

D4.1 PROGRESS REPORT PUBLIC AUTHORITIES -PUBLIC SUMMARY (D4.1: INVOLVEMENT OF EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES)

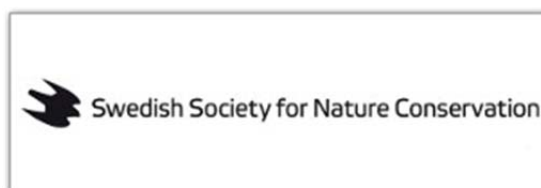
WP4: Empowering market players at national level

Task 4.1: Public authorities – empowering and adapting strong policies

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Project Partners



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About ProCold

The general objective of the ProCold-project is to empower private stakeholders and public authorities in adapting and enforcing EU and national energy efficiency policies in the sector of professional cold products.

A specific objective is to ensure more energy efficient professional cold products enter the EU market and increase their market shares, thereby contributing to the EU's energy efficiency goals and policies.

The product groups concerned relate to products cooling, refrigerating or freezing foodstuff and drinks in professional premises – from public buildings, to hotels, retailers and canteens. These represent significant energy consumption, important differences exist between various models of the same product category, but, due to lack of clear regulation and lack of information, the potential for more energy efficient models remains untapped.

The legislation concerned is the one regulating the minimum energy performance standards (Ecodesign) and energy labelling, as well as public procurement activities. The project benefits from ideal timing, since a number of the above mentioned product groups do not have an energy efficiency regulation in place, but these are planned to be developed and the project would therefore contribute to the knowledge of public authorities and policy makers on the specific performance characteristics of these product groups, based on which an effective legislation could be implemented and monitored.

Target groups of this project are threefold:

- Empowering public authorities in implementing effective policies on energy efficiency of professional cold products
- Motivating product manufacturers and suppliers in delivering more efficient models to the market
- Working with the food industry, retailers, building operators and other stakeholders in demanding and procuring more efficient professional cold products.

More information: www.topten.eu/pro-cold

Project progress at EU-level

- In total, 559 contacts have been established so far (396 fully, 163 partly¹), of which 9 with public authorities at EU-level (9 fully, none partly).
- ProCold has already activated several ways to support the EU-level policy process:
 - The ProCold team uses an expanding network of technical experts and public authorities (e.g. Member States) to coordinate and improve evidence of best-available-technology and policy recommendations.
 - Policy Recommendations are regularly published and disseminated:
 - Refrigerated storage cabinets (April 2015, August 2015)
 - Refrigerated display cabinets (September 2015, March 2016)
 - Household refrigerating appliances² (January 2016)
 - ProCold participated in two meetings with the Commission on Lot12 organised by Eurovent and handed in specific comments on the there discussed draft label and ecodesign measures.

ProCold / Topten selection criteria are quoted in the technical report for EU Green Public Procurement (GPP) criteria for food and catering services by JRC Joint Research Centre, and ProCold provided further comments on the technical report during consultation period in April 2016.

- Policies for energy efficient refrigeration also face some challenges:
 - EU labelling and ecodesign regulations are totally new for the majority of manufacturers, food and beverage industry, retailers etc. The ProCold project hopes to really make a difference and help all concerned market players to adapt more easily to the new rules and to quickly start using the new tools for procurement etc. Public authorities can also play a very important role in supporting the market players to adapt to the new rules.
 - Proactive communication about coming EU energy labels and rules is certainly appreciated. For example, ProCold issued press releases on the new EU label for storage cabinets in the national languages of the project partners.
 - Questions and answers officially published by the EC or standardisation bodies could help to eliminate uncertainties regarding test methods, scope of the regulations etc.
 - For example, some manufacturers reported it was not clear whether they were allowed to communicate about the label before

¹ "Fully" means we established contact to a suitable person and informed with our brochures about ProCold, our goals and benefits for stakeholder. First achievements might have been achieved. "Partly" means that we contacted and informed a suitable person but that we have not yet received an answer.

² So far, wine coolers and minibars intended for commercial use are not included in the scope of the ecodesign and labelling regulations for household refrigerating appliances, even though they are technically equivalent to products marketed for domestic use. ProCold recommends closing this gap in the currently on-going revision.

its official date of entry into force. This may partly explain why so few manufacturers were exhibiting the label at the 2015 HOST fair, the last large public opportunity to do so.

- Market surveillance (and fair play of all market players) is one of the biggest concerns of manufacturers. The EU Member States (being responsible for market surveillance) will strongly influence the acceptance and efficacy of the new rules, depending on how much resources they can put to level the playing field on their national market and to provide to manufacturers a process to deal with doubts about competitors.
- ProCold will support EFCEM (European Federation of Catering Equipment Manufacturers) in establishing a harmonized procedure for resolving questions between competing manufacturers as a complementary measure next to Member States' market surveillance.
- Because of the delays in the EU policy process for Lot12 and in the new EN standards development, uncertainty regarding product declaration remains.
 - Identification of best products, green procurement guidelines etc. will be far easier when the EU energy label is finalised.
 - ProCold will have to rely on the latest draft versions for the product competition, even if all the players are aware that the final procedures will be different.

Project progress in the 8 countries

- In the 8 countries AT, CH, CZ, DE, FR, IT, PT, SE there have been 46 contacts established with public authorities (25 fully, 21 partly):

Contacts	AT	CH	CZ	DE	FR	IT	PT	SE	Total
Established	0	5	1	3	2	9	1	4	25
Partly established	0	0	6	0	1	4	0	10	21
Total	0	5	7	3	3	13	1	14	46

- Also at national level, the ProCold teams have found several ways to support policies for energy efficiency in professional/commercial refrigeration:
 - The negotiation with KPC, a federal funding management institution, have led to a possible funding/rebate programme for professional cold storage cabinets in Austria following the Swiss example. The final discussions and negotiations will take place in September 2016.
 - In Switzerland, the rebate programme could be extended to the whole country (before it was regionally limited to 9 cities and cantons) and will likely be confirmed soon for a prolongation until the end of 2017.
 - The Swiss ProCold team worked out a feasibility study about policy and procurement measures for efficient refrigerated vending machines and water dispensers on behalf of the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (final report expected by end of 2016).
 - In Czech Republic, the network of ecological consulting NGOs (abbr. STEP) will open a new section dedicated to commercial refrigeration on their green public procurement website. Municipality magazines, with support of the ProCold-team, communicate about new energy labels and procurement in public authorities.
 - In Italy and Sweden, municipalities are starting to use ProCold-selection criteria for green public procurement. Activities to implement procurement criteria a) on national level, and b) as legally binding criteria are on-going. Public authorities actively communicate the ProCold-selection criteria in both countries. This gives important support for the measures.
 - In France a regulation passed end of April 2016 obliges State level procurement officers to choose the most energy efficient products. How to identify those products is not systematically defined and the ProCold product lists could be a basis.
 - The ProCold team will work out a study about public procurement of professional cooling in Sweden after summer 2016.