



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Every little thing helps – Energy for low income families

Project background, social needs

Parallel with the rising energy prices the needs in the residential sector are growing for more efficient better insulated or low-energy houses. However most of the Hungarian households can't afford even the basic, low cost investments for energy efficiency upgrade of their homes. Paying energy bills loads heavy the budget of low-income families or elder people's households. As statistics show these people are especially vulnerable, because they are the ones living in poor technical conditions and low insulated houses and at the same time have no financial resources to improve their situation. Our project aims to help them cut down energy bills with door and window insulation and practical information about smart energy use in households.

Partnership for cutting down energy bills

Energiaklub and Red Cross Hungary (Pest County) started to build up a model cooperation in 2007. The model also aims to get experiences on how two organizations with different professions and working area can work together for a common target: help low-income households cutting down their energy bills. The first step had been to find financial sources to initiate a pilot project.

Every little thing helps

Partner organizations initiated a pilot project "*Every little thing helps*" in 2008 in Pest County. The project aimed at insulating windows and doors of 50-60 homes that could lead to reduction of heating costs up to 15-20%, and ensure a better comfort for the tenants. Volunteers of Red Cross were involved in the implementation.





Methodology and tools and materials for a durable and affordable door and window insulation were provided by Energiaklub. Red Cross ensured the human capacity from its pool of volunteers for the implementation, and provided a well functioning everyday connection to the target group.

The project supported environmental and social goals together. Energy efficiency has not only economic and financial aspects; its benefit is measurable in reduced CO₂ emissions.

About the project: <http://energiaklub.hu/en/project/every-little-thing-helps>

Trainings for volunteers

Energiaklub and Red Cross organized 3 trainings for volunteers in 2009 and 2010 in 3 different regions of Pest County. After the trainings the participants helped spreading out information about the project in the local community selecting the households. Not all but some of them were able to carry out the insulation work as well.



Implementation of the insulation work

After the trainings - until the end of 2010 - volunteers implemented the insulation work in 60 houses in the county (in 5 villages: Zsámbék, Herceghalom, Pilis, Maglód és Letkés) in all cases coordinated by a local leader of Red Cross. The tenants gave absolutely positive feedback on the project.





Financing

Trainings and Insulation works were implemented as a separated part of a complex project *"Every little thing helps"* of Energiaklub and was financed by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. 1,6 MFt (ca. 6000 Euro) budget was allocated for trainings, tools and insulation materials.

Follow up the project

Trainings and methodology transfer established a new way of thinking in terms of social solutions within Red Cross Hungary Pest County. This new approach and knowledge serves as a guarantee for the follow up of the project.

However the former financial frame has been closed we want to take the experiences and good working relations further, and continue the activities in this field. Energiaklub takes part as a partner in a European project financed by Intelligent Energy for Europe framework, that ensures a new financial opportunity to keep up the cooperation. The European project aims to help low-income households reducing energy bills. In further professional cooperation with the social sector Energiaklub wants to provide practical information and low-cost energy efficiency solutions for these households.

