



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ENERGY/2002/5  
26 July 2002

Original: ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY  
Twelfth session, 20-21 November 2002  
(Agenda item 8)

**NETWORKING AND INTERNET APPLICATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING  
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICIES**

Note by the secretariat 1/

1. Information and communication technology (ICT) has greatly enhanced access to information and data sharing, increased the quantity and speed of communications and networking among individuals and institutions, opened up new business avenues and prospects, and expanded opportunities for public participation in decision-making. Increasingly, ICT is being applied to better implement the UNECE programme of work in the field of sustainable energy. ICT is being used to inform delegations and others of the programme of work of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the provision of technical assistance; to facilitate attendance at meetings and events; to provide access and download facilities for documentation; to foster information exchange and promote communications between officials and institutions, including on-line dialogue facilities (web forum); to provide access and interchange of data and information on projects and initiatives; and to provide links to other useful websites.
2. This note describes the contribution of the Internet and the networks serviced by UNECE websites to implementing the UNECE programme of work in the field of sustainable energy. The Internet based dialogue and dissemination of information contributes mainly to two work programme elements: Sustainable Energy Strategies for the Twenty-First Century

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1/ Prepared with the assistance of Mr. Dimitri Vavov, Project Manager, Centre for Energy Efficiency (EnEffect), Sofia, Bulgaria.

and Rational Use of Energy, Efficiency and Conservation (ECE/ENERGY/47). The UNECE makes wide use of Internet linked networks and websites in this field for the Committee on Sustainable Energy, the Gas Centre and the Regional Network for the Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources (RENEUER). In addition, the UNECE networks are linked to related websites such as the Municipal Network for Energy Efficiency (MUNEE) project supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), implemented by the Alliance to Save Energy.

3. Under this agenda item, delegations will be asked for their views regarding the use of ICT to promote the development and implementation of the ECE programme of work in energy. In the following sections of this note each of the four main websites developed and used for the sustainable energy activities of UNECE are described by the activity or project they serve; the website address, structure, contents and webmaster; website connections, links and network; applications and uses for information transfer. The Energy Efficiency 21 Project website is further analysed to show its pattern of use and the content management approach developed for this application. An additional review is provided for the RENEUER and MUNEE websites. The description of these websites and networks may also serve as an example of information and communication technology (ICT) for the European regional preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in Geneva hosted by the Government of Switzerland on 10-12 December 2003.

A. COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

4. Summary description of the website and network:

- (a) Activity or project served by website: the Committee on Sustainable Energy; Working Party on Gas; Gas Centre (see below); Energy Efficiency 21 Project (see below); Regional Advisory Services; Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal and Thermal Power; Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the UN Framework Classification for Reserves and Resources; Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Extension of European Electricity Interconnections; Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Natural Gas Resources and on the Supply and Use of Gas.
- (b) Website address, structure and contents: [www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org) / Sustainable Energy; home page and subsidiary pages for each Ad Hoc Group of Experts; links to separate websites of Gas Centre and Energy Efficiency 21 Project; calendar of meetings; agendas; UNECE documents; UNOG security registration forms for meetings; Power-Point presentations delivered during meetings; information for meeting participants on hotels, the City of Geneva including maps, currency exchange rates; and an on-line web Forum.
- (c) Webmaster: UNECE secretariat and Gas Centre staff.

Website connections, links and network: the home page of the Committee on Sustainable Energy is connected to two separate websites of Gas Centre and Energy Efficiency 21 Project; the website serves the UNECE sustainable energy community, a network of experts, managers and policy makers from government departments, energy industries, the private sector, international organisations and the United Nations system.

Applications and uses for information transfer: the main purpose of the website is to inform participants in the UNECE sustainable energy activities about the work implemented by the

Committee on Sustainable Energy, its expert groups and technical assistance projects; it provides access to all the documents in English, French and Russian that are used in the UNECE inter-governmental dialogue, including the audio-visual presentations made during meetings; the website provides assistance to participants in meetings, especially those held in Geneva with additional visitor information on the City of Geneva and United Nations conference facilities.

