**ENERGY EFFICIENCY AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE BULGARIAN MUNICIPALITIES**

*An EcoEnergy event in the official political agenda of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, 26-27 April 2018, Gabrovo, Vazrazhdane Hall*

Cities are responsible for a quarter of all public spending and almost half of the public investment. They account for 68% of the European Union's gross domestic product (GDP) and provide 62% of jobs; they are the most important partner in the efforts to stimulate economic growth without increasing resource consumption and for the transition to knowledge-based, competitive national economies. Contributing to the European energy transition, thousands of city-based projects are being launched across the Union, looking for synergies between areas such as energy, mobility, digital, water, air and waste management and the circular economy. Successful smart cities and communities projects produce energy savings and wider benefits for citizens and industry, improve air quality, reshape the urban environment and create local jobs. The Bulgarian Presidency of the European Council is a timely opportunity to highlight such projects so that they can be scaled-up and replicated all across Europe, and better link them to the European investment agenda, especially in the light of the Commission's "Clean Energy for All" package and the revised versions of key acts such as the Energy Efficiency and Energy Performance of Buildings directives. Energy efficiency is also a key element of the Energy Union, where the saved energy is rightfully being defined as "the cheapest, cleanest and safest source of energy." Energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective ways to generate growth, employment and investment opportunities, making it the most appropriate tool for accelerated development at national and urban level.

However, despite the progress made at European level, there are still serious barriers in front of the active local policies and integrated urban development projects based on ambitious approaches to resource efficiency and, in particular, energy efficiency, especially in countries in Eastern Europe. Among these are the general framework for legislative and public support for implementation of strategic urban development plans and specific initiatives by local authorities to generate resources (including private and corporate) and to stimulate increased involvement of civil society in the transformation of the urban environment and economy. This includes access to energy services and information, which, as demonstrated by the Bulgarian National Energy Efficiency Program for the multifamily residential buildings, is best served locally. For the actual energy transformation of the Bulgarian society, innovative tools for project financing are needed, a substantial part of which can and should be promoted, coordinated and / or managed by the municipal administrations.

**Approach and goals of the conference**

The conference will bring together representatives of public authorities and stakeholders at European, central and local level to discuss the effects of the EU's strategic approach to the process of shaping national and local policies, the role of multilevel governance and incentives to implement local integrated urban development policies based on resource efficiency. Special attention will be paid to the opportunities and best practices in the rehabilitation of street lighting systems, which play a significant part in the reshaping of the urban environment.

The conference sets out the following specific objectives:

* To present the European tools to support energy management and integrated urban development;
* To share successful Bulgarian experiences;
* To present the experience and possible solutions in the fields of street lighting, building automation and e-mobility, related to currently open financing opportunities;
* To present the opportunities and to encourage the Bulgarian municipalities to develop projects eligible for funding under the existing financing schemes;
* To contribute to the generation of new ideas, the establishment of partnerships and the development of project proposals on different topics in the open procedures of Horizon 2020.

Additional information and a link to the registration form are available at [www.ecoenergy-bg.net](http://www.ecoenergy-bg.net) (in Bulgarian).

*PRELIMINARY AGENDA*

**CONFERENCE**

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**26-27 April 2018**

Gabrovo, Vazrazhdane Hall

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| **26 April** | **ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL** | |
| *12:30 – 13:00* | | *Registration* |
|  | | **THE IMPORTANCE OF DECENTRALIZATION AND MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE** |
| 13:00 – 13:15 | | ***Official opening of the conference***  ***Tanya Hristova, Mayor of Gabrovo Municipality and Chairman of the EcoEnergy Governing Council***  ***Gabriele Brandl, Austrian Energy Agency*** |
| 13:15 – 13:45 | | **THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME AND THE NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY**  ***Representative of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works*** |
| 13:45 – 15:00 | | **THE RENOVATION OF THE BUILDING STOCK: LESSONS LEARNED FOR THE NEXT STAGES OF THE PROGRAMME**  ***Panel discussion with representatives of EcoEnergy member municipalities*** |
| *15:00 – 15:30* | | *Coffee break* |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | | **THE AUSTRIAN EXPERIENCE IN MUNICIPAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT**  ***Gabriele Brandl, Austrian Energy Agency*** |
| 16:00 – 16:20 | | **INVESTOR CONFIDENCE PROJECT – STANDARDIZATION OF THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS**  ***Petar Seizov, Denkstatt Bulgaria*** |
| 16:20 – 16:40 | | **THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTIONAL PLAN OF GABROVO MUNICIPALITY**  *National support needed for active local policies. The role of energy efficiency for the development of the local economy and communities*  ***Desislava Koleva, Gabrovo Municipality*** |
| 16:40 – 17:00 | | **SUPPORTING THE MUNICIPA ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLANS AND ENERGY AUDITS OF KEY MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS: THE EMBUILD PROJECT**  *Approaches and instruments to link implementation of the Covenant of Mayors with Horizon 2020 projects*  ***Dragomir Tzanev, EnEffect*** |
| 17:00 – 18:30 | | **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MUNICIPAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY NETWORK ECOENERGY** |
| *19:00* | | *Coctail* |

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| **27 April** |  |
|  | **THE EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM: AN INSTRUMENT FOR ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE BULGARIAN MUNICIPALITIES** |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | **PRIORITY TOPICS OF THE EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM. OPPORTUNITIES UNDER PRIORITY 4 "REHABILITATION AND MODERNIZATION OF STREET LIGHTING"**  ***Representative of the Ministry of Energy*** |
|  | **FOCUS ON STREET LIGHTING** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | **NEW TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS AND SYSTEMS FOR STREET LIGHTING**  ***Assoc. Prof. Plamen Tsankov, Technical University - Gabrovo*** |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | **BEST PRACTICES: ENERGY AUDITS AND STREET LIGHTING PROJECTS IN GABROVO, SAMOKOV, PAVLIKENI, KAZANLAK**  ***Stanislav Andreev, EnEffect*** |
| 10:20 – 10:40 | **BEST PRACTICES: THE EXAMPLE OF SAMOKOV**  ***Boyko Novakov, Samel*** |
| 10:40 – 11:00 | **THE ROLE OF SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT: SPECIFICATIONS IN STREET LIGHTING**  ***Todor Popov, Gabrovo Municipality, representative of the Sustainable Public Procurement Municipal Network under the SPP Regions project*** |
| *11:00 – 11:20* | *Coffee break* |
|  | **FOCUS ON ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES. CONCEPTS AND INSTRUMENTS FOR INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT** |
| 11:20 – 11:40 | **ESCO MODELS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION**  ***Iliya Kardashliev, European Bank for Reconstruction and DEvelopment*** |
| 11:40 – 12:00 | **INTEGRATED PROJECTS AND SOLUTIONS OR ENERGY MANAGEMENT. AUTOMATION IN BUILDINGS AND STREET LIGHTING**  ***Krasimir Punchev, New Systems*** |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | **E-MOBILITY. TECHNOLOICAL SOLTIONS AND EXECUTED PROJECTS**  ***Presentation of the new programme of the Bulgarian Trust Eco Fund*** |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | **THE NEW CATEGORIES IN THE ECOMUNICIPALITY COMPETITION: RENEWAL OF PUBLIC SPACES AND STREET LIGHTING**  ***French Institute in Bulgaria*** |
| *13:00* | *Closing of the conference* |