

# D9: EED implementation in Latvia

The Ministry of Economy has the responsibility for the implementation of energy sector policy in Latvia, including the energy efficiency policy.

Latvia completely understands the need to further encourage energy efficiency by providing incentives for reducing energy costs and shifting consumption towards energy-efficient products, including vehicles, buildings and heating systems. Latvia is aware of the high importance of energy efficiency in the state energy policy and according to the “Second Energy Efficiency Action Plan of the Republic of Latvia” considers household sector (heat insulation of buildings), transport sector and district heating (energy efficiency of both production and distribution sides of district heating) as main priorities.

A medium term vision for Latvia’s energy policy has been established by the government through the adopted **Guidelines for Energy sector Development for 2007-2016**. These Guidelines also include a commitment to promote energy efficiency as one of the key priorities for the energy sector development in Latvia and intention to support energy efficiency measures in energy end use sectors.

## Legal context

A long-term planning document of energy sector development – **Energy Strategy 2030** is being developed in addition to the medium-term planning document of energy sector development – **Energy Development Guidelines for 2007-2016**. The Energy Strategy 2030 sets the following objectives of the energy policy:

- Competitive economy – balanced, efficient, economically, socially, and ecologically justified energy policy based on market principles ensuring further development of the economy, its competitiveness in the region and the world;
- Sustainable energy – reduced dependency on imported energy resources, new and efficient technologies for the use of renewable resources are encouraged, measures to improve energy efficiency are implemented;
- Secure supply – stable energy supply and developed infrastructure provided to energy users.

The latest regulations relating to energy efficiency are **Energy End-use Efficiency Law**. As this law does not include all the provisions required by the EED the new Energy Efficiency Law is under development. The new law will include the main part of the requirements of EED. In addition amendments in other regulations are in process, for example, amendments of Law on Energy, Electricity market Law and Law on Public Procurement.

## Status of the implementation

According to the requirements of the EED Latvia has reported to the EU state energy efficiency targets and by December 5, 2013 has notified the Commission the policy measures planned to adopt for the implementation of the requirements of the Article 7. The notification report is available: <http://em.gov.lv/em/2nd/?cat=30173>.

On November 26, 2013 Cabinet of Ministers has adopted the Conception on the Implementation of the Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC (available: <http://em.gov.lv/em/2nd/?cat=30173>) which envisages the promotion of energy efficiency in all stages of energy supply and final consumption. The Conception foresees state support for the implementation of energy efficiency measures in public and industrial buildings and in multifamily houses. The Conception also recommends establishment of the energy efficiency obligation scheme for the energy distributors and retail energy sales companies for the first time in Latvia. This requirement of the Directive 2012/27/EU has caused a lot of discussions from involved parties. In the light of experience from countries which already have energy efficiency obligation schemes in place obliged parties may fulfill their annual obligations by contributions to the Energy Efficiency Fund of an amount equal to the investments required to achieve their targets.

## Additional efforts

Ministry of Economics has organized several meetings with representatives of energy companies to discuss the possibilities to implement energy efficiency scheme and also has commissioned two research works: regarding the best solutions to include in the next energy efficiency plan and regarding the best methods for calculating energy savings.

Ministry of Economics has paid attention to the information of involved parties about the requirements of the Directive 2012/27/EU. Representatives of Ministry of Economics has participated in the regional workshops regarding the new requirements for the municipalities regarding the development of Energy efficiency plans on local or regional level and try to use every possibility to inform about the requirements of the EED – participating in scientific conferences, workshops and discussions.

## Future planning

The main task of 2014 is to develop all the national legislation required for the implementation of the Directive 2012/27/EU. For the next planning period 2014.-2020. several EU Structural Funds programmes will be developed for the support of energy efficiency measures in building sector.