



CONCERTED ACTION
ENERGY EFFICIENCY
DIRECTIVE

CA EED Impact Report 2019-2022



Welcome

Welcome to this second Impact Report that details the activity of the Concerted Action (CA) for the effective implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) across all 27 EU Member States, plus Norway.

This report highlights the events, outcomes and the inevitable pandemic-related changes to the original Action that have occurred since April 2019 through to April 2022.

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The primary aim of the CA EED is to facilitate and enhance effective implementation of the Directive through the sharing of good practices and, of equal importance, evaluation of lessons learnt by the implementing authorities in each participating country.



Dear Reader,

For the last 14 years, the Concerted Action on the Energy Efficiency Directive has been a very important tool to help EU Member States implement the Directive. Throughout the years, it has succeeded in becoming a real community of energy efficiency policy makers, experts and practitioners in the public administrations of all EU Member States and Norway.

Its approach has offered a wide possibility for participants to discuss, test ideas and learn from each other. The Impact Report that you have in your hands documents exactly that: the wide and important benefits that the collaboration in the Concerted Action brings to the whole energy community – and beyond. Even more, this Report shows the acceptance that participants have shown for the different activities as this is reflected in the very high levels of appreciation that all meetings and activities have steadily received since 2017. Also, the importance of the Concerted Action in inspiring the creation or the replication of new measures and actions for a more energy efficient Europe.

This acceptance and feeling of a collaborating community did not diminish in the least, even during the two difficult years when the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to stop meeting in person.

We had to adapt to different means but it did not limit our exchanges and opportunities to work together. For this success, and for keeping the quality of work so high during this challenging and demanding period, I would like to congratulate all members of the Concerted Action – especially the coordinator and the management team.

We are in the middle of the process where the Council and the European Parliament together decide how the Energy Efficiency Directive needs to be strengthened to better reach the objectives of the European Green Deal by 2030 and the aim of making Europe the first decarbonised continent by 2050. Moreover, there is the need to swiftly and forcefully implement REPower EU to make the European Union independent of energy sources from Russia. In all these frameworks, energy efficiency plays a pivotal role.

As we go forward, I am confident that the Concerted Action will continue being the right vehicle to bring together experience and knowledge and create impact of high quality.

Once again, I would like to congratulate everyone for the great work and results. My colleagues and I are looking forward to working with the third edition of the Concerted Action on the Energy Efficiency Directive.

Claudia Canevari
Head of Unit ENER.B.2: Energy efficiency

Introduction

We are the Concerted Action of the Energy Efficiency Directive, the European Platform for national Energy Efficiency Directive implementers. We facilitate learning and promote good practices across Member States, and strengthen their capacity to efficiently and effectively implement the EED.

Context

Since 2008, the Concerted Action (CA) has supported the implementation of energy-related EU Directives across all Member States plus Norway.

The original CA began by supporting the *Energy Services Directive* and then the *Energy Efficiency Directive*, which superseded it in 2012. Following the success of the initiative, a second Concerted Action programme was commissioned in 2017 to continue to provide support. Known officially as the CA EED 2, it ran until April 2022.

Evolving focus

The remit of the second CA EED has evolved significantly over the five years. Previously, the programme focused on interpreting and simplifying the – at times complex – wording of the Directive into digestible language. However, as familiarity and understanding grew, the CA EED could focus on helping facilitate and strengthen implementation. It has expanded its function far beyond the organisation of the twice-yearly Plenary Meetings. A significant recent development has been the collaboration with two related Concerted Action programmes: the Renewable Energy Directive (RES) and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). In early 2020, the first joint Workshop involving the three CAs was held in Barcelona. More recently, webinars were introduced into the mix, with two well-received virtual seminars



taking place on the topics of Energy Performance Contracting (EPCs) and taxation, respectively.

These solid foundations were to be built upon in the remaining years of the programme. However, the unpredicted pandemic that manifested in early 2020 meant that well-advanced plans for the timetabled Plenary Meetings, Study Visits and Workshops had to be reconsidered, reformulated and rescheduled.

The impact of Covid

“Life has to go on and the efforts to keep CA EED operations (and meetings) ‘alive’ despite the crisis have been remarkable.”

