

A Croatian experience regarding the implementation of the energy efficiency policy in the public buildings

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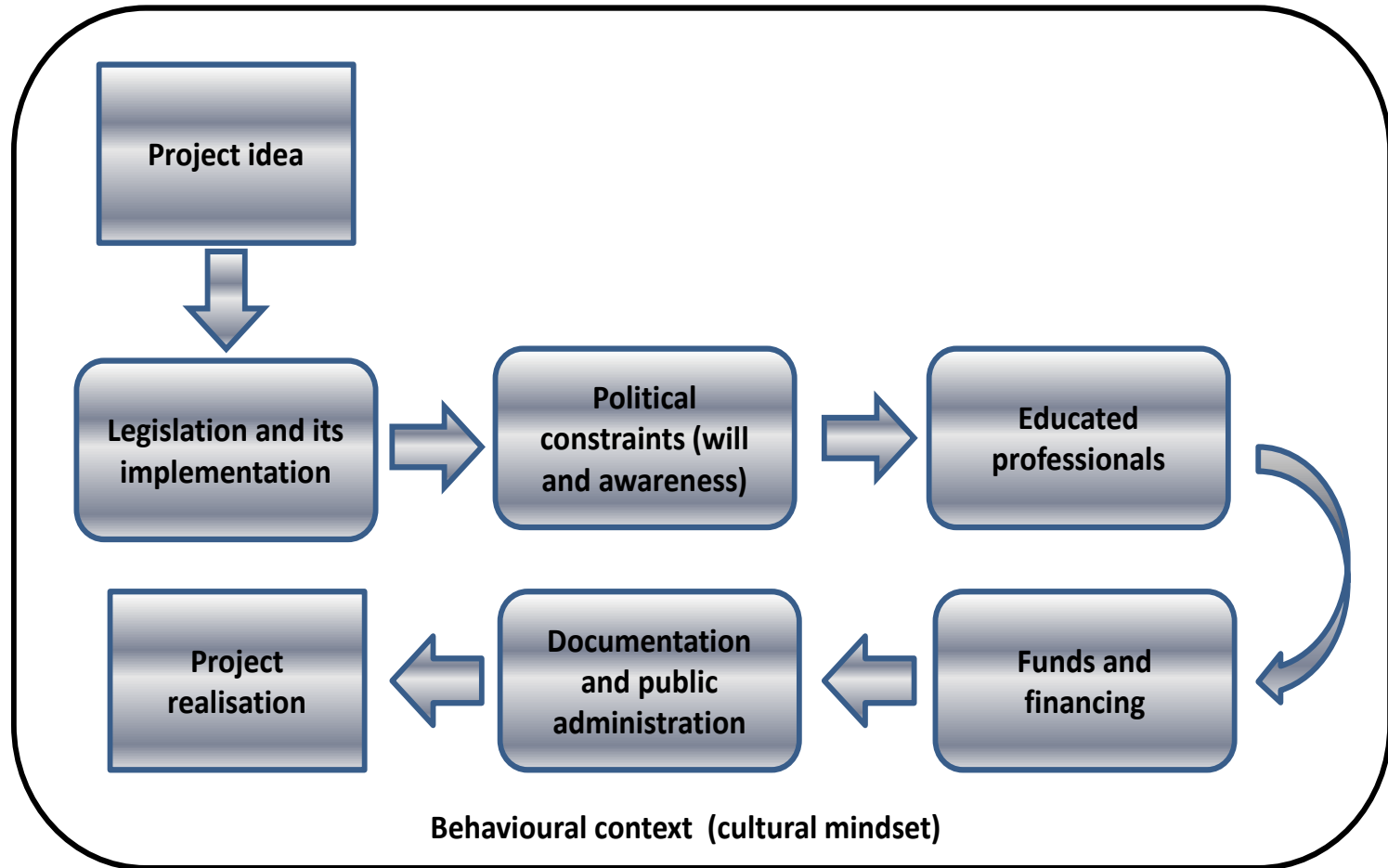
Introduction (facts)

- From July of 2013 Croatia is **EU member**,
- Croatian energy policy and in general energy efficiency policy has been **rapidly changing** in recent years (directives, laws, regulations...),
- Croatian energy market is extremely **sensitive** to the global energy market fluctuations,
- **50%** of energy is **imported** (around 15% of GDP, i.e. 6.5 billion Euros)

Introduction (facts)

