



Europe for Citizens
Programme



Latvian National Association for Consumer
Protection

**“Promoting vulnerable consumers
knowledge and information of Energy
Efficiency”**

with the support of the Europe for Citizens
Programme of the European Union

The **Europe for Citizens Programme** supports a wide range of activities and organisations promoting “active European citizenship”.



Action – Active Citizens for Europe bringing together people from local communities across Europe to share and exchange experiences, opinions and values, to learn from history and to build for the future.

Project “Promoting vulnerable consumers knowledge and information of Energy Efficiency” is conducted under specific Programme measure — “Network of Twinned Towns”.

“Network of Twinned Towns” relies upon the voluntary commitment of citizens, in collaboration with their local authorities and local associations.

Due to the Programme conditions there is need for approval from the authority. The local authority giving its approval in the project is Riga Energy Agency (Riga City Council Agency).

Europe for Citizens Programme encourages exchanges of experiences on a variety of issues of common interest, thereby raising awareness on the advantages of finding concrete solutions at European level.

It provides unique opportunities to learn about the daily lives of citizens in other European countries, to talk to them and very often to develop friendships with them.

The programme have flat-rate financing (each EU country have different rate) in the form of scales of unit costs.

For the flat rate each participant is covering following action costs:

- 1) event costs;
- 2) communication tools costs;
- 3) coordination costs;
- 4) other costs that may arises during the project.

With the financial support from the Nordic Council of Ministers there where conducted project "Exchange of the best practice of natural and renewable Energy in Sweden, Latvia and Estonia" in 2010.

At the end of the project there was idea from project participants to continue the project by arranging field visits and educational seminars dedicated for the renewable energy issues.

In accordance with the main aim of the programme "Europe for Citizens" the idea of bringing renewable energy issue will be brought forward.



Rozkalni, 2010

The main aim of the project is – to promote information and knowledge rising awareness and debate among vulnerable consumers of EU citizens (LV/EE/LT/SE) as regards Energy Efficiency issues.

Definition of the “vulnerable consumer”:

In accordance with the 3rd Energy package EU defines “vulnerable consumer” and in the project it is formulated -

people from rural areas, people of pensionable age, unemployed people, unemployed young people.

- The reason for choosing vulnerable consumers is high unemployment rates in Baltic states.
- Many household live or are close to fuel poverty.
- The problem is likely to increase in the forthcoming years with rising energy prices and the economic downturn.
- The best examples of the renewable energy either in private or public sector have to be circulated

Project starting date
01/06/2011, end date **31/03/2012**

Project partners:

- 1) Tartu Consumer Advice and Information Centre
- 2) Lithuanian Consumer Institute
- 3) Göteborg Energi/Friends of the Earth

Team Leader Training in Tartu July/2011

- Renewable Energy Resources/District Heating and Wind Energy in Estonia/Combustion Tartu Fortum/Biogas Station

Team Leader Training in Goteborg August/2011

- District Heating/Energy Efficiency Houses "Passive houses"/District heating plant/Biogas production plant/Biogas for cars and public buses

There are scheduled two team leader trainings per project.

- Participants in the Team Leader Training are expected to take part in the educational seminars in Riga, Latvia.
- The role of the team leaders will be participate in the discussions and consult other participants of the educational seminar as regards renewable energy issues.
- To disseminate information as regards project findings and results.

Dissemination of the project information and main findings of the project:

- 1) Publications in the national newspapers in LV (Latvijas avize), EE (Postimees), LT (Lietuvos Rytas).
- 2) Create a link to the project website in each consumer organization web site.
- 3) Disseminate 10 CD's among LV/EE/LT consumer organizations.

- **CD** will be created of the main findings of the both Team Leader Trainings (Tartu, EE, Goteborg, SE), as regards ways and forms of renewable energy in Estonia and Sweden and practical examples of “passiv houses”, biogas production plants, biocars and biobuses etc.
- **Website**, including CD information, photos, factual information and videos of the team leader trainings (Tartu, EE, Goteborg, SE) and educational seminars (Riga, LV).

- Information requirement from the Europe for Citizens Programme is that in all the public information have to be stated name of the Europe for Citizens Programme and logo:



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Educational seminars in Riga, Latvia:

- 1) 29/30 September
- 2) 13th October till 14th October
- 3) 24th November till 25th November

There are scheduled three educational seminars per project.

Target audience of the educational seminars:

- 1) team leaders;
- 2) vulnerable consumers.

The 1st educational seminar:

“Climate Change and Energy Efficiency”
(Content -participants introduction;
Introduction audience with team leader visits in Tartu and Goteborg (distribution of CDs);
Visiting the power Industry Museum).

The 2nd educational seminar:

“District Heating and Energy Savings”
(Content – lecturer presentation; Visiting the Energy Efficiency Centre).

The 3rd educational seminar: “Harmful Emissions from the use of Energy. Environmental risks” (Content – lecturer presentation; Visiting the Energy Efficiency Centre).

The Power Industry Museum in Latvia



- Number of participants for the educational seminars in Riga, Latvia:

	September	October	November
LV	20	20	20
EE	10	10	10
LT	10	10	10