Luxembourg

It would be remiss not to address the impact that the global Covid pandemic has had on the CA EED’s activities. As with events the world over, all in-person activities and meetings were cancelled and a re-visualisation of how to continue with the Action in a virtual capacity was developed. Of the five Plenary Meetings originally scheduled to take place over the timescale April 2019–2021, only one, in Croatia, was held in person. The planned Study Visit to Dublin was converted into a virtual visit.

More positively, the In-Depth Workshop on Data Centres did take place in Brussels in November 2021, when restrictions were sufficiently eased. Also, the first live Study Visit in February 2022, hosted by Malta, broke the mould since the visit to Denmark in May 2019.



Finally, the last event of this extended current cycle of the CA EED, the eagerly anticipated sixth Plenary Meeting, took place in person in Lisbon in March 2022. This was the first opportunity all Member State representatives had to meet in over two years.

CA EED continue

This impact report represents the last in the series documenting the workings of the second phase of CA EED. However, we are delighted to announce that its important work will be continuing. The EU Commission has agreed to a further renewal of the Concerted Action. This third iteration commenced in January 2022 and will extend until December 2026.

Energy efficiency and retrofit, alongside the rapid expansion of renewable technologies, are front and central to the attainment of the EU’s ambitious carbon cutting targets. Hence, it is inevitable the spotlight will be on Member States’ implementation plans to improve energy efficiency and cut energy poverty. Public scrutiny into the progress towards national goals will intensify. The plans for activities to take place within CA EED are well advanced and we look forward to continuing to play a key role in facilitating the Directive’s effective implementation, working with its Members to provide the most appropriate support in the race to a Net Zero Europe.

Concerted Action at a Glance



CA EED Management Team

The CA is a knowledge and expertise exchange facility created to serve all Member States plus Norway to facilitate, enhance and ease the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

Our objectives

- ➔ Facilitating effective sharing of information and real-world experiences, and the promotion of good practice examples, of implementing the EED from individual Member States perspective.
- ➔ Encouraging open and constructive dialogue between Member States on common approaches for effective implementation of specific parts of the Directive.
- ➔ Complementing the work of the EED Committee in assisting the European Commission.



If the CA EED didn't exist, then it should be invented!

Czech Republic

Why we are needed



The coming eight years are shaping up to be an ever more crucial period for the energy efficiency sector. The EU has recently proposed to increase its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from 40% to 55% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030, which is a significant step towards “net zero carbon” emissions by 2050.

Member States, although having made great strides in their implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive, continue to be challenged by the evolving nature of the Directive. The need for a convening organisation that regularly brings together a group of experts and policy makers is more crucial than ever. Through its remit, the CA EED provides Member States' representatives with a unique platform to communicate in an informal, honest way with relevant experts and practitioners. The regular, overwhelmingly positive feedback from its Members only serves to reinforce its *raison d'être*.

How we achieve our objectives



The CA EED meets its three overarching objectives using the range of tools and interventions at its disposal. The pandemic has necessarily given rise to a broadening and diversification of communication and dissemination methods. Post pandemic, the knowledge we've gained of online tools will be used to complement future CA EED activities and will give us the flexibility to plan activities in various formats. Overleaf, we explain how CA EED has adapted and expanded the Toolbox during lockdown to ensure the continuing efficacy and inclusivity of the programme's activities.

The CA EED toolbox – how it has adapted to changing circumstances



Certain aspects of the CA's activities, tools and outputs have not been affected by the pandemic. For example, the quarterly newsletters, the regular questionnaires sent to Members to gather insight and opinions, and the proceedings of Plenary Meetings continued as normal.

 Private (member only)  Publicly available

Questionnaires



Questionnaires are sent to all National Contact Points ahead of the Plenary Meetings, to gain insight on particular aspects of implementation in that country. The responses play an important role in understanding the situation in each country and in helping identify commonalities and differences in how the Directive is being implemented.

Newsletters



The newsletter is sent to approximately 300 experts across the EU. Its main purpose is to provide the CA EED community with news on key outcomes and learnings from each Plenary Meeting, updates on the publication of CA reports, upcoming CA events, as well as related news concerning the implementation of the Directive, and any changes or updates on the horizon.

Plenary Meeting Proceedings



A summary of the proceedings of each Plenary Meeting is made publicly available on the website. Each Working Group builds on the work from previous meetings and so the Proceedings are an important Plenary Meeting output. They detail the outcomes and learnings of the discussions, as well as any follow-up actions that have been agreed.

