

Dear Reader,

I am sure the first question coming to mind is a natural one: why is it necessary a new publication on the already crowded field of energy bulletins? We could answer in a serious and substantiated manner about the significance of energy efficiency at world level and, especially, at local level. We could present relevant figures on the way such programs and projects might reduce, not only the electricity bill of every citizen, but also that of local authorities, and – finally – the positive effect on the payment balance of the country. We could say that – certainly – promotion and implementation of energy efficiency projects will lead to a decrease of energy intensity for each municipality or city, along the entire chain from source to end user. We could claim the improvement of the professionalism of those studying, developing and implementing energy efficiency strategies and projects, within a favorable framework for carrying out specific activities along such projects, a comprehensive and harmonized legislation, supported by proper banking policies – these being essential elements for a significant reduction of energy consumption. We could

mention the fact that the impact of these local policies enforced by adequate projects will result in saving primary resources and reducing pollutant emissions, with positive consequences on public comfort and health, improving the aspect of buildings, creating jobs and reducing the national effort for importing fuels.

We could say all these and much more in this editorial. However, we prefer to do it unhurriedly, in the following issues of this publication, presenting up-to-date information on: legislation in the field, municipal programs for energy efficiency and their financing sources, the experience of municipalities in Romania and abroad and – especially – the activities of the regional program MUNEE, hoping that you will answer affirmatively the question regarding the opportunity of this information bulletin.

In the hope that all these will be really useful, we launch here this new challenge. We are looking forward to your suggestions regarding the improvement of our publication. Let's start now!

Prof. Dr. Eng. Virgil Musatescu
President APER

About APER

The Romanian Energy Policy Association (APER) is an independent, professional, non-profit organization, established in 1995 with support from the Synergy Program of the European Commission. The association acts as a professional forum for the promotion of energy policies, dissemination of specific information and exchange of professional opinions.

The individual members of the Association are prominent scientists from Romania and abroad, experts in the energy and banking fields, decision-makers and representatives of municipal energy services. In addition, there are collective members – prestigious companies from Romania and abroad, important actors in the national and international energy sector.

About “Alliance to Save Energy”

“Alliance to Save Energy” (ASE) is a non-governmental organization from USA, established in 1997, involved in increasing the awareness regarding the role of energy efficiency and in supporting a market for high energy efficiency technologies and services in the countries where it is operating.

Its international activities have the following objectives: to promote municipal policies on energy efficiency, to carry out educational programs regarding public services, to draw up proposals regarding financial instruments necessary for promoting energy efficiency projects, institutional development of energy efficiency organizations, the reform of energy policies.

Introduction to MUNEE program

MUNEE is a regional program, run by the Alliance to Save Energy, promoting the energy efficiency concept and aiming local authorities in Poland, Serbia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Letonia. Its main objective is to promote new energy efficiency policies, to identify obstacles in their successful implementation, to support local authorities in developing energy efficiency projects and obtaining funding for them.

In partnership with Alliance to Save Energy, APER proposes and launches the program MUNEE Romania, as an initiative aiming especially decision makers and persons involved in energy issues in municipalities.

Obviously, objectives such as promoting modern concepts of energy management, training energy personnel for carrying out bankable projects, increasing the sensitivity of the representatives of commercial banks for co-funding energy efficiency projects, identification of flaws and lack of co-relation existing in current legislation have a special importance for local authorities.

In order to achieve these objectives, the following type of activities will be carried out: information exchange of the stage and results regarding project program implementation in the field of energy efficiency, training workshops for energy personnel from municipalities, all of these based on establishing a special network of decision makers at local level and experts in the field. Also, publications will be issued, presenting: information in the field of energy efficiency, investors and companies that are active in this field, the agenda of domestic and international meetings organized within MUNEE program, where the experience of overseas partners will be shared. All these will have benefic effects for those involved.

We hope a large number of municipalities will be interested to take part in the activities carried out within this program, aiming to support the efforts of local authorities in the implementation of energy efficiency projects and attracting financing sources.

News ♦ News ♦ News ♦ News ♦ News ♦ News ♦ News ♦ News ♦ News

* Within MUNEE program, on July 26, 2001, the regional workshop “Software instruments for energy management for municipalities in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union” was organized in Warsaw. Representatives from partner countries took part in this event, presenting specific software and assessment technologies, developed by their own organizations. Their summaries can be accessed at the site: www.munee.org. The Romanian delegation included: Laura Radulescu – APER, Ovidiu Marinescu – SOCER and Corina Suta – City Hall of Targu Jiu. The SOCER representative introduced the “SMEU program – Urban Energy Management System”, that allows preparing the urban energy action plan by monitoring energy use and analyzing its distribution.

* Starting September 20, 2001, the web page www.aper.ro will be launched under a new form, providing useful information on APER, the Romanian energy sector and related legislation, news and energy efficiency programs for municipalities.

* The city halls in Mangalia and Predeal announced the issue of the first post-war municipal bonds through BCR and BRD – Groupe Societe Generale, respectively. The nominal value of the bonds is 100 000 ROL, maturing 18 months from the subscription closing date. The issue of municipal bonds is a tool for attracting funds necessary for local interest investment projects.

*Current energy resources
will be exhausted!*

Energy is expensive!

*The way we generate
energy has negative
effects on the
environment!*

*It's high time we used
energy efficiently!*