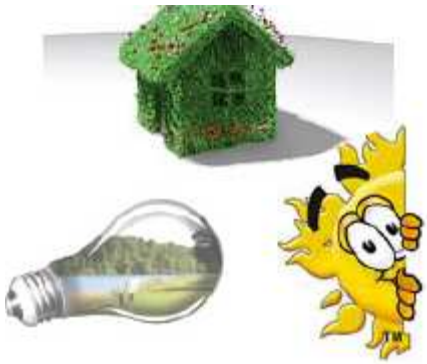
BEST PRACTICES RESEARCH OF SUPPORTING STRUCTURES FOR PROVIDING LOCAL AND REGIONAL POLICY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND STIMULATING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES USE

C O N T E N T



I. INTRODUCTION

Energy efficiency is at the heart of the EU's Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and of the transition to a resource efficient economy. Energy efficiency is one of the most cost effective ways to enhance security of energy supply, and to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. In many ways, energy efficiency can be seen as Europe's biggest energy resource.

This is why the Union has set itself a target for 2020 of saving 20% of its primary energy consumption compared to projections, and why this objective was identified in the Commission's Communication on Energy 2020 as a key step towards achieving our long-term energy and climate goals. Substantial steps have been taken towards this objective – notably in the appliances and buildings markets. Nonetheless, recent Commission estimates suggest that the EU is on course to achieve only half of the 20% objective. The EU needs to act now to get on track to achieve its target. Responding to the call of the European Council of 4 February 2011 to take 'determined action to tap the considerable potential for higher energy savings of buildings, transport and products and processes', the Commission has therefore developed this comprehensive new Energy Efficiency Plan.

It is consistently in harmony with other policy actions under the Europe 2020 Strategy's Flagship Initiative for a Resource Efficient Europe, including the 2050 roadmap for a low-carbon economy, to ensure policy coherence, assess trade-offs between policy areas and benefit from potential synergies. The energy efficiency measures will be implemented as part of the EU's wider resource efficiency goal encompassing efficient use of all natural resources and ensuring high standards of environmental protection.

Targets for energy efficiency are an effective way to trigger action and create political momentum. The "Europe 2020" process has created, with the application of the "European semester", a new governance context and additional tools for the EU to steer its efforts on energy efficiency. The Commission therefore proposes a two step approach to target setting. As a first stage, Member States are currently setting national energy efficiency targets and programmes. These indicative targets and the individual efforts of each Member State will be evaluated to assess likely achievement of the overall EU target and the extent to which the individual efforts meet the common goal.

The Commission will support and provide tools for the Member States in the elaboration of their energy efficiency programmes and closely monitor their implementation through its revised legislative framework and within the new framework provided under the Europe 2020 process.

In 2013, the Commission will provide an assessment of the results obtained and whether the programmes will, in combination, deliver the European 20% objective. If the 2013 review shows that the overall EU target is unlikely to be achieved, then as a second stage the Commission will propose legally binding national targets for 2020. As in the case of renewable energy, it would then be necessary to take into account the individual starting points of Member States, their economic performance and early action undertaken in the field.

In view of this it is very important for Bulgaria as a member-state to undertake measures for achieving the national objectives in the sphere. Article 11 of the Energy Efficiency Act states that EE policy shall be conducted by state authorities and local government which will develop plans for energy efficiency and programmes for implementation for a certain programming period. The Act aims to improve energy efficiency as a main factor for increasing economic competitiveness, energy security and environmental protection.

One of the measures for supporting the implementation of the EE policy on regional level is the establishment of Regional Councils for Sustainable Energy. The law does not regulate their establishment and to the present there are only a few Regional administrations in Bulgaria which have established such Regional Councils. The facts show that most of the existing councils are not functioning well and their activities are purely formal.

Their role is just to adopt the regional and municipal plans and programmes for energy efficiency. The Councils could contribute to more effective implementation of the national strategy and policy for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources and could also coordinate between the regional institutions by means of: organizing information campaigns to raise awareness of the issues and problems in the field of energy efficiency, consulting the local population to implement appropriate measures for home, finding investment programs, projects and energy efficiency measures, demonstration of using renewable energy sources in state, municipal and private building sites.

The idea of this paper is to study the foreign experience in the related field. It can be concluded that in Europe, the structures that support energy efficiency policy at regional level exist in various forms, have different legal status and functions. Further in this paper there are examples from member states and countries outside the EU presenting organizations that promote the rational use of energy as part of local and regional policy for energy efficiency.

