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## Higher efficiency with the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

***Nearly zero energy buildings thanks to the adoption of the recast of the EPBD and proposals on eco-design and energy-labelling:***

The legislative framework, crucial to meet the European Commission's overall 2020 energy targets, is now taking shape with the revision of both the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Energy Labelling Directive, as well as the ongoing review on Eco-design of Energy-related Products.

The EPBD recast features a new significant requirement that all new buildings in Europe must be built to low energy standards by 31 December 2020 and the public sector must lead the way by meeting these "nearly zero" energy standards by the end of 2018. Improvements on the 2002 Directive are: stronger rules on inspection and energy performance certificates, as well as the major article on financial incentives and market barriers which stipulates that Member States must list and put forward financing schemes to support the implementation of the recast.

Currently consultations between the European Commission and the Solar Thermal Industry are taking place in connection with the next phase of implementing measures for the Eco-design and Energy Labelling Framework Directives applicable to Boilers and Water Heaters. Eco-design and labelling measures for ErP (energy-related products) must take into account market conditions and involve all stakeholders along the supply chain so that end-users can derive maximum benefits from the legislation and receive accurate information.

All these measures strive to achieve energy efficiency. Primary energy such as solar thermal, is a vitally important component of the EU's Energy Strategy. More on: [www.buildup.eu](http://www.buildup.eu)

## Italy

### Lazio: ➤

#### Dialogue is key to a successful Solar Thermal Ordinance (STO) implementation



The Lazio region has organized some info/training days for the dissemination of information on the STO tools. These events, held in the region's small towns and often taking place in municipal buildings, were attended by local mayors, technical staff from local authorities, professionals and entrepreneurs. The main benefit of this initiative was an opportunity to make a "first contact" with stakeholders, thus enabling the ProSTO staff dealing with the flanking measures' implementation to get to know interested people involved in small projects. Without these meetings it would not have been possible to meet either political representatives from small towns or technical staff interested in playing a part in the implementation of a STO.

These events were attended by representatives from over 40 Municipalities, both from the political and technical sectors. The discussions and debates which took place over the question of a STO's implementation made the event itself a participatory tool. The purpose of these meetings was not to draft and approve STOs but simply to inform people that there is an efficient way to achieve this using an inclusive approach with local stakeholders. Some interested technicians who participated in the meetings were subsequently contacted by ProSTO staff and given some support in drafting an efficient STO. Several participants coming from different towns requested that we organize a similar meeting in their municipality to convince local politicians that they should approve a STO, and almost everyone wanted information material on the project. ProSTO has reached several municipalities in Lazio because we were there and not vice versa and also because we have used a bottom-up and not a top-down approach.

### Abruzzo: ➤

Photos show some solar systems installed in a municipality of the Abruzzo region which has adopted a Solar Ordinance .

This Central Italy region was badly affected by the 2009 earthquake. The main shock occurred on 6 April 2009 and was rated 5.8 on the Richter scale.



The epicentre was near L'Aquila, Abruzzo's capital, which together with surrounding villages suffered most damage.

## Germany

**Stuttgart:** ➡

### City ProSTO Partners focus on solar thermal for multi-family houses



As from 1st January 2010, house owners in the State of Baden-Württemberg in south west Germany are obliged to integrate renewable energy technologies when the heating system is being replaced.

A renewable heat law has been in existence since 2008 with regard to new buildings, however this was superseded by the national renewable heat law adopted in January 2009.

As far as solar thermal is concerned, these obligations have a positive impact on the single-family house sector, where in many cases the installation of solar heating systems has now become the norm.

On the other hand, owners of multi-family houses still seem to show a negative attitude towards solar thermal.

Stuttgart ProSTO partners therefore considered that the development of solar thermal in the multi-family house sector was a key support measure for flanking the regional and national renewable heat legislation.

