

# REBUS — Newsletter #2

## What is REBUS?

### Issues addressed

REBUS—Renovation for Energy efficient BuildingS—works through the idea that any benefits of renovation are higher when the retrofitting works are undertaken in a large number of buildings. Public authorities are among the best players to coordinate with to ensure economy of scale within such renovations—i.e. by pooling buildings together. REBUS fits into this context and contributes to EU policies and priorities



ties in a concrete and targeted manner. Partners feel that the most efficient way to move forward is to concentrate resources in a set of measures for planning, implementing and monitoring renovation works. By promoting renovation for energy efficiency of public buildings, REBUS supports growth enhancement and job creating investments, with an emphasis on energy efficiency.

### Regional Knowledge Sharing

Partners from eight EU countries work together to build Energy Renovation Paths (ERPs). Exchange activities create the process of developing Action Plans that challenge regional differences thus making them adaptable to local contexts. Energy efficiency in public buildings is clearly relevant in the context of EU regional policy. The targets set by EU directives represent a challenge for member states and concrete improvements at policy level are needed to achieve them, in which REBUS will ensure it will play its part.

## The vision of REBUS

The huge potential for energy savings in the public building stock is hampered in each phase of the local authority energy renovation process: planning, implementing and monitoring. These problems all stem from a basic need in public authorities: to raise awareness and build skills on energy related issues among civil servants. REBUS uses interregional exchange among regions with a varied level of development on this issue, together with communication and engagement activities to develop Action Plans, resulting in: improvement of policy instruments, skills at individual, organisational and regional levels. REBUS assists the public sector by providing

means and instruments to design Energy Renovation Paths (ERPs) for public buildings. In turn, this creates better, highly qualified jobs in public sector and more jobs related to the renovation sector (i.e. buildings, ICT tools).



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### Save the Date!

**International REBUS Partner Meeting**—Durham, UK  
(5th-6th September 2018)

**International REBUS Partner Meeting**—Berlin, Germany

**International REBUS Dissemination Conference**—27th June 2018 (details on p. 5)



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund



## Staff Exchanges Within REBUS

### What is a staff exchange?

**"Staff exchange rounds" refer to the organizational rounds whereby REBUS partners—and perhaps any relevant stakeholders—visit each other in their respective regions to learn more about each partner's methodologies and good practices within the scope of the REBUS project.**

After each staff exchange round, REBUS partners must complete a Staff Exchange Factsheet, in which they outline the Good Practices (GP) and experiences they examined in depth during their visit to their partner's territory. The main goal of these visits is to share ideas, spread knowledge and gain perspective, with particular interest in improving policy instruments necessary for implementing REBUS.

After the partners describe the GPs learned from an exchange visit, they are asked to assess whether or not the GPs can be applied in their own territory—and if so, how. In other

words, will the partner fully adopt the GP from their bilateral exchange partner within their own territory, or has the GP inspired a new approach to policy implementation? Can the partner now confirm new trends based on benchmarking?



*Partners from Malmö, Sweden meet to evaluate the 50/50 energy-saving methodology in Cracow, Poland (Jan. 2018)*

Staff exchange visits are a valuable tool for REBUS's success, as they inspire relevant, applicable discussions and promote the sharing of new and innovative methodologies. This allows the partners to be as effective and efficient as possible with policy implementation.

### Staff exchange: From Malmö to Cracow

In one exchange visit organized by internal project partner, PNEC, members from the city of Malmö (Sweden) visited Cracow, Poland to discuss and assess their "50/50" energy-saving methodology, as well as general education tactics for children. After their meeting in January 2018, the partners found that Malmö could learn from PNEC's "365° view" of how they engage children in education programmes on energy efficiency tactics, and reinforce these teachings with strong relationships with teachers, parents, and other local stakeholders (via social media, in particular). Malmö will now adopt part of PNEC's GP, the 50/50 methodology, in their own Mazetti cultural building to increase knowledge of energy savings among stakeholders, children and their parents.



### Success in Durham: Staff exchange between AFE & DCC

In February 2018, members of the Florentine Energy Agency (AFE) of Italy met with internal staff of Durham County Council (DCC) and important stakeholders in Durham, UK to participate in a staff exchange visit. The meeting was highly producti-



*The partners and stakeholders meeting with students of a primary school to discuss energy issues in Durham*

ve, as the DCC was able to provide excellent and applicable GP examples through their behavioural change programme—The Big Switch Off (8-18% energy savings)—and their Systemslink web reporting system (to help monitor the consumption of electricity, gas and water at a premises while tracking costs).