II. THE ROLE OF MORE4NRG

MORE4NRG project started in 2008 uniting the partners Flevoland – Holland, Abruzzo – Italy, Gabrovo – Bulgaria, Maramures – Romania, Norrbotten – Sweden, North Braband – Holland, Prahova – Romania, Vasternorrland – Sweden, Western Greece and Assembly of European regions. The province of Flevoland is lead partner of MORE4NRG. The Bulgarian partner is Euro-perspectives Foundation. The project aim is to improve the implementation of the regional strategies in the sphere of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources by exchanging good practices on sustainable energy policies.
During the project there were identified several good practices related to structures supporting the implementation of the EE and RES policy on local and regional level.

- **RUR@CT – European regions for rural innovation – cooperation network gathering European regions politically involved in promoting rural innovation, including best practice towards RES and EE**

RUR@CT network is one of the best interregional supporting structures for all the regions in EU. Every regional administration that became a member could receive support and advices on transfer of best practices regarding sustainable development issues by the means of interregional cooperation.

In order to contribute to the Gothenburg objectives, and ensure the sustainable development of the European countryside, rural development policies should focus on environmental innovation and transfer of best practices regarding sustainable development issues by the means of interregional cooperation.

Thus, the objectives of the RUR@CT network are as follows:

- Enhancement of the effectiveness of rural development policies
- Promotion of rural innovation at the service of territorial cohesion, including new instruments of environmental governance
- Exchange of experience and transfer of good practice among rural regions
- Development of truly innovative projects, also in the area of RES and EE

The success of RUR@CT network shows that the best practices towards the fight against climate change and energy scarcity often reside within our regions. European territories should work closely together to find winning capabilities and environmental strategies that could be shared among themselves with ease and effect. The exchange and application of knowledge unleashes the substantial value locked in at a regional level, helping territorial authorities deliver their energy goals and commitments even more effectively.

RURACT is an example of outstanding contribution to improve the living environment of the European countryside. The network offers a great variety of advantages, such as:

- Improvement of public policy based on what works
- Raising awareness of decision-makers at all levels and of the public of potential solutions to common social, economic and environmental problems
- Sharing and transferring knowledge, expertise and experience through networking and learning

- **Regional Energy Management Agency - Promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources at the Maramures County level - ROMANIA**

Maramures Energy Management Agency (AMEMM) was established in 2009 as a NGO, non-profit and apolitical in accordance with the Local Public Administration Law no. 215/200. As the Agency has the legal status of non-governmental organization, it enjoys autonomy in operation and coordination of Maramures County Council, working with independent budget and in collaboration with local authorities in the county, national and international energy agencies, agencies and companies with experience in energy and environment, academia, the main consumers and local energy suppliers and other environmental NGOs.

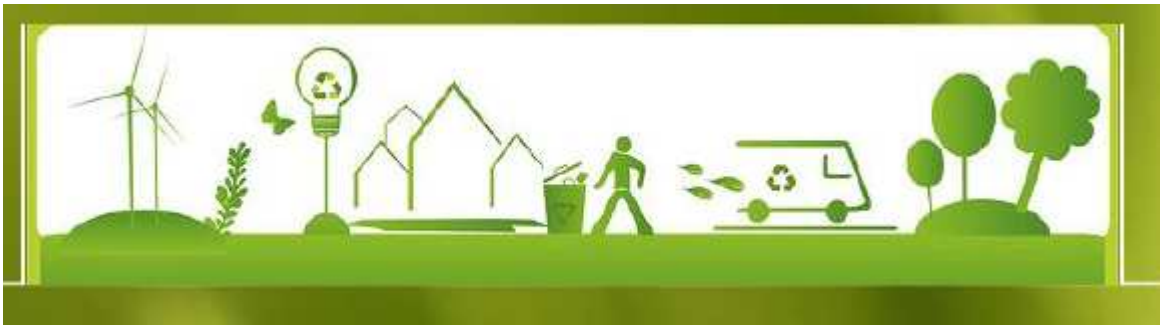
The Agency aims to be a qualified body that carries out activities in the community's interest. The Agency's main objective is to contribute to the county's sustainable development by promoting energy efficiency, energy management and use of renewable energy resources. This should improve the way in which energy is produced and used, increase the energy supply security, control climatic changes, invigorate economic growth, create new jobs and achieve a higher quality of life for the people in a cleaner environment. The Agency helps the local authorities to formulate and implement energy strategies and policies for green acquisitions. It puts effort into informing the public and private businesses on energy legislation and current issues. The agency is focused on environmental education as well, in order to raise awareness about the need to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and production facilities and to use energy rationally.

- **Valencia - Development of company R&D support. Creation of R&D centres (ITE) - SPAIN**

Main role of ITE is to provide companies with solutions by incorporating technology resulting from the execution of R&D projects and services, tests, training and technological diffusion. The aim is to improve the safety and efficiency of a company's products, services and processes. This will increase the competitiveness of sectors involved in electricity, electronics, power, communications, automation and capital goods.
ITE was set up in 1994 and forms part of the IMPIVA (Network of Technology Institutes of the Valencian Small and Medium-Sized Business Institute). In 2001 it became founding partner of REDIT (Valencian Community Network of Technology Institutes). In their body of Government, the three vice-presidencies are: UPV University, SME regional agency (IMPIVA) and regional energy agency (AVEN).