B. GAS CENTRE

5. Summary description of the website and network:

- (a) Activity or project served by website: the Gas Centre
- (b) Website address, structure and contents: [www.gascentre.unece.org](http://www.gascentre.unece.org); the website has a home page with subsidiary pages on the Gas Centre mission, projects and activities, personnel, latest news, documents and publications, data base, links with related institutions and business associations, and the Gas Centre Community Forum; the website is divided into a public version with general information and a restricted information domain including the gas industry data base accessible by password to Gas Centre participants.
- (c) Webmaster: Gas Centre staff of the UNECE secretariat.
- (d) Website connections, links and network: the Gas Centre is supported by 26 gas companies located in eastern and western UNECE member States, the direct participants of the natural gas industry in Gas Centre activities; the website serves this network of companies and has links to the websites of selected international organisations and energy industry associations related to the activities of the Gas Centre Community.
- (e) Applications and uses for information transfer: the Gas Centre website provides value added information transfer on its seminars and conferences, publications, on-line web forum and the Gas Centre Database. The Gas Centre Forum has conferences on Gas Market News, Gas Pricing Issues, Task Force 1 - EU Gas Directive, Task Force 2 - Gate 2010 (Transportation and Tariffs), Forum issues and policies, Database loading (questions and answers), Database contents and structure issues and the Database Technical Committee. The public access Database provides national monographs on the natural gas industry in 23 gas importing and exporting countries including sections on: energy and gas policy, legal and regulatory framework, structure of the gas industry, company profiles, restructuring of the gas industry, gas market, gas pricing policy, major actors, public mission, investment overview and international cooperation. More detailed information can be provided, but with restricted access. The website maintains a search function to provide responses to specific queries.

C. REGIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES (RENEUER)

6. Summary description of the website and network:

- (a) Activity or project served by website: the RENEUER project, sub-regional activity in south-eastern Europe of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project
- (b) Website address, structure and contents: www.reneuer.com is divided into two parts: an information handling and networking tool for the RENEUER project and the Win-Win Internet based business development software, an inter-active programme to match potential partners for trade in energy efficient technology and management practices. The RENEUER website has subsidiary pages on the project concept, network or participants, news releases and updates, a calendar of conferences and meetings, a listing of the project network participants and a directory of links to related websites, those of the main project participants and a search engine to provide additional information for specific queries. The Win-Win business development software invites visitors to log in with basic contact data and then provides a search capacity to look for energy efficiency projects, investors and host institutions.
- (c) Webmaster: Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect, Sofia, Bulgaria.
- (d) Website connections, links and network: both the RENEUER and the Win-Win Software have highly developed networking functions, extensive Internet links to related websites and serve clearly as an information and communications tool for linking south-east European project sponsors with potential international business partners and sources of project finance.
- (e) Applications and uses for information transfer: the website promotes the main objectives of the RENEUER project to help introduce efficient use of energy and water resources in the countries of south-eastern Europe through a network of experts, government agencies and international counterparts and serves as an on-line brokerage service for the initial stages of energy efficient technology trade.

D. ENERGY EFFICIENCY 21 PROJECT

7. Summary description of the website and network:

- (a) Activity or project served by website: the Energy Efficiency 21 Project with the support of the US Department of Energy and the UNF/UNFIP Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (ECE-CIS-99-043) sub-regional project in eastern Europe and the CIS.
- (b) Website address, structure and contents: www.ee-21.net provides project related information, calendars of events, project development documentation, an EE-21 Project

Forum, agendas and meeting reports and audiovisual PowerPoint presentations in relation to annual Steering Committee sessions.

- (c) Webmaster: Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect, Sofia, Bulgaria
- (d) Website connections, links and network: extensive connections are maintained with the network of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project comprising National Coordinators, representatives of National Participating Institutions in economies in transition, and international partners from government departments, commercial companies, banks, targeted funds and international organisations. This supports the Steering Committee in project implementation while providing a wide range of Internet links to participating institutions and companies. Key links include those to the RENEUER project and the Municipal Network for Energy Efficiency (MUNEE) developed by the Alliance to Save Energy with the support of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).
- (e) Applications and uses for information transfer: the website provides a value added information exchange on project activities, timing of training sessions, material posted on the website in relation to meetings, descriptions of energy efficiency demonstration zones, complete data on the investment project proposals, draft documents on energy efficiency policy reforms and information for potential investors. The website is used to inform project participants, promote communications between experts in participating countries and their international counterparts, enhance information exchanges in relation to project meetings including the annual session of the Steering Committee. The intention has been to have greater Internet exchanges before annual sessions to enhance the discussions during the meetings themselves. The successful application of this work method seems to be borne out by the usage statistics for the Energy Efficiency 21 website given below.

