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Dear Staccato-partners

This is the first newsletter about the Staccato project. I hope you will read this newsletter with pleasure. It zooms in on the different demonstration sites in Staccato and the progress made on these sites since the Kick-off Meeting.

In February of this year we have had a fruitful Kick-off Meeting in Amsterdam. For two days (the Steering Committee for three days) the Staccato partners met and worked with each other. We discussed the project and made the first appointments. These appointments can be found in the minutes of the meeting (these were send to you by mail on 5 March 2008).

Since the Kick-off Meeting the project really took off. The first construction activities have been done, important decisions are made, the first questionnaires are made and a first attempt to make a more detailed calculation of the energy solutions is done. That is what our project is all about: achievement!

The Project Management Office joined a meeting of CONCERTO PLUS in Brussels in February. A brief summary can be found in this newsletter. One of the other activities of the Project Management Office is to complete the contract with the European Commission. Due to some difficulties we are still busy obtaining the bank guarantees. Soon we expect the approval of the EU and pre-financing from then on will follow. The next activity on the agenda is the Steering Committee Meeting on 29 and 30 May 2008 in Hungary. We will inform you all about the outcomes of that meeting in June.

With kind regards,

Wilfred van der Plas

CONCERTO PLUS

From 19th to 20th of February 2008 the Opening Event for CONCERTO projects of generation II was taking place. CONCERTO PLUS is designed to respond to the needs of an effective take-off of the 'sustainable communities' concept.



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Through integration measures, political motivation and awareness rising, CONCERTO PLUS will play the pivotal role on the overall plans of the CONCERTO initiative. During the meeting a CONCERTO guide is presented to the attendances. This document can be found on the www.mayeticvillage.com/staccato. It also can be found on the website of CONCERTO PLUS. In April you all received an email from Gabi Schoen with a log in and password for this site.

Demonstration site Amsterdam-Noord

The Dutch Housing Associations Ymere and Eigen Haard have been busy with the preparations of the construction. The coordination of the activities concerning the ceiling of the walkway is finished. The aluminum window and doorframes are tested water and windproof. At the moment the carrying construction of the solar collectors is worked out. The replacement of the wooden window and doorframes is tested on feasibility. Would it be better to replace the frames by new ones or is it possible to maintain them? The presence of sealant with asbestos plays an important role in this decision. In April we started with the removal of the ceilings of the walkways. The main supply of the boiler house

number four is ready to be broken up. More than 400 households will be without a heating system from May till the beginning of October. In June the first two dwellings will be dealt with, these will be the example dwellings. On 15 September 2008 the major construction work will start.



Demonstration site Budapest-Obuda

Since the kick-off meeting the Municipality of Obuda and the Hungarian partners worked on setting up the National project organization. In practice this means that Obuda has selected the necessary premises (for the project office), has chosen project (including municipal) officers and started with the selection of buildings to be renovated. In close consultation with the owners associations the municipality of Obuda has selected a large panel building existing out of 880 flats. In the month of March the city council of Obuda has made a council decision on

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the Staccato building. Accordingly the owners' association of this building has formally decided that the municipality of Obuda will lead the renovation project and will help the association with the necessary funding. For example, Obuda will help them to draw up a so called Panel Plus subsidy proposal (structural funds), and to organize a bank loan for the individual flat owners. The National project team has started with a visit to the building complex and with collecting the technical data necessary for the pre-feasibility study. In the coming month the pre-feasibility study will be worked out, and an update of the first 18 months will be made. In the next weeks the National project organization is organizing the next Staccato Steering Committee Meeting that will be held in Budapest (Obuda) on the 29th and the 30th of May.



Demonstration site Sofia-Oborishte

The Bulgarian partners of Staccato have, acquainting themselves with the peculiarities of an EU funded project, started to tackle the first local barriers of renovating residential blocks in Oborishte.

Under WP3, technical feasibility studies are on the way to precise further energy concepts for the different type of blocks that are likely to be renovated. Also social-economical research has been put in motion, which is seen as vital also to inform apartment owners of the Staccato project. The district has seen a lot of interest in renovation projects, having received feedback from representatives of about 100 different blocks. The need to improve pre-1990 blocks is clearly high, as is shown from the first results of a government backed renovation program in which also Enemona has been involved as contractor of the renovation works. Enemona is actively targeting the 'market', both in Sofia and elsewhere in Bulgaria, for renovating residential blocks by offering renovation services on the basis of different business models. The Staccato project can clearly straighten out the playing field and increase business incentives and market sizes.

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The Bulgarian Housing Association is advising a parliamentary committee on changes to the current condominium law, where an important barrier for apartment owners to participate in any renovation scheme, the 100% approval, is expected to be approved by Bulgarian parliament later this year. Connections are made to international players who have shown interest in supporting the project, for example include funding mechanisms for low-income categories.

On the short term, a mechanism will be designed to select the blocks that can enter the Staccato project, as well as a description of the works vis-à-vis the budget for the actual renovation activities.



Agenda

- o 29-30 May 2008 Steering Committee Meeting
- o 11-13 February 2009 Project Team Meeting



Staccato is a project of the concerto initiative co-funded by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme