theme relates to:

- > the inspection of hot water boilers used for heating of buildings,
- > the inspection of air conditioning systems used to control air temperature inside buildings, possibly in combination with the control of building ventilation, air humidity and air cleanliness.

In its "considerings", the EPB Directive states that

"regular maintenance of boilers and of air-conditioning systems by qualified personnel contributes to maintaining their correct adjustment in accordance with the product specification and in that way will ensure optimal performance from an environmental, safety and energy point of view".

It also asserts that

"an independent assessment of the total heating installation is appropriate whenever replacement could be considered on the basis of cost-effectiveness".

Theme "Requirements for experts and inspectors"

This theme comprises e.g. specifications and training requirements for experts and inspectors including indications on the resources needed at national level (how many experts and inspectors and level of expertise), quality assurance for experts, inspectors and certificates, criteria for accreditation, code of practice, insurance and liability.

Theme "Calculation procedures"

The EPBD provides the general framework for the calculation procedures. A mandate (N° 343) has been given to the CEN committee to develop appropriate calculation procedures to support Member States in the national application of this article. This theme includes the assessment of the relevant EN (CEN) and EN ISO standards -in particular under Mandate 343-, the way they are or will be implemented at national level, options for quality assurance of calculation methods, differences between methods or data input for new versus existing buildings, legal aspects (e.g. national versus CEN options), practicability, methodologies for innovative technologies, further needs and possibilities for further harmonisation and more.

Theme "Minimum EP requirements"

This theme deals with the procedures for setting up energy performance requirements in the Member States. As Member States may differentiate their requirements between new and existing buildings and different building categories, the issues of this theme span a wide range of items. These items include: strategies on national minimum EP requirements; which building categories are considered in the different Member States; how do the requirements take into account the general indoor climate conditions; what building types are exempted from energy requirements; is the 1000 m² borderline applied in all Member States; what kind of requirements are there for major renovations; are these requirements based on benchmarks; is the rating based on measured or calculated data; how are compliance checks organised; what kind of legal sanctions are there, etc.

The EPBD Buildings Platform has been launched by the European Commission in the frame of the Intelligent Energy - Europe, 2003-2006 programme. It is managed by INIVE EEIG (www.inive.org), on behalf of Transport and Energy DG.

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