When they launched their new initiative 'Solar Heat for Multi-family Houses' the City of Stuttgart and Solites teamed up with Stuttgart's Energy Advice Centre EBZ, the local installer association and five specialized manufacturers of large-scale solar heating systems.

The Stuttgart's house owners association "Haus & Grund" has also given its backing to the initiative; while being acutely aware, however, of the necessity for the systems to be economically viable, as they are primarily financed by house owners and tenants.

The new initiative starts in October 2010 with a training course dedicated to installers, architects and energy advisers. An information evening is also being organised for multi-family house owners.

On the practical level, five demo plants will demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of solar heating systems on multi-family houses.

## NEWS FROM PARTNERS

### SPAIN

Murcia: 

#### Review of existing solar thermal installations

Murcia's solar thermal ordinance came into force in October 2008. It includes an article on the monitoring of solar thermal systems installed in the city. This stipulates that the municipality must compile a register of systems to track their performance and maintenance.

As a complementary measure to this register, the city of Murcia launched a review of 15 existing installations, as a flanking measure of the ProSTO project.

The review included:

- ◆ contacting the owners of the installations,
- ◆ sending an official letter from the Deputy Mayor for Environment,
- ◆ collecting design documentation and data,
- ◆ a technical visit to the building, and
- ◆ interviewing the users to obtain their opinion on the system's operation
- ◆ completion of a checklist.

The installation costs for the systems visited varied from 14.000 to 70.000 Euros, either for residential and tertiary sectors.



These systems were intended for the production of sanitary hot water and swimming pools heating.

These visits yielded the following data:

- ◆ 100% of users contacted possessed the system's technical documentation and the maintenance contract
- ◆ 100% of facilities contacted were visited
- ◆ 40% of systems presented maintenance problems related to overpressure during the summer season
- ◆ 46,6% of users are satisfied or very much satisfied with the performance of his facility
- ◆ 26% found the performance adequate
- ◆ 73% of the contacted users received a proposal for improving the efficiency of their energy systems

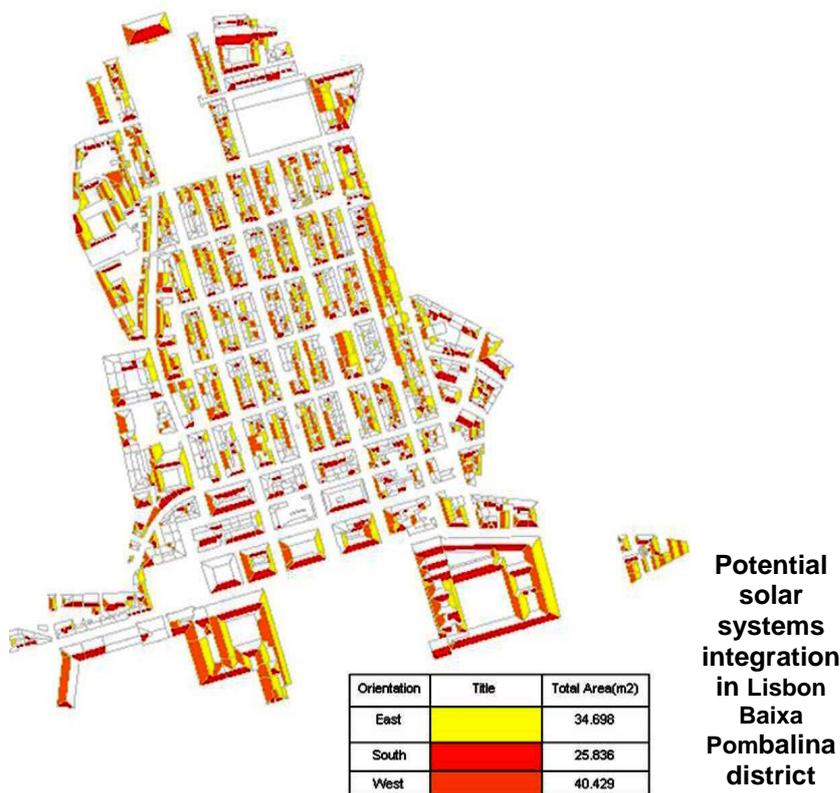
This information was included in the register of solar thermal systems installed in the city of Murcia.

