



Short Report from the Greek National REDay2020 event

Date: Thursday 29th October 2020

Organised by: REC National Greek Partner: INZEB

Title: A Renovation Wave for smart, efficient buildings in Greece

About the event: The concept of Smart and Energy Efficient Buildings aims to replace the standard building systems. The concept has gained the support of various involved interested parties coming from the public and private sector.

Specifically, and according to the report published by IDATE DigiWorld: "Smart home and smart building market" [April 2017], smart buildings are an expected growing market with a moderate growth of 15% between 2015 and 2025. Translating the percentage into volume, the installed base of Smart Home and Smart Building devices will grow from 233 to over 980 million units by 2025.

In this frame, GIZ and INZEB are organising an online event entitled "Smart & Energy Efficient Buildings" within the framework of REDay2020. The perspectives and the frame for smart and energy-efficient buildings in Europe, as well as the strategies, policies and technology developments in Greece are the main topics to be presented and discussed during the event.

Speakers:

- Welcoming remarks by **Ulrich Laumanns**, Project Manager, GIZ and **Alice Corovessi**, Managing Director, INZEB
- Welcoming remarks by **Adrian Joyce**, Campaign Director, Renovate Europe Campaign
- **MEP Maria Spyra**, EPP "Perspectives for smart and energy-efficient buildings in Europe"
- **Dimitris Athanasiou**, DG Energy, European Commission "The EU framework for smart and energy-efficient buildings"
- **Antonis Marinos**, Head of Office, Secretariat General for Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Environment and Energy "Strategies and policies for smart and efficient buildings in Greece"
- **Prof Agis Papadopoulos**, Professor of Energy Systems, Aristotle University Thessaloniki "Technology developments in the field of smart and efficient buildings"
- **Dr Haris Doukas**, National Technical University of Athens "Modular Big Data Applications for Holistic Energy Services in Buildings"
- Q&A and discussion

Link for more information: <http://inzeb.org/smart-and-energy-efficient-buildings/?lang=en>



The focus of Renovate Europe Day in Greece was on **Smart and Energy Efficient Buildings**. With Mrs. Alice Corovessi, Managing Director of INZEB, moderating, the event explored prospects and frameworks for Europe and for Greece, as well as strategies, political and technological developments. In the context of aiming to meet EU targets, renovation strategies must consider specific national characteristics such as climatic conditions or building types, said Ulrich Laumanns, Project Manager, GIZ. But as all countries face many of the same challenges related to scaling-up renovation, the value of sharing and learning from each other's experiences and best practices must not be overlooked.

Noting that 85% of 200mn EU buildings were built before 2001 but will still be in use in 2050, Mrs. Maria Spyraiki, MEP, EPP called for radical renovation approaches, including creating markets for sustainable building materials and for management of renovation waste. New technologies, including smart meters, are needed for smart buildings but renovation must also be supported by efficient production processes and find ways to integrate the use of renewable energy sources.

With buildings being the largest energy consumers in the EU, Mr. Dimitris Athanasiou, DG Energy, European Commission, spoke about their importance in the European Green Deal and its action plan to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050. Important steps taken in recent years, at both EU and national level, will help launch the Renovation Wave in a strategic manner, at the scale needed in relation to energy and climate goals.

De-lignification (ending the use of fossil fuels) in electricity production also plays into a clean future for Greek buildings – and is a key goal of the National Plan for Energy and Climate, said Mr. Antonis Marinos, Head of Office, Secretariat General for Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Environment and Energy. Achieving the efficiency objectives in stated in initiatives such as the “Eksoikonomo-Autonomo” and “Electra” programmes, as well as scaling up energy audits, are also critical to achieving sustainable growth and development of the Greek energy sector.

Key features of intelligent buildings include integrated management of E/M systems, ability for remote diagnosis and adjustment of systems, and ability for buildings to communicate with infrastructure networks. Such elements need to be built in to renovation projects, said Prof. Agis Papadopoulos, Professor of Energy Systems, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, while highlighting the need for strong policies to achieve significant breakthroughs in these areas.

Taking smart to a more detailed level, Dr. Haris Doukas, Assoc. Professor, National Technical University of Athens, focused on the data dimension. Acknowledging reluctance to invest in energy efficiency due to the risks involved and low confidence in securing satisfying returns, data can help inform decisions. At present, the lack and low quality of data create problems in costs while increasing complexity and uncertainty. Also, the lack of commonly accepted standards and procedures for energy efficiency investments significantly increase costs. Better data can address these concerns.

The need to connect ‘smart financing’ with energy renovation of buildings is vital and is a key aspect of the H2020 SMAFIN project launched in September 2020. Following the successful experience of the Sustainable Energy Investment Forums (SEIFs), Alice Corovessi, Managing Director of INZEB, explained how the SMAFIN project will organise 12 national roundtable discussions – in Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia and Romania – to share knowledge and practices among EU policy makers, national and local authorities, and key actors in the financial, business, construction and academia sectors. The overarching aim is to facilitate investment in the deep energy renovation.

Emphasising that renewable energy sources work best in smart and energy efficient buildings, Adrian Joyce, Campaign Director, Renovate Europe Campaign, reminded participants of the three priorities

identified in the Renovation Wave: tackling energy poverty and worst-performing buildings; renovation of public buildings (schools, hospitals, etc.); and decarbonising of heating and cooling.

Quotes from the event



Ulrich Laumanns, Project Manager, GIZ:

“Renovation strategies have to consider the specific national characteristics, e.g. in terms of climatic conditions or building types. Many challenges related to the scaling-up of the current renovation rates, e.g. increasing the effectiveness of support programs, are however similar across different EU member states. For this reason, there is a significant potential for EU member states to share and learn from each other’s experiences and best practices in the promotion of smart and energy efficient buildings.”

Antonis Marinos, Head of Office, Secretariat General for Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Environment and Energy:

“If we want a carbon-neutral future by 2050, we must invest in building renovation. By doing so, we are battling energy poverty, while at the same time creating new jobs, mobilizing additional investments in local supply chains, creating demand for high energy efficiency equipment and increasing households’ value”

«Αν θέλουμε να βαδίσουμε προς ένα κλιματικά ουδέτερο μέλλον έως το 2050, πρέπει να επενδύσουμε στην ανακαίνιση των κτιρίων. Ταυτόχρονα θα αντιμετωπίσουμε την ενεργειακή φτώχεια. Και τέλος οι επενδύσεις στα κτίρια δημιουργούν θέσεις απασχόλησης και κινητοποιούν επενδύσεις που βασίζονται συχνά σε τοπικές αλυσίδες εφοδιασμού, δημιουργούν ζήτηση για εξοπλισμό υψηλής ενεργειακής απόδοσης και προσφέρουν μακροπρόθεσμη αξία στα ακίνητα»

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About INZEB:

INZEB – Institute of Zero Energy Buildings serves as an aggregator, operator, documenter and disseminator of knowledge and expertise on issues related to energy saving in the building sector. We are a “platform” for two-way communication and close dissemination of knowledge, contributing to research, adaptation, adoption and widespread construction standards with the aim of reducing the energy consumption and emissions of “greenhouse gas” pollutants. <http://inzeb.org/vision/?lang=en>

About the Renovate Europe Campaign:

Renovate Europe is a political communications campaign with the ambition to reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050 through legislation and ambitious renovation programmes. Accelerating the rate of renovation is a key tool in the fight against climate change, and will deliver major benefits for people, their quality of life, and the economy. www.renovate-europe.eu

#PrioritisePeople

#AccelerateRenovation