

Chambers Promoting Intelligent Energy for SMEs

CHANGE

Sept. 2008 – Sept. 2010

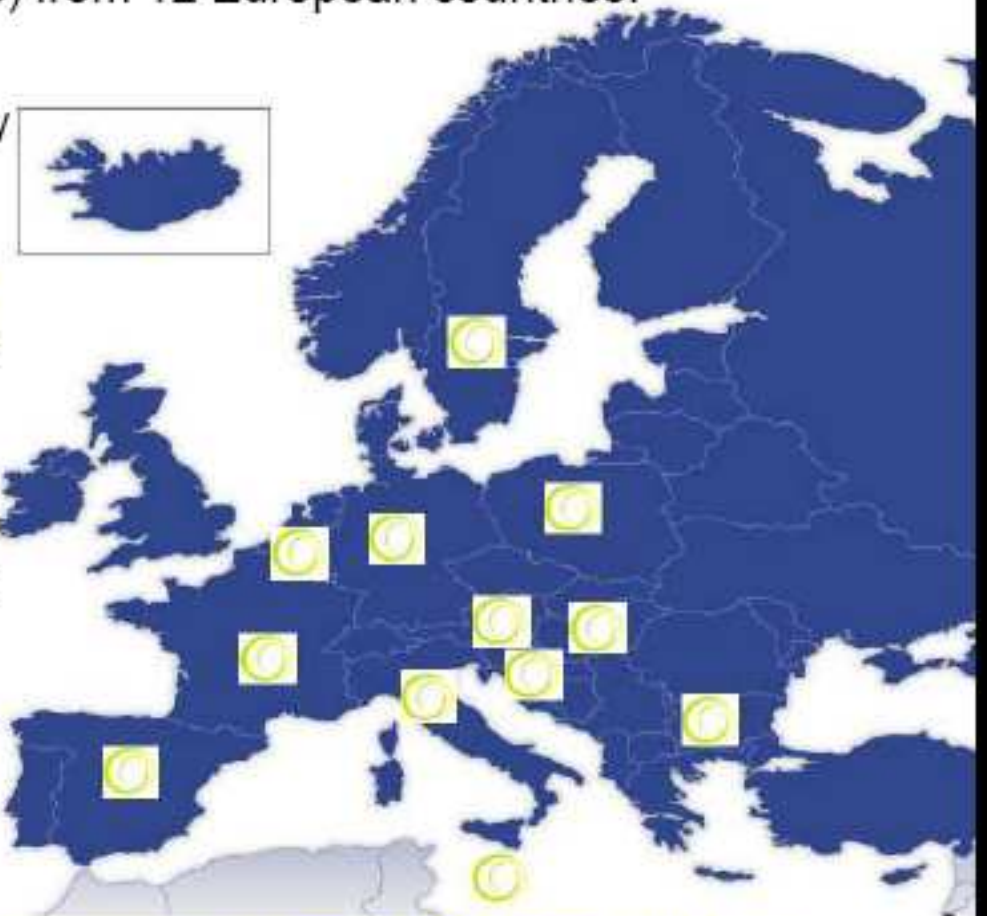


CHANGE

SUMMARY

The CHANGE project helps SMEs optimise their energy use by creating “**Intelligent energy contact points**” (advisors) in 61 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCIs) from 12 European countries.

- CCI advisors will be provided with **training** on energy efficiency and application of renewable energy.
- They will act as “**first ports of call**” for SMEs in energy matters.
- They will actively **promote intelligent energy** among the business community via websites, newsletter articles and information events.
- They will facilitate **energy pre-checks** and carry out a **survey**.





CHANGE BACKGROUND

- Energy efficiency is a win-win solution if it can combine cost savings with the protection of the environment. Also some renewable energy solutions can be used cost-effectively in businesses.
- There is still untapped potential in the business sector: 10-20% energy saving can often be achieved with no-cost or low-cost measures.
- CCIs can use their close contacts with the business community to raise awareness among SMEs, and bridge the gap between them and the existing information, technology and service providers in the field.
- Energy will remain an important topic in the future → CCIs should be able to provide their members with basic information and advice on this as on any other topic.
- Some CCIs in Europe already have considerable experience in the field, while others have none. The exchange between them enables learning from good practices.



