



Project Fact Sheet

Updated: March 31, 2010

Leading the CEN Standards on Energy performance of buildings to practice. Towards effective support of the EPBD implementation and acceleration in the EU Member States (CENSE)

Programme area:	SAVE, Multiplying success in buildings
Status:	Ongoing
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Website:	www.iee-cense.eu
Objective:	To accelerate adoption and improved effectiveness of EPBD related building energy performance standards in EU Member States
Benefits:	Increased accessibility, efficiency and harmonisation of the building energy performance assessments in the MS
Keywords:	Energy performance, European standards, Buildings Directive
Duration:	01/10/2007 – 31/03/2010
Budget:	€ 1.814.037 (EU contribution: 50 %)
Contract number:	EIE/07/069/SI2.466698



Short description

The aim of the action is to support the EU Member States and other target groups in the awareness and effective use of the European (CEN) standards related to the EPBD.

These standards were published in 2007-2008 and implemented in many MS between 2007 and 2009.

Their implementation in the MS is far from trivial: the standards cover a wide variety of levels and a wide range of interlaced topics from different areas of expertise. They comprise different levels of complexity and allow differentiation and national choices at various levels for different applications.

Main activities in the project:

- To widely communicate the role, status and content of these standards; to provide guidance on the implementation.
- To collect comments and good practice examples from MS aiming to remove barriers and to collect and secure results from relevant SAVE and FP6 projects.
- To prepare recommendations to CEN.

Achieved results

Achieved results, among others (all available at the project website *) are:

- An overview document on the CEN standards for the EPBD, plus five booklets each containing a cluster of Information Papers on a specific subject. Each Information Paper provides an introduction and explanation to a (subseries of) CEN-EPBD standard(s). The Information Papers are also available as separate documents and each accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation for teaching and learning purposes. Presentations were given at several international conferences;
- Reports and copies of presentations from a number of workshops organised in the course of the project to gather feed back from various target groups; reports from questionnaires on the implementation and obstacles for implementation on specific (subseries of) CEN-EPBD standards. Results from inventory aiming at increased interaction with higher educational institutes.
- Recommendations for further harmonisation (to the MS, EC and CEN), both general and more technical (per cluster of standards).

*) : The final versions of these results will be made available at the website within two months after the end of the project.

Lessons learnt

The main lessons learnt are:

- A lack of knowledge on the role and content of the CEN-EPBD standards was noted among the target groups. In this respect our presentations at conferences and our workshops were highly appreciated. Our guidance documents will continue to be of great use.
- Our enquiries showed that in many EU Member States most of the CEN-EPBD standards are used, but often "in a practical way", by copying parts of them into national documents (standards or building codes). The Member States had various good reasons for doing so. These reasons have been analysed intensively which resulted in a number of recommendations for redrafting the set of standards ("towards a 2nd generation of CEN standards on the energy performance of buildings") using a common set of quality criteria and a common format. This should lead to a more direct use of the CEN standards, providing the right balance between unambiguous, transparent and robust harmonized European methods and room for (clearly identifiable) national choices and input data.
- Already many of the CEN standards were prepared and published as combined EN-ISO standards. It is expected that this global cooperation with ISO will be increased in the preparation of the 2nd generation of these CEN standards, retaining the European lead.

The expected impact of a second generation of CEN-EPBD standards:

- CEN standards are more **usable** as direct reference; high **transparency** in national choices
- Easier international **knowledge exchange** and shared research
- **Increased circulation** of products, services and property data
- Faster implementation of **new solutions**
- Increased **credibility of EU** in the world
- High performance European tools leading to **high performance buildings**