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Press release on MountEE Project

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING: FROM VISION TO REALIZATION

The perfect house: cosily warm in winter, agreeably cool in summer. Municipalities in European mountain regions show how it can be realized. Experts join forces with local communities to create homes with top performance.

In the EU's vision, the energy consumption of all new and renovated public buildings should be close to zero from 2018 onwards. Realizing the so-called NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Building) standard for new and renovated buildings is a great challenge for mountain municipalities – but it also offers many opportunities. The use of building materials from the region and the involvement of local craftsmen and women not only strengthens regional economic cycles but regional identities as well.

The first buildings are realized

Six European mountain regions – from Sweden via the Alps to the Pyrenees – have during the past months carefully analysed selected buildings and building projects. Objectives for new buildings and renovations were formulated jointly with architects, energy experts and technicians. In this way, for example, the heating energy requirements of the primary school in Mader (Austria) were reduced by 80 per cent after renovation and extension; energy for the Aspeboda (Sweden) primary school is supplied by its own wind turbines; and the local council offices in Grésivaudan (France) not only saw the application of the highest energy standards but also of local wood. Another 30 pilot buildings are under construction or renovation at present, and act as a spur to the realisation of the low-energy buildings vision. The mayor of Mantet (France), Odile Guinel, highlights the importance of the joint approach: 'we only have 28 inhabitants and no expertise in the areas of energy and sustainability. MountEE helps us to base the construction of the new community hall on ecological standards and objectives.'

Service as a success factor

The key to success is a service package from Vorarlberg (Austria) which was improved in the context of the MountEE project. From first concept to actual construction a range of experts provides advice and support in the areas of energy, ecological building, procurement and quality control, and buildings management. The services offered are adapted to local needs in the different regions. Continuous exchanges between the principals and the experts help to further improve the services offered. The package is used when building or renovating the pilot buildings under MountEE. Information on the buildings can be found under www.mountee.eu/pilot-buildings.

More information and print-ready pictures under www.mountee.eu/de/infoservice/presse



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MountEE – sustainable public building

According to the EU guideline for overall efficiency of buildings, all new and renovated public buildings must reflect the NZEB standard from 2018 onwards. For many municipalities, in particular in mountain areas, the transition to the NZEB standard is a major challenge. The MountEE project helps municipalities in Sweden, the Alps and the Pyrenees to reach the standards, making them pioneers in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability. Over 30 public buildings in six regions were built or renovated in accordance with sustainability and energy-efficiency norms. MountEE is supported financially for a period of three years in the framework of the 'Intelligent Energy Europe' (IEE) framework.

www.mountee.eu – <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent>

