



Training for Energy Consumers Empowerment Project

## THE 2ND NEWSLETTER OF TRECE

### THE SECOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETING OF THE TRECE PROJECT

Under the ERASMUS + programme of the European Union the TRECE Project-Training for Energy Consumers Empowerment continues on, even during the Covid-19 Pandemic and at the end of November 2020 organised the second Transnational Meeting.

The project is being carried out by a Consortium of 5 entities from 5 different European countries:

- **SGS TECNOS** (Spain) as a leader of the Project together with:
- **CRES** – The Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving, Greece.
- **ENERO** – Center for the Promotion of Clean and Efficient Energy, Romania.
- **Sofena** – Sofia Energy Agency, Bulgaria.
- **LEAG** – Local Energy Agency of Gorenjska: energy management and use of Renewable Energy Sources, Slovenia





The meeting that took place online due to the traveling restrictions, discussed the status and next steps of the project, starting with a review of the project done by SGS, on all the activities that were already carried out until now.



1. REVISIÓN GENERAL  
SGS



2. PROGRAMA FORMACIÓN  
SOFENA



3. PLATAFORMA MOOC  
CRES



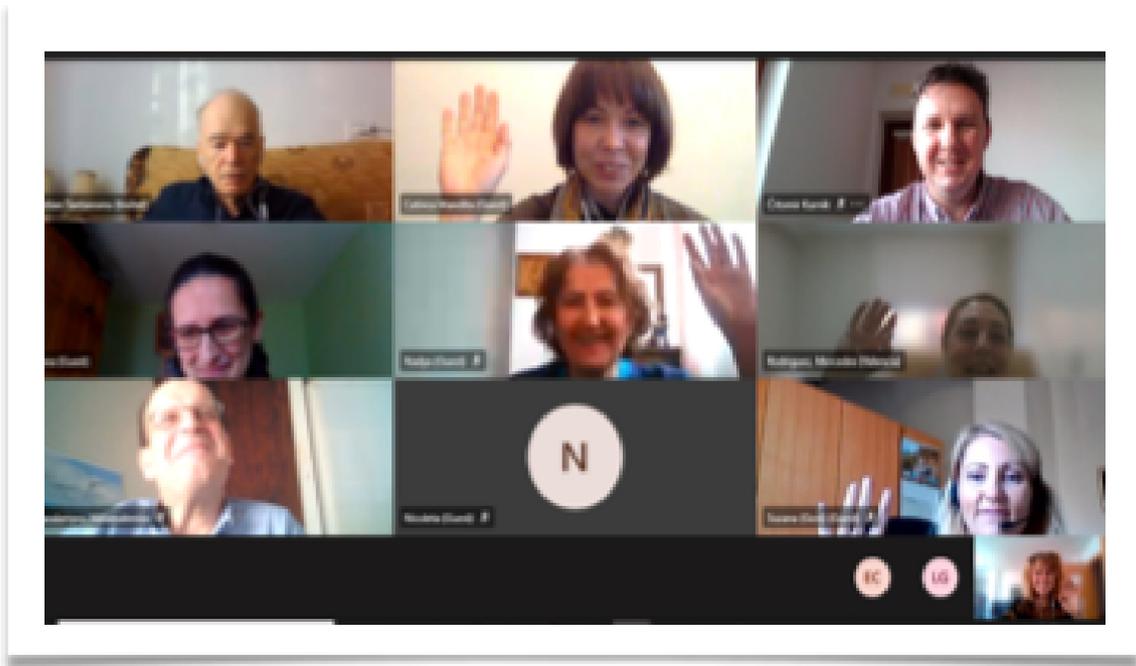
4. PLAN DE DIFUSION  
ENERO

The next item on the list was the development of the training program: **Energy Consumers empowerment and behavioural change lead by SOFENA**. The modules are being developed by all the partners and are scheduled to be delivered by middle December. The training modules have taken into account the target groups and will be shared with the stakeholders to make sure that the training is not too complex for the specific targets. All partners will collaborate in the next months on the design of the scripts to assure the information accessibility for a large population some of them being in an energy poverty situation.

Another member of the consortium, **CRES**, presented the **TRECE MOOC Training Development and possible features and options to be included on the platform** that were discussed at length between the partners in order to choose the most appropriate one.

Since the project is already one year in, **ENERO presented the dissemination and communication plan** meant to support and ensure a better dissemination and exploitation of the project and its results through social media, presentation materials (digital and printed), collaborations with the specialised media and newsletters to the interested parties.