Process and detailed content of the practice: The Electrical Technology Institute (ITE) is a private, non-profit association whose services, products and technological projects are addressed to national and international public bodies and companies in sectors involving power, electricity, electronics and communications.

ITE is a private non-profit research association, linked to university and contracted researchers. It was established in close collaboration with university professors in order to get the best technological support. This R&D centre cooperates with the association of Valencian companies (AVAESEN) in order to work closely with enterprises.



III. GOOD PRACTICIES FROM THE EU

A very famous structure in the sphere is **Rhônalpénergie-Environnement - regional agency for energy and environment in Rhône-Alpes, South-East France**

Fields of activity:
• rational use of energy,
• promotion of renewable energies,
• protection of the environment,
• practical application of the sustainable development concept,
• climate change (observation, mitigation, adaptation).

Legal status:
• private non-profit making organisation of about 75 members including the Regional Council, the 8 counties, towns, energy producers, social housing organisations, organisations from the transport and industry sectors, financial bodies.

The main regional stakeholders in the field of energy are next target groups:
• local authorities,
• organisations governed by public laws (social housing companies, hospitals, schools).

Objectives: to inform, advise and assist its target groups in order to achieve EE in their facilities and working proccess/ houses
The Agency is directly involved also in the proccess of strategic regional planning

⇨Assisting and carrying out programs or global actions on a territory
Examples:
- Development of renewable energies in regional natural parks
- Implementation of ecomobility plans
- Support in defining SEAPs (Sustainable Energy Action Plans)

⇨Animation of a resource and exchange center
Examples:
- Regional observatory of energy and greenhouse gas emissions (OREGES)
- Trainings, seminars, study tours
- Web TV - Animation of working groups
- Publications, newsletters
- Thematic websites

⇨Advising and assisting its target groups during the definition and the implementations stages of projects

Examples:
- Local Agenda 21: towns of Romans, Echirolles, Annemasse...
- Wood energy: heating plants of La Duchère in Lyon, Bourg-en-Bresse
- Public policies evaluation

Castilla y Leon - EREN - Ente Regional de la Energia de Castilla y León – Castilla Leon Regional Energy Agency - Spain

EREN, Castilla Leon Regional Energy Agency, was grounded in 1996 (Law 7/1996) by the regional government and in the framework of the Save Programme, as an energy managing organism at a regional level, aimed to develop the most appropriate regional energy policy, always following the guidelines established by the European Union's energy policy, on the basis of its main three principles: security of energy supply; competitiveness and, environmental protection. The European partnership was established with Regional Energy Agency of Lisboa e Vale do Tejo (Portugal) and Skane Energy Agency (Sweden). EREN was established as a tool for the Castilla y León's economic and social representatives of facing up to these questions related to the SME's and citizens energy efficiency, at the same moment promoting the renewable energies use and the energy saving endefficiency and, developing the region great energy potential, always taking into the best consideration the environmental balance, contributing to the regional sustainable development.

The organisation is composed by a Board of Administration, an Advisory Committee and a Managing Director, which conduct and report the actions developed by EREN as well as its internal functioning, make up by a high specialised and qualified staff divided into three main departments: Energy Saving and Efficiency, Renewable Energies and, External Relations, Training and Education Department. Actions carried out by EREN in the energy field are focused to promote the energy saving an the exploitation of renewable energy sources, promoting the regional companies competitiveness and the citizens quality of life, what contributes directly to the global economic development of the region.

It is therefore that EREN implements activities and designs initiatives in the following areas:

- **Energy Planning**

  - Developing the main actions identified by the Regional Energy Plan (PERCYL);
  - Development of the Energy Saving, Substitution, Cogeneration and Renewable Energies Programme (PASCER);
  - Activities aimed to promote the energy saving and efficiency in all activity sectors;

- Dissemination actions on the importance of increasing the regional environmental conditions through an optimal renewable energies exploitation.

➢ Energy Efficiency

- Elaboration and implementation of a Castilla y León Energy Saving and Efficiency Plan, aimed to companies, SME, public buildings and housing owners;
- Promotion of processes and more efficient technologies of transforming and energy using in the industrial, residential and services sectors;
- Energy audits: in the different activity sectors (industries, hospitals, hotels, schools, housings) in order to promote possible solutions implying an optimal energy saving and efficiency
- Elaboration and implementation of an "Energy Audits Programme in Castilla y León";
- Building Certifications in the different activity sectors;
- Processes of fuel substitution in public transports using alternative ones.