#### Energy Efficiency 21 Website Usage Statistics

8. This website began operating in April 2001 as a successor to the Internet site of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project which had been in operation since 1998. Initially information was provided mainly in relation to the Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation Project supported by the United Nations Foundation. Subsequently additional information has been included in relation to the annual session of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project Steering Committee held in November 2001 which may account for the higher use of the website in the months preceding the annual session.

9. Similar increased usage can be seen in the results for the May-June 2002 period, the main reason being another annual session which took place in the last week of June 2002. In advance of the meeting a total of 14 documents related to the session were posted on the website starting with the Provisional Agenda for this Thirteenth Session of the Steering Committee. The documents included reports and notes from the UNECE secretariat as well as National Coordinators' presentations from several countries, and presentations from experts from such organisations as the UNDP, the Vekst Foundation, Institute for Energy Technology (IFE) and the Clean Energy Group. A detailed timetable for the meetings held 24-26 June was also posted online on the website prior to the events. Additional reports and presentations were added after the session so that the website could host a complete record of this central event for the Energy Efficiency 21 programme for the year 2002. The table below shows that the number of visits to the EE-21

website during the month of the Thirteenth Session increased by more than 30% over the visits from earlier this year.

Summary of the Monthly Totals for Usage of the [www.ee-21.net](http://www.ee-21.net) Website

Month	Hits	Files	Visits	Sites	Pages
Jun 2002	17,070	7,970	446	366	2,556
May 2002	9,530	4,934	337	268	1,809
Apr 2002	9,001	6,101	334	279	1,590
Mar 2002	8,730	5,338	331	270	825
Jan 2002	8,670	4,556	332	260	417
Dec 2001	9,800	4,875	348	226	472
Nov 2001	12,776	6,369	380	261	658
Oct 2001	15,171	5,314	264	176	508
Sep 2001	6,108	4,140	210	540	660
Aug 2001	6,883	3,913	235	323	805
Jul 2001	7,061	3,667	187	226	510
Jun 2001	9,721	3,106	182	150	525
May 2001	8,205	3,106	167	152	751
Apr 2001	5,042	1,319	88	76	462

#### E. CONTENT MANAGEMENT CENTRED APPROACH

10. All of the Internet applications helping the UNECE in the implementation of its programme of work in the field of sustainable energy are content centred and do not have a commercial character. The main value of these websites and the networks is the content they offer and the services they present to their members. The networking technology platform is the key to effective content use and distribution. Technology advances now allow for websites to be used to actively facilitate communications, promote projects and products, deliver information and services. Complexity and speed have created the demand for automated ways to effectively manage website content. The consistent organisation of the information posted on the website makes navigation on and between web pages easy.

11. The first version of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project website started as a traditional set of "static" web pages. They were designed and posted on the web server in their finished, complete form. (An example can be seen in any of the pages with programme documents. Their content has been finalized and does not require frequent update and maintenance). Static pages are simply delivered to a browser when requested.

12. As the website grew and became more complex its maintenance required the use of a dynamic platform. A “dynamic” page is one that is put together by the server, using one or more pre-existing templates and combining them with user input (selection) into the final page, which is delivered to the browser. Any of the pages showing content related to Events, Library of documents, Energy Efficiency projects, pressed for contemporary content management tools. Organizing such content as a database and giving visitors the option to search and filter the content led to the gradual transfer of sections of the EE-21 website to a dynamic page platform.

13. With static pages, maintenance can become a cumbersome task leading to frustrations and errors. Making changes to common page elements is much easier with a dynamic system. The maintenance task can even be entrusted to those specific project managers or participants for material to be posted on the website. Selected members of the EE-21 community (such as the National Coordinators, the demonstration zone representatives), can have secure access to their section of the website and be responsible for its updating. Another critical consideration for the UNECE sustainable energy Internet applications is to allow for their scalability and flexibility in order to meet future site requirements. Being still at their initial stages the websites are expected to face new requirements and challenges.

14. Web content management based solutions save time, improve communications, and strengthen networking. Choosing the right Web content management solution requires some analysis of the capabilities needed to meet current and future operational needs. While the “front-end” site requirements (how the site should deliver content, and to whom) guide its development, the “back end” of the website is key for successful site management, maintenance, while meeting budget requirements. When analysing site requirements consideration was given to:

- How often content needs to be updated;
- The extent of content changes that are required;
- The “ripple effect” associated with content changes (i.e., number of pages affected by a single change) and difficulty of identifying and updating all pages affected by a change;
- The number of authors contributing site content and their physical locations;
- What types of content (e.g., image, video, and other media files) will be used ;
- Approvals required before content is posted;
- Support for multiple languages;
- If content presentation must consistently conform to appearance standards;
- Whether content must be viewable across a range of hardware platforms and browsing devices.

