



ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN SLOVENIA: THE WAY FORWARD

26 September 2013 / Ljubljana, Slovenia

BACKGROUND

The Europe 2020 strategy has set ambitious targets for Member States to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Objectives include reducing CO₂ emissions by 20%, obtaining 20% of final energy consumption from renewable energy sources, and moving towards a 20% increase in energy efficiency (EE).

Several economic studies have made clear the benefits of energy efficiency in terms of job creation and growth, ensuring security of energy supply, reduction of energy products import and improved health and wellbeing for individuals. Nevertheless, successful achievement of the 20% reduction of primary energy consumption in the EU by 2020 cannot be taken for granted. Rather, it will be a collective achievement and the result of concentrated purposeful efforts in each Member State.

Legislation has been enacted at the EU level to promote energy services and investment in energy efficiency in buildings, where energy consumption is highest and therefore where most gains are likely to come from. The Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) places a number of explicit obligations on Member States. In addition, a significant share of the Cohesion Policy funds for the 2014-2020 programming period have already been earmarked at the EU level for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. In particular, there is a renewed focus on enhancing the role of the private sector through the promotion of financial instruments to deliver the necessary investments. The European Commission has identified Energy Performance Contracting as one of the win-win instruments that would deliver energy savings while spurring economic growth.

EPEC is co-implementing DG ENERGY's **Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) Campaign** together with ManagEnergy and Covenant of Mayors. The goal is to enable country-specific discussion and capacity building around EPCs. The Campaign will serve to increase the confidence of stakeholders regarding the reliability and effectiveness of the EPC model, and help Member States in establishing an enabling environment for the EE market.

Throughout the EPC Campaign, EPEC has engaged in extensive research into the status quo of Energy Efficiency policy and investments in Slovenia, including a fact-finding mission to Ljubljana in May 2013. The comprehensive findings have served to inform the organization of this tailored country-specific workshop "**Energy Efficiency in Slovenia: The Way Forward.**"

THE WORKSHOP

The workshop represents a step forward in EPEC's engagement to help mutual understanding of the key opportunities and barriers to Energy Performance Contracting in Slovenia, and to advance high-level dialogue as to how best promote EE investment and develop policies which tackle perceived obstacles to the development of the Slovenian ESCO market.

The workshop is very timely, in view of two key developments at the EU level: on the one hand - the tight timeline for implementation of the recently adopted Energy Efficiency Directive, and on the other hand – the wrapping up of negotiations for the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), with implications for cohesion policy and earmarked allocations for energy efficiency.

At the same time, the “Energy Retrofit Programme of Public Buildings in Ljubljana (ERPPBL),” which benefits from EIB ELENA support, will provide great learning opportunities and insights for public bodies in Slovenia interested in using the EPC method. This is an opportune moment to reflect on Slovenia's EPC track-record, look into the ESCO market potential, and consider key issues such as project bankability and financing, as well as policy and governance structure, to ensure Slovenia has a robust and attractive pipeline of Energy Efficiency investments going forward into the 2014-2020 MFF.

Through the workshop, EPEC seeks to disseminate information, to bring together key stakeholders from the public and private sector in Slovenia, including relevant Ministries, Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) and Slovenian banks, among others, and to stimulate a discussion structured around the following topics:

PANEL 1: Energy Efficiency – European and national perspectives

PANEL 2: What experience does Slovenia have with Energy Performance Contracting (EPC)?

PANEL 3: The EPC pipeline and how to make Energy Efficiency work at local/regional Level

PANEL 4: Funding and financing opportunities for Energy Efficiency in Slovenia

As a part of each Panel, the workshop will include space for constructive stakeholder interaction. A summary of the workshop's highlights will be distributed to all participants, with the expectation this might serve as a helpful reference in future exchanges amongst different stakeholders in the EE arena. EPEC will engage with the involved stakeholders until the end of its mandate within the EPC Campaign by offering a platform for further discussion on relevant EE/EPC issues and obstacles.

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