



Editorial

#6 FEBRUARY 2016

Buildings use 40% of total EU energy consumption and generate 36% of greenhouse gases in Europe. Nowadays, EC energy policy encourages member states to start converting building stock into nearly zero-energy buildings (nZEB) and public authorities to adopt exemplary actions (Energy Performance of Buildings Directive - EPBD recast).

For this reason, ZEMedS initiative was conceived with the aim of promoting the renovation schools from EU regions on the Mediterranean coast as schools represent an important part of the building stock. In the Mediterranean region (Italy, Greece, Spain and France), there are around 87.000 schools, consuming around 2 Mtoe/year.

For three years, we have been working on raising awareness on how important is to take action in the renovation of schools with nZEB requirements. To attain this goal, we tried to get the attention of decision makers, school authorities, architects, design builders and users by approaching the issue and giving practical solutions.

All the work done up to now is rewarding when reviewing the outcomes and impact of ZEMedS:

- Development and promotion of technical/financial toolkits and packaged solutions in order to increase their knowledge on nZEB renovation of schools in Mediterranean climates among building designers. Also, it was elaborated 10 case studies with extensive details on solutions for nZEB renovation of schools.
- Organization and hosting of 60 trainings events in which participated around 2,400 people and 4 capacity building events with 633 attendees. ZemedS consortium has also participated in 8 international conferences.
- Mentoring to school policy makers of Mediterranean climate regions in 40 new nZEB initiatives on renovation of schools with nZEB goals in Mediterranean countries.
- Provision of regional tendering specifications that will be voluntarily adopted by at least 5 public authorities of 4 Mediterranean countries. These public authorities are to sign a letter of commitment to considering the ZEMedS Methodology and Criteria in its School Building Renovation Process, towards nZEB.

Being involved in ZEMedS helped us get the picture of which the barriers and difficulties are when facing an nZEB renovation in Med countries. We found out that strictly complying with nZEB requirements, most schools need deep refurbishment and the expected ROI shows long periods of time that may deter deciders to make the decision. Nevertheless, we hope to pave the way for future initiatives and aid policymakers to keep enacting new directives and providing stimulus.

We invite you to keep involved in this initiative though the project ends now. Please contact us for any doubt and assistance. Collaboration make us stronger!!

... **Marco Bibas**

... **Project manager - Eurecat**

ZEMedS News



Awareness-raising campaign

ZEMedS partner ALEM developed an user guide for public authorities to rise awareness about the importance of implementing educational activities and advises aimed on the good use of the school buildings...

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Capacity building event in Spain

The Spanish national capacity building event held in Barcelona, on 27-28 of January 2016 was one of a series of training events which took place in Catalonia region within the framework of ZEMedS project...

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Implementation

The project actively promotes the implementation of the Technical and Financial Toolkit for the nZEB renovation of school buildings. The toolkit's guidelines will be used as a road map to overcome existing limitations...

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Tendering specifications

The existing knowledge on tendering methods plus the relevant techniques tested in the project have been analysed, filtered and translated into 5 tendering specifications...

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