

Notes from the Partner Meeting in Kolobrzeg

8th to 9th of April 2014

The project manager Kamil Zajackowski welcomed all participants to the meeting.

Company presentations

Two companies presented their technologies and products.

- Europafilter introduced their technology for filtering lubricating oils in order to free them from microparticles of very small size that are not removed by other filtering technologies. This technology is used by a number of very large customers and is relevant for all companies that use large volumes of lubricating oil. The technology itself reduces the need for changing oil and dramatically reduces wear and tear on machinery, which makes the technology pay off very rapidly.
- Swep is a Swedish manufacturer of brazed plate heat exchangers and district heating substations. They offer a wide range of heat exchangers and substations with different functionality and dimensions. The brazed plate heat exchangers have in the past decade, due to their superior performance, compact design, and attractive price, largely replaced other types of heat exchangers. Swep is represented across the globe through their own sales subsidiaries and production facilities.

Polish District Heating Association

The president of the association, Mr. Jacek Szymczak, described the current situation in the Polish energy sector, with special emphasis on district heating. Polish district heating is to a large extent based on coal and there is a strong interest in replacing this by renewable fuels and natural gas. He also described the activities of the district heating association and expressed an interest in the results of the InnoHeat project.

MEC Kolobrzeg

The manager of the district heating company in Kolobrzeg, Mariusz Dziura, presented the city and the company. Kolobrzeg is a university city with a strong focus on tourism. A number of modern new spa hotels offer accommodation, but these only offer a fraction of the total of the 15.000 beds of the entire city. 70 per cent of the beds are offered by other operators than the hotels. Kolobrzeg receives 320.000 tourists every year. MEC Kolobrzeg was founded in 1974 and it produces a total of 795.000 gigajoules of heat, produced from 40.000 tonnes of coal per year.

Regional Study

Mats Larsson from the Sustainable Business Hub, presented the results of the regional studies in the five regions that have been covered by the project. The regions are Southern Sweden (Skåne and Blekinge), Northeast Germany, Northern Poland, Western Lithuania and the entire region of Kaliningrad. The situations in the district heating sectors in these countries are very different due to the historical background of the regions. In the regions that used to belong to the Soviet Union and Poland district heating systems are still wide-spread. All municipalities in these countries offer district heating services. Substantial renovation and improvement opportunities remain throughout the systems in Kaliningrad and to a large extent in Lithuania. In Poland improvements have progressed further. In the northeastern parts of Germany individual gas boilers are more wide-spread and only some 15 per cent of households have access to district heating. All the largest cities offer these services, but many smaller municipalities do not have systems. In Sweden 35 out of 38 municipalities in the region offer district heating services and the systems are very modern.

Improvement efforts differ between regions. In Sweden the focus is on structural improvements, for example connecting systems in different cities into a large regional network. In Kaliningrad, Poland, and Lithuania there is a focus on improving systems structures by integrating systems in municipalities and installing substations in buildings.

Method for Planning and Implementation

The focus of the InnoHeat project is on identifying improvement opportunities, prioritizing these, and developing improvement plans. Philip Peck from the IIIIE at Lund University ran a workshop with a break-out session where groups of participants had the opportunity to identify and prioritize improvement opportunities that can form the focus of activities in Component 5, Planning and Implementation.

Philip started the session by giving a presentation of the experiences so far in the project, emphasizing the conclusions that have been drawn throughout that the primary need is related to improving the knowledge among system operators, maintenance personnel, and tenants about how to use systems and heat in the most efficient way possible. The consequence of this is that these parties need to be provided with building installations and control technologies of a high standard. Once these technologies have been installed the focus should turn to replacing boilers and pipes. This new focus puts entirely new demands on the project organizations in district heating companies, demanding a higher level of participation from employees and partners in planning and decision-making.

Following the presentation there was a break-out session where participants had the opportunity to discuss improvement opportunities and their priorities.

Study Visit to MEC Kolobrzeg

The day ended by a study visit to the municipal heating company of Kolobrzeg, MEC Kolobrzeg.

Visit to the Local Military History Museum

The second day started with a visit to the very interesting military history museum.

Project Administration

The project manager, Kamil Zajackowski, discussed administrative issues related to the project, once more emphasizing the need for all partners to continue with project activities and use the allocated budget amounts in order to finalize the project according to plan. The project is running until the 31st of December 2014. There are still partners that need to speed up activities in the project and use their remaining budgets for the planned project activities.

Pilot Project

Jörgen Persson from the ESSS and Mats Larsson from the Sustainable Business Hub presented the findings and conclusions from their report “Innovations in District Heating,” in which they analyze improvement opportunities and needs in Kolobrzeg and Kaliningrad.

Next Meeting

The next partner meeting will take place in Lund, Sweden on the 30th of September and the 1st of October 2014. The ESSS will host the meeting.