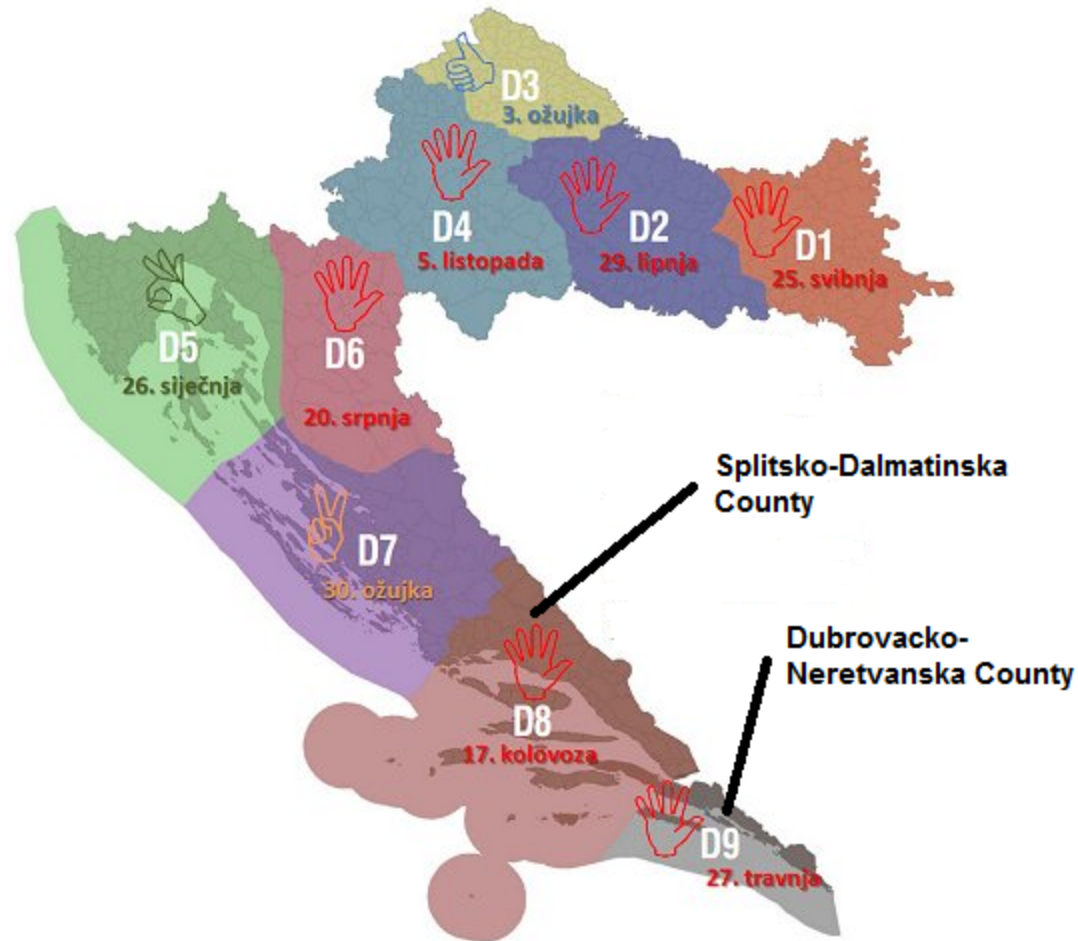
- Croatia is still in **recession** (government debt to **GDP 67%**),
- More than **120 political parties** are registered in Croatia,
- Political and economic power in Croatia is **centralized** in the main capital of Croatia (City of Zagreb)
- In recent years **UNDP has encouraged** implementation of energy efficiency policy in public buildings and residential facilities (good practice example).

Gaps and barriers (field experience)



Schematic overview of barriers to energy efficiency

Field experience in Dalmatian region



Analyzed region of Croatia (population: 577,366, number of public buildings: approx. 1,500)

Gaps and barriers (summary)

Political constrains:

- In general **lack of political will** and **awareness** regarding implementation of the energy efficiency policy,
- **Consensus** regarding the long-term energy efficiency policy goals and projects is missed out,
- **Political competition** in Croatia between two major political parties is blocking potential projects (**negative competition**-“I will support just my hometown or village”),
- However, there are **positive examples** in Croatia but there are in minority.

Gaps and barriers (summary)

Education:

- **Lack of trained professionals** especially in smaller cities and municipalities,
- **Training opportunities** from the field of energy efficiency in Croatia are not well organized (scattered and not unique),
- There is **potential** for their employment (through novel organizational structure, i.e. reduction of administrative staff and employment of professionals from the Engineering field),

Gaps and barriers (summary)

Funds and financing:

- **Croatian Fund** for Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency (main funding source but just partial financing is enabled),
- **EU funds** (modest withdrawal in recent years),
- Main problem is **high debt to GDP** and still present **recession** in Croatia.

Gaps and barriers (summary)

Records and public administration:

- **Inaccurate** real estate property records,
- **Complex** administrative procedures (large number of permits and etc.,
- **Corruption problem**, especially emphasized on the local level.

Gaps and barriers (summary)

Behavioral context:

- The majority of the population **doesn't take seriously** energy efficiency,
- The majority of the working population in Croatia were raised in times where energy was "for-free"(low cost) so there is still a habit-"**Someone else will pay energy costs for me**",
- **Lack of motivation** (connected with the lack of knowledge and present economic issues).

Proposal for elimination of existing barriers to energy efficiency

The main goals:

- Establishment of a **regional fund for energy efficiency** (decentralization of the funds),
- **Systematization of jobs** in public institutions and recruitment of the professionals (more professionals and less politically suitable individuals without knowledge),
- **Strict enforcement** of the existing legislation (implementation of penalties)

Proposal for elimination of existing barriers to energy efficiency

The main goals:

- **Transparency establishment** regarding the specific project realization (motivation and population encouragement. We need to know where our funds are invested, which projects are planned in the future, and what are the results and potential benefits for our society).

Conclusions

- **Implementation** of the existing **legislative** from the field of energy efficiency in Croatia is **inadequate** which causes the blockage of the potential projects,
- The main reason for previous is **lack of political awareness and will** and **lack of trained professionals** on governmental and local level,
- **EU funds** are available (**for quality projects**) and also **domestic funds**, however above mentioned reasons are causing problems regarding project realization,

Conclusions

- Finally, **novel organizational structure** and in general, other, more efficient approach is needed on governmental and local level if we want to start investment cycle in Croatia on projects that are, in general, related to energy and energy efficiency,

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