



BESS

Benchmarking and Energy management Schemes in SMEs

Intelligent Energy – Europe (EIE)

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REPORT BESS EU WORKSHOP

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Great Success of BESS Workshop – more than 60 participants

On the first of March 2007 the BESS workshop took place in Wels, Austria. More than 60 participants from SMEs of the food and drink industry, energy service companies, consultants and associations learned about the results of BESS and the future possibilities to continue with international benchmarking and E-Learning.



The high interest in the BESS results underlined the importance of supporting SMEs in implementing energy management and energy saving measures. Consultants and companies can profit from the BESS tools and instruments.



In Austria the BESS project is implemented into the national climate programme “klima:aktiv”. Susanne Glanzegg from the Ministry of Environment presented the klima:aktiv programme and appreciated the connection of European and national projects.

Also the Austrian follow-up activities will be implemented into the klima:aktiv programme which assures a further use and dissemination of BESS tools and the e-learning scheme. Consultants of national energy efficiency programmes will be trained in several workshops to implement energy management into industrial SMEs according to the BESS implementation model.

Petra Lackner from the Austrian Energy Agency presented the results of BESS in Austria and the experience with the international benchmarking in Austrian dairies. The consultants in the audience showed high interest in the possibility to use the BESS instruments for their activities. SMEs wanted to know more about the follow-up of the international benchmarking and the planned new sectors for benchmarking.





The representative from the European food association (CIAA) Christoph Tamandl presented how important energy efficiency for the European food & drink industry is. 99 % of the food & drink industry are SMEs. Those SMEs make 47 % of the sectors turnover and employ 61 % of the sectors employees. Therefore a widespread dissemination of best practices and supportive tools for SMEs is of high importance.

Three Austrian dairies, Alpenmilch Salzburg, Obersteirische Molkerei and Landfrisch Molkerei reported about their experience with the BESS project and presented the energy saving measures they implemented. As expected the companies in the audience have been very interested in the experience of the pilot companies. The representatives from the dairies pointed out that it is very helpful when the initiative for implementing energy management comes from outside the company. Benchmarking was clearly the “gate opener” to the dairies.



Waltraud Schmid from the Intelligent Energy Executive Agency (IEEA) led through the afternoon sessions. Miss Schmid presented the IEEA and their industry-benchmarking activities within EIE projects.

The co-ordinator of the BESS project Mr. Boudewijn Huenges Wajer presented the results of the pilot phase in participating countries and showed case studies of the three sectors involved: dairies, meat processing and bakeries. Tomaz Fatur from the Jozef Stefan Institute (JSI) presented the experience with the BESS approach in new member countries.



Paul Waide from the International Energy Agency (IEA) gave a country review and comparison of energy efficiency in industry. Mr. Waide also led through the panel discussion in which Miss Schmid (IEEA), Mr. Waide (IEA), Mr. Tamandl (CIAA), Mr. Huenges Wajer (SenterNovem) and Mr. Fatur (JSI) discussed about possibilities of the continuation of international benchmarking and possible involvement of European SME associations and other international stakeholders for follow up activities.