

RURASU
Rural Advice and
Support Units
for R.E.S.
in Heat Systems
and
Integrated Energy
Management





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Creating a new **Design & Advice Support Unit (DASU)** is a difficult process, especially when this unit is established and has to act in a rural area. Often new organisations have been stopped after a short period of work due to not satisfied expectations or financial reasons. So it is recommended to keep to a well planned setup action agenda, which should also include details regarding operation and monitoring.

Action Agenda for Design Advice and Support Unit in Rural Areas

In the project **RURASU** the experiences of the successful established DASUs of **Pieriki** and **eza!** were gathered to work out an **Action Agenda for DASU Setup in Rural Areas**. This Agenda is used in the project in order to help the establishment of the DASUs in the Rural Areas of Spain and Scotland, and it will be **available to be used by anyone interested in establishing a DASU**.

Part of the agenda to build up a DASU are the following nine steps:

1. Defining aims and objectives

Subjects that should be given special consideration could be following:

- *Level of awareness*
- *Kind of building projects*
- *Ownership of building*

2. Defining target area and main topics

3. Coalitions and Cooperations

A list that could be helpful is the following:

Local and Regional Authorities, Chambers of specific professions, Local Media, Politicians, Administrations, Utilities, Universities, Economy/professionals as individual, NGOs

4. Fund Raising

Possible fund raising sources:

Politicians, Municipalities, Utilities, Professionals, Customers, National and European projects, Chambers.

5. Detailed Planning

It includes: Legal Construction, Members, Financial Concept, Staff, Marketing, Time

6. Foundation

7. Start up Period

8. Running of the DASU

9. Monitoring of DASU

It is part of the ambitious **RURASU** agenda to promote not only the implementation of new DASUs but also to give an **additional push to the existing Units** in Germany and Greece. It is obvious that this further development is only possible with a pro-

found and comprehensive analysis of the status. Based on the requirements

Further Development for DASUs in Rural Areas

of the further development and on the actual needs that occurred during the up to now operation of the Design Advice and Support Units, six main axes have emerged:

1. Public Relations and media work
2. Specialised consultations
3. Further Training of the in-house personnel
4. Links to existing bodies
5. Publications of DASU's actions

6. Possible Further Finance

The exchange of ideas and knowledge

transfer within the **RURASU** consortium brought significant support. Public Relations and media work succeeded in bringing the existence and the service offers of the DASU to the people's minds.

The **Information Acquisition tool (IAT)** is based on the fact that lots of information material is already available in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy actions for buildings. In Germany, Spain, Greece and the UK highly valuable information is disseminated through national, regional and local organisations, like energy agencies, municipalities or energy consultants. The various information that is available on renewable energies and energy efficiency issues should be gathered in order to formulate the **Information Acquisition Tool**. Valuable sources are the Internet, Energy Agencies, Utilities, Companies and former EU projects. The available information materials are collected and scrutinised for their value in the rural

environment. Based on this survey a tool is being formulated which easily explains where these information is available. The Tool explains what information sources are available and how to approach the relevant sources.

Information Acquisition Tool

The **RURASU "Information Acquisition Tool" (IAT)** will be an accurate and detailed instrument for local and regional decision makers as "roadmap" from their information gap to the right address.

RURASU

Intelligent Energy Europe



RURASU project details

OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the project include: the adaptation of already developed practical educational material and design tools to the local conditions so that are suitable for use within the scope of the project, the organization of specific events promoting the use of RES in buildings (like announcements in newspapers and radios) among local actors, the assessment of the energy characteristics of each involved regions building stock, the training of professionals on techniques and high quality materials or systems, the training of energy auditors in accordance to the EC directive and the establishment of a Design and Advice Support Units Partner network, experienced professionals and construction materials or systems providing renewable or low energy solutions.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The final deliverable of the present project will be focus to the energy problems of each involved area, aiming to support dispersed local actors like building designers, consumers, public authorities on the use of renewable energies and energy efficiency measures in the building stock. The most expected results are: Design and Advice Support Unit for rural areas, training of professionals on renewable energy techniques, systems or materials, set-up of Design and Advice Support Unit Partner Network, wide dissemination by internet, newsletters, newspapers, radios, produce of educational material, such as leaflets, booklets, simplified software tool for building simulations in local language, training of energy auditors, establishment of quality criteria for Design and Advice Support Units and auditing consultancies.

DIRECT OUTCOMES

- The new educational material will permit to promote RES Systems and high quality materials and will increase the efficiency of the education on this topic as it will be adjusted to the conditions prevailing in the specific involved regions.
- The further development of the Design and Advice Support Units will provide the local people with the highest quality services regarding the use of RES.
- The training of the professionals will facilitate the local community with experienced people, who are necessary in order to apply the proposed systems, materials and techniques.
- The proposed consultation infrastructure will combine and link technical and scientific expertise with best practice guidance.
- The continuous support the local Design and Advice Support Units will provide to local actors of the building sector will result in the broader use and implementation of active and passive heating systems and other energy-efficient techniques in each region's built environment.

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