

MILD HOME

**My Modular, Intelligent, Low cost,
Do it yourself, Nearly zero energy House
for our Eco Green Village**

*High-energy efficient and low cost buildings to be designed and realized in
Eco Green Villages. A new perspective of sustainable building*

December 2014 | NEWSLETTER

- 1. The project so far**
 - MILD HOME Final International Conference
 - MILD HOME Project meeting
- 2. The relevance of the MILD HOME project: Point of view**
- 3. MILD HOME Factsheet**
- 4. The MILD HOME Project has been nominated to present the South east Europe Programme in the RegioStars Awards 2015**

Jointly for our common future

The Project So far...

Final International Conference

During the Final International Conference of the MILD HOME project, held on December 16, 2014 civil engineers, architects, journalists, representatives of the public authorities from different countries, NGOs and the business community, including investors became acquainted with the outcomes and results of the MILD HOME project. The Final International Conference was held at the premises of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), one of the Bulgarian project partners.



Representatives from all project partner countries, namely Italy, Romania, Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Greece and Serbia participated in the Final Conference.

During the official opening of the event, Mr. Tsvetan Simeonov, President of the BCCI emphasized the importance of the project for the continuation of the dialogue on sustainable development and stressed on the fact that the objectives of the MILD HOME project contribute to the usage of not only modern technologies and materials but also on the natural conservation and energy- saving effect of the project approach.

Mrs. Flavia di Noto, the project coordinator from the Regional Union of Veneto's Chambers of Commerce, presented to the public the project outcomes and the achieved results whereas she stressed on the relevance of the project for the application of the Eco Green Village (EGV) concept in the region of South-East Europe.



Representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the Bulgarian Green Council, Municipal Energy Efficiency Network EcoEnergy as well as project partner organizations were among the main speakers of the Conference.

Great interest attracted the presentation of the Action Plan for sustainable energy in the Covenant of Mayors, the presentation of the new Transnational cooperation programmes and the future opportunities for sustainable urban development in the region of South- east Europe.

The representative of Sofia Municipality confirmed that they are doing their best to achieve the actual construction of an Eco green village in Bulgaria due to the rising importance of the role of the citizens in the further continuation of the efforts directed towards achievement of sustainable development.

The Project So far...

The Mayor of Thessaly, Greece, defined the MILD HOME approach as the new building model of the future.

During the second part of the event an exhibition of the winning projects of the Bulgarian competition of ideas was held. The presentations of the winners provoked further discussions on the difficulties encountered and the future prospects for development of an Eco Green Village.

Final MILD HOME Project Meeting

The final MILD HOME Project Meeting took place on December 17, 2014 in Sofia, following the Final International Conference. During the project meeting, the partners presented and discussed the progress of the project and the final steps which need to be undertaken prior to the conclusion



of the MILD HOME project. The progress on the different Work packages was elaborated by the respective Work package leaders.

Moreover, during the meeting the project partners had the opportunity to exchange information on the organizational, financial and operational issues related to the final steps needed to be undertaken for the smooth and successful implementation of the MILD HOME project.

The relevance of the MILD HOME project: Point of view

Mr. Dragomir Tzanev has vast experience in project management whereas he has been coordinator of the successful BUILD UP Skills Bulgaria project (2011-2013) and its continuation BUILD UP Skills EnerPro; team leader in the



Mr. Dragomir Tzanev

projects NET-COM and PassREg (Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the EC) and Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (UNECE). Lecturer at numerous international conferences in the area of sustainable energy development. Currently, Mr. Tzanev is project manager at Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect which is part of a global network of energy efficiency centers aimed at the promotion of good

The relevance of the MILD HOME project: Point of view



practices and knowledge exchange for energy efficiency improvements. Moreover, EnEffect is acting as a contact point for the Municipal Energy Efficiency Network EcoEnergy which provides assistance, information and training to Bulgarian municipalities willing to become signatories to the Covenant of Mayors.

1. To what extent do you think that the project MILD HOME contributes to the development of sustainable architecture in Southeast Europe?

I believe that the impact of MILD HOME is really tangible, and not just because of its geographical scope and the architectural quality of the projects, which is not to be underestimated, but also because it targets the whole value chain of the sustainable building market in Europe. It is extremely important to understand that if we want to change our living environment for the better, good architecture by itself is not enough - we need administrative capacity, visionary urban planning, technical skills, investor interest and most of all, end user awareness. MILD HOME takes account of all these issues, so I really think its contribution to sustainability scene of Southeastern Europe is quite important.

2. To what extent do the project results contribute to achieving the objectives set in the Sustainable Energy Action Plans, adopted within the Covenant of Mayors framework?

The results of such a project are not to be valued in terms of quantitative contribution to SEAPs' targets for CO₂ emissions savings, but mostly in raising public awareness for the opportunities and benefits of the

efficient use of resources and sustainable urban development. Even experts sometimes tend to forget that the Covenant of Mayors is in its core a political initiative, and the communication activities in the Action Plans are at least as important as the projected savings and emission reductions. Initiatives like MILD HOME are valuable because of they engage the potential beneficiaries and end users in an active dialogue on sustainability, which is actually the factor that activates the replication potential of the architectural and urban development projects.

3. According to you, what further steps should be undertaken, in order to stimulate the development of MILD HOME housing type in Southeast Europe?

The overarching goal, in my opinion, has to be to secure the steady market uptake of the solutions demonstrated by MILD HOME, in terms of both specific projects and design philosophy and approach. A very important role in this process could be played by the national and local authorities, forming the market - as a first step - by showcasing the benefits through the public buildings, and thus stimulating the private investors. Through the accessible EU funds, there are many opportunities to do this, and in fact the EPBD and EED actually oblige the national authorities to lead by example in both new building and renovation projects. Our role as a civil society is to make sure that our authorities not only comply with the directives, but even excel in their implementation, striving for quality, long-term efficiency and optimal use of resources in every single project.



MILD HOME Factsheet



Basic Project Information

Duration of the project:
27 months

Lead partner:
Regional Union of Veneto's chambers of commerce – UCV (Italy)

Partnership countries:
Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia

Project Objectives:
The project aims at defining, designing and boosting the building the first MILD HOMES (zero emission, in passive house style, reliable, recyclable and low cost) conceived to be located in an Eco Green Village (energetically self sustainable, zero emission, with eco waste management and low water footprint) in order to make it evident in the SEE area that low environmental footprint villages are feasible and within the reach of ordinary people who want to build a new home. The innovative aspect of MILD HOME lies in combining the characteristics of a nearly zero energy house with low costs (materials with good performance but not so expensive,



modularity, standardization, simple but essential automation, Do it Yourself-DiY option.

Direct beneficiaries of the project

- ✓ Local public administration, focus on municipalities;
- ✓ Citizens and civil society;
- ✓ Experts, architects, civil engineers and designers;
- ✓ Selected innovative SMEs for building the local supply chains.

 **MILD HOME** **Factsheet**



Outputs and Concrete Project Results

Development of a new building product “MILD HOME” to be customized according to different country localization

- 8 descriptions of MILD HOME at Municipality level containing performance grid, tailored to the local needs
- 8 models / structures and organization of Eco Green Village

Set up of a permanent SEE network of experts to lead design of MILD HOME and create exchange of know-how

- Composed by one representative per partner, supported by an external expert, with technical competences for a total of more than 20 people

Definition of a SEE Model of eco green village based on MILD HOME

- Issue of 8 Competitions of Ideas for building an Eco Green village based on the MILD HOME concept (106 proposals received)
- Discussion and sharing of experiences among best classified proposals during a one week meeting at the University of Gyor (HU)
- Involvement of key Stakeholders and contribution from the Network of Experts



