

PRESS RELEASE

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Empowering Energy Efficiency: insights from Athens' national event "Innovative tools to promote energy efficiency upgrading of buildings towards the Energy Transition"

On April 19th, the Centre for Renewable Sources and Energy Saving (CRES) in collaboration with SYMPRAXIS Team organized an open event in the heart of Athens, focused on the energy upgrade of buildings in alignment with the energy transition objectives. The event took place in the context of e-PLANET and re-MODULEES projects.



The event brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including government officials, industry experts, and concerned citizens, to share ideas and strategies for energy saving and improving our built environment.

Innovative web-based platforms that are developed in the framework of European Projects consist decision making tools for the energy upgrading of the building stock towards the energy transition goals. In parallel, the supplier sector contributes on the energy transition of local societies, not only providing their products and services but also certifying the quality and the energy performance of the interventions.



During the event's initial phase, Ms. Elpida Polychroni and Ms. Maria Bololia from CRES introduced the EU-funded project re-MODULEES. They emphasised the citizens' lack of motivation to renovate their homes due to financial and legal constraints, and highlighted the re-MODULEES platform operation as a one stop shop solution for decision making in residential renovation to achieve the decarbonisation and green goals for 2030 and 2050.

Additionally, another valuable tool, [QualDeEPC](#), was presented by Mr. Andreas Androutsopoulos from CRES. This user-friendly platform informs users about recommended technological interventions to maximize building energy efficiency. [Available in both Greek and English languages](#), users are encouraged to explore its features.



Image 1 – Katerina SFAKIANAKI (ePLANET presentation)

Following an interactive break, Ms. Katerina Sfakianaki from CRES, addressed e-PLANET objectives and tools available to support energy transition for municipalities and regional authorities. She delved into the challenges surrounding the digitalisation of energy data in Greek municipalities, especially in Crete (case study) and highlighted the lack of consistent and updated data on building conditions, posing significant hurdles to accurately registering the building stock.

Ms. Chrisoula Kourasi, Deputy Mayor of Fylis municipality, highlighted impactful actions and initiatives undertaken to enhance residents' lives, contribute to the energy transition, and involve youth in environmental conservation efforts.



Image 2 – Evi Tسانakaki (CRES presentation)

Ms Evi Tsanakaki from CRES discussed global and European goals and frameworks for achieving climate neutrality, including the [Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](#). She emphasised municipalities' potential to lead in energy transition and support climate-related initiatives.

The event concluded with enlightening presentations from Mr. Christos Lousis, President of the Panhellenic Federation of Glazing Traders & Craftsmen ([POEVY](#)), and Mr. Pantelis Pateniotis, General Director of the Hellenic Association of Expanded Polystyrene ([HEPSA](#)). Mr. Lousis emphasized that 4.5 million buildings in Greece require energy upgrades and highlighted the role of energy-efficient glazing in this transition, marking it as the starting point for municipalities.



Image 3 – Mr. Pantelis PATENIOTIS (HEPSA presentation)

Mr. Pateniotis shared statistics from the Hellenic Statistical Authority regarding thermal insulation improvements across different income groups in Greece. Shockingly, nearly 88% of buildings or residences in Greece have not undergone any energy upgrades in the last five years. He discussed EU regulations and the level of harmonization with Greek legislation, expressing his vision to construct Greece's first nearly Zero Energy Building (nZEB) and urging local authorities to devise a plan to make it a reality.

This event was an exceptional opportunity to explore new initiatives, address the current challenges confronting local stakeholders, and foster collaboration among the public, private sector, and citizens. Together, we can pave the way towards achieving energy efficiency, climate neutrality, and decarbonisation.

What's next? ePLANET activities in 2024

ePLANET project is currently promoting the use and adoption of the different developed solutions within pilot regions, through a set of capacity building activities including thematic workshops with local and regional authorities. Moreover, the project promotes scaling up at national level and replicating across Europe.

ePLANET project

The project started in September 2021 and will last for 3 years. The consortium is composed of 10 partners from 6 countries (Catalonia, Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, Belgium and France).



More information

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