➢ Renewable Energies

Activities aimed to promote the development of the Castilla y Leon high potential of renewable energy sources in all its technical areas: hydropower, biomass, wind energy, solar thermal energy, solar photovoltaics and geothermical energy. EREN will promote projects all around the region, implying local and regional entities, looking for the optimal impact in the local economy, increasing the employment and the quality of life in those localities where the projects are implemented.

➢ Consulting and Advisory Actions

- Participating and assisting in working groups at national or regional level dealing with energy matters;
- Legislation proposals.
- Promotion, assistance, management, follow up and participation in European Union, National and Regional energy programmes and initiatives;
- Co-operation with international, national, regional and local institutions in the energy fields to get the best and more efficient results;
- Collaboration in energy networks;
- Establishment of co-operation agreements with universities and other public and private entities to develop joint actions on different energy matters.
- Information Dissemination and Training
- Collection of energy data, elaboration and publication of a Bulletin on Energy Statistic in Castilla y León;
- Elaboration of periodical regional energy studies about the consumption evolution in all activities sectors;
- Public Reports and recommendations for a more rational use of energy;

- Seminars, workshops and public courses on different aspects of saving and energy efficiency aimed to both a general public and a most specific sectors;
- Dissemination campaign on a better use of energy at a regional level, using the media;
- Organisation of joint dissemination activities on energy efficiency and renewable energies with other regional energy agencies, in national and international context, especially with the EREN partner in this project, the regional energy agency on Lisboa e Vale do Tejo in Portugal.

Skane, Sweden – Skane Energy Agency

The Skåne Energy Agency is an independent, regional organisation located in the south of Sweden. The agency provides the public, municipalities and the business sector with energy services with the aim to increase energy efficiency and promote renewable energy.

As a regional energy agency, it is available for all members of the region: professionals, public authorities, citizens and many others. There are a regional expert in terms of energy, know the region's profile and potential and offer various services in order to keep it up to date. One of the main role of the structure is to develop the region's energy sector continuously and to achieve a sustainable region of Skåne.
Also, as a regional actor, it is in their interest to share knowledge with other regions and countries and to work on common projects.

Skåne Energy Agency started a campaign in early 2006, focusing on increasing quality in the already put forward local energy plans in Skåne, many descending from the 1980s. Supporting new creative local climate and energy strategies, the agency wanted to increase local climate and energy initiatives. The Agency has supported the emergence of ten new local climate and energy strategies in Skåne until December 2010.

In the process of developing a local energy strategy, work scheduling and work structuring are essential to achieve a good result. Skåne Energy Agency has great experience from supporting local governments in this field. The agency has state of the art competence regarding give support to the process and finding local climate and energy statistics. They also have been involved and have great experience from regional climate and energy strategy building. Skåne Energy Agency helps to households and companies to make their house or office building or the working processes within the house/company more efficient.

Also, one of Skåne Energy Agency's most important tasks is to contribute on an increased use of renewable energy in Sweden. They manage and coordinate several well-known networks about renewable energy within the region, such as Biogas Syd, Solar Region Skåne and Vätgas Syd. Another famous project of Skane Energy Agency Solar City Malmö.

Milan, Italy - Central Directorate on Environment and Energy

The Province of Milan, through its Energy Sector, deals on the rational use of energy and the development of renewable energy sources.
Fields of activity are:

- Drawing and management of Provincial Energy Programme;
- Control of the correct maintenance of the heating plants in Municipalities with less than 40.000 inhabitants;
- Authorisations issuing for minor power plants in the territory of the Province;
- Organisation of training courses for heating-plant operation and maintenance;
- Promotion of renewable energy and development of technologies for domestic and industrial energy saving;
- Promotion of performance contracting with Third Party Financing.

Basque, Spain - E.V.E. - Ente Vasco de la Energía - Basque Energy Board

The Basque Energy Board, EVE, was created by Decree No. 81/1982 on 5 April as a Public Limited Company. Since it's creation EVE has been responsible for implementing the Energy policy of the Basque Government. Currently the EVE Group Staff is constituted of 304 members.

Main activities - The EVE Group provides services in the areas of:

- Energy Efficiency in the Industrial, Transport and Residential and Services sectors.
  - Technical assistance Diagnoses and energy audits; consumption monitoring; advice on energy and environmental legislation; viability studies for CHP facilities and other types of investment; certificate of energy efficien cy in buildings; vehicle diagnosis; energy studies in ships, etc.
  - Training Master's degree in energy efficiency; postgraduate course in energy efficiency in industry; training for operators of equipment with high-energy consumption; specific courses in CHP; atmospheric pollution; climate control and other energy-related subjects.
  - Support for designing information and publicity campaigns.
  - Publications and simulators of energy-consuming home appliances

- Renewable energy (solar thermal and photovoltaic, wind, landfill biogas, small hydro, biomass, etc.).
  - Technical assistance Assessment of potential and energy strategy studies; Technical and economic viability studies of investment projects; design, construction and operation of energy projects, etc.
  - Training
  - Publications and videos.