15. The choice for a contemporary web platform for a dynamic website at this time has been made in favour of I-DECS. This new I-net Dynamic Enterprise Content Server offers key features that promise to match the requirements for the UNECE class of websites. I-DECS is also doing so at a very competitive cost. The team of professionals at DecArt (Bulgaria) is developing an ambitious programme for Internet design services. The first website making the transition to the I-DECS platform in July 2002 is the ee-21.net to be followed by mune.org and later by the reneuer.com. Some of the specifications for I-DECS are listed in the Annex to this note. Next is a more detailed review of the structure of the EE-21 website. For the other UNECE Internet applications some specific characteristics are noted in the following sections.

## F. REVIEW OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY 21 PROJECT WEBSITE

16. The design of the website started in March 2001 with the immediate task of taking over all network activities covered by the [www.ee2000.org](http://www.ee2000.org) website and servicing the EE-21 community and its Steering Committee. The website became operational in April 2001. In the next few months its structure evolved to include the following main sections.

17. About EE 21: is the first introductory section. It presents information on all main project documents, including:

- Energy Efficiency 21 Project
  - EE 21 Project Plan (its objectives, activities and outputs, work methods, participation, procedures and budget)
  - EE 21 Project Strategy
  - Sub-regional projects (the UNF/UNFIP Investment project; RENEUER; the Central Asia project)
- UNF/UNFIP Investment project
  - The main Project description document
  - Selection Criteria for individual investment projects
  - Standard project identification form
  - Contact information for the main National project coordinators
- EE 2000 Project – with brief retrospective information for this 5 year project, which preceded the EE 21 Project.

18. EE Projects – this next section is dedicated to the individual energy efficiency projects presented within the framework of the UNF/UNFIP Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (ECE-CIS-99-043) sub-regional project in Eastern Europe and the CIS. It is further referred to as the UNF/UNFIP Investment project. The scale of this project and the comprehensive work on its implementation naturally led to the allocation of a separate section for its presentation on the website. The project coordinates a broad range of activities focused on identifying and developing energy efficiency projects within selected demonstration zones in the participating countries. As the number of individual energy efficiency projects increased, they were structured and published as part of a custom database for the EE-21 website. The database helps to formalise and streamline the content by using several key forms developed by the experts of the Steering Committee. Each project is being initially presented within the standard Project ID Form approved by the EE-21.

19. A team of international experts evaluated 72 proposals for EE Investment projects using criteria approved by the EE-21 Steering Committee. Their appraisals were published within the EE-21 Library. The website posted in detail 63 accepted projects using the database platform. Some of the projects presented by the Russian Federation do have a second language version (in Russian) and are available for download as MS Word documents. Having in mind that the projects are coming from more than 20 energy efficiency demonstration zones within 5 countries, it soon became clear that additional and repetitive editing might be required for some of the EE projects in order to achieve common language and allow for useful comparisons and analysis. Therefore a custom user-friendly interface menu was developed for the database content administrator allowing for continuing editing of the data after the initial posting without any intervention on behalf of the web design team.



20. The website allows for the set of projects to be approached by a visitor using one of the following sorting criteria:

- participating country (Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine);
- one of four major EE categories (Heat supply, Street lighting, Buildings, or Industry),
- any of the 21 established Demonstration zones.

Additional description has been compiled and posted for each of the Countries and most of the Demonstration zones. (When possible, such description includes local links for further details). Keeping this information current is an obligation of the National country coordinators and Demonstration zone specialists, though the webmaster posted comparable country information using sources such as Encyclopaedia Britannica. The Russian Federation has developed a dedicated website covering local energy efficiency demonstration zones and the EE-21 Project. The [www.rusdem.com](http://www.rusdem.com) website solves the problem for presenting the UNF/UNFIP Investment project and the EE-21 Project in the Russian language to Internet visitors.