However, other aspects of the CA's work have been fundamentally affected by Covid-19.



Plenary Meetings



The Plenary Meetings are the cornerstone of the programme. They are held twice yearly and are hosted by Member States in turn. Over the last two years, they have morphed into online meetings. Despite the obvious disadvantage of not meeting in person, many attendees noted the enhanced accessibility of hosting these meetings virtually and the reduction in the carbon footprint.



One benefit (of the pandemic) is that more people can participate in the sessions. At the Virtual CA EED Plenary Meeting in October, we had more experts from Austria attend, compared to an in-person meeting.

Austria

Website



The website is the central hub for online activity in-between the Plenary Meetings. It has become an ever more important resource over the past two years as a place for sharing experiences, asking questions and to find reference materials.



The CA material has been actively used to understand issues and how to be adopt them. An example is the principle of additionality on which other countries shared a lot of good practices.

Latvia

Study Visits



Study Visits, instigated during the first two years of CA EED, quickly embedded themselves as a highly valued activity. And, indeed, lockdown restrictions did not dampen that enthusiasm for them. A pivot to an online Study Visit in lieu of the planned trip to Dublin, Ireland, was a big success.



The Study Visits are particularly helpful, providing technical and innovative knowledge. There is a need for more specific information about particular measures, so Study Visits are very helpful as they go into more detail and there is more time to discuss the issues.

Greece

Webinars



The inclusion of Webinars to the Toolkit is an additional means of communicating to a large number of geographically distributed Members. Webinars were instigated before the first lockdown, however they went on to prove to be a useful tool as Covid hit and in-person seminars were no longer an option.



Congratulations on the excellent webinar, we learned a lot and started to discuss our Art. 7 approach in terms of taxation measure.

Slovenia

Workshops



The In-depth Workshops allow the time and space for participants to delve deeply into a topic. The In-depth Workshops provide more time for exploration of particular aspects of the Directive. The second in the series, looking at data centres and energy efficiency, was postponed but eventually took place in person in Brussels, in November 2021.



The quality of discussions and the interaction was very good exactly because of the in-presence meeting.

No attribution (taken from evaluation)

Plenary Meetings

6

Plenary Meetings

100–270

delegates attended the in-person and virtual meetings and represented a mix of experts, policy makers and implementers

From April 2019 to March 2022, there have been a total of six Plenary Meetings held. Two took place in-person.

The first was hosted in Zagreb in November 2019 and 140 participants took part. The second, and final meeting of this Action, took place in Lisbon, in March 2022, and hosted over one hundred in-person attendees and could also be attended online for those who were not allowed to travel, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The other meetings, all falling during lock-down periods, have been virtual. The online meetings, where participant numbers were not restrained by space, saw between 220 and 270 attendees take part, although some only attended one session.

The topics discussed, as ever, covered the breadth of the Directive. Here we give a flavour of the meetings and how they were successfully pivoted from in-person to online.

Plenary Meeting 5: Zagreb, Croatia

The parallel session presented results on the following topics:

- Energy transformation, transmission and distribution
- Article 7 implementation 2021-2030
- Article 8 approaches to unresolved issues
- Comprehensive assessment update and role of waste heat utilisation in decarbonisation of heating and cooling

A number of additional sessions were run to brief participants on topical issues of interest:

- Draft National Energy and Climate Plans assessments
- Evaluation Into Practice to Achieve Targets for Energy Efficiency (EPATEE) - A horizon 2020 project
epatee.eu
- Energy Efficiency 1st principle
- Energy Efficiency Funds Article 20

Satisfaction ratings continued to match the high scores of earlier Plenaries:

94%

of attendees agreed that the presentations of the Working groups were good or very good.

95%

declared their knowledge increased about the implementation of EED in other countries.



The articles covered at this meeting were:

7 8 14 15 20

“

At this meeting, the main value added was the meetings and discussions with colleagues during coffee breaks.