As a result of the staff exchange visit, AFE has realised that it is important in their territory "to make all users of public buildings aware [of energy efficiency] and provide effective training," on top of adopting a competent data collection and transmission system to control and monitor energy consumption—a system much like that of DCC.

All in all, there is great potential for AFE to adopt the GPs of Durham. In other words, the staff exchange visit in Durham turned out to be a great success!



*Participants convene in the Durham County office to implement strategies*



*Members visiting 5 schools on the first day of the exchange for case study visits*



## REBUS Good Practices — Examples from Partners

The REBUS partners have provided individual examples of Good Practices (GPs) they are utilising in their regions. These GPs have been collected to provide new, specific and durable ideas that can be transferred among the partners and to other geographical regions.

The exchange of such GP examples, also beyond REBUS, will help to improve local, regional or national policies in order to contribute to the competitiveness, sustainability and social cohesion of cities, regions, countries and the European Union as a whole.

Below are brief overviews of some GP examples provided by the partners.

### Florentine Energy Agency (AFE), Italy

In the Tuscany Region of Italy, AFE is promoting the renovations of buildings, in addition to the installation of smart remote control systems that control, manage, monitor and optimize energy consumption (smart buildings) and reduce polluting emissions. Most notably, in 2002 the management of Versilia Hospital, part of the Tuscany Health Service, planned the refurbishment of a now energy efficient hospital in Tuscany to combat waste of energy and minimize the emission of harmful substances into the atmosphere.



*This micro wind power plant at Versilia Hospital uses a wind turbine of size of 3.30m x 2.20m for a power of about 6kWe*

As a response to good practices suggestion by AFE, Versilia Hospital is now one of main stakeholders of the REBUS Project. They implemented at this "RES-Hospital" a smart building management system, a "double skin" heat insulation system, PV panels, a micro wind power plant, and more. These interventions to improve energy efficiency in public buildings and facilities—plus better integration of RES as well as providing quality educational material on environmental sustainability in schools—are all great GPs by AFE that can be applicable in other regions.

### City of Helsingborg, Sweden (Malmö)

One GP from the REBUS partners in Malmö, Sweden is the development and introduction of systematic approach to educating building contractors in the city of Helsingborg, Sweden. Normally in Sweden, building contractors educate clients.



*One of 8 educational trainings (15-20 participants) in Helsingborg, Sweden*

However, Helsingborg's Department of Real-Estate is educating the contractors in order to instill lasting GPs when it comes to energy efficiency in public buildings. The Department states in their agreement with the contractors that there will be a two-day education event held every year for the contractors (and Real-Estate Department employees) working with community buildings. At these trainings, the contractors will learn about efficient methods of electricity use, HVAC and sanitation surrounding the themes of indoor environments, energy efficiency, systematic optimization of operation, lighting and lighting design within public buildings. This is an excellent GP example from Sweden, as this practice is easily transferrable to other regions within Sweden and beyond.



*Before & after the installation of Human Centric Lighting in a school in Malmö*

### Durham County Council (DCC), UK

The Durham County Council with the Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists (OASES) has also implemented an effective energy education programme, which specifically targets carbon reduction in schools. Launched in 2010, the programme provides a strategic approach to energy efficiency in schools for the first time in the county—e.g. by granting schools access to their energy data through the Systemslink online portal. Additionally, schools receive billing and technical support from the Low Carbon Team based centrally in Durham, on top of in-school support from a team of Educational Specialists who engage pupils and staff through learning and budget saving sessions.



*Pittington Primary, a small village primary school in Durham, has reduced electricity use by 11% in the past 2 years*

The key aspect of the programme development was the recognition that the approach for schools has to be different from other local authority buildings, as schools are becoming more autonomous. Pittington Primary has even developed a team of children—The Pittington Power Savers—who discuss energy issues and make changes in their school!

## REBUS Good Practices — Examples from Partners

### PNEC, Poland

One transferrable GP example coming out of Association of Municipalities Polish Network "Energie Cités" (PNEC) is the development of their national 50/50 energy methodology, which has been implemented in schools all over Poland. Founded in 2009, the 50/50 methodology is a 9-step methodology aimed at achieving energy and financial savings in a public buildings without making large investments; i.e. through change of behaviours and small interventions. It actively invol-



ves buildings' users in the process of energy management and teaches them environmentally-friendly behaviour through practical actions.