21. In early 2002 detailed business plans were finalised for selected energy efficiency projects. The business plans are being developed with the support of UNECE organised training courses in all participating countries. Those new documents required an upgrade and re-design of the EE Project database. As documents to be posted in Internet the business plans presented a different challenge. Although following a standard table of content structure their data and the way it has been presented differ substantially from one case to another. Multiple tables, graphics, pictures, all pointed toward a classical information solution with packing the individual documents for download. Still, with guidance and support from the EE-21 Steering Committee, the web design team were committed to finding a solution for an efficient HTML presentation of the business plans. Their incorporation into the existing project database is in process. In late June 2002 the first business plans were posted on the website within a new sub-section in parallel with the Project Identification pages. As the evaluation of individual EE projects progresses, their Financing Status is reported in a separate web page.

22. Calendar of events: this section is organised as a small database. It was started originally only for UNECE events. From April 2002 a new section was opened for other Energy Efficiency related events that are not being directly sponsored by UNECE. The website verifies daily the end dates for all posted events and will automatically move an expired event from the Forthcoming Events section to the Past Events section.

23. A visitor to the website has the opportunity to propose a new event to be posted. The Add an event button leads to a standard event description form allowing for the entry of:

- up to 3 event Topics
- the Place of the venue
- Start and End dates
- listing up to 2 contact persons with their phone and email information
- option for URL link to a website with additional information for the event
- option to attach Word doc file with additional information
- short description of the event

In the case of a proposal for a new event, all information is sent to the webmaster of the ee-21.net website. New events are posted only after review, verification and approval. A total of 21 events were covered for the first year of the website.

24. Library with UNECE documents: one of the most actively visited sections. A total of 32 documents were included in the Library during the first year of hosting for the EE-21 website. When available, documents are listed in all three official languages of the UNECE (English, French, and Russian) as translations become available. The popular formats used are MS Word .doc, Adobe .pdf and compressed .zip files. File compression is standard for any Power Point presentations. In order to improve performance of the website, save download time, and minimise phone lines connection problems, compressed file formats are being increasingly used. The size of a file is listed as part of its description along with icons for its language and file format. All posted documents come with a short description. The goal of the website is to follow a standard format, post information on the timing of the document (month and year) and give credit to its authors.

25. After its opening the Library gradually evolved into five main categories:

(a) **Agendas and Reports for upcoming events**

This category offers an example of the website being used as an information and communication tool servicing an UNECE meeting. Such meetings are marked with:

- detail planning and preparatory work by the secretariat in Geneva;
- extensive international participation;
- busy agenda within very limited time frame;
- multiple reports and presentations on several key topics.

As a result one of the main focuses of the EE-21 website is to facilitate the meetings by presenting participants from many countries well in advance with as much information as possible. Starting with the Provisional Agenda for the meeting, the website posts individual papers as the EE-21 Secretariat gathers and accepts them. When successful, this process offers all participants, well in advance of a meeting, an on-line library that not only contains all key material, but is also available 24-hours a day and 7-days a week. Such an approach can decisively allow for improved effectiveness. Participants can walk into a meeting prepared and familiar with most of the documents to be presented.

(b) After the conclusion of a given event, most of the related documents are being moved to the next Library category – **Reports from Meetings**. Some of the documents may be grouped (or bundled) into one or more zipped files for a particular event. Such an archive can be kept in the library for further reference. After each event the EE-21 Steering Committee Secretariat prepares an official Report for the meeting which is published individually and becomes the leading document.

(c) **Work in Progress** – another useful section in the Library serves to help various studies and status reports that are in progress and are part of a project plan. Using the website all participants in a study can share latest Table of Contents, preliminary and status reports, etc.

(d) **EE Business Plans** – is the latest section opened within the Library. Its purpose is to accommodate files with Business Plans for energy efficiency investment projects. As the

Project database is being expanded further, this section is expected to become complementary to the web (HTML) pages published for individual business plans.

- (e) The final results from studies that have been concluded already are usually posted in the last section of the Library – **Miscellaneous Documents**. For practical reasons this section will also accept a document that does not fall into any of the preceding categories. Various official documents such as reports, evaluations, official forms, etc., can be found within the Miscellaneous documents.

26. Still another section of the ee-21 website is a database with Links to other Internet sites. The Links are being grouped by region or affiliation. The current categories used for Links are:

- Regional
- International
- For UN related sites
- From the United States

This section of the website has about 40 links and is expected to grow naturally with the proliferation of Internet and energy efficiency websites in the region.