Not attributed

Combined Plenary Meetings 6 & 7: Virtual

Following the rapid global spread of Covid-19, the sixth Plenary Meeting, which was to be hosted by Berlin, in March 2020, was initially postponed. The switch to virtual Plenary Meetings required a delay in the timing. Subsequently, Plenary Meetings 6 & 7 were combined, the duration extended by a day and it took place in October 2020. Given there were fewer restraints on numbers, this meeting accommodated a record number of virtual attendees – 270 in total. For those who responded to the questionnaire, 89% thought the experience of accessing the online software was good or very good.

The topics discussed were:

- Behavioural economics
- EPC as a catalyst for building renovation in the public sector
- EEOs and alternative measures – Monitoring & Evaluation
- Combining CO2 targets with energy efficiency targets
- Communication between different actors in Article 7 implementation

- Efficiency in cooling
- Remote reading of thermal energy Article 9c

As well as the Working Group discussions, a range of information sessions were hosted to ensure participants were kept up-to-date on developments in specific topic areas.

These sessions covered:

- A comprehensive assessment update
- Waste heat and cooling utilisation
- Public lighting
- H2020 The European City Facility eucityfacility.eu
- Financing for obligated parties under EEOs
- Energy efficiency first principle

DG ENER also organised and delivered two bonus sessions. The first explored related studies to the Energy Efficiency Directive; a second took attendees on an overview tour of the planned, and at the time recently published, energy efficiency related policy initiatives.



The articles covered at this meeting were:

3 7 9 10 12 14 17



Discussing informally with the Commission and other experts is another highlight. We now understand who are real experts, which one is the best person to approach for information.

Cyprus

Plenary Meeting 8: Virtual

The eighth meeting, again hosted virtually, took place in April 2021 and accommodated 240 participants, and, similarly to the first virtual PM, 86% of the delegates who responded to the questionnaire stated that the virtual conferencing software used was good or very good.

The Working Group sessions covered:

- Tracking implementation of energy saving measures from energy audits
- Efficiency and de-carbonisation of heating and cooling
- Role of central and local authorities in public building energy upgrading

Information session focused on the following topics:

- H2020 Energy Poverty related topics
- Examples of the combination of RES and EE measures
- The key role of energy efficiency in the decarbonisation of the energy sector

There was also a bonus session, again run by DG ENER, on two recently finalised studies: the definition of SMEs for the purposes of Article 8(4) and the assessment of the potential for energy efficiency in electricity generation, transmission and storage.

25%

of participants attended

4

or more sessions during the two-day meeting.



The articles covered at this meeting were:

3 5 7 8 14 15



The bonus sessions from the Commission are very good, as you get a good summary of Commission on ongoing topical issues, which is not offered elsewhere.

Finland

Plenary Meeting 9: Virtual

Two hundred and twenty virtual participants attended the ninth Plenary Meeting that took place in November 2021.

The topics discussed were:

- Article 7 measures for industry
- Energy upgrading as a criterion in the renovation of public buildings
- Lessons from the 2nd Comprehensive assessment of potential for efficiency in heating and cooling
- Mutual recognition of Qualification Accreditation and Certification (QAC) schemes

Information sessions looks at:

- Sustainable taxonomy regulation
- Energy Efficiency 1st Principle
- H2020 projects

The bonus session focused on the proposed text for the recast of the Energy Efficiency Directive and thinking behind the proposal.

The articles covered at this meeting were:

5 6 7 8 14 16

“

Contact with the Commission is one of the most appreciated aspects. Also, the Commission's presentations help us understand how the Articles are meant to be understood. We appreciate the Commission has been sending more representatives to the meetings in recent years.

Denmark

Plenary Meeting 10: Lisbon, Portugal



The tenth Plenary Meeting took place in March 2022 and was run as a hybrid event. There were over one hundred participants.

The topics discussed were:

- Tackling fuel poverty via energy efficiency measures
- Energy systems integration – role of heating and cooling, District Heating and Cooling (DHC) infrastructure and energy storage
- Monitoring, planning and reporting – requirements in EED and governance regulation on energy efficiency
- The role of databases when Member States demonstrate the exemplary role of the public sector

There were three information sessions that covered the topics:

- H2020 projects: StreamSAVE streamsavae.eu and ENSMOV ensmov.eu
- MS measures to alleviate high energy prices in the context of energy efficiency
- Feedback on the Workshop of Data Centres

The bonus session, delivered by representatives of DG ENER, covered the role of energy efficiency in: the REPowerEU joint action plan; in the framework of the Versailles Declaration; and in the framework of high energy prices.

