



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



INTERREG EUROPE REBUS PROJECT



ACHIEVEMENTS IN A NUTSHELL

Energy Efficiency with and for Communities:
Turning climate and energy challenges into opportunities for all

In a Nutshell

Buildings are among the main sectors responsible for Europe's emissions. Therefore, the building sector serves as the focus of the REBUS policy actions.

Eight partners have worked for five years to improve the capacity of public authorities to undertake efficient renovation works of their public building stock. Saving energy and public resources is the shared objective of all REBUS partners.

Public authorities at all levels were involved in the Local Stakeholder Groups. Meetings, study visits, staff exchanges around Europe and the work on 13 good practices fuelled interregional exchange, helped over 150 people to increase their professional skills and made policy improvements a reality in each partner country.



REBUS international partnership



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



REBUS learnings are collected in the Energy Renovation Path (ERP). This guide intends to inform strategic decisions of public policy makers dealing with energy efficiency renovations in public buildings. It is not just for English speakers – the ERP is also available in Italian, Swedish, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Greek.

Many benefitted from this interregional level cooperation. Local administrations, contractors, building managers, staff responsible for building maintenance and building end users can all refer to useful tips and guidelines on planning, implementing and monitoring renovation works in public buildings.



The Energy Transition Event in Florence brought together likeminded Interreg Europe projects to ensure inter-project collaboration and establish EU-level synergies

Seven Action Plans detailing policy changes inspired by the REBUS project were drafted and implemented at the regional level. Results are now available in each partner country. Here's an overview:

In 2017, in Tuscany, ARRR supported the Regional Government to improve the call „POR CReO FESR 2014-2020- Action 4.1.1 - Energy Efficiency Projects in public buildings“. ARRR not only helped the Managing Authority to define the selection and evaluation criteria of the call, but they also contributed to the entire process by supporting local authorities wishing to apply for funding. In the Tuscan context, this call was the first one ever launched targeting energy efficiency in public buildings. Out of 295 projects submitted, 266 projects were admitted for funding and 35 were financed in the first funding round of the call launched in 2017 (5 from Hospital services and 30 from Public Authorities). The budget available for Public Authorities and Hospital services amounted to € 52 million.

By the end of 2020, the 199 projects funded by the call should come to an end. These projects have involved Local Authorities and Hospital Services and were funded with grants of up to € 12.2 million, with an investment volume equal to € 35 million. Having achieved an early policy improvement, ARRR decided to go further and plan a Pilot Action inspired by the Big Switch Off Good Practice from Durham County Council. Experience within REBUS had already shown the importance of well-trained staff dealing with energy efficiency and of well-informed building users. Thus, the REBUS pilot action tested a full capacity building programme with the Local Council of Greve in Chianti in Tuscany. Following a cycle of capacity building events, an energy team was trained to assess the status of the pilot building. Improved behaviour of building users led to energy savings amounting to 11.55% compared to 2019 and 33.68% compared to 2015.



REBUS partners attended a study visit to energy efficient public buildings and energy related developments at the Tokaj UNESCO World Heritage Site in Hungary



The German advisory partner, the European Institute for Innovation (Eifl), participated in a communication workshop organised by the Interreg Europe programme



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



In Malmö, the project offered the chance to go beyond technical solutions and opened up new perspectives in the field of behavioural change. Malmö City Council improved its Environmental Programme, with new measures to teach consumers the importance of an active role in energy saving and help them to understand their part of the shared ownership. This new policy should attract more influencers working to fulfil its objectives and achieve better results. The Council has already successfully carried out education programmes in smart energy behaviour for schoolchildren, involved contractors and tenants in energy analysis of a building and created a new professional profile of the production trustee, in charge of optimising building performance influencing total consumption of energy.

BORA 94 worked with the Hungarian Managing Authority to improve management of their ERDF policy (Action 3.2.1). Specifically, they focused on a new monitoring methodology for a call that funds municipality-owned energy efficient public building renovations to achieve energy savings, mainly through infrastructural investments. The policy improvement answered a clear territorial need, in that beneficiaries had raised concerns related to difficulties in interpreting the calculation and accounting of monitoring indicators. The change (i.e. general review of indicator definition datasheets, modification and specification of indicators, introduction of partial delivery options, etc.) affected hun-

dreds of projects at the national level and hundreds at the county level in each call round.



REBUS through the years: BORA 94 of Hungary provided snapshots of their work with the REBUS project



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



In the Malopolska Region, a survey had been conducted among Polish Regional Operational Programme (ROP) beneficiaries to identify the key features of their renovation projects and to what extent they follow the REBUS Energy Renovation Path (ERP). The survey also included questions on the funding instrument itself, which, in principle, met the expectations of the cities implementing energy renovation projects and served as a benefit. Although there is some room for improvement, mostly concerning the simplification of procedures and entering modifications to supported projects, the ERP is something that will be beneficial to the region. An important discovery was that energy retrofitting projects are rarely connected with awareness raising campaigns and active engagement of building users in energy saving processes. The REBUS project through the ERP decided to change that by promoting best practice via educational and user engagement tools – this will be done by training municipal employees on implementing them in practice, adding additional energy savings to those achieved through retrofitting measures.



English partners from County Durham visit Bielsko-Biala, a city south of Krakow that is an award-winning for its energy efficiency work, during a staff exchange (Pictured: Eco-team of pupils at a Polish primary school, where REBUS partners learned about their energy saving work as part of the 50:50 programme)

In South Eastern Romania, the policy change related to the development of new, improved guidelines for the calls addressing energy efficiency in public buildings. This referred specifically to 2014-2020 ROP, Priority Axis 3.1: „Supporting energy efficiency, intelligent energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings and in the housing sector“. New eligibility and selection criteria, new administrative and compliance criteria and new technical and financial evaluation criteria were integrated into improved guidelines for applicants. As a result, a new call was opened for energy efficiency measures in public buildings with a regional allocation of € 27.5 million (ERDF and National Budget).

The Region of Crete has presented to its Managing Authority the results, benefits and experience gained by the REBUS project and has delivered the Regional Action Plan. The Greek partner supported its Managing Authority in defining new selection and evaluation criteria for the call for Proposals on Priority Axis 2: „Sustainable Development in terms of improving the environment and tackling the impacts of Climate Change in Crete“. It related specifically to Action 4.c.1: „Energy saving in public buildings“. The call was launched in 2018 with total budget of € 12,125,575.00. Criteria included in the call and resulting from REBUS experience referred, for instance, to ex ante and ex post energy audits to measure the impact of the renovation works. Moreover, the Region of Crete contributed to the whole process by supporting local authorities wishing to apply for funding and building their awareness and skills in the field of energy efficiency.



The second REBUS partner meeting at the Technical University of Crete



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Durham County Council was successful in changing the national ESIF Low Carbon Guidance (Priority Axis 4: "Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including public buildings and in the housing sector") and the specific wording in the North East region for ESIF PA4C call launched in October 2018. This change reflected the importance of providing training and encouraging behaviour change, in conjunction with energy efficiency capital works. Guidance was changed for capital investment proposals, which should now encourage measures to promote energy awareness and behavioural change to ensure that maximum benefit is made of energy efficiency technologies. Having achieved the above, Durham County Council through its Climate Emergency Response Action Plan focused on exploring the potential of renewable heat retrofit projects (e.g. minewater, ground and air source) as well as establishing a new schools comprehensive LED lighting retrofit project, called Enlighten, across the County.



REBUS Midterm Event in Durham in January 2019