THE NEXT PROJECT MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN MARCH 2021, FOLLOWING THE SOCIAL DISTANCING RECOMMENDATIONS AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS.



TRECE MEETING

For more information on the project please contact the project leader SGS at [mercedes.rodriquez@sgs.com](mailto:mercedes.rodriquez@sgs.com) or visit the project website

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## NEWS FROM THE CONSORTIUM

### **SLOVENIA – LEAG: ZERO500: SUPPORT FOR RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS IN POOR CONDITIONS**

Since the summer of 2020 Slovenian government has a new program with the Eco Fund called ZERO500 for the prevention or alleviation of energy poverty in Slovenia.

There are 5.9 million EUR available for the renovation of energy-inefficient residential buildings until 2023 or until the funds are used up. The ZERO500 program is implemented by the Eco Fund in cooperation with the Centers for Social Work, energy consultants and other stakeholders to support households that cannot or that have great difficulties to cover the bills for electricity, water and space heating. There are three reasons for energy poverty: high energy prices, low household incomes and the energy inefficiency of residential buildings.

Since there is also an increasing need in Slovenia for cooling the premises in the summer and the costs associated with this are very high, the aim of the project is to implement at least 500 energy renovation projects for residential buildings of socially disadvantaged citizens. Socially disadvantaged citizens can apply for a subsidy for the replacement of windows, renovation of the facade, roof insulation, installation of ventilation. The maximum amount of subsidies per individual socially endangered household is 9,600 euro.

As part of the Zero500 program, a pilot call for the Eco Fund was published in early July and ended in December when the funds were used up. The program also targeted socially disadvantaged citizens that are unable to repair and improve their living conditions. If their place of residence was built before 31.12. 1967, socially vulnerable citizens living on social assistance and / or protection allowance for the last 12 months, could apply for a 100% subsidy for the renovation of a residential building where they live and are owners or co-owners. More than 200 energy poor households applied for 100% home renovation subsidies but almost half of them did not meet the conditions for various reasons. Out of these, some applicants have already received their positive answers, some are still waiting for the decisions to be sent to them and others they are waiting for a preliminary inspection of the building by an energy consultant.

The households involved in this ZERO500 program will improve their living conditions, as energy renovations will bring them real savings; will reduce the consumption of energy products and electricity that for low-income households represent a large percentage of the cost of living. It will also improve the living conditions (reduce moisture, mould), which can have a positive impact on both health and psychological status of household members.

In 2021, a new public call for applications will be announced for the new program ZERO500, which is expected to last 2.5 years or until the distribution of available funds. Eligibility restrictions and the program's conditions will be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia (Uradni list), as well as on the website of the Eco Fund.



## **SLOVENIA – LEAG / ROMANIA – ENERO: ENERGY POVERTY – POORLY ADDRESSED IN THE SLOVENIAN NATIONAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLAN**

This new report issued in December 2020 assesses the policies and measures aimed at tackling the energy poverty in Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. It also looks into energy poverty measures in these countries' NECPs and makes recommendations to strengthen them. In the introduction, the report states that energy poverty is a pressing issue with nearly 34 million people unable to afford adequate heat, cool or light in their home and 15% of Europeans living in improper conditions. EU legislation requires Member States to set definitions and indicators, time frames and policies to reduce energy poverty through their National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and long-term building renovation strategies. The report notes that Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia have not even given a clear definition of energy poverty in their national energy and climate plans, which is the minimum required by the EU, as the Focus association, which participated in the research, pointed out. The report shows that the tools, policies and measures in all six analysed national energy and climate plans are not enough to tackle the root causes of energy poverty.

With the Covid-19 crises, all of the above became even more dramatic and the measures and policies were put in the spotlight.

Sources:

<https://www.sta.si/2839044/porocilo-slovenija-v-nepn-ni-ustrezno-naslovila-energetske-revscine>

<https://focus.si/kljub-zahtevam-eu-slovenija-v-nepn-ni-ustrezno-naslovila-energetske-revscine/>

<http://www.caneurope.org/docman/energy-union-governance/3681-energy-poverty-report-final-december-2020/file>



## BRINGING THE EU TOGETHER ON CLIMATE ACTION

### **SPAIN – SGS: WORLD ENERGY EFFICIENCY DAY**

Next 5th of March, the World Energy Efficiency Day will take place, which its main purpose is to reflect and raise public awareness of the importance of the rational use of energy for the good of the human race, since, to continue its waste, this would bring an irreparable impact for the whole globe.

It is essential to be clear about this concept, so that society (individuals, companies, organisations...) understands its meaning. Energy efficiency has nothing to do with what most people imagine, which is no longer living a life full of comfort.

