



## **Press Release No.2 (12<sup>th</sup> May 2016)**

As part of its research activity, HERON executed a survey concerning the barriers that affect the implementation of Energy Efficiency (EE) policies in the building and transport sectors.

**The survey:** In the previous activities of the project, partners identified and cross-analysed social, economic, cultural, institutional and educational barriers for all eight HERON partner countries, through a literature review and expert views, in order to assess country-specific barriers associated with different policy measures and technologies. Subsequently, partners launched a questionnaire-based online survey to gather further inputs from experts and stakeholders regarding the relevance of these barriers in their respective country.

**The aims:** The aims of the survey were: i) to collect experts' and stakeholders' opinions on the relevance of each barrier in each country, rating the relevance of the different barriers in influencing the degree of implementation of the EE policy instrument, technology or practice, as well as the interaction between the barriers; ii) to suggest possible ways to overcome them, iii) if necessary, to map additional barriers which had not been considered and iv) to rate the importance of different driving factors of EE policies, identified in the previous activities of the project.

**The questionnaire:** It was structured into two main parts (buildings /transport). Each part included general questions about the relevance of a set of barriers to the implementation of EE policies in the specific sector (building, transport), followed by a set of questions regarding specific types of interventions or technologies

The questionnaire comprised both closed and open questions. The closed questions were mainly aimed to obtain a rating of the barriers. The open questions were aimed to collect suggestions on additional barriers, their importance and possible ways to overcome them.

The survey was open from 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 until 7th March 2016. It was disseminated to EE 370 organizations<sup>1</sup> spread in the partner countries, representative of key target groups and stakeholders of EE policies, in particular experts and policy makers.

**The statistics:** Overall, 174 responses from target groups of the building sector were collected, 139 from the transport sector and 128 from respondents with expertise in both sectors. The majority of respondents were reluctant to declare their level of experience (about 35% in the building sector, about 40% in the transport sector). For those who declared it, about 46% for the buildings and 67% for the transport sector respectively have an experience of more than 5 years.

In the building sector, the categories involved in order of importance are government institutions (23%), universities and research centers (11%), non-profit organizations (9%), energy utilities (6%) and consumer associations (only 1%), while a 21% of respondents prefer not to indicate their type of organization. In the transport sector, the shares are similar, respectively government institutions (26%), universities and research centers (14%), non-profit organizations (10%), energy utilities (6%). The share of respondents preferring not to declare their type of organization is about 10%.

Given that the HERON survey is not based on a randomized and representative sample design, it is not possible to infer correlation neither causal implications between respondent groups and the different EE barriers listed in the questionnaire.

However, in order to identify the most important barriers in each sector as a whole, the barriers rated only as of “high relevance” will be selected and summed to obtain the total number of respondents in all the eight countries for each question's option in each sector. Then, a share for each answer's option will be calculated. This approach will lead the survey to the two most important barriers in each of the two sectors.

An overview of the survey's outcomes will be announced in the next press release.

<sup>1</sup> Number of organisations identified per country: Belgium: 26, Bulgaria: 41, Estonia: 46, Germany: 51, Greece: 44, Italy: 101, Serbia: 38, United Kingdom:25 and other (i.e. EU): 2.