

ACTIVITY REPORT (Regina Drexel)



Project: EU Energy

Activity: Workshop on energy efficient technologies for house insulation

Trainers: Herbert Danner (WE CF), Cyril Jarny, Romain Laminette (GERES)

WE CF representative: Regina Drexel

Place and time: Tatarbunary, Ukraine, 01.-05.08.2011

Organisators: Vidrojdjennya Tatarbunary

Participating organisations: NECU, Ecoclub, representatives from target regions, University of Odessa

Day 1:

After a short introduction of all participants, the three project regions (Odessa/Tatarbunary, Manevychi, Pogrebyshe) and their characteristics of existing building types and materials used, as well as availability of construction materials, were presented to the group.

After that, WE CF and GERES each had a presentation on basic principles of insulation techniques and materials used.

Day 2:

In the morning, GERES had a presentation focused on wall and roof insulation. Professor Vladimir Jakobievich Kersh from Odessa University shared his knowledge about the Ukrainian situation regarding building materials, availability, technical efficiency, and techniques used.

After lunch, the group went to visit one of the two demo objects, a traditional Ukrainian (Bessarabian) house built in the 50s of the last century, (built by stones, wood, clay/straw, plastered with clay and lime plaster), which has been bought recently by “Vidrojdjennya” to be used as office and demo centre. The group assessed the house together with the experts. After the visit, participants prepared in small groups the results of their assessment, following the questions: “What are the main problems (and positive aspects) of the house? What would you insulate first? What material and techniques you would use? What kind of heating system you would suggest?”

The results were presented to the group, discussed, and commented by the experts.

In the evening (after dinner), GERES had a short presentation on how to improve efficiency of a house focused on Ukrainian situation.

Day 3:

We had an excursion to a local factory, that is collecting/proceeding reed and selling it, mainly to Netherlands. In a visit to the nearby town Vilkovo, we saw that reed is the traditional insulation material in the region, anyway, this company has nearly no sales volume in Ukraine (but their prices are also based on European market and far too expensive for local population).

For lunch, we went to an island in the Danube where there is a small leisure village with houses built by natural materials (wood) and reed roofs.

On the way back to Tatarbunary, we visited a place where clay is digged for use in local buildings. There is also a brick factory nearby.

After lunch, the group together with experts visited the second demo object, an apartment in a multiparty house, whose owners plan renovation (some reconstruction and extension works) and had asked for recommendations on natural/ecological materials to avoid negative health impacts. The object was assessed in small groups in the same way as the day before.

Day 4:

The first half of the day was focussed on windows and doors, with presentations from GERES and WECF on technical details and possible mistakes, as well as from Ecoclub on windows renovation, a local carpenter specialized on windows and doors, and a representative from a company selling plastic windows in Ukraine. We had a lot of discussions.

After lunch, participants worked in groups divided into the different project regions to collect and present all information on the specific situation in their region (assessment of current situation, kind of energy used, cost of energy, comparison of different kinds of energy supply regarding economics and efficiency). All information was put together in a database by GERES and discussed with the whole group.

Day 5:

The last day started with a press conference, with 3 representatives of local and regional press. We informed about the aims our project in general and about the aims and results of our insulation workshop. After that, we had a final round with questions and discussions. Ukrainian partners and WECF had an extra discussion on general questions regarding the project, and we also discussed how to proceed with co-funding strategies.

Finally after lunch GERES and WECF experts presented the results and conclusions of the workshop and gave their final recommendations for renovation of the demo objects.

Conclusions:

In Ukraine there are various possibilities on insulation of a private house, depending on economic possibilities of the house owners and depending on the climate. For Tatarbunary region, we recommend traditional insulation methods using reed as insulation for walls and roof, clay and straw, with final lime plaster. This technique was used widely in former times, but now it is disappearing, due to availability of industrial materials which seem more “modern” on the one hand but main reason is that working with clay is much more work. In former times in the villages, the houses were built together with the whole village, and actually it was women's business to make the final clay plastering. This structure partly exists but is already hard to find people who are really experts. Vidrodjennya will do research now to find good experts and inform WECF and GERES.

There was a big discussion about windows, one possibility is restoration of (traditional double frame) wooden windows, but for extremely cold regions, it was also considered using plastic windows, to reach better efficiency.

Summary / comments:

We had a very intensive and good workshop with very active participation of all partners, NGO representatives as well as representatives from the target villages, and of course very valuable input from Vladimir Jakobievich from Odessa University. We got very good feedback from participants.

In addition to the workshop, our experts managed to visit two other houses of training participants, and give them some advice on how to insulate their houses.