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Case study

An example of the
successful
implementation of
YEP! project in Crete

REGIONAL ENERGY AGENCY OF CRETE

YEP! Partner No: 7

Intelligent Energy  Europe

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INTRODUCTION

One of the best cases of the implementation of the project in schools of Crete is presented below. We have to note here that in all participating schools in the project, the implementation of the project was more than successful and the achieved results are impressive. Each school presented a different approach of the project contributing in the full success of the project in Crete. The choice of this particular school was made, because of the fact that due to its identity (a private school) some parameters like: easiness of collection of consumption data, flexibility of the school work programme, possibility of the owners of the school to follow some of the proposals and suggestions, made the intervention more complete and the possibility of the results to be transformed, in the direct future, into real steps more powerful.

Description of "Pagkritio High School"

"Pagkritio High School" is a private high school in Heraklion Crete, part of a private educational institute which includes a primary school and a Lyceum (ages 15-17). This high school operates in a building's complex, along with the primary school, constructed in 1993. The "Pagkritio Lyceum" operates in a different building but a new wing is now under construction where the Lyceum will be moved in the future.

The building consists of 2 floors and a basement.

The total number of the high school is 120 (while the primary school's students are 360).

In the school program of the high school there has been added a series of music lessons (operation of a small music school). "Pagkritio High School" is very active in environmental-energy issues (organization of seminars, speeches, technical visits, as well as pilot actions, e.g recycling) while it has experience in implementing projects. The school is highly sensitized and has a concrete willingness to promote energy and environment issues.

Implementation of the YEP! project in "Pagkritio High School"

Pagkritio School having already implemented relevant environmental-energy projects in its Primary school was interested – based on its environmental sensitization – to expand these actions to older students. Therefore it was more than willing to participate in the project. The several stages of YEP! Project's implementation are presented below:

- Firstly, the participating students were identified. Based on their interest and their previous experience, it was decided by the school that two whole classes and 54 students would participate in the project.
- The Regional Energy Agency of Crete realized, in the school, a presentation-speech for energy and environment with the active participation of the students. The educational material was distributed during this event while the distributed energy leaflet was presented by REAC.
- In the following 2 months the teachers, using their analytical Energy Book – produced and distributed to them by REAC – trained the students in energy and environment based on dialogue and concrete examples.

- Based mainly on the willingness, interest and behaviour during the elaboration of the project in the school, the teachers proceeded to the choice of the members of the School Energy Management Team (SEMT).
- All participating students – divided in groups and using the energy audit templates and questionnaires developed by REAC – conducted energy audits in their school with the help of their teachers and energy responsible of the school but also an identification of their co-students and teachers' energy behaviour. The SEMT with the assistance of their teachers elaborated the results of the above, retrieved conclusions and continued to specific proposals.
- After that the SEMT visited, with their teacher and a representative of REAC, their chosen workplace, a hotel in the center of Heraklion. Using the related energy audit templates and questionnaire developed by REAC, the students in close cooperation with the energy responsible of the hotel conducted an energy audit of the hotel and identified the energy behaviour of the employees. The SEMT with the assistance of their teachers elaborated the results of the above, retrieved conclusions and continued to specific proposals which were presented to the owner of the hotel.
- Finally the SEMT developed an analytical report on their activities which was given to REAC and organised an event where all actions, conclusions and proposals were presented to the students, teachers and Directors of their school.

Key features of success

The project's implementation in this school was fully successful due to the following facts:

- Pagkrito high school – like all YEP! schools - has worked in close cooperation with the Regional Energy Agency of Crete but also with the educational authorities of Crete.
- Crucial contribution in this success was the participation in the project's implementation of the professional Associations and Chambers.
- Almost all necessary tools for the training of the students and the energy audits in schools and workplaces, as well as, the necessary questionnaires, were provided by REAC. This way the extra work for the students and teachers were reduced a lot.
- There is an already developed sensitization and policy of the Directors of the school, towards energy efficiency and Sustainability.
- Being a private school, there was a flexibility in the work schedule of the students. It was easier for more hours to be devoted to the project and also many times the students (and the SEMT) were able to meet after school time (e.g. weekends).
- As all bills are paid by the school itself (a private school) it was very easy all the energy expenses' data to be collected by the students.
- The school has an energy and infrastructure responsible employee, who assisted the students with their work.
- The responsible teachers had already experience in energy and environment issues. They have realized meetings with the director of the workplace (hotel) individually, in parallel with the students' visit, so the work of the students was better organized and more easily done.

Identified Results

- Through the project, the energy situation of the school and the energy awareness and behaviour of the students and teachers were able to be described. Additionally through conversation and the presentation of the results and proposals this energy behaviour was somehow influenced towards energy efficiency and sustainability.
- Through the project, the energy situation of the workplace and the energy awareness and behaviour of the employers and employees were able to be described. Additionally through conversation and the presentation of the results and proposals this energy behaviour was somehow influenced towards energy efficiency and sustainability.
- Energy efficiency measures (simple or/and more complicated) were proposed to the school's and workplace administrations.
- The owners of the school but also the hotel seriously consider following some of the proposals (especially the easy ones) and they have found very interesting some more complicated proposals to be evaluated for the future.
- The work of the students as "energy responsables" in schools and workplaces, opened new horizons for their way of thinking of their future careers.
- For Crete this project was one very successful link and cooperation between school and market.



Future Plans

- The experience from this project will be a great tool for the participation of the school in future projects.
- The school already participate in a COMENIUS project with the cooperation of other European schools.
- The school plans, through specific actions and activities, the information of the local community about greenhouse effect and climate change and the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.
- Additionally the school plans to use the YEP! tools in the future with other classes and as part of the already implemented curriculum.