“Supporting policies and innovative technical solutions for the energy renovation of Low Income Households in Cyprus” – ELIHMED project

In total 51 million people in Europe are not capable to pay their energy bills and cover their heat demand needs during winters. It is estimated that 50 to 125 million people in Europe are under energy poverty because of the poor energy performance of their households. 5 million are suffering from their inability to cover other important living needs and they have no opportunities to improve their houses.

According to the 2013 results of the Statistical Service of Cyprus survey, a percentage around 15.3% of Cyprus population were lived in households with income less than the poverty limit which corresponds to annual income less than €9.524 per family member.

An average support as a governmental grant around 30% of the total cost for an energy renovation of a house could boost the market with a significant number of building’s renovations. The previous experience from successful governmental initiatives in European countries proves the potential expansion of energy renovations in existing houses.

The project ELIHMED, “Energy Efficiency in Low Income Housing in the Mediterranean” addresses the identification and the implementation of good practices, technical solutions and innovative funding mechanisms for the development of energy renovations to low income households.

In the project participate 17 partners from seven countries: Italy, Spain, Greece, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta and France and is coordinated by ENEA (Italian National agency for new technologies, Energy and sustainable economic development) with a budget approximately 10 million €. Through the project, 500 low income households have been renovated and more than 110 smart meters have been installed. The project ended on 31st of December after 40 months of intensive efforts and hard work.

In the context of the implementation of the project ELIH MED in Cyprus, measures have been taken towards the increase of energy efficiency in 25 residential households of low income households. The interventions were co-financed 85% by the European Regional Development Fund of the European Union and 15% of the participating Local Authorities and the Cyprus Land Development Corporation.
In addition, the Electricity Authority of Cyprus sponsored the 25 smart meters and members of the Cyprus Association of Renewable Energy Enterprises in Cyprus have sponsored 11 photovoltaic systems that were installed and connected with the net metering system. Interventions aimed at improving the energy efficiency of buildings aiming to save energy but at the same time to improve the living comfort and quality of life. Interventions have been selected based on techno-economic criteria and taking into account the current state of the buildings and the habits of their owners. In each house have been operating some of the following interventions or combination of interventions:

- Roof insulation,
- Shell thermal insulation
- Replacement of windows with double glazing energy windows,
- External shading,
- Replacement of solar water heaters,
- Replacement of air conditioning units with new high energy class,
- Replace bulbs with new energy-efficient,
- Replacement of traditional fireplaces with wood source high energy performance ones (air fireplace or water type boiler),
- Photovoltaic system with net metering,
- Repairs waterproofing (waterproofing).

The most important results from the implementation of ELIHMED project in Cyprus are:

- 25 energy renovations with a cost around 50 € per square meter
- Energy savings around 6 € per square meter
- Improvement of indoor conditions and thermal comfort to all the 25 pilot houses
- Improvement of indoor temperature by 3 °C during the winter and summer seasons.
- Actual energy savings around 54% and energy poverty confrontation as a result of the reduction of energy expenses
- In 11 out of 25 households, pilot photovoltaic systems were installed with the net metering grid connection for the first time in Cyprus.
- For the first time in Cyprus there is evidence, through the installation of 25 smart meters, per 15 minute recording of electricity consumption and user profile

On the 22nd of December 2014, the final national conference entitles “Supporting policies and innovative technical solutions for the energy renovation of Low Income Households in Cyprus” was realised in Nicosia.
The same day, an awarding ceremony was realized for the organizations and private companies that were actively involved to the implementation of ELIHMED project in Cyprus.

More specifically, for their financial support the following have been awarded:


For the sponsorship and the installation of smart meters as well as the technical support during the project life, the Electricity Authority of Cyprus has been awarded.

For the sponsorship and the installation of photovoltaic systems, the following private companies have been awarded: Enfoton Solar Ltd, Gesolar Ltd, Ioannou Alternative Energy Ltd, Johnsun Heaters Ltd, Lanitis Green Energy Group, Metartec Cyprus Ltd, NEON Energy Cyprus Ltd, Solar Technologies Ltd, Trikdis Energy Ltd, Zodiates Energy & Consulting Ltd.

For the support of the successful implementation of project objectives, the following organizations were also awarded: Cyprus Electricity Regulatory Authority, the Energy Service, Ministry of Energy Commerce, Industry and Tourism and the Cyprus Association of Renewable Energy Sources Enterprises.

The Environment Commissioner, Mrs Ioanna Panayiotou during her speech, has been invited the participants to co sign the Ljubljana Declaration which summarize the policy recommendations for the support and the strengthening of energy renovations in the Mediterranean Region. In total, 21 representatives from local authorities, governmental organizations and other entities were signed the Ljubljana Declaration after the completion of the event.