

→ CO₂ reduction and energy efficiency

Country Turkey

Project title Istanbul Energy Policies and CO₂ Reduction in the Metropolitan Environment

Twinning Municipality of Rotterdam (the Netherlands)
Istanbul Energy Company of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (Turkey)

Project period 1 February 2009 to 31 October 2009

Project budget € 30.355,63

Project objective

To develop expertise at the Istanbul Energy Company and to support 32 district municipalities regarding sustainable energy policies by informing them on energy use and to contribute to reduction of CO₂ emissions originating from implementation of energy systems.

Project summary

Sustainable energy policies have been promoted in Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and the district municipalities. Pilot projects of improvement in the municipal buildings to support energy efficiency are developed to share best practices with the districts. The main topic is the introduction of energy audits for buildings. The project will contribute substantially to a reduction of carbon emissions originating from the implementation of sustainable energy systems, while improving the reliability of energy management.

Core information

Being a megacity of over 12 million in population, Istanbul is the industry and trade capital of Turkey. One-third of Turkey's industry, one-third of imports, and one-fifth of exports operate through Istanbul. With its unique location and rich history, Istanbul is a major hub in various areas, from culture to transportation. Istanbul consists of 40 districts, each with their own municipality, but formed under the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. Istanbul Energy Company, being a department of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, has the objective to import fuel and to produce electricity.

Problem analysis

Turkey imports 70% of its total energy needs. For this reason, and also for environmental causes, there is a need to economize on energy and use it in a (more) efficient way. Furthermore, as a potential EU candidate, Turkey has to comply with corresponding EU directives. New urban development projects as a result of rapid growth in the city require implementation of new energy

A practice to improve the service delivery of local governments

infrastructure, as well as smart programmatic combinations and sustainable transport. Reduction of carbon emissions from the new projects as well as the existing built environment is an urgent necessity.

Project implementation

The project started with the collection of all relevant data. A needs assessment based on the findings was carried out, identifying priorities. Further, an action plan was prepared focusing on the technical details of the project. Training seminars in energy efficiency (technical and policy making aspects) were provided in Istanbul for the technical civil servants of Istanbul energy company and Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. The District Municipalities Energy Efficiency Network was established with the aim of facilitating a 'train the trainers' process. A symposium on energy and urban planning with street lighting and other issues was held in Istanbul as a closing event for the project.

Process management

The municipality of Rotterdam and Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality are sister cities, and are both engaged in the Clinton Climate Initiative. In the past few years the Rotterdam Climate Initiative (in collaboration with many parties like the Delft University) has gained a lot of experience in the field of energy policies and CO₂ reduction in the built environment. Through the project, this experience was shared with the Istanbul Energy Company to enable a more effective and energy efficient service to the inhabitants of Istanbul.

Recommendations: do's and don'ts

- Collect relevant data and assess the current situation to point out weaknesses.
- Collaborate to make use of accumulated experience through ongoing initiatives.
- If possible, get involved in existing networks to share their experiences.
- Address training needs for staff, and technical infrastructure needs.
- Disseminate results and best practices to other relevant institutions.