

Thanks for all contributions to the Ideal EPBD workshops!

Last summer, workshops were organized in all countries to discuss the Ideal EPBD project with national stakeholders and other professionals interested in the project. The overall large turn out at these events showed both the commitment of the organizers as well as the demand for insights in how home-owners react to the different implementations of the EPBD. First of all, we would like to thank all visitors for their contribution. It is much appreciated!

Topics of discussion during the different workshops showed remarkable similarities. Attendees of the workshops were invited to think along about possible breaks and levers for home-owners to implement measures to make their home more energy efficient. All countries reported discussion on the breaks. The inconsistent reliability of the label was mentioned often as a barrier for the use and

trustworthiness of the label. In relation to this, the method for calculation of the label was often mentioned as being flawed. Several attendees of the workshop mention the distrust people have in the label, possibly based on the inconsistent reliability, but also sometimes seen as coming from distrust of the firms calculating the label, as some firms combine labelling with remedying. Some stakeholders mention that the label is just one element, which needs to be supported by other incentives such as subsidies. Of course, many more breaks and levers were discussed in detail.

Overall, the workshops were very useful and seemed to be appreciated by the attendees as well. We received many helpful suggestions for data collection in the coming months. We look forward to disseminating our upcoming project results to all stakeholders involved!

Getting inside homes and their owners heads: Home owners talk about their home

To explore factors of influence for home owner's implementation of energy efficiency measures, we conducted in-depth interviews with individual home owners in 10 European countries. Although it took great effort to find volunteers to interview, specifically to find volunteers owning a house with a label, in the end 5 interviews per country were done and analyzed. The analysis of the interviews revealed a number of interesting points.

It seems in most cases that the energy efficiency credentials of a building are considered less important in comparison to location, space, convenience and affordability. The main reasons for investments in energy-related works include added comfort (including added warmth), reductions in energy bills or just purely because an item required replacing (a boiler for example). In terms of the incentives for the energy-related work to be done, a range of motivations were provided, some quite general, others county specific.

In the UK and Belgium, a combination of levers including advice from professions and family members, labels and audits, incentives and information, justified energy saving investments. Elsewhere, energy efficiency plans initiated by energy companies, government initiatives and poor conditions of dwellings provided the impetus for undertaking work. A number of reasons against investing in energy-related works were also given. Financial restraints, concerns about cost-effectiveness, visual impact and a disinterest in environmental issues were seen as inhibiting factors.

To add to the robustness of the results from these interviews, another round of in-depth interviews is planned in Portugal, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Latvia and Belgium. In the other five countries in Ideal EPBD, an online questionnaire will be administered to large samples of home owners in the UK, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Finland. Results of these subprojects are expected in the summer of 2010.

RECAST OF THE EPBD

ON NOVEMBER 13, 2008, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSED A RECAST OF THE DIRECTIVE ON THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS. THE AIM OF THIS RECAST IS TO IMPROVE THE UPTAKE OF THE REMAINING COST-EFFICIENT POTENTIAL IN THE BUILDING SECTOR IN THE EU

The buildings sector is the largest user of energy and CO2 emitter in the EU and is responsible for about 40% of the EU's total final energy consumption and CO2 emissions. The sector has significant untapped potential for cost-effective energy savings which, if realized, would mean that in 2020 the EU will consume 11% less final energy.

The EPBD recast proposal has been developed on the basis of a broad range of contributions from Member States and interested parties, provided during various consultation. An Impact Assessment (IA) carried out in parallel demonstrated that the revision of the EPBD is the appropriate action to meet EU policy objectives.

The proposal clarifies, strengthens and extends the scope of the current Directive by:

- Extending the scope to set up minimum energy performance requirements when a major renovation is to be carried out ;
- Reinforcing the provisions on energy performance certificates, inspections of heating and air-conditioning systems, energy performance requirements, information, and independent experts;
- Providing Member States and other parties with a benchmarking calculation instrument, which allows the nationally/regionally determined minimum energy performance requirements ambition to cost-optimal levels to be compared;
- Stimulating Member States to develop frameworks for higher market uptake of low or zero energy and carbon buildings;
- Encouraging a more active involvement of the public sector to provide a leading example.

Reactions from stakeholders among Europe have generally been positive.

At a workshop on the upcoming recast of the EPBD, organised in the framework of the ASIEPI project, it was concluded that the level of implementation of the Directive differs very much among Member States. More emphasis on consistent and sound implementation can/could release the large potential for further savings. The proposed recast may accelerate this process.

The proposed recast of the EPBD has included a number of new provisions. Among the most important is the definition and calculation of cost-optimal levels of energy performance. It is felt important that there is an appropriate consultation of the Member States and stakeholders and the validity of a method should be proven for intended applications.

In order to facilitate an efficient and cost-effective implementation and to allow the various stakeholders to prepare properly, it is very important that each member state develops a detailed roadmap for the tightening of national requirements.

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www.ideal-epbd.eu

The IDEAL-EPBD project started in October 2008 and will last until September 2011 (36 months). IDEAL-EPBD is co-funded by the European Union under the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme.

PROJECT PARTNERS

In IDEAL-EPBD a group of 10 universities, research institutes and consultants from 10 European countries participate.



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