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Newsletter No. 1 - February 2008

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Welcome

Welcome to the MODEL newsletter! No, we do not mean that this is a "model" newsletter which is so much better than any other. It simply is the place where from now on you will get an update of what is new in 41 European pilot cities from 7 New Member States and Croatia that decided to become models for their citizens and contribute to the achievement of the [European energy and climate goals](#). By the way, the latter will be discussed during [Energie-Cités' 13th Annual Rendezvous in Cork](#), 9-11 April.

This newsletter complements the MODEL website www.energymodel.eu.

Of course, you are more than welcome to forward this newsletter to your friends and partners who can [subscribe to it](#) on the MODEL website.

But first of all, enjoy the reading!

A project called MODEL?

Some of you might not yet have heard of MODEL: these five letters stand for a newly started European project which focuses on sustainable energy use in municipalities. To be more precise, the project title stands for "Management of Domains Related to Energy in Local Authorities". The 41 pilot cities are all driven by their desire to become models for citizens and other municipalities in the field of rational use of energy. To get closer to this goal, they will:

- appoint municipal energy managers,
 - organize an energy unit within their administration,
 - develop a local energy action plan and energy information systems,
 - get financing for concrete investments,
 - improve the communication of energy issues with their citizens.
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The "most promising project"



By the way, on 29th January, the project has received the Sustainable Energy Award 2008 during an official ceremony in Brussels. The project partners from Romania, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania as well as Energie-Cités' president Eckart Würzner received the elegant trophy from Mr. Andris Piebalgs, the EU Energy Commissioner. MODEL has been chosen among the 243 other candidate initiatives as "the most promising project". This special prize also is a truly promising start for sustainable energy use and management in local authorities!

Get to know the national MODEL coordinators

MODEL is a European project, but each participating local authority has a direct national contact. This national coordinator accompanies the pilot cities throughout the project. It answers your questions, assists you in the elaboration of your Energy Programme and Action Plans and the organisation of awareness-raising events.

Click on your country in the list below to find out more about the organisation which makes you a model in your country:

- Bulgaria - [Download factsheet](#)
- Croatia - [Download factsheet](#)
- Czech Republic - [Download factsheet](#)
- Latvia - [Download factsheet](#)
- Lithuania - [Download factsheet](#)
- Poland - [Download factsheet](#)
- Romania - [Download factsheet](#)
- Slovenia - [Download factsheet](#)

Estonia, Hungary and Slovakia are participating in the MODEL project as observers. Cities from these countries can contact the project coordinators [Christophe Frering](#) or [Jana Cicmanova](#) should they wish any further information!

Will MODEL change anything in my city?

Yes, the participation in the MODEL project is a chance for each of the pilot cities to improve its quality of life. Energy is part of our everyday lives and if we manage it more wisely, money can be freed for useful municipal investments. In the project you can learn how and where energy reductions can increase the satisfaction of our citizens and their pleasure to live in a more sustainable city.



MODEL will support the municipal specialists in a broad range of crucial energy issues: refurbishment of buildings, renovation of the district heating system, the reinforcement of local energy use to supply schools, kindergartens, administrative and residential buildings or the use of sustainable technologies such as cogeneration. The lessons learned by the pilot cities will be valuable for all other European local authorities.

By following the progress of the project, you will get information on how to reconsider and structure the energy management of your city, increasing your local competencies and strengthening the energy awareness of your citizens.

How some MODEL pilot cities and coordinators see the project



"The participation in the project is a good opportunity to improve and also to share the knowledge and experience in the field of sustainable energy with small municipalities from other countries." (Antanas Serafinas Zelkevičius, Mayor of Birštonas municipality, Lithuania)



"Participation in the MODEL project will help the city of Vsetín in the successful implementation of energy management in municipality's own buildings, in creation of energy action plans helping with energy activities planning and realization of concrete projects reducing CO2 emissions." (Květoslava Othová, Mayor of Vsetín, Czech Republic)



"As there are no special courses or other studies educating municipal energy managers in Poland, the MODEL project creates a great opportunity for gaining experience and knowledge about energy management in local communities. Hiring energy managers enables municipalities to reduce energy consumption which means saving money and becoming a good example for their citizens. Moreover through the MODEL operation pilot cities are enabled to implement European Directives and Polish law – especially the energy efficiency law." (Maria Stankiewicz, Director of PNEC, MODEL national coordinator for Poland)



"With MODEL, a lively implication of the population in the local projects becomes much easier." (Mihai Horațiu Josan, Mayor of Aiud, Romania)

Statements of other city representatives can be found on the MODEL website www.energymodel.eu.

Publication Officer: Miriam EISERMANN

Tel: +33 (0)3 81 65 36 82 / E-mail: www.energie-cites.eu/miriam

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