

Implementing the Energy Performance of Building Directive (EPBD)



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Reducing energy consumption and eliminating wastage are among the main goals of the European Union. With 40% of our energy consumed in buildings, the EU has introduced legislation to ensure that they consume less energy. A key part of this legislation is the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) which requires all EU countries to enhance their building regulations and to introduce energy certification schemes for buildings. The introduction of national laws meeting EU requirements is challenging. It is a great opportunity to mobilise energy efficiency in EU buildings, but also a formidable and continuing challenge for many EU countries.

To support EU countries in this task, the Concerted Action EPBD was launched by the European Commission to promote dialogue and exchange of best practice between them. An intensely active forum of national authorities from 29 countries, it focuses on finding common approaches to the most effective implementation of this EU legislation. The Concerted Action EPBD (2007 – 2010) is organized around 5 Core Themes: Certification of Buildings, Inspections of Boilers and AC systems, Training of Experts, Procedures for Characterization of Energy Performance and Information Campaigns. This book contains an extended summary of the main out-

comes of these sessions, including conclusions and recommendations, for each of the five main topics. The objective of the reports on the Core Theme activities is to present a snapshot of the concerns and deliberations of the teams dealing with practical implementation of legislation at national level.

The second part of this book features a collection of country reports. These reports will certainly allow the reader to get a good overview of how the directive is being implemented in practice all over Europe, including many points in common amongst the Member States, as well as specific differences between them. In spirit of transparency and in an effort to provide a true portrait of reality, they are straightforward and frank. They convey the reality of the implementation of this challenging Directive in each country as of the end of 2010. Most importantly, these reports show how much progress has been already been achieved all over Europe in the promotion of energy efficiency in buildings as a result of this Directive. Readers are invited to pay special attention to the best practices presented by experts in many of the reports, as they were the inspiration and building blocks for the new upgraded requirements that were adopted in the recast of the directive in 2010. ☞

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