The articles covered at this meeting were:

5 6 7 8 14 16

“

It was great to see and meet with people in person. It's the pre and post meeting time that is the most crucial.

Lisbon

All summary proceedings and links to the papers of Plenary Meetings are available for public view on the CA EED website.

In-depth Workshop

Data Centres and Energy Efficiency



A two-day In-depth Workshop was held in Brussels, Belgium, in November 2021. It was host to around 40 delegates from 19 Member States.



The Workshop was arranged to allow members to discuss the policy context for data centres, specifically why and where data centres are relevant to the Directive and wider energy and climate policy. It featured an overview and discussion of the latest design principles and core concepts of best practice energy efficiency, including waste heat utilisation, for data centres.

A main objective was to share Member State good practices and to present a range of studies and projects relevant to energy efficient data centres and related energy and climate policy in EU. This was the focus of the second day, which included case studies from Ireland on how the community can interact with data centres in their area, Finland, on how they have integrated heat recovery into a new large data centre, and Sweden, who showcased the most energy- and cost-efficient data centre in the world.

The main findings of the Workshop were:

- ➔ The Data Centre sector is now a mature industry and needs to take responsibility for its transition to sustainability generally, as well as for its own energy consumption and decarbonisation
- ➔ More regulation is needed
- ➔ Resource efficiency needs to be considered
- ➔ More data needs to be provided on energy consumption and operations
- ➔ Hardware and software need to become more efficient

The joy at being able to meet in person after a two-year hiatus dominated the feedback:



This very good level of interaction between participants was only possible because of the physical format of the meeting.



Excellent possibilities for informal discussions. Good covid arrangements.



Please make the CA EED meetings physical! The level of benefits for me as a professional is incomparably higher than the virtual meetings.



Success Stories

The Joint Workshop

Achieving 2030 targets through synergies between energy efficiency and renewable energy

In January 2020, a Joint Workshop was held in Barcelona, Spain. It brought together three Concerted Action programmes that traditionally work in different policy areas; namely, the energy performance of buildings, renewable energy sources, and energy efficiency. This was the first time the CAs had come together - at this scale - to discuss issues that affect all of their policy areas. And it was very much a joint effort, organised by all three CAs in close collaboration with DG ENER and CINEA.

By bringing together policy makers and implementers from these three groups, the Workshop aimed to increase understanding of the different policy areas and help delegates identify the potential synergies in the implementation of the three Directives in the Member States, Norway, Iceland and the UK.

A total of 221 participants attended this two-day Workshop. An evaluation of the event saw a 59% response rate. Eighty-four percent of respondents agreed that the topics covered were relevant to their own country, and 83% agreed that their knowledge of the intersection between the three Directives increased as a result of the Workshop.

A key focus was to encourage dialogue between participants, through which they can identify possible cooperation opportunities in these cross-cutting areas and also identify ways to improve the coordination between institutions that implement the Directives.



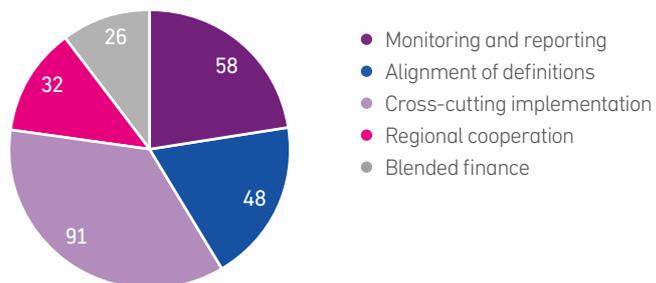
It was a packed agenda over the two days, with twelve sessions in total.

Some of the topics discussed included:

- Zero energy communities: unlocking the potential of renewables and energy efficiency at district level
- Energy poverty
- Heating and cooling: decentralised and district level energy & waste heat
- Multiple benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy and how to account for them.

The Workshop concluded with a survey to identify topics for future cooperation between the three CAs. The results showed that cross-cutting implementation and monitoring and reporting were voted the highest, followed by alignment of definitions, regional cooperation and blended finance.

Common topics were identified for 3CA cooperation



221

participants attended this two-day Workshop

92%

of respondents stated they would be keen to attend another joint Workshop of this nature.