27. Again, an important feature of the EE-21 website is that a visitor has the option to propose new additions for any of the following 4 major sections:

- Events
- Documents
- Links to useful sites
- Topics for the forum

All proposals are reviewed by the webmaster and posted only after verification and proper approval.

#### G. REVIEW OF THE RENEUER WEBSITE

28. The RENEUER initiative was first introduced at the Regional Conference held in Sofia, November 1999, with the support of UNECE, UNDP, USAID, and other international organisations. In May 2000 the RENEUER concept was presented to the Steering Committee of the UNECE Energy Efficiency 21 Project in Geneva. The RENEUER network includes eight countries in South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Yugoslavia).

29. The design of the RENEUER website started in 2000 initially with the Win-Win-Business project (WWB). The development of the website was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and with the guidance of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Richland, Washington, USA. The Win-Win-Business collects information on energy efficiency projects. At the same time WWB has been designed to follow-up on ongoing and completed projects. In this way the network provides its members with the platform to:

- share Lessons Learned,
- determine issues to be approached, and
- promote success stories from the region.

30. Win-Win-Business is a database with several sections:

- energy efficiency projects
- profiles of host organisations behind each individual project
- partner organisations with expertise in the field of energy efficiency
- financial institutions and potential investors in the emerging regional energy market.

The main goal of the WWB section of the website is to become a meeting point for investors, equipment suppliers and service providers with local companies and institutions hosting energy efficiency projects.

31. An important feature for the RENEUER network and the WWB database is to allow visitors to the website to present new entries for projects, partners, investors and hosts. Each corresponding section of the website offers the option for download of a template or the online filling in of a form. After review from the webmaster and proper approval, such new entries are being posted on the website. Such features allow for RENEUER members to take an active role in the support and maintenance of the website.

32. The RENEUER website also offers pages on the project concept, network or participants, news releases and updates, a calendar of conferences and meetings, a listing of the project network participants and a directory of links to related websites, those of the main project participants and a search engine. The network participants are included in a database allowing for on-line additions, searches and easier maintenance. Visitors entering the NETWORK section can search for participants by one or more countries and by the type of organisation (governmental, NGO, municipal, private company, individual members). In addition full lists of all registered members can be viewed sorted alphabetically by Name or by Country. The registration form for a new participant can be downloaded from the website to be filled in off-line, or the New Participant button from the section can be used for on-line registration. Another specific characteristic for this website feature is the section with Country Profiles completed in 2000-2001 with the active participation of some of the countries from the region. The goal of this section is to gather economic, business and legislative information with special attention being paid to the energy sector.

33. After its establishment in 2000-2001 the RENEUER website is entering a new stage of development. With support from the UNECE, reneuer.com will be moved to a dynamic platform allowing for much more active participation from its membership base. The region of Southeast Europe is affected by complicated transition process on its way to integration with Western Europe. Networks like the RENEUER have the ambitious goal and a reasonable chance of providing much needed brokerage services for the initial stages in the establishment of energy efficient technology trade in the region.

#### H. REVIEW OF THE MUNEE WEBSITE

34. Through the Municipal Network for Energy Efficiency programme, USAID and UNECE are seeking new ways to disseminate positive energy efficiency experiences in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and of the former Soviet Union. The Alliance to Save Energy is providing assistance and management for the programme while using extensively expertise of key partner organisations. The MUNEE website is servicing a much wider audience and a larger geographical region. Centred on Energy and Water Efficiency MUNEE is targeting specialists and officials at Municipal level. There are thousands of municipalities in the countries

of Eastern Europe and the CIS countries, which could benefit from content on energy and water efficiency.

35. Languages. Because of the above mentioned, the MUNEE website is making the effort to include a multi-language section (8-10 pages) with general information on the MUNEE programme. At present the ABOUT MUNEE section is available in following languages (listed by the sequence of their posting on the website):

- Russian
- Bulgarian
- Polish
- Ukrainian
- Romanian
- Armenian

The Serbian language section leads to an independent website for Serbia developed successfully by the Alliance to Save Energy office in Belgrade.













36. Although the MUNEE website does not have the goal and resources to cover the network activities in any of the local languages for the region, it is open to include custom sub-sections in the About section when the national MUNEE coordinators have the initiative and provide useful material. Such is the case with the Russian language section, which features some Success Stories in Russian, in addition to their coverage in the main Case Studies part of the website.

