

Energy Efficiency Watch

National Business Stakeholder Workshop Slovenia: Business perspectives on energy efficiency policy

Event Report

Date & location:	27 May 2020, 15:00 - 17:00 CEST & 28 May 2020, 10:00 - 12:00 CEST; Slovenia (virtual meeting)
Organiser(s):	Navigant supported by Energap
Number of Participants:	16
Summary of the event	<p>The Business Stakeholder Workshop set out to discuss the enabling factors for successful energy efficiency measures and policies in Slovenia. Gathering Slovenian business stakeholders from a broad range of sectors including energy services, utilities, transport and buildings, the interactive workshop was held in two consecutive online sessions due to the health restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting with an introduction to the Energy Efficiency Watch 4 project and aims of the workshop, Daniel Becker from Navigant led through the Workshop, supported by Vlasta Kremlj from Energap, the Energy Agency of Podravje in Slovenia. Participants reflected on effective arguments to make the case for energy efficiency with regards to different actor groups in Slovenia:</p> <p>Arguments and challenges highlighted with regards to businesses and investors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Costs reductions and improving competitiveness are key drivers for investing in energy efficiency.• Improving energy efficiency in production processes can also improve product quality (example: optimising temperature levels and ventilation in pharmaceutical plant)• A holistic perspective is needed on overall energy use and production processes. ESCO-type offerings typically require engaging company as whole to include board, finance and technical experts.• Social responsibility/ performance in sustainability is an additional incentive for energy efficiency measures e.g. for certain owners/investors as it can be leveraged as an asset through PR.• Innovation benefits of energy efficiency not always recognised.



Arguments and challenges highlighted with regards to authorities and decision-makers:

- Appealing to political/ PR benefits of energy efficiency measures can be key vector, notably vis-à-vis local decision-makers (example: esthetical appeal of renovated buildings in a town).
- Consultation or dialogue formats between local authorities and stakeholders are not structurally implemented in the political processes; examples where cooperation takes place in working groups. Overall, implementation often remains a challenge, key is to obtain political backing.
- Local energy plans are key instruments to drive the energy transition and fulfill national and EU targets, but often lack commitment and budget needed for investments to drive change (e.g. for developing district heating networks, expanding CHP/ waste heat recovery).
- Advances in building's efficiency are hampered by insufficient expertise of renovation contractors. Capacity building programmes for constructors and renovation contractors are needed to increase the effectiveness of energy efficiency investments.
- Biomass energy from wood and timber production have potential for development; significant wood exports for heating but little domestic processing, also a matter of competitiveness vis-à-vis industries in other Member States. Linking concessions for forestry exploitation to conditionality for investment in timber processing capacities suggested as a lever to develop timber industry and promote local value creation; need for the right incentives.
- For biomass heating, would need to address bad image as polluting energy source/ energy of the poor. Switch from wood-based heating towards RES-based heating e.g. using heat pumps to be advanced.

Arguments and challenges highlighted with regards to households:

- Shifting to electric vehicles (EV) often triggers holistic reflection of energy use and sources by households and enterprises, e.g. leading to installing PV systems to feed private charging infrastructure and buildings. Strong battery research in Slovenia, potential for local production of EV.
- Strong government narrative emphasising provision of social welfare and 'leaving no one behind' found to impede somewhat the debate on and recognition of energy poverty as an issue, further hampered by unclear definition.

Input
Collection

The second session of the workshop started with a brief presentation on the role of narratives for policy implementation after which participants consolidated their input and recommendations on ways and potentials for an effective implementation of



energy efficiency policies and measures in Slovenia, complementing the points raised in the first session, including inter alia:

- Leverage dialogue formats to build trust between 1) businesses and energy service providers, 2) decision makers and stakeholders
- Embed energy efficiency as a centerpiece in the industrial strategy and develop a smart combination of innovative technologies (e.g. storage, EV, local production, ...) that connects with the existing industrial structure
- Use pilot projects and involve local communities to improve acceptance of energy projects as there is increasing interest in self-consumption, energy autonomy etc.
- Enhance opportunities for mutual learnings with and from other Member States through partnerships and European projects
- Promote easy access to energy data for consumers (good example: portal on EV charging stations)
- Have a policy design that makes energy efficiency the best/ easiest choice, e.g. as done with required energy performance levels for building renovation grants. Negative example: initial lack of energy performance requirements for furnaces.
- Increasing investments needed in Slovenian electricity grids also is an opportunity for prioritising efficient energy use and develop demand side management solutions.
- Expand educational programmes and incentives for stakeholders and broader public, e.g. in form of company programmes to reward the best diplomas in the field or competitions rewarding change of individual behaviours. New technologies to be made desirable beyond cost arguments, e.g. through campaigns/marketing to create appeal or convenience (e.g. link mobile app with smart meters)