- Energy planning.
  - Technical assistance Definition of energy policies and strategies, energy balance sheets, industry-specific studies, definition of indicators.
  - Publications. (See our web site www.eve.es)
  - Computer models of energy trends.
  - Energy legislation.

- Natural gas Infrastructure and Distribution. Exploration for hydrocarbons. Hydro-geology and mining.

  - Technical assistance in hydro-geology Complete hydro-geological studies; studies of municipal supply; assessment of existing sites; underground water studies and quality control; assessments of potential of surface water; viability studies of using mineral water and water with medicinal properties.
  - Geological theme maps Regional hydro-geological maps; metallogenetic maps; mapping of industrial rocks and minerals.
  - Mine exploration.

EVE is in constant contact with the economic world of the Basque Country and its clients include leading Basque companies, state bodies and professional organisations. Internationally, EVE's most important clients are the European Commission – through its Directorates General for Energy and External Relations – and multilateral banks. EVE habitually works in consortium with local consultancy and engineering firms and others from the European Union.

Liguria, Italy - ARE - Agenzia Regionale per l'Energia delle Liguria – Regional Energy Agency of Liguria

By setting up this Agency the Region of Liguria intends to:

- Equip itself with technical support for territorial energy monitoring;
- Qualify for the ability to identify energy projects, saving and development opportunities of local sources in terms of immediate answers to needs as they appear;
- Establish a stable reference point for Local Institutions and regional subjects interested in the energy sector;
- Have stable links with energy subjects both at the domestic and European level for the exchange of experience, information, etc.
- Guarantee a strategy of action by Local Institutions compatible with the policy line of the Regional Energy Plan and ensure that all energy savings opportunities and technological innovations are effectively publicised in the regional area.

Objectives:

- Technical support for the Region and for other Local Authorities for Energy Planning and development activities related to the sector;
- Promoting a Rational Use of Energy
- Exploiting Local Energy Sources
- Regional Energy Monitoring
- New energy technologies dissemination
- Spreading Information

Activities:

- Organisation of a basic document for the application of the normative for controlling technical installation in Liguria in collaboration with ARPAL (Regional Environmental Protection Agency).
- Development on behalf of the Ligurian Region of an investigation into the level of social acceptance of the incinerator with energy production proposed for the Genoa harbour area.
- Support of the Ligurian Region with regard to Energy Planning activities and completing the Regional Energy Balance to 1996.
- Participation in an Environmental Impact Assessment study for a thermal waste disposal installation in Genoa
- Study to assess the feasibility of interventions in a minor hydroelectric area in those municipalities which fall into the Objective 5/b of the Multifund Operative Program.
- Promotion of seminars such as: "Guidelines for the correct application of DPR 412/93 in Liguria", "Energy planning for a sustainable development" aimed at administrators and technicians, organisation of a conference on behalf of the Ligurian Region "Integrated waste management" and participation as speaker in other regional events promoted by others.
- Collaboration with the Provincial Administration of Savona in providing technical assistance for its Thermal Installation Control Service.

REGEA - Regionalna energetska agencija Sjeverozapadne Hrvatske - The North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency

The North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency - REGEA has been established by Zagreb County, Karlovac County, Krapina-Zagorje County and City of Zagreb under the framework of the Intelligent Energy Europe programme.

REGEA main objective and role are promoting and encouraging of regional sustainable development in the fields of energy and environmental protection through renewable energy sources (RES) utilization and energy efficiency measures implementation.

The scope of work includes the following:

- Promotion and implementation of “best practices” and “case-studies” in regional energy management
- Promotion and implementation of sustainable development concept

- Public awareness activities in the fields of energy and environmental protection
- Up-to-date information and advices regarding regional energy issues
- Advisory support for the implementation of regional energy plans and programs

Activities:
In order to achieve the planned objectives and goals REGEA has initiated a wide range of projects and activities which can broadly be grouped within the following categories:

- Energy planning

The objective of this work is to devise and agree a detailed short, medium and long term energy strategy, together with all stakeholders, identify key indicators and targets and prepare a work programme for the next 3 years. Strategies for sustainable energy utilisation have been developed for three Counties (REGEA founding authorities), namely Krapina-Zagorje County, Zagreb County and Karlovac County. The strategies are focused on increased implementation of renewable energy sources and implementation of energy efficiency measures. For the City of Zagreb, this worked will be linked to the preparation of Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) which has to be submitted to the European Commission following the signature of the Covenant the Mayors.