- (a) Quick News. Another section started for the MUNEE website (and to be introduced also for the EE-21 and RENEUER websites) is the Quick News. This is a tool allowing the webmaster not only to post current news, but also to draw the attention of visitors to new developments within the website itself. The addition of a new sub-section, new document, etc. can go unnoticed, unless it is given some space in the Quick News box. Taking a look at the log with messages from the Quick News section we find out that a total of 16 were posted for a period of 8 months. Twelve of those messages also pointed to developments newly covered on the MUNEE website. For example, the addition of several pages on the RENEUER Initiative was noted in the Quick News for a month starting 10 June 2002.
- (b) Bulletins. Since its inception the MUNEE Programme prepares a bimonthly Bulletin. While the bulletin is being sent out by email to selected and registered members of the MUNEE community, the website gives chance a much wider audience the opportunity to become acquainted with the activities of the network. First the website keeps and archive for all MUNEE bulletins published so far. Second, it provides the interface for new visitors to register for the free bulletin. Third, it has started covering other MUNEE related national publications, such as the monthly APER Bulletin issued in both English and Romanian.









## ANNEX

## SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE i-DECS WEB MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

The i-DECS is a flexible and scaleable **web management platform**, designed to address the needs of companies seeking to improve both the quality of their web sites, and the process to keep them up-to-date and accurate. i-DECS has integrated all of the functionality demands to **empower users** throughout an organisation to easily create, manage and update their site with the tools they use everyday, the way they want it. Only a **browser and mouse** are needed- no new software to purchase, install or learn. At the same time the system's back-end provides administrators with powerful control to target the user's role access only to do his / her job. There are many features for webmasters and developers too, decreasing the total cost of developing, deploying and **managing global web sites**.

Content management	
 <b>Site pages manager</b>	i-DECS core module – managing and parsing all pages in the web site by sections, languages, style, layout, versions, etc.
 <b>Catalogue</b> Product/services	Catalogue listing products (defined by category, name, image, specification or link to documentation). Also quotes (promotions), prices, delivery terms, order management.
 <b>News</b> announce manager	Perfect for posting news about the company, industry, or the website. Very easy to administer.
 <b>Calendar</b> events manager	Allows promotion of events of interest. Automatic forthcoming / current / past sorting.
 <b>Library</b> files manager	With this module you have an online drive with different type of files for download, sorted by category, language, size and hits. Multiple MIME formats supported.
 <b>Publications</b> article manager	The module can be used for complex structured articles and reports by user defined multiple categories and sub-categories.
 <b>Contacts</b> profile manager	For business and personal profiles, indexed and subject to search by selected fields. Partner assistance by updating the records.
 <b>Links</b> URLs directory	A link directory for related sites and useful resources. Well organized in categories and easily updated. The link pulls up a separate browser window so the visitor does not leave the site.
 <b>Forum</b> discussion manager	Site visitors can take part in group discussions on any published topic.
 <b>Poll box</b> survey manager	This module can provide feedback and valuable information. Visitors can see the voting tallies as well as past polls if so configured.
 <b>Image Gallery</b>	Easy submission, searching and modifying images. Simply click Browse, choose the image you want to upload and click OK or add an existing image to your article, news, etc.
 <b>Ads server</b>	This module provides for the control and positioning of banners in the website. Set the number of impressions or time period for the ads to be listed on the credit statistics.
 <b>FAQs</b>	Answering frequently asked questions about your products and services. One of the most popular features, it can be an excellent resource centre for your site visitors.

**Control management**

 <b>Registration Member Login</b>	<p>This module allows for protection of certain areas of the site, as well as enabling different levels of membership to be set so that users can have different level of access.</p>
 <b>Statistics</b>	<p>Detailed daily, weekly and monthly statistics of site visits and user activity.</p>
 <b>Users and Rights</b>	<p>Managing site users, groups and their rights to add, view, modify and delete content items.</p>
 <b>Targeting and Personalization</b>	<p>Static: Sending ezine or news e-mails to all site members. Dynamic: Targeting site content on user site interest profile basis.</p>
<p><b>Additional applications</b></p>	
 <b>Search engine</b>	<p>Quick and advanced search in content meta data for all site items.</p>
 <b>Dynamic navigation</b>	<p>Site section / category / item navigator with sorting according to your choice</p>
 <b>Sitemap / TOC</b>	<p>Automatically updated dynamic map of the site structure by sections and categories.</p>
 <b>Control Centre administration suite</b>	<p>Full site administration suite to publish, edit and manage all of your content items, after log in with name and password.</p>