[www.euronet50-50max.eu](http://www.euronet50-50max.eu).

### SE RDA, Romania

The South-East Regional Development Agency (SER DA) of Romania has demonstrated their GPs namely through the 2015-2020 Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) of the



Buzau Municipality, which outlines the municipality's energy objectives and provisions. The goal of the Buzau SEAP is to implement local energy policies, including the Integrated Urban Development Strategy of the Municipality, in the fields of energy efficiency and environmental preservation. The SEAP sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% from 2015 to 2020 and support regional investments aimed at developing energy efficient buildings, installations, technologies and viable RES.. The SEAP uses an integrated approach by tackling the CO2 emissions from all potential sources.

### BORA 94 B-A-Z CDA

In 2016, the City of Rácalmás, located in Central Transdanubia in Fejér county, Hungary, accepted their Sustainable Local Energy Strategy (SLES). The following SLES training of the municipal staff in Rácalmás was carried out by the NGO, ENERGIACLUB—BORA 94 B-A-Z CDA's external expert for the action planning of REBUS project. The SLES details the region's objective of establishing and operating a Local Energy Management Agency to support the local stakeholders, especially the inhabitants and local



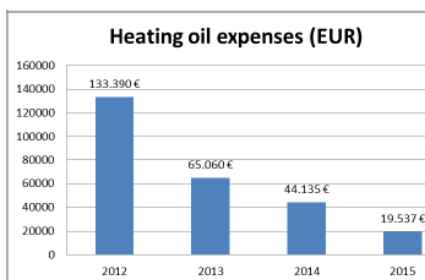
*Training for municipal staff in Rácalmás on their approved SLES, organized by ENERGIACLUB (LSG member in North-Hungary region)*

small companies in sustainable energy investments and smart energy use, by incorporating the SLES into the everyday operations of the Agency—a simple yet effective GP.

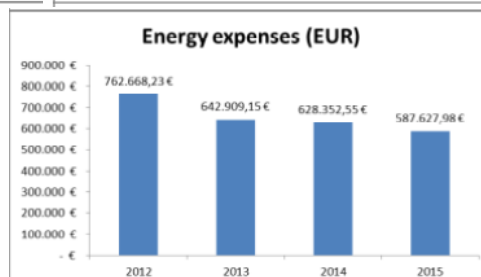
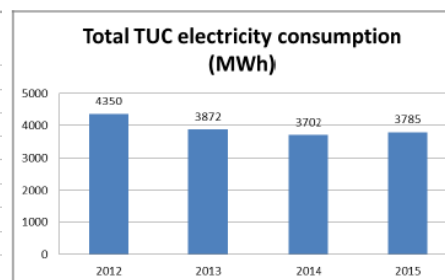
### Region of Crete, Greece

The Region of Crete has exemplified many excellent GPs—namely the Green University Strategy for the Technical University of Crete (TUC). The idea for the strategy emerged in 2012, as TUC's energy costs accounted for 30% of its total operating costs in 2012. On top of this, TUC was increasing in size—

the incoming freshman class had increased by 25% in 2014 and 15% in 2015—and thus so were its energy needs. This led to an unstable and unsustainable situation that was harmful to TUC's budget and the environment. With the initial plan to reduce energy consumption by 20%, TUC students and staff pledged to minimize oil and electricity consumption, encouraging the university to become a sort of "open lab" for green research and green technology development. Specific measures of the Green University Strategy include monitoring and controlling central units in buildings, replacing energy-intensive infrastructure (i.e. old air conditioning units), and introducing good practices for energy saving in buildings to keep the university community informed and aware about energy consumption. Keep up the good work, Crete!