- Sector activities

The main outcome of this group of activities should be the start-up and implementation of numerous demonstration and commercial projects, increase of number of stakeholders related to renewables and energy efficiency, increased involvement and participation of entrepreneurs, SMEs and industry. In cooperation with local authorities and the Fund for Environment Protection and Energy Efficiency, REGEA has initiated a considerable number of projects covering the following sectors:

- Modernisation of public lighting;
- Reconstruction of public buildings;
- Biomass district heating;
- Biogas utilisation;
- Utilisation of alternative fuels for transport (biodiesel);
- Utilisation of solar thermal;
- Utilisation of heat pumps.

- Horizontal activities:

The main objective of this group of activities is the improved understanding and increased support for renewable energy and energy efficiency within municipalities, including well trained staff from different target groups (teachers, plumbers, technology producers).

Specialised training courses and seminars for different target groups have been organised including the following activities:

- Education campaign on sustainable buildings for high schools. The campaign includes lectures on the subject of sustainable buildings, distribution of printed materials, organised study tours and as the final part organisation of a knowledge competition with awards. Two campaigns have been organised up to now and in total 7 high schools have been included with participation of more than 600 school children and their teachers;
- Education workshops on energy efficiency for representatives of public institutions in Karlovac County. In cooperation with Karlovac County within the framework of the INTERREG project Sustainable energy management in the Karlovac County, a total of 10 workshops with the attendance of 150 people have been organised by the Agency staff;
- Publication of education brochures on sustainable buildings and efficient public lighting, while a third brochure on biomass district heating is in preparation. Additionally, a comic book for elementary school pupils related to renewable energy sources have been published in cooperation with the City of Ivanic Grad. This publication was distributed to all schools and kindergartens in the area and received by more than 500 children during an organised campaign. Additionally, some 500 copies were already distributed to children all around the area of Agency activities.

Alba, Romania - Alba Local Energy Agency

Alba Local Energy Agency (ALEA) was established given the need to develop local actions resulting from European and national policies and strategies, related to energy. With its activity the agency addresses itself to both the population in Alba county, to whom it can provide advice, and to the local authorities whom it supports in the defining, promoting and sustaining energy policies.

Other key objectives of ALEA’s activity are energy planning and support of projects regarding energy eficiency and RES.

The Agency`s action at local level aims at overcoming obstacles such as: lack of specific information, bureaucracy, frequent legislative changes, through public campaigns of development of local energy awareness and delivery of advice campaign.

Main goals:

- To elaborate an energetic Master plan, future base for the energetic strategy at local and county level;

- To promote projects on energy efficiency and the use of energy from renewable sources in order to ensure a durable development in Alba County;
- To create an informative and free advisory office and a site for citizens and interested bodies (public and private) concerning energy efficiency and renewable energy sources;
- To educate, to raise awareness and to disseminate information among citizens;
- To support public authorities and the business environment in order to promote energy plans at local level.

Samso, Germany - Energy Service Samsø

Year created: 2005

Source of funding: 100% national

Legal status: Energy Agency

The objectives of **Energy Service Samsø** are:

- Energy savings and awareness campaigns.
- Public participation and NGO activities

Areas of expertise: changing citizens' behaviour, dissemination of information, advice on specific energy issues, energy auditing, promotion of technology, energy efficiency in buildings, CHP, small wind farms, solar energy, insulation .

Target audience: Private people, small business and public organizations

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Yorkshire, UK - Yorkshire Energy Services

It is an Energy Agency, created in year 2000 with staff of 50 persons.

Sources of Funding:

- 02% - European
- 30% - National
- 30% - Regional
- 30% - Local
- 08% - Private

Yorkshire Energy Services is the new name in providing a wide range of products, services and advice to everyone to create greater awareness of climate change and sustainable energy and to promote actions to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Formerly Kirklees Energy Services, Yorkshire Energy Services are an international award winning company and a trusted provider of energy advice, products and services since 2000. Passionate about the environment, they have a successful track record of working in partnership with organisations and individuals to combat climate change and fuel poverty.

Its brief is to:

- reduce climate change emissions through energy advuice and the installation of energy efficiency and energy conservation measures within households and SMEs.
- reduce teh incidence of fuel poverty
- to assist and carry out other initiatives that support the broad environmental and poverty aims of the company.

Yorkshire Energy Services runs the Energy Saving Trust advice centre for south and west Yorkshire, which is part of the EST national network of ESTac. YES also manage a wide range of award winning projects for public sector orgainsations across northern England.

In 2011 YES is diversifying into support the development of low carbon transport especially around electric vehicles and modal shift. In 2010 YES establsihed a subsidiary company to install renewable technologies such as Solar PV, solar thermal, etc.

Riga Municipal Agency "Riga Energy Agency"

Riga Energy Agency was legally established on 23 January 2007, under the legal form of municipal agency, registered in accordance of The Resolution on the Establishment of the Municipal Energy Agency of Riga made by Riga City Council on 23 January 2007, and started its operation on 15 May 2007.

