

URBAN EMPATHY – Working Package 3

RESULT INFORMATION FILE – Phase 1

Description of the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY

1. Partner's description

(Summary information of the partner presenting the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY)

Name of the institution presenting the result	Government of Catalonia. Department of Territory and Sustainability. Housing Agency of Catalonia
Type of institution (city, region, agency, tech institute...)	REGION
Main contact	Name: XAVIER MARTÍ Position: CHIEF OFFICER EUROPEAN PROGRAMS Telephone: 0034 93 554 71 15 Mail: wxmart@gencat.cat

2. Project description

(Summary information of the project corresponding to the result)

Name of the project	Mediterranean Building Rethinking for Energy Efficiency Improvement
Acronym of the project	MARIE
Starting date	APRIL 2012
Ending date	NOVEMBRE 2014
Project status (finished, execution...)	IN EXECUTION
Project type (standard, targeted, strategic, ...)	STRATEGIC
Lead partner of the project	Government of Catalonia. Department of Territory and Sustainability. Housing Agency of Catalonia
Project website	www.marie-medstrategic.eu
Programme (MED, Interreg...)	MED

Programme Priority	Improving the energy efficiency of buildings
Programme Objective	Improving the energy efficiency of buildings
EU 2020 Strategy (choose the most suitable one from the following options)	<input type="checkbox"/> Smart growth <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive growth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable growth <input type="checkbox"/> Economic governance

Description of the **PROJECT**. Main topic and objectives. (300 words aprox.) *(Describe in more detail the project's main thematic and objectives, providing relevant information about the contents addressed in it and where does the result to be capitalized come from)*

The project is developed in Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain and is intended to improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings through the implementation of a Common Strategy.

MARIE aims to improve Med. building energy efficiency (EE) and exploit the opportunities presented by EU policy and directives on EE in Buildings, taking into consideration the distinct characteristics of the MED space and creating more suitable socio-economic conditions in order to meet the following challenges:

- The need for new regulations and institutional tools in response to the new EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) recast.
- The lack of financial mechanisms able to stimulate energy efficient refurbishment of buildings.
- The SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) dominated buildings sector requiring external support in order to stimulate innovation in the provision of adequate services and products for energy refurbishment of buildings.

MARIE includes 3 groups of Pilot Actions (PA) to test and develop solutions in response to these challenges. The final result of the project will be the MED Building Energy Efficiency Strategy (MEDBEES). This will integrate the outputs from all tasks (WPs) combining top-down, bottom up, supply and demand side considerations enriched by new know-how gained from the PAs.

Top-down contributions from policy dialogue development leading to specific regional policy commitments will accelerate of progress towards EU policy objectives (WP3).

A bottom up approach of initiatives, tried and tested in Pilot actions (PA), will produce a portfolio of technical, financial and legislative solutions and services to meet the challenges locally and regionally (WP4&5).

The demand side will be stimulated by dissemination, awareness raising and training targeted primarily at public sector decision makers (WP2) and by regional analysis to identify the most effective measures to adopt (WP4).

The supply side will be articulated by identifying business opportunities (WP3) and developing support measures for the SME dominated construction sector (WP5).

External projection is vital in order to capitalize on this result and is therefore included in the project management task. Throughout the project, WP1.3 will build an expectant network, ready to exploit the MEDBEES, by cultivating contacts throughout the Mediterranean region, culminating in Conferences in Brussels and Cairo.

The large consortium (9 Med Regions and 2 Med Cities and their relation with 9 national competent authorities) offers optimal geographical and governance coverage and a critical mass for transversal actions. Also, the MARIE Associated Partners Platform (APP) and Malta conference will facilitate dissemination and the inclusion of South Med. Countries in the project. The 3 Med Forums of Regions & Cities will further extend the influence of the project and ensure dissemination of the project and its results to Regional Authorities throughout the Space Med.

In conclusion, MARIE will articulate a coordinated Med. task force to progress further and faster towards the common goals. It will provide training, tools, experience and experimental know-how and also give a more unified voice to the unique Med-region building sector.

3. Result description

(Summary information of the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY)

Name of the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY	MARIE Associated Partners Platform (APP)
Type of result (operational tool, recommendations, good practices, guideline, ...)	OPERATIONAL TOOL
Current status of the result (under development, completed, not started...)	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
Type of deliverable (document, website, database, ...)	WEBSITE
Specific URL link	www.marieapp.eu
Publication date	APRIL 2012
Language	ENGLISH

Description of the chosen **RESULT** to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY. Result objectives. Utility and purpose. (200 words aprox.) *(Brief description of the result's most relevant characteristics, pointing out the main objectives and purpose.)*

The MARIE Associated Partners Platform was created in March 2012 in order to facilitate the communication and consensus between public and private organizations related to energy efficiency of buildings. The setting up of the MARIE APP is based in facilitate the participation of the associated and interested external actors in the strategy construction. However the APP is actually under construction. In this sense should be considered as a not finished result.