**MILD
HOME** **Factsheet**



Outputs and Concrete Project Results

Development of local MILD HOME supply chains

- An intensive plan of knowledge diffusion, training sessions and aggregation / community events with more than 171 professionals trained/involved
- Development of 8 Databases of MILD HOME materials at local level and one Database at SEE level
- Repository of companies of building sectors near to MILD HOME concept, available under the following link: <http://144.76.37.241/mildhome/>

Final guide: How to build an Eco Green Village based on MILD HOME

- The Final Guide aims at summarizing the project achievements (the technologies and performances characteristics, information on the national proposals, potential opportunities and risks for the MILD HOME) and provide general information on the role of the MILD HOME in the SEE area



MILD HOME Factsheet



Results deriving from the MILD HOME project (even if not initially foreseen) pointing to its success

Environmental implications

Creation of a novel approach to sustainable building enabling the construction of near-zero energy modular do-it-yourself houses in accordance to the outcomes of the carried market analysis within each partnering region

Economic implications

Creation of 8 local supply Databases and a common SEE Database containing information for more than 314 companies and 824 products from the SEE area. Visit it via the following link: <http://144.76.37.241/mildhome/>

Social implications

Developed transnational Network of Experts aimed at facilitating of Know-how and Knowledge Exchange of good practices and expertise. More than 171 professionals (architects, urban planners, engineers and real estate agents) took part in the numerous trainings, organized by Project Partners across the SEE area

Policy implications

The MILD HOME concept triggered change in local policies in order to facilitate the investment process and enable the actual construction of 5 EGVs in Castelnuovo Rangone (IT), Sofia (BG), Strem (AT), Savski Venac (SER) and Feltre (IT)

Nomination for RegioStars Awards 2015



Nomination for RegioStars Awards 2015



The MILD HOME Project has been nominated to present the South east Europe Programme in the RegioStars Awards 2015

What are RegioStars Awards 2015?

The RegioStars Awards are an initiative of the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy aimed at capitalizing the most successful projects of the Regional policy of the EU. The focus of the initiative falls on the identification of good practices within the regional development. The idea is to sift out the most innovative practices deriving from the best performing projects and to disseminate the information to the interested parties in order to act as an inspiration tool for them. RegioStars Awards are divided into the following categories:

- ✓ SMART GROWTH: Unleashing SME growth potential for a digital economy;
- ✓ SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: Mobilizing investments in energy efficiency for the benefit of citizens and society;
- ✓ INCLUSIVE GROWTH: Integrating in society those at risk of social exclusion;
- ✓ CITYSTAR: Transforming cities for future challenges.

The winning projects will be awarded a trophy and a certificate 'RegioStars Winners Certificate' by the Commissioner for Regional Policy and by the President of the RegioStars Awards jury.

Source: European Commission, 2015
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/regio-stars-awards/

How the MILD HOME project fits in the framework of the Regio Stars Awards 2015?

The MILD HOME project has been nominated in Category 2 "SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: Mobilizing investments in energy efficiency for the benefit of citizens and society". This category aims to identify the projects which have led to increase in public and private investments aimed at meeting the climate change challenges. Since residential and public buildings are the main contributors to the generation of green-house gas (GHG) emissions, they are seen as having the biggest potential for increase of energy savings. The objectives, according to which the projects will be evaluated should address the following issues:

- Investments in energy efficiency supported as part of broader low-carbon and urban development strategies or sustainable energy action plans;
- Public authorities taking an exemplary role, engaging in state-of-the-art renovation of public buildings for improved energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, thus strengthening the innovation demand side;
- Investments in energy efficiency in residential buildings particularly successful in contributing to alleviating energy poverty;
- Support for energy efficiency in SMEs that contribute to the overall economic development of the SME;
- Successful use of financial instruments, such as loans, guarantees or venture capital.

For more information on the project developments, please, consult the MILD HOME project website.

www.mildhome.eu