Sources of Funding:

- 50% - European
- 50% - Local

The Agency has the following functions:

- To elaborate and update the Development Concept of Riga District Heating System;
- To elaborate the Program for Increase of Energy Efficiency;
- To organize implementation of Program and related projects;
- To prepare an annual report on the current situation and the progress made in area of energy efficiency in Riga city;

- To establish the unit within Agency called Energy Efficiency Information Centre;
- To liaise with foreign and international institutions and organizations according to the area of authority of the Agency;
- To provide service of energy auditors;
- To publish information materials and to provide information to mass media in the area of authority of the Agency;
- To cooperate with governmental and municipal institution, non-governmental organizations, and other legal as well as physical entities, etc.

Bucharest, Romania - Agency for energy efficiency and environment protection Bucharest

The Local Energy Agency is a separate legal entity with its own statutes and is established as a non-profit NGO. The Agency was set up with the support of Municipality of Sector 1 Bucharest and support of the Intelligent Energy - Europe programme – with 50% - European and 50% - Local Sources of Funding.

The Agency is a management unit for projects in the energy and environment field, gathering consumers, producers, social organizations and representing the organization members which are interested in the application of measures for rational use of energy and in developing renewable energy projects to ensure the sustainable development at local community level.The Agency was founded with the aim to setup a legal entity respected in the community of Bucharest, capable to capitalize expertize and capable to influence local and regional policies regarding energy use and new sources for green energy .

The Management Board is composed by representatives of public administration and private businesses and industries, as well as concerned associations, research bodies and universities.

The bylaws of the agency guarantee its independence.
Every Project have its own Management Board who will be the decision-makers for the project activities.

The Management Board of the Agency are representatives of all the interested bodies in the district and none of these bodies on their own will be in a position to dictate the activities of the Agency.

The goal of the Agency is to raise awareness around the use of new renewable energy sources in the Romanian energy market, disseminate information on the state of research, publish information newsletters, educate all involved energy actors, promote growth of energy efficiency as well as renewable energy consumption and share expertise with European experienced actors and successful projects.

IV. GOOD PRACTICES FROM OUTSIDE THE EU

The most impressive structure is **The World Energy Council (WEC)** - ***it is the foremost multi-energy organisation in the world today.*** WEC has Member Committees in nearly 100 countries, including most of the largest energy-producing and energy consuming countries. Established in 1923; the organisation covers all types of energy, including coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear, hydro, and renewables. WEC is a UK-registered charity headquartered in London.

WEC Services Limited was established in 2001 as the incorporated trading subsidiary of WEC. WEC's Mission is 'To promote the sustainable supply and use of energy for the greatest benefit of all people'. WEC operates in three-year cycles. It is governed by the Executive Assembly and has a board of trustees (Officers Council) and three Standing Committees, Communications & Outreach, Programmes and Studies.

This mission is carried out through the objectives, which were approved at WEC's founding in 1924 and modified over the years to adapt to the changing energy industry and the changes within WEC. WEC's objects (the "Objects") as they exist today are:

- collating data about and undertaking and promoting research into the means of supplying and using energy having, short and long term, the greatest social benefit and the least harmful impact on the natural environment, and publishing or otherwise disseminating the useful results of such research;
- undertaking actions, including but not limited to the holding of Congresses, workshops and seminars, to facilitate such supply and use of energy; and
- collaborating with other organisations in the energy sector with compatible goals.

WEC's membership is made up of 94 autonomous Member Committees. Each Member Committee represents the broadest possible range of energy and energy-related interests in its country:

- Energy producers, providers, and marketers
- Energy and power ministries
- National energy associations
- Energy manufacturers, fuel producers
- Decision-makers, policy-makers
- Government agencies
- Research and academic institutions
- Energy users
- Environmental organisations

The World Energy Council offers a wide variety of services, programmes and activities to its members as well as to the energy industry at large and to the general public. WEC is well known on the global energy scene for its authoritative reports, analyses, research, case studies, medium and long-term energy projections, and policy and strategy recommendations. The work of the organisation spans the entire energy spectrum -- coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear, hydro and new renewables -- and focuses on such topical areas as market restructuring; energy efficiency; energy and the environment; financing energy systems; energy pricing and subsidies; energy poverty; ethics; benchmarking and standards; use of new technologies; and energy issues in developed, transitional, developing countries.

THE USA EXPERIENCE

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is an office within the United States Department of Energy that invests in high-risk, high-value research and development in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. The Office of EERE is led by the Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, who manages several internal EERE offices and ten programs that support research, development, and outreach efforts.

