EEW4 External Event Report

Title of the event: Delivering on the Renovation Wave: supporting narratives and financing
Webinar for Covenant of Mayors Signatories

Date & location: 27th April 2021, on Zoom

Organiser(s): Energy Cities

Summary of the event
The webinar was co-organised with the Covenant of Mayors Office and the ORFEE project and subscribed to support the Renovation Wave. Combining the themes of narratives and financing energy efficiency raised interest of Covenant signatories and ensured a lively exchange among CoM signatories and experts and provided valuable feedback for the EEW4 narratives development.

Objective & main programme point
Aim of the webinar was to present EEW4 survey’s European results and gathering feedback for the narratives and case studies development. Key European input factors for narratives development was presented by ESV, case studies under development was presented by Guidehouse. Input for the narratives development was gathered from participating local authorities from discussions, chat and via poll questions.

Conclusions
More than one third (38%) of participating CoM signatories responded that cost savings or fundraising are their first priority in their municipality at the moment. Improving air quality (20%) or improving attractiveness of their municipality (15%) or creating jobs (15%) came out only second. Major killer arguments against investing in energy efficiency in the energy transition was also linked primarily with those economic arguments: 51% of respondents said that it is considered ‘too costly / having a slow return on investment’ in their municipalities, while others face ‘we have other priorities’ as key argument against these sustainable energy investments. Beyond those economic arguments, webinar participants listed further issues that slow down the energy transition in their municipalities, primarily: the lack of competences in the public sector, regulations slow down or block processes, local decision making processes are too slow.

“The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153”
The publication reflects only the author’s view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.
Half of the survey respondents chose their key motivation for engaging in the energy transition to 'lower energy consumption and hence become independent in energy'. 'More affordable and healthier built environment' (47%) and creating / protecting jobs (44%) came after as motivating factors. When asking about the most influential local stakeholder groups to influence decisions related to the energy transition, ‘citizens and citizens groups’ (63%) and ‘local industries and entrepreneurs’ (63%) were selected first, followed by NGOs (only 31%).

AGENDA:

Delivering on the Renovation Wave: Supporting Narratives & Financing

Tuesday, 27 April 2021 - 14:00 - 16:30 (CET)

Joint event organised by the Covenant of Mayors - Europe office, Energy Efficiency Watch & ORTEE project

Registrations: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/delivering-on-the-renovation-wave-supporting-narratives-financing-registration-189609837453

Delivering on the Renovation Wave: Supporting Narratives & Financing

The Renovation Wave sets very ambitious targets and high challenges for municipalities. How to convince local decision-makers and engage key local stakeholders for action? Who can be the winning coalition? How to finance bundled projects smoothly and get third party financing? How municipalities can create one-stop-shops for boosting renovations?

This webinar is aiming to discuss the above questions with signatories of the Covenant of Mayors in an interactive way, getting also feedback on the narratives being developed in the EEW4 project.

AGENDA

14:00-14:05 – Welcome and agenda - Kristina DEY, Project Manager, EEW4/ Energy Cities

14:05-14:15 – Presentation of the Covenant of Mayors’ new political framework (climate neutrality)

14:15-14:30 – Energy Efficiency Watch Survey Results: towards new narratives for the energy transition

Magda GRBAC, E3A Upper Austria Energy Agency on behalf of the EEW4

14:30-14:45 – Draft case studies to foster the energy transition

Daniel BECKER, Director, E4E

14:45-15:15 – Discussions and poll questions on priorities and narratives

Financing the renovation wave, from local to European level

15:15-15:30 – One stop shops and third party financing companies to boost private housing energy efficient renovations: the case of Innovate & ORTEE

15:30-15:45 – The experience of Nordlux

Pierre LEFP, Director for the Energy Transition, Nordlux Multiple Energies

15:45-16:00 – European funds to finance the “Renovation wave”

Maria HACHS, Policy Officer, DG REGIO

16:00-16:30 – Q&A and Closing of the webinar

"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153."

The publication reflects only the author’s view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.
1. If you think of your municipality, what are the major arguments against (killer arguments) investing in energy efficiency / the energy transition?

- It is too costly / slow return on our investments: (20) 51%
- We have other priorities: (12) 31%
- We have other (central) solutions for the energy transition: (1) 3%
- None - All agree and aligned for the energy transition: (1) 3%
- Other...? (plz write in the chat): (1) 3%

1. In your opinion, what are the key motivations (beyond cost savings) for a municipality to engage in energy efficiency / the energy transition? (max. 5 choices) (Multiple choice)

- Creates / promotes local jobs: (15/24) 69%
- Lower energy consumption contributes to our energy independence: (17/24) 70%
- Boosts local competitiveness and innovation: (13/24) 54%
- Improves air quality: (7/24) 29%
- More affordable and healthier built environment: (16/24) 67%
- Improve the image and attractiveness of the city: (13/24) 54%
- Other...? (plz write in the chat): (9/24) 0%

*The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153*

The publication reflects only the author’s view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains