CONCERTED ACTION
ENERGY EFFICIENCY
DIRECTIVE

CA EED 3 Study Visit Dublin 2024

Irish public sector monitoring and reporting system and energy management (EED Art 5, 6)

Proceedings

Date: 17-18th June, 2024

Contents

1 Introduction and Purpose of the Study Visit

Study visits are organised within the CA EED to allow further in-depth exchange between Member States on specific topics related to the implementation of the EED, which goes beyond the series of plenary meetings. The study visits should be seen as dedicated sessions taking Working Group results and plenary meeting parallel sessions one step further. Typically, a study visit will be hosted by a partner organisation with an inherent interest in the topic, exceptional expertise or an exemplary approach to the topic at hand.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) has had a public sector programme in operation for 15 years and was happy to share its experience after a number of Member States (MS) requested to visit Ireland to discuss its public sector monitoring and reporting system.

On the 17th and 18th of June, SEAI hosted a workshop on the public sector programme, which supports 350 public bodies and 3700 schools undertake energy management programmes or systems appropriate to their size, and manages a system for public bodies to report their energy data annually.

The primary focus of the study visit was on SEAIs energy management and monitoring and reporting system, as well as to help inform the plans that MSs are developing with regard to mobilising for the EED and EPBD public body targets. This study visit briefly addressed implementation and delivery of the targets. Attending MSs also gave input on their systems, current and planned, for supporting public bodies and monitoring performance.

2 Programme

Day 1, 17th June 2024 – Policy context and governance structures; Overview of PS supports;		
GMT times	**Speaker**	**Topic**
13:30	John O'Sullivan, Head of Public Sector and Regulatory Affairs, SEAI	Welcome
13:50	Alan Ryan, Public Sector Programme Manager Amanda Power, Programme Executive, SEAI Alessandra McConville, Programme Executive, SEAI Pat Mehigan, University College Cork and Optien	**Overview of Public Sector support programmes** Public sector partnership programme and pathfinder programme, resources and budgets - Links to capital pathfinder programme and other grant programmes ('hard' capital programme) **The public sector governance structure** Targets, current governance structure, reporting requirements – Monitoring and Reporting, Climate Action Roadmaps **Public Sector Programme supports** Public body energy management supports, annual Critical Success Factor assessment system, budget and procured energy advisors, public body and sectoral approach, networking system, training and events calendar.
15:30		Break
16:00		**Workshop and Q&A** Q&A on presentations. Solicit other MS relevant 'soft service' type support programmes. Discuss MS plans with regards to planning new or enhanced public body support programmes the for upcoming EED (and EPBD public body related targets). Q&A
17:00		End

Day 2, 18th June 2024– SEAI monitoring system to track targets; reporting cycle management, system overview

GMT times	Speaker	Topic
9:00 – 10:40	Christine Taylor, Alan Ryan, SEAI, Liam O'Cleirigh, Byrne O'Cleirigh Aileen Hoyne, Tipperary Energy Agency Charlotte Reardon, Fexco	**Irish public sector targets and Monitoring and Reporting System overview** Overview of the 50% and 51% targets, scope of public bodies currently, energy data collected, M&R methodology, data verification process, annual report Managing the reporting cycle, training and supports, helpdesk supports and role in driving compliance. Q&A
10:40 – 11:00		Break
11.00 – 1pm	Cathal Brady, Ultan Technologies Pat Mehigan, UCC and Optien	**New M&R system overview** IT infrastructure, typical reports **User perspective on impact of targets, M&R system** Q&A
1pm		Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Liam O'Cleirigh, Byrne O'Cleirigh Georgia Molloy, SEAI, EPBD Programme Manager	**Using the M&R system data at public body and sectoral level for Project pipeline development** 'Gap to target' tool and examples of its use. **Anticipating the new EED and EPBD targets** Overview of draft findings of a Study trying to determine the scope of the new EED targets for public bodies and pathways to achieve national (51% emissions reduction), EED (1.9% reduction EPBD, RED and is there a pathway to achieve them. **Future plans** Planned or possible works on the M&R system to accommodate new directive targets, links to other Climate Action reporting & links to EPBD passport system.
15:30		Break
15:50 – 5pm	All	Discussion on what other tools or approaches MS are undertaking MS planned discussions on critical focus areas for baselining and inventory work over the next 6-12 months. What are they prioritising with regards to supports and systems for the next 6-12 months. Also explore any links to EPBD systems.

3 Presentations

01 CA EED Irish study visit - introduction and programme

02 CA EED Irish study visit - Public sector programmes - Budget and resources

03 CA EED Irish study visit - Policy and Legislation - Governance of targets

04 CA EED Irish study visit - Public Sector Partnership

05 CA EED Irish study visit - Climate Action Roadmaps

06 CA EED Irish study visit - Public body – User's Perspective

07 CA EED Irish study visit - Workshop Day 1

08 CA EED Irish study visit - Monitoring & reporting system – Overview

09 CA EED Irish study visit - Monitoring & reporting system - The M&R Cycle

10 CA EED Irish study visit - Monitoring & reporting system - M&R Helpdesk Overview

11 CA EED Irish study visit - Monitoring & reporting system - M&R Software Architecture

12 CA EED Irish study visit - Monitoring & reporting system - Using M&R data

13 CA EED Irish study visit - EPBD Programme

14 CA EED Irish study visit - Workshop Day 2

15 CA EED Irish study visit - Supplementary slides

4 Session summary and key findings

On **day 1** presentations covered an overview of the public sector programmes as well as an overview of the policy, legislation and governance of targets in Ireland. Particular importance is given to governance and accountability which is reflected by the strong support from government departments. Further presentations were delivered by representatives from Sustainable Energy Agency Ireland on advisory supports provided to public bodies on energy management and the Critical Success factor assessment recently introduced by SEAI. The requirements for public bodies to undertake climate action planning was also presented. The group heard from University College Cork and Optien and how, together with SEAI, they have been successful in unlocking savings as a result of engaging with people and not just focusing on technology.

Following the presentations time was dedicated to a more interactive approach where Member States representatives described the approaches to supporting public bodies. The following Member States shared their experiences with the group: Austria; Denmark; Hungary; The Netherlands; Portugal; and Slovenia. It was clear from the presentations and discussions that Member States are at different stages of developing a reporting system and that these are different in scope, also the level of support offered differs substantially from country to country. There are also differences within Member States regarding the level of advancement in tracking energy efficiency between local governments and central government.

The **second day** provided participants with insights into SEAI's monitoring and reporting methodology specifically for public bodies for which dedicated software has been developed. The Irish reporting cycle was explained as was the support made available to those obliged to report which included training, help desk and follow up. The Irish methodology has evolved from 2010, when public bodies started reporting on energy efficiency on spreadsheets. An online reporting system was rolled out in 2013 and has now been replaced with M&R 2030. More reporting has been added since the original iteration. The methodology document is available on the SEAI website and the Wiki Help for the current system is also available.

There are over 3,500 schools alone in Ireland that need to complete reporting. All results are published annually including listing facilities that have failed to report or reported without supporting data.

Ultan Technologies supported the Study Visit by providing a live demo showing the administration back end, but also the typical journey of a public body through the system. In addition, the architecture of the system was presented. Participants also heard from a user of the system. It was noted that this is not an Energy Management System and at this point does not have the ambition to become one.

Following on from the tool the group was provided with insight into the use of data and covered the Gap to Target tool that automatically generates how much effort is involved in reaching the target. At SEAI level the EED and EPBD teams are engaging with each other to ensure that systems can exchange information with each other in the future. An outline of the EPBD transportation plan, focusing on the development of the EPBD systems was presented. The M&R system will link with this system to track a specific public body or sector's renovation rate. Albeit this will take a year or two to develop. This will feed into SEAI projects and contribute to determine pathways to achieving new EED and EPBD targets whilst also achieving the Irish targets.

There was high interest in the presentations which was clearly reflected by the many technical questions following on from the presentations. Good discussion between Member State experts was also noted ranging from the use of AI to linking monitoring and reporting to the GDPR issues and existing national legislation. Member States in the room (Netherlands, Austria and Slovenia) also exchanged information on the current status of implementation and the challenges and opportunities the EED and EPBD provide.

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