*Quantitative results: TUC's Green University Strategy (2012-2015)*





## 5th International Partner Exchange in Cracow, Poland

The REBUS partners met in Cracow, Poland from 31st January to 1st February 2018 to provide regional updates. The partners, who each attended the meeting with at least one stakeholder, discussed their ideas and provided insight on creating a database to better exchange transferrable and successful good practices, developing action plans for each partner, energy renovation paths (ERPs), and much more. Partners discussed future tasks as the project shifts from semester 4 to 5—namely the tasks of completing ERPs by April, developing action plans (APs), presenting GPs to the Joint Secretariat (JS) of Interreg Europe, continuing with BERs and staff exchanges, and preparing for the dissemination event in June (see “Save the Date” below). Another noteworthy discussion held by the partners and stakeholders was on financial reporting and budget. This was neces-



*(Above) Miriam Siciliano presenting on project management and financial planning; (Left) Partners participating in a study visit in Cracow, Poland*



sary to ensure financial reports are completed as effectively and efficiently as possible. Finally, Miriam Siciliano, from REBUS external support (Resolvo), reported on the recent mid-term review with the JS, forwarding the message to the partners that "efficient measures will be proposed to catch up on the underspent budget." In summary, REBUS's 5th International Partner Exchange was a success, as past learning experiences were assessed, efforts were taken to streamline processes (i.e. reporting, implementing GPs), and new targets and goals were created. Stay tuned for the next international partner meeting in Durham (5-6 Sept)!

## Save the Date: REBUS International Dissemination Conference

**When: 27th June 2018**

**Where: Florence, Italy**

The purpose of this international event in Florence is to disseminate results from Phase 1 of REBUS to EU stakeholders and representatives. The involvement of EU representatives, in addition to managing authorities and stakeholders within REBUS, is necessary to **broaden the framework of the EU energy efficiency actions and promote cooperation** amongst partners and representatives for a multiplier effect. There will even be a contest between regions and different Interreg Europe projects—such as SET-UP, VIOLET, and ZERO CO<sub>2</sub>—regarding energy efficiency.



**Ci vediamo a Firenze—see you in Florence!**

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## REBUS Partners and LSGs — Reference Guide

**Florentine Energy Agency (AFE), Italy** (Lead partner) is a public company that operates in the energy saving sector by promoting a rational use of energy and renewables.



The **City of Malmö, Sweden** has set its own the objective to reduce its energy consumption per square meter and year by 50% from 2001 to 2020.



**Bora 94 Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Development Agency (B-A-Z CDA) Non-profit LLC, Hungary** (formerly NORD-A) is a county development agency with a focus on strategic planning



& management of structural funds to support developments of public/private actors.

The **Association of Municipalities Polish Network Energie Cités (PNEC), Poland** helps municipalities in elaboration & implementation of local climate and energy policies.



**South-East Regional Development Agency (SER DA), Romania** is a non-governmental and non-profit body of public utility responsible for the development of policy programming and implementation in the SE Region of Romania.



The **European Institute for Innovation (Eifi), Germany** is

an applied science pan-European umbrella organization supporting the adaptations of regions to respond to fast pace of development, in a variety of sectors.



**Durham County Council (DCC), UK** is a public body that focuses on the need to facilitate business growth and job creation via an effective approach to energy efficiency.



**Region of Crete, Greece** is a public authority that designs and implements policies for sustainable regional development.



### Contact:

**Benjamin Daumiller**  
REBUS Communication Manager  
E-mail: [b.daumiller@eifi.eu](mailto:b.daumiller@eifi.eu)

### Project partner information

Partner	Country	Contact
Florentine Energy Agency	Italy	Sergio Gatteschi <a href="mailto:sergiogatteschi@yahoo.it">sergiogatteschi@yahoo.it</a>
City of Malmö	Sweden	Olle Strandberg <a href="mailto:olle.strandberg@malmo.se">olle.strandberg@malmo.se</a>
BORA 94 Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Development Agency	Hungary	Hall Katalin <a href="mailto:hall.katalin@mfu.hu">hall.katalin@mfu.hu</a>
Association of Municipalities Polish network "Energie Cités"	Poland	Patrycja Plonka <a href="mailto:patrycja.plonka@pnec.org.pl">patrycja.plonka@pnec.org.pl</a>
South-East Regional Development Agency	Romania	Luiza Tiganus <a href="mailto:luiza.tiganus@adrse.ro">luiza.tiganus@adrse.ro</a>
European Institute for Innovation	Germany	Benjamin Daumiller <a href="mailto:b.daumiller@eifi.eu">b.daumiller@eifi.eu</a>
Durham County Council	United Kingdom	Rich Hurst <a href="mailto:richard.hurst@durham.gov.uk">richard.hurst@durham.gov.uk</a>
Region of Crete	Greece	Maria Apostolaki <a href="mailto:maria.apostolaki@gmail.com">maria.apostolaki@gmail.com</a>

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