“

On the ground, much of this work is already done collaboratively so policy must also be collaborative and coherent. It is good to get all policy makers together in this way.

“

This Workshop was very useful and was a great start to stimulate exchanges between the three Concerted Actions.

Webinars



Two webinars were hosted by CA EED in the period 2019-2022.

One on the topic of taxation, and the second on the role of Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) as a useful catalyst for renovations.

130

participants took part in both webinars



The first was delivered in November 2019, by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, on the important topic of taxation.

In particular, it focused on taxation measures, in combination with an Energy Efficiency Obligation.

This webinar also provided the useful example of how a carbon tax has developed in Ireland. First introduced in 2010, it has increased in cost from €10 to €26 and will continue to rise each year until 2030 when it will reach €80. The €90 million raised will be ring-fenced to fund climate action measures.

“

Thank you for organising the Taxation measures that run in combination with an EEO webinar. We are very interested in this topic and I would like to continue discussions regarding the Ireland carbon tax scheme.

The second webinar, delivered in April 2020, was on the topic of EPC as a catalyst for renovation of public sector buildings.

This was organised to bridge the gap between the missing sessions and the sessions that were deferred to the virtual 6/7 Plenary Meeting. It hosted presentations from a range of countries including Ireland, the Czech Republic and Scotland, who were planning EPC related actions in the next 6 to 9 months. There was a useful summary of relevant Horizon 2020 projects that have relevance to EPCs. And the overview of the EPC Working Group was provided.

There was also an update on the most recent development of EPC finance models.

Further Webinars are planned for the forthcoming CA EED period.

“

The CA EED Webinars are extremely useful ... it is a powerful tool to have the possibility of access to the recorded webinar.

Study Visits

Study Visits allow the time and space for in-depth exchanges between Member States on specific topics related to the implementation of the Directive.

They are seen as dedicated sessions that take Working Group results and the Plenary Meeting’s parallel sessions one step further. Typically, a Study Visit is hosted by a organisation with an inherent interest in the topic, exceptional expertise and/or an exemplary approach to the topic at hand. Since their instigation in 2018, they have become a highly valued staple in the CA EED toolkit.



Energy Efficiency Obligation Schemes - Copenhagen, Denmark

Following the success of a first Study Visit to Slovenia, a second, hosted by Denmark, was undertaken in May 2019. Thirty participants attended from 21 Member States.



“

The structure of the Study Visit, which was divided into two days, is really suitable. It makes easy to assimilate the presented information.

Denmark Study Visit evaluation
– no attribution

“

It has been a very nice format to have both agency representatives and market participants and to be able to see the experiences of both sides.

The topic under the spotlight was Article 7: Energy Efficiency Obligation Schemes (EEOS), a salient topic for all attendees.

The visit consisted of two half days spending time with the developers of the Danish obligation schemes and the actors involved in their implementation. There was ample time for both their presentations and the opportunity to ask questions. The participants greatly appreciated the honesty of the speakers of the Danish Energy Agency in pointing out the challenges of implementing such schemes and what they would do differently in the future. They also saw great value in hearing from, and speaking with, the people involved in the implementation to establish exactly how it works in practice, not just in principle.

The evaluation of this Study Visit produced very high satisfaction levels:

94%

of attendees rated the presentations very good, with 6% rating them good

88%

rated the usefulness of the information as very good, with 12% rating it good

100%

of participants agreed or strongly agreed that their knowledge of EEOs increased as a result of the Study Visit

Experiences from Ireland

In December 2020, Ireland hosted the first virtual Study Visit. Eighty-six Members participated.



“

I think this virtual visit can help us to improve our procedures and give us a very valuable experience and point of view of how to proceed.

The Study Visit focused on the work the Sustainable Energy Agency Ireland (SEAI) and OPW have engaged with to embed good energy management and behavioural practices, and metering, monitoring and reporting systems.

It also highlighted the work public bodies have undertaken to embed these practices and systems, and the impact on energy performance. It focused on energy management, data management, and investment projects undertaken. Also addressed were the policy and governance

frameworks driving these systems; the financial planning is ongoing for 2030, and the various supports schemes provided. Pilot project investment is being undertaken, predominantly through exchequer funding. Plans to significantly ramp up investment from 2022 to 2030 are contained within Ireland's National Development Plan.

