

## **SYNTHESES**

Of the reflection to the discussion of Dr Zdravko Genchev, executive director of EnEffect, Center for Energy Efficiency

### **Main focus:**

Reflections and impacts of local (municipal) level energy efficiency policies and practices. Local energy / energy efficiency policies as an integral component of the national energy / energy efficiency policies.

### **Possible issues for discussion**

#### Local (municipal) municipal energy planning & management

A series of projects and initiatives have been carried out for the introduction of local (municipal) energy planning (MEP) in Bulgaria and in other EU member states. Various methodologies for MEP have been elaborated and tested in practice. This experience have been successfully disseminated to other new EU member states and candidate members, as well as to countries of the former Soviet Union. Currently ongoing EU project (MODEL) is building on the achievements to create a Common European Framework methodology (CFM) for MEP. An original computerized energy database have been developed and introduced in some EU countries and disseminated in countries in transition. Based on successful practices MEP was incorporated in the newest energy efficiency legislation and becomes a routine practice in some countries. MEP is now used as the base for the preparation of packages of investment and non-investment projects to apply for financing from the EU structural funds.

#### Local (municipal) networking

A national municipal network for energy efficiency, named EcoEnergy, has been founded in 1997. Focused initially on public awareness raising on energy efficiency, EcoEnergy gradually built strong reputation as an effective instrument for building local capacity, for identifying and developing energy efficiency projects and for attracting funding for their implementation. Being one of the most active collective members of the European municipal network Energie-cites, EcoEnergy is often used as a positive example for other countries. Currently, municipalities of several new EU member states are creating regional or national municipal energy efficiency networks (Slovenia, Hungary), other use existing organizations to encourage energy efficiency policies and practices on the local level. Based of the accumulated experience of EcoEnergy, a Regional Network for Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources (RENEUER) in Southeastern Europe have been founded in 1999 with the support of the EU Economic commission for Europe and the US AID.

#### Innovative financial instruments for energy efficiency

Significant experience have been accumulated in new EU member states in the development and the implementation of various financial schemes and instruments for financing energy efficiency projects, incl. projects in municipalities. With the support of the GEF, World Bank and the Bulgarian government a special Energy Efficiency Funds have been established in Romania and Bulgaria, Hungary. In parallel, a series of other financial schemes were successfully introduced and implemented in new EU member states, such as third party financing (ESCOs, performance contracting, energy contracting etc.), leasing, guarantee schemes, as well as traditional forms like commercial credits etc.

Dr Zdravko Genchev, Center for Energy Efficiency, 2007



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