***Objective &
main
programme
point***

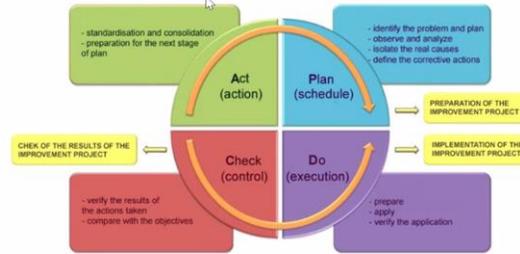
The aim of the workshop was to collect input on existing narratives around energy efficiency from business stakeholders with a view to support the effective implementation of energy efficiency policies and measures in Slovenia and in the EU. Insights from previous business stakeholder workshops also fed into the discussion. Participants were moreover invited to take part in the Energy Efficiency Watch Survey, introduced by the Energy Agency of Upper Austria.

Attached:

- Programme
- Pictures



GOOD ENERGY MANAGEMENT



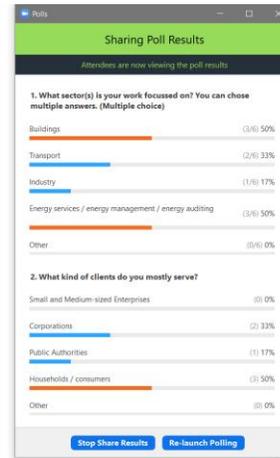
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<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/pdca-plan-do-check-act-hassan-el-meligy-msc-mdx-uk>

ISO 50001:2011 provides a framework of requirements for organizations to:

- Develop a policy for more efficient use of energy
- Fix targets and objectives to meet the policy
- Use data to better understand and make decisions about energy use
- Measure the results
- Review how well the policy works, and
- Continually improve energy management.



Quick introductory poll



Energy Efficiency Watch 4 Breakout sessions



1. How do you promote energy efficiency products or services of your organisation in **everyday conversations**?
2. How can we **make the case for energy efficiency** vis-à-vis decision-makers, companies/ investors, households/ society?



Time: 40 minutes



With what arguments do you promote the energy efficiency products or services of your organisation in everyday conversations?



Improving energy efficiency in production plant (temperature level, ventilation) improved product quality (pharmaceuticals)

Moving to EV helps to reduce fleet energy consumption & triggers holistic thinking on overall energy use/ production processes

Energy saving is key revenue source for ESCO. Entails complex calculations & risk management. All levels of company need to agree, arguments differ according to roles (board, finance, technical expert etc.)

Social responsibility is a value for companies (leveraged through PR) as incentive for energy efficiency

Cost reduction/ increasing competitiveness is key when arguing for energy efficiency vis-à-vis management.

Innovation benefits of energy efficiency recognised only in few cases.

Govt. narrative: social welfare is key. Energy poverty difficult to recognise. Unclear definition still.

Certain companies seeking to cut GHG to become competitive in sustainability (notably for company owners). Trust in service providers supporting sustainability is key.

EU requirements for DHC systems for RES/CHP/waste heat. Action plan to fulfill these, moving to CHP investing in solar and storage capacities. Local Energy Plan key to drive change, but lack of commitment/ investments from local authorities. Introducing waste heat can help tackling waste treatment. Need more awareness from local authorities.

Dialogue/ engagement betw. Local authorities and stakeholders differs. Establishing working groups, challenge: implementation and political backing.

Political/PR benefits of politicians need to be appealed to for political backing.

Buildings mostly privately owned (single housing) Affordable wood heat

Building renovation key for energy saving.

Challenge: insufficient expertise of renovation contractors. Programme for capacity building. Need to make most efficient use of gov. fin. support



How is Slovenia progressing in energy efficiency? We want to know!



Your opinion counts! Make it heard!

Energy Efficiency Watch survey:
www.energy-efficiency-watch-survey.eu

With **just 10 minutes of your time**, you will make an important contribution to energy efficiency efforts in Europe.

