

POLICY BRIEF 5TH SEMESTER – CENTRU REGION JULY 2018

Executive Summary

European Strategies underline regional cooperation as an instrument to facilitate the implementation of EU energy efficiency and renewable targets, thus delivering secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy to consumers. In this regard, through its exchange activities, including the regional stakeholders meetings, BIO4ECO plays an important role in facilitating cooperation between organisations active in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy and ensures that regional initiatives are well spread as well all the new elements of the revised energy policies are well understood.

On 21st of June 2018, RDA Centru organised the **4th regional stakeholder group meeting of BIO4ECO project**, an opportunity to exchange experiences and share knowledge and to discuss the revised energy legislation at EU level.

Process

In the framework of [EUSEW 2018 - EU Sustainable Energy Week 2018](#), RDA Centru organised on 21st of June 2018 the **4th regional stakeholder group meeting of BIO4ECO project**. This event was organised in partnership with the Green Energy Innovative Biomass Cluster, the National Institute for Research and Development in Constructions, Urbanism and Sustainable Spatial Development URBAN-INCERC and Business Development Group and gathered over 40 participants, representatives of the local authorities, universities, NGOs as well as representatives of other organizations relevant for the bioenergy sector in Centru Region.

A very important focus of this meeting has been upon the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EU) 2018/844, the new elements of the Directive and its relation with the BIO4ECO project.

The new Directive has huge potential for efficiency gains in the public building sector, the largest single energy consumer in Europe. It includes measures that will accelerate the rate of building renovation towards more energy efficient systems and strengthen the energy performance of new buildings, making them smarter. In this regard, taking into account the interest at regional level and the project's objectives, this event provided practical trainings, demonstrations and information regarding the implementation of nearly-zero energy buildings (nZEB) and the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive in Centru region.

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), together with the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), the Renewable Energy Directive (RED), the Eco-design Directive and Energy Labelling are the key EU legislation setting framework for long-term improvements in the energy performance of Europe's building stock.

Activities and outputs of the project

BIO4ECO aims to improve the regional and national policy processes and policy implementation by addressing the transition to a low carbon economy, in relation with renewable energy use, energy efficiency of building, and forest and agricultural biomass. In order to achieve this objective, the project's activities are based on exchange of experiences and good practices transfer.

As part of the regional exchange activities, RDA Centru organised on 21st of June 2018 the **4th regional stakeholder group meeting of BIO4ECO project** - "*nZEBs Buildings. Legal framework and concepts*".

This meeting aimed to support local and regional public authorities in developing strategies that lead to clean energy transition and well implementation of their projects. The meeting was structured into two sessions: the first session focused on energy efficiency policy instruments and regional funding opportunities. During this session, an overview of the learnings and good practices showcased within the international study visits organized by the project partners was given. Projects and good practices that support the implementation of the energy efficiency policies at regional and national level were also presented.

The second session included a training activity for the participants and provided practical information and demonstrations regarding the implementation of nZEB.

During this meeting was stated that the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive requires all new buildings to be nZEB by the end of 2020. Also, was mentioned that nearly-zero energy buildings have very high energy performance and that the low amount of energy that these buildings require comes mostly from renewable sources. This way, within this meeting was decided that it's important to identify ways to ensure that renewable energy sources are well used and that the requirements of the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EU) 2018/844 are implemented at regional level.

Conclusion

The lessons learned during the training activities and the good practices presented within this event will contribute to a better implementation of the projects funded through ROP P.I 3.1 (the policy instrument tackled by Centru Region, Romania) and to a better understanding of the existing mechanisms for implementing energy efficiency measures at organisational, local and regional level.