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# National Stakeholder Engagement Event

Partner: EnEffect

Country: Bulgaria

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Date of event: 17/03/2022

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## NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT EVENT

Please enter the most important details of the event in the Online [Monitoring Tool](#)

Event details		
Key Information	<b>Title</b>	New generation energy performance certificates for buildings
	<b>Date</b>	17.03.2022
	<b>Location</b>	Borovets , Bulgaria
Participants	<b>Registered</b>	103
	<b>Participated</b>	75 during this session (20 live and 55 online)
	<b>Stakeholder Type</b>	<b>Participants of all stakeholders group listed above attended:</b> Scientific Community Industry Civil Society General Public Policy Makers Media Other
	<b>Content _</b>	<b>Title of event</b> Session " <i>Quality insurance</i> " at the <i>National conference "Energy management in municipalities and investments in sustainable energy"</i>

### Detailed Description

The National Stakeholder Engagement Event of crossCERT project in Bulgaria was organized by EEffect as a separate session called *Quality Assurance* on 17 March 2017, within the two-day national conference dedicated to investments in energy efficiency projects in municipalities, held on March 16-17 in Borovets, Bulgaria. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1579233919118906/>

Building energy performance certificates are a key tool for assessing the results of energy renovation projects and therefore play an important role in securing project financing. Therefore, it is extremely important to ensure high quality in terms of performing the energy performance assessment, the process of issuing the certificates and their content. The main focus of the session was related to the topic of the new generation of energy performance certificates for buildings. In his presentation on this topic, Kamen Simeonov presented the main results of the sister project U-Cert, which is at the end of its implementation, and introduced to the audience the activities and goals of the newly launched crossCERT project. In the subsequent discussion, many issues were commented on regarding the draft of a new Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and more specifically in the part concerning the certification of buildings, the need to improve the existing certificates in Bulgaria, the lack of practice for issuing certificates for renovated residential buildings within the framework of the *National Energy Efficiency Program for multi-family residential buildings* and others.



The entire conference was held in a hybrid format. In the session where the National Stakeholder Engagement Event was held 75 people took part in the crossCERT project, of which 20 were present in the hall and 55 people connected online, through the Zoom platform. Among the attendees were representatives of municipalities, including mayors, representatives of ministries and national and local agencies, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, companies, media, as well as citizens.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a presentation slide titled "Ново поколение сертификати на сгради" (New generation of energy performance certificates for buildings) is displayed. The slide features the crossCert logo and a list of bullet points in Bulgarian. On the right, a video feed shows four panelists seated at a table in a conference hall. The Zoom control bar at the bottom indicates 55 participants and various meeting controls like Unmute, Start Video, Chat, Share Screen, Record, Reactions, and Apps.

**Ново поколение сертификати на сгради**

- ✓ Кръстосана проверка на резултатите от прилагането на националните методики за сертифициране на сгради в 10 европейски страни с данни от 100 реални сгради
- ✓ Проверка на резултатите от прилагането на инструменти за определяне на енергийния клас на сгради разработени в рамките на други проекти по програма Хоризонт 2020 с реални данни за 100 сгради.
- ✓ Нови скали и ключови индикатори
- ✓ Верификация и контрол
- ✓ Дизайн и съдържание на сертификатите през призмата на нуждите на крайните потребители
- ✓ Схеми и програмите за обучение на енергийните одитори

U-CERT crossCert

## Main Takeaways

In view of the planned reforms in the *National Recovery and Resilience Plan* and the expected new operational programs in Bulgaria, we will be less and less able to rely on grant financing, while at the same time administrative, legal, technical and financial obstacles to the implementation of market-financed energy efficiency projects remain. Meanwhile the energy crisis brought to increase on the interest to the investments in this sphere, and at the same time emphasized even more clearly the difficulties of the energy-vulnerable enterprises, municipalities, and households. In view of the expected introduction of co-financing requirements in the building renovation programs and their successful implementation, the establishment of a definition on energy poverty seems increasingly important, as well as the improvement of the quality of the tools ensuring a reliable guarantee for the results achieved in the energy efficiency projects, such as the building energy performance certificates.

The main part of the stakeholders considers that the Bulgarian methodology for assessment of the energy performance of buildings is a sufficiently accurate and is much more detailed than the methodologies used in many other EU countries. However, the practical implementation of the methodology, along with all the detailed documentation that is required to be prepared when issuing the certificates, requires the use of a considerable resources on the part of the energy auditors, which makes the price of the certificates high compared to the expectations of the private sector and the owners of residential buildings. Therefore, they are not inclined to pay for the issuance of a certificate, which is also a major obstacle to the wide use of targeted loans, where the certificate is the main tool for proving the results achieved. It is necessary to make the content of the certificates more understandable and useful for the building owners in order to increase their interest in the certificates, as well as to consider a separate methodology for evaluating the energy performance of residential buildings, which would allow certificates to be issued at a lower cost. At the same time, it is important to ensure the quality of the issued certificates and it is necessary to increase the capacity of both the energy auditors, whose number is on a steady downward trend, and the controlling authority, especially during the implementation of specific building renovation programs where a large number of certificates is issued in short period of time.