Management and organization

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's mission, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's Web site, is to strengthen America's energy security, environmental quality, and economic vitality in public-private partnerships that enhance energy efficiency and productivity; bring clean, reliable and affordable energy technologies to the marketplace; and make a difference in the everyday lives of Americans by enhancing their energy choices and their quality of life. The Office manages ten major programs, each of which is responsible for research, development, and outreach in a particular field of renewable energy or energy efficiency.

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) plays a critical role in the development and use of more energy efficient and renewable energy technologies throughout the U.S. economy. To achieve its goals, EERE uses public funds appropriated by the U.S. Congress that are typically leveraged by additional funds or other resources contributed by private or other public sector organizations in partnership agreements.

As a publicly funded agency of the U.S. government, EERE has a fiduciary obligation to inform citizens about the manner in which we invest and use these funds to benefit the public.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) is the statistical and analytical agency within the U.S. Department of Energy. EIA collects, analyzes, and disseminates independent and impartial energy information to promote sound policymaking, efficient markets, and public understanding of energy and its interaction with the economy and the environment.
EIA is the Nation's premier source of energy information and, by law, its data, analyses, and forecasts are independent of approval by any other officer or employee of the United States Government. The Department of Energy Organization Act of 1977 established EIA as the primary Federal Government authority on energy statistics and analysis, building upon systems and organizations first established in 1974 following the oil market disruption of 1973.

EIA conducts a comprehensive data collection program that covers the full spectrum of energy sources, end uses, and energy flows; generates short- and long-term domestic and international energy projections; and performs informative energy analyses. EIA disseminates its data products, analyses, reports, and services to customers and stakeholders primarily through its website and the customer contact center.

The American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE) is focused on accelerating the adoption of renewable energy technologies into the mainstream of American society. ACORE provides a common platform for the wide range of interests in the renewable energy community including renewable energy industries, associations, utilities, end users, professional service firms, financial institutions and government agencies. ACORE serves as a forum through which these parties work together on common interests. It was founded in 2001 as a forum to convene all sectors of the renewable energy industry. As of November 2009, ACORE had over 700 member organizations. ACORE organizes four major events each year, as well as an ongoing teleconference series.

Solar America Cities is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy, 25 cities across the United States, and municipal, county, and state agencies, universities, solar companies, utilities, developers, and non-profit organizations. The 25 selected cities each received $5 million, as well as technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy, to:

- Integrate solar energy technologies into city energy planning
- Remove barriers to solar energy development in their city
- Promote solar technologies among the residents and local businesses.

V. CONCLUSION

Energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy sources are increasingly becoming the priority policies of local, regional and national level. Still, however, does not have enough experience and research practices, which require effective implementation of these policies and they still mostly remain only theoretical wishes; not yet aware that energy management relates to management and planning of energy and resource costs at all levels. It includes a set of engineering and economic principles for the control of heating costs, the objective is to provide a microclimate in the buildings or the quality of the products with minimal energy costs and prevent pollution. This, of course, also have to reflecte in household management. Lack of ipformation in all sectors and all levels of government can be filled through the implementation of various projects and through the effective separation of the structures of regional and local level to assist the process.

As it is mentioned above - one of the ways to support the implementation of energy efficiency policy at the regional level is the creation of Regional Councils for Sustainable Energy. Experience shows that most of the already existing councils are not functioning well and their activities are purely formal. Part of the reason for this is related to the following problems:

- Insufficient interaction between state and municipal institutions on the one hand and civil society on the other.
- The process of building regional and municipal energy agencies do not receive substantial support from the state.
- Lack of civic organizations have developed in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.
- There is no clear and consistent state policy for working with NGOs in this field.
- Lack of well trained staff in the field of energy efficiency at all levels of governance and lack of appropriate social and psychological climate for promoting efficient energy use in municipalities are significant restraints on the activities in this field.
- Lack of qualified staff in the development, management and financing of energy efficiency projects, perform energy audits at all levels and competent maintenance of the premises of final energy consumption, especially at local level.
- The society does not know the nature and importance of energy efficiency and ways of its improvement, including the most accessible. There is a bias that energy efficiency is not necessarily associated with high costs and advanced technology solutions, so it is only available in highly developed countries.

All this shows that problems can be overcome mainly by serious and consistent dissemination of information and conducting an organized and coherent policy at local and regional level in terms of energy efficiency and renewables. Creating a structure or organization for the effective implementation of successful policies for energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy can have different forms. They may be government departments, regional, provincial or local authorities with different levels of responsibility. Public authorities are usually associated with long-term promotion of sustainable energy and creating a favorable business environment in which local businesses can prosper. In turn, energy agencies advise on local policies in the long run, information about the establishment and modernization of buildings and advise on the support schemes in the public interest.

All the above examples and practices of the present study on this kind of existing structures are imposed for the improvement of the structures in Bulgaria.