

Exemplary Role Of The Public Sector In Energy Efficiency Policies Best Enforcement Practices And Improvement Options

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Summary

This work falls within the scope of the shift from the former 2006/32/EC Energy Services Directive to the new Energy Efficiency Directive. It has been focused on the comparative analysis of already existing policy measures aimed, in EU Member States, at improving energy efficiency in the Public Sector. Undertaken actions have been studied at national but also at local level, as some of them have only be implemented and tested by several cities or regions.

Most existing schemes come down to several main objectives, the two major ones being the energy renovation of public buildings, and energy efficiency criteria for public procurement. Significant difference between Member States rely therefore mostly on the details and so quality of implementation of these objectives according to specific organizational schemes.

A methodology and so typology have been developed to classify the studied policy measures, trying to distinguish the most effective. The raised list of questions have led to define qualitative indicators that could help policy makers evaluate the quality of a measure in a formalized manner (evaluation matrix, summary file, classification chart).

Consequently, innovative schemes have been highlighted. As a matter of example :

- A Public Internal Contracting (PICO) service is a technical team that works for a municipality to supervise the renovation/maintenance/operation of public buildings, the monitoring of their energy consumption, awareness-raising campaigns targeted at end-users.
- A public ESCO helps public authorities defining building energy renovation actions, finding third-financing partners for energy performance contracts, provides training, and so on.
- Joint Procurement consists in pooling procurement contracts from several public bodies to draw economies of scale and reduce the contractual burden. It fits particularly well with energy efficiency issues as they require a specific expertise that public buyers lack.
- Binding quality assurance schemes can be managed by a specialized public authority to control energy performance audits in public buildings, report and publish expected energy savings.

The discussion has been then opened on possible new schemes, at EU or Member States level, that regroup best practices and increase the coordination between energy efficiency actors :

- A labeling scheme could encourage cities to become exemplary, by developing a PICO service, installing an energy monitoring system, defining and ensuring energy savings objectives.
- A dedicated public agency could supervise energy efficiency projects in public buildings, with financial assistance, training, support to local PICO services, energy audits quality checking.
- A similar agency could supervise GPP, by developing standardized contracts/LCC tools, coordinating and organizing joint procurement, proposing GPP strategies to public bodies.
- A centralized and internet-based information resource platform could gather data on energy efficiency projects in public buildings, such as consumption monitoring, audits, tenders.
- An harmonized European scheme could be aimed at monitoring and translating the regulatory details of energy efficiency actions and policy measures in each Member State.