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Promoting Energy efficiency to Local Organisations
through dissemination Partnerships in Europe
Best Actions for Collaboration in Countries
for a High efficient Use of energy in Structural funds

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Energy Saving Plan for Valencia: together to save energy - Valencia - Spain

The Deputation of Valencia, together with the IMPIVA launched this Plan in 1999 addressed to all the municipalities of the area.

Its main objectives were to minimise energy waste in public holdings and to adopt progressively alternative energy and environmental friendly technologies.

| Target Groups | Sector | Field |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authority - Regional authorities - Decision makers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy supply - Buildings (including municipal properties) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewable energy - Demand Side Management |

ANALYSIS

CONTEXT

The Plan, which has been working for the past three years, was conceived by an initiative of a Parliament Representative of the Valencia Government and counted on the collaboration of several responsible Departments , with an important effort from the human resources point of view.

The situation of the main energy consumption of the Municipalities of the area was initially evaluated through an accurate diagnosis and resulted very backward. Inadequate and obsolete building and street lighting, application of wrong or inadequate tariffs, obsolete and sometime dangerous cables, electrical plants without earth devices , no insulation and obsolete electric heating equipment with very low efficiency and finally irrational automatic irrigation hours .

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Energy Saving Programme was structured by addressing two main objectives:

To stop or at least to minimise the energy waste and the consequent economic expenditure of the Municipalities and the irrational use of limited resources , by energy and water saving measures in municipal buildings and in urban areas, other than modernising the energy consumption devices.

To promote the use of alternative and more environment-friendly energies.

The first point was addressed by substituting the obsolete equipment with more efficient ones: this was realised by launching public tenders and by financing the expenditure with a TPF (Third Party Financing) scheme, based on the obtained energy saving.

A common framework contract to regulate these tenders was prepared in order to avoid large negotiation periods and reaching common benefits in terms of unit prices. A collaboration agreement was also signed with a local bank in order to finance the Municipalities investments which, if they wanted, could have been returned in a maximum period of six years by financial saving on their energy bill.

The second point has been actually implemented with the installation of 22m² of solar collectors on municipal buildings.

Once committed the works a mutual agreement was signed between the Municipalities implementing the energy saving measures and the Valencia Deputation as co-ordinator of the Plan.



ILLUSTRATION 1



ILLUSTRATION 2

COST AND BENEFITS

EVALUATION IN TERMS OF COST AND BENEFITS

In June 2002, on a total of 264 Municipalities belonging to the five areas in which the province is divided, 136 were participants of the programme, which means 51,51% of the whole. This percentage is actually increasing due to new ones, which expressed their will in joining the Plan.

In terms of inhabitants, this percentage means 65,22% of the total.

The energy saving obtained amounts to 6,038,329 kWh/year and in six of the mentioned municipalities energy saving achieved was around 30%; the total avoided CO2 emissions was 749 t/year.

Finally, the investment of the first three years was about 3,100 Meuro and the economic saving obtained in the municipalities adhering to the Plan was around 889513 Euro/year.

Moreover, due to the success of the initiative, the Deputation of Valencia is carrying out an important effort in funding these energy saving installation also through the Local Operative Programme (part of the Regional Development Programmes, partly financed by the EU Structural Funds) and is also formalising agreements with some other banks and financial entities in order to offer a wider number of possible interesting loans.

PARTNERSHIP

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

All the local authorities of the area were actively involved in the initiative, since the energy consumption evaluation phase. Their interest and collaboration was a key point for the success of the Plan also due to the high visibility that actions carried out by a public Administration can have on the citizens of the area. The role of IMPIVA (Institute for the SME of Valencia) was also crucial in co-ordinating the technical activities and giving advice and supervision in the various phases of the Programme.

COMMUNICATION STRUCTURES AND NETWORKS

The effort made by the Deputation in the promotion and dissemination of the terms and characteristics of the Energy Saving Plan has been very important and mainly based on the close contacts between the co-ordinators of the Plan (the Deputation and IMPIVA) and the representatives of the City Councils of the whole area.

Thanks to this participation and to the personalised attention given, the Plan has contributed to sharply increase the general consciousness of the political and technical responsables at local level by involving them into a process of environmental conscious territorial policy, which has already given some results such as a growing use of RES technologies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

IDENTIFICATION OF OBSTACLES

The main weak points which have been detected were related to the same operational situations which had to be faced and solved often on a case-to case base. At the beginning, there was a certain reluctance from the LA side to join the Plan and once entered in it they showed an excessive hurry in implementing it, sometimes compromising its correct development and effectiveness (i.e. not detailed audits carried out in tight time could not determine appropriate measures to be taken).

In some cases, there were also delays in signing contracts with the selected providers and also delays from LA side in fixing meeting dates in order to carry out the data gathering.

A major problem was encountered in gathering and classifying fundamental data about energy consumption (energy invoices, etc.) other than necessary documents such as maps etc. of the involved buildings. Some other technical problems were also encountered and finally some slowness in the official approval by the LA of the Saving Plan specifically elaborated for them.

In any case most of these problems were faced and partially solved during the progressive development of the Plan implementation and most of them are now over-passed.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A double direction monitoring was set up and carried out during the Plan implementation: on one side weekly meetings were organised with each of the selected providers , during which the state of advancement of the execution was analysed, problems encountered and following steps to be achieved. On the other side, periodical visits to the installations were organised in order to realise measuring to certify the state of advancement and the economic feasibility of the whole intervention.

EVALUATION OF SUCCESSES AND/OR FAILURES

Detailed reports were prepared by the equipment suppliers every three months and a final one was also delivered in which real energy savings were clearly quantified and commented together with calculation of CO2 emissions avoided. The whole of these controls and monitoring measures have permitted to make a detailed follow-up of each of the implementations in all the LA of the involved area which certainly contributed to gather a number of successful results and lessons learned.

TO KNOW MORE

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