CHANGE OBJECTIVES and MAIN STEPS

- I) To build capacity and create a **European network of CCI advisors on intelligent energy topics**: “first ports of call” for SMEs.
 - CCI advisors will gain basic knowledge on intelligent energy topics (energy efficiency, renewable energies, smart buying), in 2 **training** days at EU level and 2 days in their respective countries
 - A meeting to **exchange experience** will take place after 1 year

- II) To kick-start/enhance **assistance to SMEs** to optimize their energy use
 - **Access to information**: websites, articles, workshops/seminars targeted to businesses
 - **Energy pre-checks**: a brief diagnosis carried out or facilitated by the CCI, shows businesses potential for improvement and further examination.
 - **Survey**: to find out more about the enablers and barriers for the uptake of energy efficiency/RES solutions in businesses.



CHANGE EXPECTED RESULTS

- Training and exchange of experience for 64 Chamber employees
- Facilitating access to information for SMEs:
 - Organisation of information events for 11,600 businesses
 - Dissemination of accessible and up-to-date intelligent energy information, notably via CCI websites and newsletters
- Energy pre-checks for 530 businesses
- Survey report among SMEs about factors influencing their energy use behaviour
- Manual with guidelines and best practices for supporting SMEs on Intelligent Energy issues

Targets for Malta

- The main targets for Malta as a partner were the following:
 - 6 Articles related to Energy Efficiency
 - Organising a number of events and information sessions targeting 200 participants
 - Create a web page on the project to disseminate information to businesses
 - Carry out 10 pre-audit checks with SMEs
 - Undergo training on how to carry pre-audit checks and participate in exchange of experience events amongst all partners
 - Conduct a survey on the status of Energy Efficiency and RES amongst SMEs in Malta. This report was then incorporated in a report which included all the results from the different partners



Lessons to be Learnt



- The main lessons to be learnt are the following:
 - A lot of reporting is involved (in our case we report to Eurochambres on a monthly basis). Every three months we finalise another status report on the activities and the financial aspects of the Project
 - Be ready to dedicate resources
 - Start early with the implementation of the measures
 - During the application stage of the project make sure to calculate the hours involved, the activities to be carried out and budgets involved
 - Keep Time sheets of the hours worked on the project
 - Keep up to date accounts (including invoices, receipts etc)



Way Forward



- Possibility of CHANGE 2 – Eurchambres (lead partner) is involved in discussions with EACI to continue this programme

Nevertheless

- The Malta Chamber is in discussions with Malta Enterprise to see how to take this initiative forward



CHANGE

Chambers promoting intelligent energy for SMEs

<http://www.eurochambres.eu/change>

Co-ordinator:



Ben Butters, butters@eurochambres.eu

Sonja Starnberger, starnberger@eurochambres.eu

Project partners:

The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber - Austria



The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Belgium - Belgium



The Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Bulgaria



The Mälardalen Chamber of Commerce Service AB



The Croatian Chamber of Economy - Croatia



DIHK, Germany



Service GmbH

The High Council of Official Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Navigation of Spain - Spain



The CCI Marseille-Provence, France



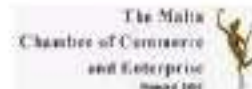
Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) - Hungary



Unioncamere, the Italian Association of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Handcraft and Agriculture - Italy



The Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise - Malta



The Polish Chamber of Commerce - Poland

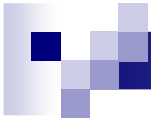




Contact Details

**If you need any further information
about the CHANGE initiative,
please contact the Malta Chamber
policy manager, Mr Andre' Fenech
on e-mail**

**andre.fenech@maltachamber.org.
mt or tel. nos. 22 032 312 / 21 233
873**



Thank You