The register was completed with the data of the solar thermal systems installed since 2002. In Murcia data is available for over 200 collective solar systems installed.

## Portugal

### ← Lisbon:

## Lisboa E-Nova drawing positive conclusions on the ProSTO project



Lisbon's participation in the ProSTO project had two main objectives:

1. share the experience gained from the national STO in force in Portugal, and
2. analyze the barriers and opportunities arising from the promotion of the STO's wider implementation in Portugal and more particularly in Lisbon.

As part of the first objective, Lisbon was very pleased to assist in the development of STOs in the Region of Lazio in Italy, Murcia in Spain and Giurgiu in Romania. The development of these legislative frameworks demonstrates how successful the ProSTO project has been and we will keep in touch with these municipalities to sustain the synergies arising from the project. In exchange, of course, we hope to benefit from the experience gained by these partners.

Under the second objective Lisboa E-Nova had the opportunity to meet several of the most significant stakeholders involved in the Portuguese STO, identify the barriers and opportunities still to be addressed within this framework.

Several actions and recommendations were defined at local level and most of these recommendations were implemented through the Municipal Framework for Urban Edifications in Lisbon. An important outcome was the work on listed buildings, considered as exemptions to the STO's application, as well as the integration of solar thermal systems in refurbishment works carried out on these buildings.

In this context, the development of the Solar Systems Integration Potential Map for the Lisbon Baixa Pombalina Area is the most important end-result and can be regarded as the model for a STO at local level. Its evaluation forms an integral part of the Baixa Pombalina's area Requalification plan making it compulsory to consider the integration of solar thermal systems according to locations specified on the Map. This Map is currently being developed and will be presented in Brussels during the ProSTO final conference. In Lisbon the results will be presented in November and this STO is still expected to enter into force during 2010.

[www.lisboaenova.org](http://www.lisboaenova.org)

## NEXT pro»STO WORKSHOP

*Towards nearly zero-energy buildings*

*A cost-effective energy policy for sustainable local authorities*

**Solar thermal ordinances = making a commitment to local sustainable energy.  
29 October 2010, Committee of the Regions, Brussels**

The RES Directive (2009/28/EC) stipulates in its article 12.4: "In the building regulations and codes or any way with equivalent effect, Member States shall by 2015 at the latest, where appropriate, require the use, of minimum levels of energy from renewable sources in new buildings and in existing buildings that are subject to major renovation."

A major benefit of solar thermal ordinances is their effectiveness combined with low costs and limited administrative overheads for public authorities.

The purpose of this thematic workshop is to give an overview of the legislative framework conditions for the process involved in developing and implementing a STO at local level. It will also provide some concrete examples from local authorities which have already introduced solar thermal ordinances, including flanking measures such as incentive schemes, information campaigns, etc..

The ProSTO project results and specific experiences gained by the organizations involved will be shared with the audience. This workshop will also be the ideal opportunity to define a common viewpoint regarding STOs and develop further ideas on how to best promote solar thermal ordinances at European and national level to encourage even more local authorities to adopt and implement solar thermal ordinances.

To download the workshop programme and the registration form please go to [www.solarordinances.eu](http://www.solarordinances.eu)



Committee of the Regions

## Solar Championships

Legambiente Klimaenergy launched this initiative in partnership with Fiera di Bolzano. It is a "competition" between municipalities, rewarding the best results in terms of solar energy use.

The supporting data is calculated according to the ratio between the population in the area and the solar thermal and photovoltaic installations. Furthermore, some added bonus points can be won by a city for its local energy policy. Only installed and operational systems are taken into consideration, thus excluding those being installed or not yet approved. To enter the competition municipalities are required to complete a questionnaire, either online or on paper.