The MARIE APP will be the fundament of one of the main four products of the MARIE project: the Cooperation Hub.

Others functionalities of the APP will be:

- The interaction between public and private entities related to building energy efficient renovation in the Mediterranean Countries.
- The coordination and the synergies creation between different EU projects in this field.
- The promotion of innovation activities and initiatives.
- The coordination between MED regions in order to share policy initiatives.

Nowadays these utilities are under development, however at the end of next year the MARIE APP will be prepared to be more adapted to the Cooperation Hub finalities.

Like a user, actually you can see 411 entity's profile about associates, also you can open documents related to MARIE and access to MARIE Communication and training website.

At MED level the Associated Partners Platform (APP) will be the main tool for capitalization. APP is conceived as a Mediterranean Building Energy Efficiency (MEDBEE) market platform where all the organizations (public & private), programs and projects working on the subject will share and develop their solutions and initiatives.

The benefits of APP for associated will be:

- Exposure of their profile and activities on a Mediterranean wide platform
- The ability to search and receive information on projects related to EE in MED countries
- Exchange of experiences & information related to Energy Efficiency of Buildings (EEB)
- Participation in a platform to discuss and contribute to the MEDBEE development

List of keywords related to the result (10 words max.) *(Please provide a short list of keywords related to the result to be capitalized in Urban Empathy, e.g.: urban planning, sustainable growth, mobility, energy efficiency, renewable energies, governance...)*

Innovation, Cooperation, Capitalization and Interaction Public Private Energy Efficiency in Buildings.

Describe the potential benefits or improvements that the result may generate through the capitalisation process (200 words approx.) *(Describe improvements either in your result or those that it may generate due to the capitalisation process)*

The main potential benefit in the result would be facilitating the capitalization process initiated by the projects MARIE, ELIH MED and PROFORBIOMED in November 2012. This Capitalization process during 2013 and 2014 will produce a Common Strategy where the Cooperation Hub is one of the main proposals to be developed beyond the three projects.

In this sense the review of the MARIE APP works in the framework of Urban Empathy project will be a very important input to the Capitalization process. For instance the contributions of the Urban Empathy partners will be very important to prepare the terms of reference of a contract to improve the APP during next year.

In terms of dissemination the Urban Empathy partners can also contribute to enlarge the associated partners list registered in MARIE APP.

On the other hand MARIE APP can accelerate the innovation process in the field of energy efficiency of buildings. This is also a very important potential benefit of the APP. If they associated partners want they can create cooperation lines to innovate products and services.

Finally another potential benefit from the MARIE APP could be the generation of synergies and spaces of cooperation between EU projects working in this field. As Urban Empathy partners belong to several different projects they have in mind the importance of collaboration.

4. Result evaluation

According to your own criteria, which are the main strong points of your result? Which are the weak ones? (300 words aprox.) *(Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the result to be capitalized in Urban Empathy)*

- Strong points:
 - Facilitating networking and participation to consolidate a Road Map and a transnational Action Plan for Buildings Energy Efficiency Improvement. Nowadays (July 2013) 411 entities (154 public entities, 40 NGO, 217 private entities) have been registered in the APP. The participation of these entities in the MEDBEE Strategy construction process (during 2013 and d 2014) is the most important strong point at short term.
 - Opportunity to become a Med Cooperation Hub that facilitates the MEDBEES implementation in the majority of MED Regions. The majority of current initiatives related to Building Energy Efficiency improvement in MED space are dispersed and without a common Strategy. If the different public and private organizations (registered in the APP or not) put all their capacity building in the same direction for sure that EU 2020 goals could be more feasible.
- Weak points:
 - The utilities are not developed completely. The current architecture of the MARIE APP only allows consulting MARIE documents and a small level of interaction between associated entities. In this sense the potentialities to become a real Cooperation Hub are not developed yet. It will be necessary an important effort to transform the current architecture and functionalities in a friendly and interesting on line tool.
 - Management and actualization aspects are essential. After the end of the project the management of the MARIE APP is not ensured yet. In this sense it will be necessary also open a debate over which kind of entity could manage better the MED Cooperation Hub.
 - MARIE project can provide a small quantity of Euros to adapt the current architecture; however more money will be necessary to create the cooperation Hub and to ensure their management during next period (2014-2020). The cooperation Hub is one of the main 4 products of the MARIE project, the strategic measure 4.3 (Policy Sharing) of the MEDBEES will include a clear definition of the tasks and budget necessary to transform the current APP in to a MED Cooperation Hub.

How do you think your result can affect the main aspects to be considered in a sustainable urban model?