It is the opposite, what is sought is to improve the quality of life, but without damaging the resources and the energy that is so necessary for our lives.

In this sense, the most important thing is to optimise energy as much as possible, through other much more sustainable sources, such as the use of renewable energies, the introduction of the practice of recycling, the use of clean energy sources or the use of solar and wind energy, to help to boost energy efficiency globally.

From SGS we are aware that energy consumption has become a matter of growing interest in all industrial sector, not only due to its immediate impact on production costs, but also due to its significant impact on environmental sustainability.

An improvement in companies' energy efficiency, can potentially bring them significant business benefits. Throughout energy audits, it could be possible to find the most appropriate information to find improvement opportunities, and the first step in the strategy for a comprehensive energy management.

For any SME or large industry, these audits facilitate a clear understanding of energy consumption in their buildings and facilities. The quantitative results can provide them important practical guidelines for:

- Achieving continuous improvement in production efficiency
- Identifying the cost savings opportunities that energy efficiency brings.

Based on the development of an energy consumption inventory, detailed audit activities are carried out in order to identify buildings and facilities with special emphasis on the rationalisation of their energy profiles. Field measurements can also be performed to quantify essential operational parameters. By establishing an energy consumption profile, opportunities for possible energy savings can be identified. An energy management strategy and energy consumption reduction programs can be planned and organised, considering the results of the energy audit.

The results of an energy audit can be a good reference for the management of any company, in terms of economic savings and environmental sustainability.

## **GREECE- CRES: CURRENT FINANCING PROGRAMME OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN HOUSEHOLDS INTERVENTIONS IN GREECE**

Since 2007 runs the programme “Saving at Home”, which provides incentives for energy upgrading interventions in residencies (flats, block of flats and houses). The programme aspires to increase energy saving nationwide, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, to upgrade the urban landscape, to amend living conditions in the residencies and to achieve some extra benefits like energy security, creating employment opportunities, combating energy poverty and curbing its detrimental effects on citizens’ health and wellbeing [2].

The programme runs in phases, “Saving at Home I” ran from 2007-2013 and “Saving at home II” since 2018. The programme aims at [3]:

- reducing the energy needs of buildings and the emissions contributing to the deterioration of the greenhouse effect
- resulting economic benefits for citizens, improvement of daily living and comfort conditions as well as improvement of safety and health conditions of the users of these buildings (energy poverty)
- achieving cleaner environmental conditions.

The procedures are changing through the phases, in order to make it more effective, since the first version was criticized for impeded bureaucracy.

This year (2020-2021), the programme was renamed to “Saving- Autonoming”, providing more possibilities to the beneficiaries and being more user- friendly than the previous ones. The total budget is 900 mils euros, which are given to renovate buildings of energy category C or less in order to upgrade their status by at least 3 energy scales. An Energy Inspector should provide the building with an Energy Certificate and propose the respective interventions. At the end

of the works, the Energy Inspector provides, after auditing, the new Energy Certificate of the building.

The eligible interventions are:

1. Replacement of frames
2. Installation / upgrade of thermal insulation
3. Upgrading of heating / cooling system
4. Hot water heating system using Renewable Energy Sources (RES)
5. Other Savings – Autonomy Interventions (photovoltaic, smart home, elevator upgrade, etc)

The percentage of the subsidy varies according to the annual income of the beneficiary:

	<b>Personal income (€)</b>	<b>Family income (€)</b>	<b>Subsidy percentage*</b>	<b>COVID-19 premium</b>	<b>Energy premium</b>	<b>Maximum percentage of substitution</b>	<b>Maximum percentage of substitution for lignite areas</b>
1	≤ 10.000	≤ 20.000	65%	10%	10%	85%	95%
2	> 10.000 – 20.000	> 20.000 – 30.000	55%	10%	10%	75%	85%
3	> 20.000 – 30.000	> 30.000 – 40.000	50%	10%	10%	70%	80%
4	> 30.000 – 50.000	> 40.000 – 70.000	45%	10%	10%	65%	75%
5	> 50.000 – 90.000	> 70.000 – 120.000	35%	10%	10%	55%	65%

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## Partners

### LEAD OF THE PROJECT:

SGS TECNOS (España)

### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (Greece) ENERO, Technical Consultancy and Research Centre (Romania) Sofia Energy Agency (Bulgaria) Local Energy Agency of Gorenjska (Slovenia)

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For more information about the project, please contact the project leader SGS at Mercedes.Rodriguez@sgs.com or visit the project website