The objective is not solely to highlight the Italian municipalities' energy policies but also the experiences, best practices as well as commend those who actually best meet households' energy requirements. It is also a means to emphasize that municipal renewable energy technologies, particularly solar, are best suited to meet families' heat and electricity needs.



The best practices identified by the Italian Championship and Comuni Rinnovabili will have the opportunity to compete for the title of European [RES-Champions League](http://www.solarordinances.eu), a competition between European cities, towns and village, based on renewable energy.

## New ProSTO brochure



[Now available in several languages](#)

## STO Developers Toolbox

The STO tools are there to support whole the process for implementing a STO:

- ◆ The [Context](#) section contains background information on STOs, communication tools and in particular various good reasons for adopting a STO.
- ◆ The Baseline [Assessment](#) section provides tools to analyse the status, potential and feasibility of a STO in a specific locality.
- ◆ The [Ordinance Components](#) section includes approved text components and legal approaches to assist in drafting the right ordinance
- ◆ The Flanking [Measures](#) section suggest supporting activities for boosting the impact of a STO.
- ◆ The [Monitoring](#) section's tools are useful for tracking the achievements obtained with a STO.

In addition, some project results are available in the section [project outcomes](#).

## MEPs re-allocate crisis funds to energy efficiency

(From EurActiv 06/09/2010)

On 2 September 2010, MEPs voted for €115 million of unspent recovery plan money from the EU's recovery plan to be used on projects to improve energy efficiency in the regions.

The European Parliament's industry, research and energy committee gave its unanimous blessing to the European Commission proposals to use unspent money from the European

Energy Recovery Programme (EERP). The initiative will create a dedicated financial instrument to support regional and local projects in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The Commission estimates that €115 million will go unspent until the end-of-year deadline, which can be freed for energy efficiency and renewables projects.

MEPs argued that the instrument will create new

jobs in regions, which will make them more attractive places to live and aid social integration.

The new rules will go some way towards correcting the bias towards fossil-fuels that MEPs had detected in the programme. Along with CCS, they had insisted on including energy efficiency and smart cities.

The Parliament will vote to adopt the rule changes at a plenary session in October.

## RES Directive - implementation:

### The solar thermal share in the National Renewable Action Plans

Most of the EU Member States have now submitted their National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs) to the European Commission,.

These can now be downloaded from the [Transparency Platform](#), the online portal set up by the European Commission where can be found the latest information on the Directive and its implementation at national level.



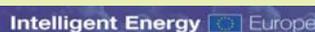
### In the press - 2010

◆ 1 September	www.solarthermalworld.org	Solar Thermal Obligations In Buildings in the Framework of the Portuguese Case (2008)	Belgium
◆ July	Climatização	ProSTO lança manual de boas práticas	Portugal
◆ 30 July	www.solarthermalworld.org	Solar Thermal Ordinances: Making a Commitment to Local Sustainable Energy (2010)	Belgium
◆ 13 May	Ateneo Naider	Políticas y estrategias de cambio climático en Vitoria-Gasteiz	Spain
◆ 11 May	BUILD UP	Building the future with solar!	Belgium
◆ May	Climatização	Obrigações solares térmica	Portugal
◆ 23 April	Sun & Wind energy	Guidebook for solar ordinances	Germany

### Forthcoming events

- ◆ **4 to 7 October—Brussels, Belgium**  
Open Days 2010—8th European Week of Regions and Cities—Europe 2020: Competitiveness, co-operation and cohesion for all regions
- ◆ **14 and 15 October—Stuttgart, Germany**  
Final project meeting
- ◆ **29 October—Brussels, Belgium**  
Next ProSTO workshop—Committee of the Regions
- ◆ **25 November - Stuttgart, Germany**  
German ProSTO Workshop:  
Best Practice Implementation of Solar Thermal Obligations  
[www.stuttgart.de](http://www.stuttgart.de)

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