

Rural Advice and Support Units for RES in Heat Systems and Integrated Energy Management in Buildings (RURASU)



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Project Summary

RURASU project focused on the energy problems of each involved rural area, aiming to support dispersed local actors like building designers, consumers, public authorities on the use of renewable energies and energy efficiency measures in the building stock.

The rural regions where the Design and Advice Support Units operate are:

- Germany: Allgäu
- Greece: Pieria
- Scotland: South Ayr
- Spain: Cordillera Subbética

The continuous support provided to local actors resulted in the broader use and implementation of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency techniques.

Background

- The main problem that RURASU project had to confront was the lack of information on RES and energy efficiency subjects in specific rural areas of Europe. Professionals, system providers, local actors and other individuals of the dispersed rural areas had no contact with academic institutions and consultancy firms, experienced on RES and energy efficiency. The establishment and operation of rural Design and Advice Support Units bridged this knowledge gap.
- The methodology created and the actions achieved could be helpful tools for all interested bodies on establishing or further developing a Rural Advice and Support Unit. Moreover, the project as itself is a successful replication example; the established DASUs in Greece and in Germany created the required methodology documentation for establishing a DASU in a rural area, which was adapted as a good practice by partners in Spain and in Scotland.

Objectives and main steps

- The overall objective of the action was to provide energy management, energy conservation consultancy and services in rural areas. This objective was achieved fully through the proved establishment and operation of the four Design Advice and Support Units of RURASU project in the involved rural areas of the four predetermined countries.
- Important steps were:
 - The development of educational materials (Information Acquisition Tool, leaflets etc.)
 - Analysis, training and consultations regarding the European Buildings Directive (2002/91/EC)
 - Networking and training of the involved professionals and support of local energy management in general.
 - Wide dissemination of the results.

Achieved Results

- Operation of Design and Advice Support Units (DASUs) in the four rural involved areas.
- Creation of methodological tools for supporting the establishment or further development of rural based Design Advice and Support Units.
- Creation of Public Relation strategies for all involved areas and application of these strategies, including coalition with local media of the involved areas.
- Set up of Partners' networks in each Design and Advice Support Unit (DASU) and training of the professionals involved.
- World Wide dissemination of deliverables and production of educational material in local languages focusing on specific categories of professionals and individuals.

Partners & Contact

- Coordinator

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- Partners

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- Institute of Accelerating Systems and Applications, (IASA), GREECE



- Energie-& Umweltzentrum Allgäu gGmbH, (eza!), GERMANY



- WIP KG, (WIP KG), GERMANY



- University of Strathclyde, (UoS), UNITED KINGDOM



- Web-site: www.rurasu.info