



# Interreg

CENTRAL EUROPE

TOGETHER

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ALL ABOUT THE PROJECT STATUS AND RESULTS

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# PROJECT NEWSLETTER

## Closing Conference in Zagreb 2019

On Wednesday, 10th of April 2019, the City of Zagreb organised the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS" in Zagreb, Croatia, which has gathered numerous experts from seven European countries.

The conference dealt with the topic of changing the existing atomistic vision into the holistic vision of the building as a whole, which includes the function of the building and the relations to physical space, the application of technological devices and the needs of the users.

During the conference, the TOGETHER project partners gave an overview of the activities carried out and summarized the results achieved through four key topics: meeting energy policy targets relating to buildings, energy management in public buildings, tools and tips to help implement energy action through user engagement and securing political buy-in to improve energy efficiency in public buildings. The importance of cooperation and sharing insight with other stakeholders was mirrored in the panel discussions which included the contribution of the representatives of European projects eCentral, Energy @ school, Feedschools and Compete4SECAP, who shared the experience gained through the implementation of their projects that are also focused on creating better environments, models and tools for implementation of energy plans at the local and regional level.

Finally, the conference left the participants with a clear message: Achieving a long-term increase in energy efficiency in public buildings requires a comprehensive approach. This is to say that we should not rely exclusively on modern technology and investments in raising and encouraging energy efficiency, but also on the intense involvement of the users themselves, as the main consumers and energy managers.



## Some of the main Policy recommendations

The partners have identified policy recommendations during the three years duration of the project, here are some examples:

- Promote the cooperation possibilities for municipalities on the field of energy management, smart metering and demand side management.
- Integrate the organization of trainings on energy efficiency targets, demand side management, energy management and smart metering into the toolkit of energy efficiency action plans and funding programs.
- Define the roles and support the employment of energy managers / referents of public buildings.
- Provide financial support for the installation of smart meters and energy management systems at public buildings.
- Embed energy efficiency lectures to the education program of primary and secondary schools.
- Promote demand side management as a tool of energy efficiency awareness raising actions in public buildings.
- Energy certification and audit of buildings should consider the level and quality of energy management systems of the buildings.

## For more information please contact:

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Official website: <http://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/TOGETHER.html> - Facebook page: [togetherprtv2016](https://www.facebook.com/togetherprtv2016)

## How to reach different target groups?

The communication tools have been designed taking into consideration the target audience's age, level of interaction with the buildings & Internet surfing habits and provided both in traditional (newsletter, brochure, workshop, conference, press release), innovative formats (amateur & professional videos, tutorial, origami, multi-channels & interactive campaign), where a set of persuasive messages- conveyed through instruments such as storytelling/gamification and addressed are tested to affect users' consumption practices.

If you are curious to get in touch with them and to use them in your buildings, please visit the following links. Enjoy!

Product	Targeted age
Video tutorial to stimulate energy conscious behaviour	<a href="#">Children</a> <a href="#">Adults</a>
Video tutorial about smart meters	<a href="#">Upper secondary school students and adults</a>
Colouring book	<a href="#">Nursery- elementary students</a>
Planet defender on line game	<a href="#">Lower secondary school students</a>
Energy vampires on line game	<a href="#">Every age</a>
Behaviour tips	<a href="#">Adults</a>



## Analytical demand side management in the Together project

The application of smart meters was a fundamental pillar of the Together project. Approximately 100 smart meters were installed in pilot buildings in order to monitor energy consumption in different domains such as electric, gas or heat consumption. Smart meters are capable to register consumption data in any time steps (15 minutes are usually enough) opening new perspective on data analysis, user profile assessment and even malfunction detection compared to ordinary utility meters. In many buildings not only total consumption was monitored, but more detailed analysis was possible due to sub-meters of different zones or functional units.

Our data analysts and energy experts evaluated the data collected during the 1-2 years monitoring period. In order to set up an energy demand profile a chart of building occupancy progress were used. Comparing the monitored energy consumption and the occupancy trends it was checked whether the energy consumption well correlates with the building occupancy. In the project nearly in all buildings operational failures were detected (Permanent heating without any time schedule although programmable thermostat installed; General overheating; Use of air-conditioners during nights in the unoccupied building; Too high stand-by consumption during night time and weekends). Most of these problems can be easily eliminated by changing the thermostat settings or by slight behavioral changes resulting in significant energy cost decrease at no or minimal investment costs.

Analytical demand side management (DSM) aims at the involvement of occupants in data analysis. Feedback is an essential element in effective learning: The Together project offered a direct feedback solution using displays located at frequently visited spots of the pilot buildings providing instant (real-time) access to current and historical energy consumption information. Analytical DSM proved to be the most effective tool to convince occupants, building managers and decision makers that actions should be made to improve energy efficiency.

## Political approval of the main outputs of TOGETHER project

Finally, our consortium has arrived to the last period of TOGETHER, when all our calculations, technical suggestions and strategic documents have to be presented for those decision makers, who have the competences and power to support their to the everyday energy efficiency actions of public administrations.

We have compiled: Local reinvestment action plans (what saving can be achieved by smart metering and demand side management, and how their at least 20% can be reinvested to further improve energy efficiency); Action plan for public buildings (can be potentially involved into future DSM actions); Ex ante analysis (to calculate the potential savings at these buildings); Transnational strategy (observes how local and regional institutions would be able to further increase energy efficiency in public buildings through via tools of the project). This is the key document that tells which policy should be amended and how.

After many debates, the partners succeeded to get the documents approved on local or regional level (depending on the territorial coverage of the partner) by setting up stakeholder groups with relevant authorities and by organizing advocacy events with them. This was the most crucial step for the political 'approval', as it has involved the policy makers – such as mayors, members of different committees, elected representatives of the municipality. Also, it was important to explain for the decision makers that the approval of these document doesn't mean a financial obligation for them – which would not be possible due to legal reasons and the process of budgetary planning. By accepting the content, they undertake that the municipality will endeavour to follow the recommendations and implement EE actions by the guidelines of these documents.