



Heating & cooling: policy frameworks in six European cities, their regions and countries

Report Summary



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Summary

This report gives an overview of the current targets, policy instruments and measures as well as involved stakeholders for the six case study countries and municipalities within the project progRESsHEAT as well as on EU level. Besides EU directives implemented in national law, many countries, as well as several regions and municipalities, have chosen to set their own targets. These targets partly go beyond the requirements from the EU on greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction. The targets for the reduction of energy consumption and the increase of renewable energy are depicted in general in the report, however, the focus of the analysis was on specific targets and measures for renewable heating and cooling. We analysed the regulatory framework in the case study countries, regions and municipalities based on three common policy approaches, all identified as relevant for RES-H/C policy: command-and-control instruments, incentive regulation instruments and knowledge building instruments.

The cross-border comparison shows that the case study countries differ remarkably in their focus on renewable energies. While e.g. in Denmark district heating is a crucial element in the heat planning in municipalities, this is barely the case in the other target countries. While in Upper Austria a high share of renewable energies is already used, this is not the case in Litoměřice (CZ) or Brasov (RO). While most countries link renewable heat measures to insulation measures, in Portugal, one cannot find the usual focus on general investment plans approaching the demand side. Nevertheless, the countries participating in the project have the following in common: All of them have defined general targets with respect to their energy sector and furthermore they have initiated and implemented certain policy measures in order to reach them. The targets, however, vary to a great extent with respect to their specification. Whereas some have very specific goals for the heating and cooling sector, other countries and municipalities remain rather vague in their target formulation. The overviews show that the most commonly used measure at national and regional level is direct investment support accompanied by support for research, development and demonstration at national level and information campaigns at regional level. While in some cases, local policy initiatives are very advanced, providing targeted funding and running effective information campaigns, other cases still work on rather high-level issues such as the identification of RES potentials in the area. In terms of stakeholders, national ministries and regulators seem to have the largest influence on the heating and cooling sector in our case countries. Nonetheless, local authorities can make a big difference. Besides active administrative bodies in municipalities, regional energy agencies, local utilities and district heat providers are much involved in the process of heating and cooling systems planning. Cooperation and motivation of local utilities to contribute to RES-H/C development seem to be crucial factors for achieving respective targets. Consumers (households, commerce and industry) need to implement many of the energy efficiency and RES investments and should therefore be involved as well.

This report will serve as a starting point for the in-depth analysis of drivers, barriers and success factors in the case-study municipalities, and will be the basis for the modeling and scenario development later in the project.

