



"The European Union's role is to make climate and energy a matter for each person and each apartment association, just as each person's behaviour and consumption patterns has an impact on the common outcome for the whole of Europe."

Jaadla Andres, CEO of EKÜL (with former Commissioner for Energy Piebalgs)

HOUSING AND ENERGY IN ESTONIA - THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

98% of all the apartments in Estonia have been privatised. 65% of the Estonian population live in housing cooperatives. There are currently approximatley 9,400 apartment associations and cooperatives. 60 % of the housing stock was built between 1960-1990, and 30% before 1960. The average energy consumption per square meter is higher in Estonian residential buildings than in comparison other EU Member States (in Estonia ca 250 kWh/m²; in Finland and Sweden below 150 kWh/m²).

The 'Estonian National Housing Development Plan 2008-2013' sets the policy scene for housing. The issue of energy saving in the housing stock has come into the limelight with the transposition of the EU directive on the energy performance of buildings. According to experts proper refurbishmentof apartment buildings could result in on average 20-30 per cent energy savings. Reconstruction or construction of residential buildings to achieve heating energy demand indicators remaining below 15 kWh/m² per year would enable a 90 per cent cut in the heating energy demand of the buildings. This would lead to a reduction in imported fossil fuel volumes, increased energy independence of the Estonian housing sector, better resistance in case of emergencies and a cut in Estonia's CO₂ emissions. A combination of support measures aimed at raising rates of energy efficient refurbishment would serve the dual purpose of improving the quality of the housing stock and reducing the maintenance costs.

IMPACT OF OUR WORK ON ENERGY



One of the key aims of the Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing (EKÜL) is to provide information on opportunities to achieve energy savings in apartment buildings. It

does this by arranging a variety of EKÜL information days, training sessions and round table discussions aimed at representatives of housing associations in Estonia. In addition articles on energy saving in the Union's magazine and website. In the context of Power House Europe, a conference, three working group meetings and two workshops involving a total of nearly 500 representatives of local government and housing associations have been organised.

Outreach work is EKYL's priority:

EKYL organizes seminars for the housing managers of these owner-occupied apartments blocks, outlining innovative refurbishment measures and the savings they can result in and the possible funding opportunities. The first such "practitioner practitioners' workshop was held in the summer of 2010 in Olustvere, Central Estonia, as part of the Estonian housing associations Summer University workshop. It focused on resources identified in the context of Power House Europe, in particular practical demonstration projects relating to energy conservation.

To encourage the utilisation of a growing number of web-based resources, housing managers were briefed on a variety of websites offering information on energy, including portals such as POWER H O U S E EUROPE and Build-Up.



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The main obstacles are the energy savings today:

- The economic situation in which housing associations find themselves implies the need for national support programmes to for energy-saving renovations. EKYL hosts seminars on how to deal with debtors and how to effectively manage loans.
- Apartment Associations Representatives are volunteers often without any professional training, which means they require constant support throughout apartment renovation. EKYL provides this knowledge and training and information through days, where managers can obtain advice and assistance on different topics related to the management of the apartment.

NETWORKING

EKYL works closely with the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Communications, KredEx (the national housing bank) and local governments. In cooperation with these bodies it organises events, and publications.

In addition, it cooperates with universities, as well as volunteers from all over Estonia.

Through its energy saving campaign, EKÜL plans to expand on its outreach work with universities.

EKÜL issues regular press releases to reflect the activities of the project's website, the media and the housing associations in its journal.

EXCHANGE IN THE EU

EKÜL sees most potential for exchange between its members and its Power House Europe partners on three themes: (1) Identification of innovative solutions for the renovation of apartment buildings, (2) Solutions to achieve the active involvement of residents in renovations projects (3) how to work in cooperation with non-profit and private parties.

POWER HOUSE TOOLKITS

EKYL's toolkits focus on two themes: the renovation of apartment buildings and other financing opportunities offered for the best demonstration of energy-saving experience. The best practices included here are selected examples from Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Poland, Germany and Austria. The selection was based on the usefulness of the examples in Estonia as determined by climatic conditions and the functioning of the structure of the housing sector.



Our members value EKÜL's increased cooperation with other project partners, and deem it necessary to continue even after the project ends.

FINANCE

Estonia's European Regional Development Funding has been used for energy efficiency measures. Current Environment Development Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund Programme for the period 2007-2013 which determine the use of funds provided a total budget of 300 million Estonian kroons. Support for energy audits for the period 2007-2013, capacity building and project execution in support of a provision amounted to 25 million euros. Support for awareness raising among home owners and implementation of energy-saving measures amounted to 9 million euros and 266 million apartment renovation grants. A Bank loan of 500 million euros was granted by KredEx in collaboration with the Council of Europe Development Bank

On August 31 for the renovation of apartment houses. A total of 6247 loans were then taken out by housing associations.



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EVENTS

10.november 2010, practitioners Practitioner Seminar,
Tallinn

Estonia in the Estonian energy saving week, organized by the Federal Housing Co-operative savings seminar "Practitioner professionals' own experience with energy-saving renovation of an apartment building in the field will introduce three of the leading house in Tallinn.

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EKÜL – The Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations

EKÜL - The Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations is an organization uniting co-operative housing associations all over Estonia. Each co-operative housing association is a self-financing non-for-profit organisation managing one multi apartment building.

Membership of EKÜL is voluntary and there are more than 1.400 members of EKÜL today. Our co-operative housing stock accounts for approximately 15% of the national co-operative housing stock. EKÜL represents Estonian co operative housing associations on local, national and international level. Our partners are state institutions, municipalities, universities, private companies and NGOs.



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THE PROJECT

With the support of the European Commission's "Intelligent Energy - Europe" programme, POWER HOUSE EUROPE will serve to accelerate empowerment of residents and up-skilling of professionals working to reduce the carbon footprint of the social housing sector. This will be done by drawing on the existing European pool of know-how and resources and facilitating the exchange of success stories and lessons learned.

POWER HOUSE EUROPE is a gateway to:

- Resources for social and cooperative housing professionals to support the develop their energy efficiency strategies;
- An on-line forum for information and knowledge exchange between professionals in the social housing sector;
- Information on strategies, legal, institutional and financial measures which have proved successful around the EU and the CECODHAS-Housing Europe Energy Policy work;
- Examples of both retrofitting of older properties and low energy new construction, effective partnerships with residents, ICT applications for empowering residents and more;
- Updates on development and policy discussions on EU legislation related to energy efficiency and renewables in housing;
- Updates on EU project funding and structural funds;
- Partnerships between local social and cooperative housing providers;

POWER HOUSE National/Regional platforms which gather enablers of the energy transition from all sectors to work in partnership.

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