(300 words approx.) (Describe the capacity of the result to fulfil the sustainable urban model main principles)

Cross - cutting aspects

- Territorial management and urban design
- Social and Economic cohesion

Sectorial aspects

- Sustainable mobility
- Energy efficiency

The platform affect the following three aspects of sustainable urban model:

- Energy efficiency in buildings, because it is the main goal of the project MARIE. The MARIE APP is conceived as a practical tool to create consensus and facilitate participation to build and implement MEDBEES. MEDBEES will be a very important tool to reduce non renewable and external energy in MED buildings. For all this MEDBEES should be considering as an important aspect of sustainability in MED cities.
Buildings are an important and key element of urban areas. Improving energy efficiency of buildings will facilitate the energy networks and sources management avoiding supply problems.
- Territorial management and urban design. Marie APP represents a clear option for refurbishment. This strategy, compared with new building construction, reduces energy consumption but has major implications in land use and urban form, as it avoids new land consumption and consolidates existing neighbourhoods.
- Social and economic cohesion, MARIE APP will affect the health and comfort conditions in buildings. These quantitative and qualitative improvements in comfort inside residential and tertiary buildings will contribute to social cohesion and economic.

What influence do you consider that your project result could have on environmental governance and what could be its impact on urban policies? At which level? (Local, regional, national, MED or European level...) (300 words aprox.) *(Describe the level of influence of the result and its applicability on EU policies)*

The energy renovation of buildings requires an important quantity of public and private economic resources. In this sense the APP should facilitate the public-private partnership and commitments necessary to realize the investments needed. This impact should be produced at local, regional MED and European level.

The MARIE APP can be transformed in a Cooperation Hub facilitating environmental governance with an important impact in urban policies related to the EU 2020 policy objectives (20% energy efficiency increase in buildings, 20% renewable and 20% CO2 emissions reduction) in the MED area.

One of the main functionalities of the MED Cooperation Hub will be Policy Sharing. In this sense, with the Cooperation Hub all MED regions and cities will have more facilities and opportunities to know the best experiences, methods and tools used by more advanced territories. Also it is important take into account the potentiality of the MARIE APP to involve in MEDBEES development MED southern countries that wants work in this direction. MARIE and RELS (ENI program) projects are preparing at the end of March 2014 a North – South MED Cooperation Conference that could be an important event to enlarge the MARIE APP Associated Entities to MED southern actors.

What is the main target group the result is addressing to? (public administration, public sector, private sector, research groups, ...) How does it enhance public participation? (200 words approx.) *(Describe the target audience that could use the result and if citizen participation processes have been considered)*

The platform is open to anyone involved or interested in energy renovation of buildings. List of different types of entities that are registered in the MARIE APP, differentiating between public and private sector:

- Public sector: municipalities' MED, research centre, regions MED, Government of Catalonia, municipal associations, municipalities of Catalonia, European Union, regions of Spain and others.
- Private sector: consultancies, manufacturers, maintenance, energy services cluster, energy producers and marketers, installers and builders
- NGO: Professional/training associations, renewable energy associations, companies associations, clusters, green building associations.

In general the MARIE APP give the social entities the possibility to participate in the open decision making process to build the MEDBEE Strategy and to take part in their implementation in all the MED Regions. In this sense the MARIE APP and their future development towards the Cooperation Hub will be also a very useful participation tool.

Is the result currently in use in the Europe/MED area? (150 words aprox.) *(Please provide further information on the usability of the result, pointing out if it has already been implemented or in use)*

We don't know exactly all the similar experiences, however we have identified platforms as "Build Up" or "Construction 21" that provides cooperation elements but are focused in all Europe and not concentrated in the conception and implementation of a concrete transnational strategy as MEDBEES.

Actually the MARIE APP provide information to Associated Entities progress in the construction of MEDBEES (several documents and deliverables produced by MARIE project are available in the APP). For instance nowadays it's possible to consult (training part) 104 fact sheets of best practices related to Energy Renovation of Buildings selected by MARIE partners in MED space.

According to your own criteria, what are the main innovative aspects of the result? (150 words aprox.) *(Please provide further information on the level of innovation achieved by the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY: new methodologies, etc...)*

The MARIE project and the APP are still in progress and therefore we can not detail and complete the innovative aspects of the result. For the moment the main innovative aspect is the possibility for more than 400 public and private entities to participate in a process to build MEDBEE Strategy.

The result will be improved for sure during next 18 months, in this sense Urban Empathy partners could participate in this improvement process. Contributions will be very well accepted by MARIE Partners.

How do you think your result could be implemented? Through which means? Do you think it is easily transferable? Estimated costs, resources, time needed for implementation, key actors involved... Please include any other relevant criteria you may consider important (300 words aprox.) *(Please provide further information on implementation and transferability requirements of the result)*

The project is still in progress and therefore we can not detail the implementation aspects (mains, estimated costs, resources, time needed for implementation, key actors involved...)

However as we can say before the MARIE APP can become a MED Cooperation Hub considering the contents of Strategic Measure 4.3 included in MEDBEES (in November 2013 the first draft of MEDBEES (including obviously the Strategic Measure 4.3) will be available in the MARIE APP for comments and contributions of all Associated Entities.