

Workshop 1: Energy efficiency of heating supply systems

JELGAVA, 16 SEP 2009, 15:45-18:30h

Moderators: Mr Kunze/BEWOG (DE); Mr Borchard/B.&S.U. mbH (DE)

Summary

The workshop was introduced by Mr Borchard who gave an overview on heat energy sources in Germany and Berlin. In Germany, the share of district heating is still considerably low at 14%. Out of the 14% district heating more than 84% is produced in cogeneration. In the new Eastern states the share of district heating is much higher than in former West Germany, where the majority is decentralised heating systems based on gas and oil. In Berlin the share of district heating is around 30,6%, Berlin currently acts as a pilot city for cogeneration in Germany, since more than 40% of electricity is produced from cogeneration processes. The share of RES in district heating in Berlin currently accounts to 6 % but will likely increase in the next years when gas fired power plants will be converted into biomass power plants. Current national policy in Germany has introduced a number of changes concerning heat production and cogeneration. The various acts are further described in the hand-outs with background information from Berlin for this workshop. Berlin's recently published draft of a new climate protection act has led to a controversial discussion. The new plan foresees to extend the compulsory use of RES for heat supply to existing buildings with more than 50m². The housing association has strongly opposed this measure, arguing that this would lead to a drastic increase of rents due to the necessary investments.

Mr Busch emphasized that most communities in Brandenburg have refurbished houses and infrastructure pipes to a great extent, so that the saving potentials of the housing sector, often referred to by the EU as "sleeping giant" remains a small giant.

Mr Bielicki gave a short presentation on the situation in Piaseczno, where a high share of district heating is common but no local energy policies available, such as the obligatory use of connection to district heating. In addition, both electricity and heat markets are liberalised, however with little effect due to government regulated (low) prices for private consumers.

Most partners have in common, that public utilities have been sold to private companies/ESCOs (Berlin, Estonia) leaving no or very little communal influence on energy efficiency measures. In Riga, 51% of the energy provider is still owned by the city, in Belzig, Brandenburg, the city still owns 100%.

Mr Kunze from BEWOG housing association stressed the importance of energy efficient low-cost investments as in the ALFA project. A new smart heat metering system, ADAPTERM, has been introduced to BEWOG's housing stock as one of the first in Germany. The system can measure the outside temperature and the current heat demand from tenants and adapts the boiler temperature accordingly leading to significant energy savings. In a discussion the partners pointed out the need for a home owner majority before smart metering can be installed.

As a conclusion, a number projects have been introduced in all partner countries, some of them even serve as best practice examples. However, integrated urban strategies and local energy plans are needed in order to link good projects and include them in a broad planning approach. In addition, there is a lack of local regulatory law to enforce obligatory use of the most energy efficient and economically viable energy source and to introduce new efficiency technologies and renewable energies.

