

Buildings

Promoting Energy Technologies in the Building Sector

About 41% of the total final energy use in the EU countries and Candidate countries is used to heat, cool and light buildings. The building sector comprises one of the biggest saving potentials of all sectors and is therefore of major interest. This implicates also the new EU-Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings, which has been in use since January 2003 and is one further step in building up an Energy Efficient Building Sector in Europe.

The objectives of the OPET BUILDINGS project are therefore as follows:

- Promoting efficient and innovative building-related energy technologies in the residential building sector as well as the service building sector (tertiary buildings), both for new construction and building refurbishment
- Supporting market penetration of innovative instruments and tools, which can be applied by building owners, facility managers and/or engineers and planners, and which foster the application of efficient building-related energy technologies
- Ensuring application of the European regulation concerning the energy performance of buildings
- Paying special attention to innovative technologies and design concepts that have passed the primary stage of demonstration, pilot and laboratory plants and have good market potential
- Increasing the level of information and know-how transfer throughout Europe by linking leading expert organisations in a network and by implementing joint activities
- Contributing to the creation of a European research area by strengthening the co-operation between research centres, universities and industries that deal with the development of building-related technologies