The virtual visit consisted of facilitated sessions with presentations from DCCA, SEAI, OPW and specific public bodies, with ample opportunity for discussion and knowledge sharing amongst the Member State attending.

Energy savings in the water sector – Malta

In February 2022, Covid restrictions had been loosened sufficiently to allow an in-person Study Visit. Sixteen participants attended from 13 Member States.

The topic under discussion was exploring energy savings in the water sector, hosted by Malta.

The biggest challenge in the Maltese water sector is the scarcity of natural freshwater. In view of this, Malta has developed a water management framework based on the combined use of water demand management and water supply augmentation measures. There is an interdependency between energy and water, and the provision of both utilities has to be considered in an integrated manner.

This was a particularly timely visit, as the proposed changes to the text of the Energy Efficiency Directive is also showing the importance of actions in the water sector in order to address the energy efficiency obligations.

The visit took place over two days. The first being a day of presentations and discussion, and the second day involved a site visit to a Reverse Osmosis plant.



A full house of 100% of participants agreed that their knowledge of the possibility of energy savings in the water industry increased as a result of the visit. Over 90% declared that the topic had relevance in their own country. And 82% of participants would attend another Study Visit on a topic of relevance to their country.

“

Malta has a lot of talented people to find innovative energy and water savings in the water sector. This Study Visit was truly inspiring!

The Next Five Years: CA EED

Following the success of the first two Concerted Actions for the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive, a third Action was launched in January 2022.

What's its objective?

The objective of the third iteration of the CA EED remains in line with its previous two incarnations.

It is to foster the exchange of information and experiences among the Member States and Norway to help facilitate the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Energy Efficiency. It will run for five years, from January 2022 to December 2026.

What's changing?

During the duration of this third Action, the recast of the Directive will be adopted.

It is imperative that the Action remains aligned with the legislation in force, and therefore the CA EED Management Team will be closely monitoring the progress of the adoption process and ensuring the changes in legislation are recorded and conveyed to the Members in a succinct, digestible and timely manner.



What's in store?*

The Action is expected to continue to promote and enhance a more harmonised approach to implementation of the Directive.

It will also continue to promote good practice transference between Member States. The good work started with the bringing together of the three Concerted Actions, through the joint Workshop with The Renewable Energy Directive and the Energy Services Directive will continue to cross fertilise ideas and learnings through future Workshops and other informal working.

Through previous incarnations of the CA, the road has been paved for future bilateral cooperation, easy communication, and the development of Horizon Europe and LIFE+ projects that will further the aims and goals of the Action on specific areas of EED implementation.

CA EED is planning to organise seven Plenary Meetings over its duration, as well as two Workshops. Subject to budget and demand, there is the possibility of additional meetings being convened.

The PMs will be supplemented by Study Visits, Expert Study Groups and In-depth Workshops on particular topics, voted upon by the membership. The aim of this activity is to allow as much convergence of objectives and methodologies as appropriate, avoiding redundant effort and thus maximising the benefits to Member States.

As a legacy of the Covid pandemic and subsequent lock-downs, the Action will also be looking to utilise virtual means of meeting in the future. For example, enabling the expert groups to convene virtually outside of the in-person Plenary Meetings.

In addition, a further Expert Area has been added to the existing fourteen: this is to acknowledge the increasingly important role that Energy Efficiency 1st Principle and decarbonisation are playing. Six Domain Coordinators have been appointed and between them they will manage the fifteen Expert Areas.

*At the time of writing and subject to change

Glossary

EEO – Energy Efficiency Obligations

EEOS – Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme

EPBD – Energy Performance in Buildings Directive

EPC – Energy Performance Contracting

CINEA – The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

DCCAIE – Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (Ireland)

DG ENER – Directorate-General for Energy

NECP – National Energy and Climate Plans

OPW – Office of Public Works (Ireland)

QAC – Qualification, Accreditation and Certification schemes

Legal Disclaimer

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The Concerted Action for the Energy Efficiency Directive (CA EED) was launched by Horizon 2020 in spring 2017, following on from the first phase of the CA EED (2013-2017), to provide a structured framework for the exchange of information between the 28 Member States and Norway during their implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED).

For further information please visit www.ca-eed.eu or contact the CA EED Coordinator Lucinda Maclagan at lucinda.maclagan@rvo.nl

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