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ENERGY SERVICES - A NEW CHALLENGE FOR DOMESTIC & SMALL COMMERCIAL MARKET

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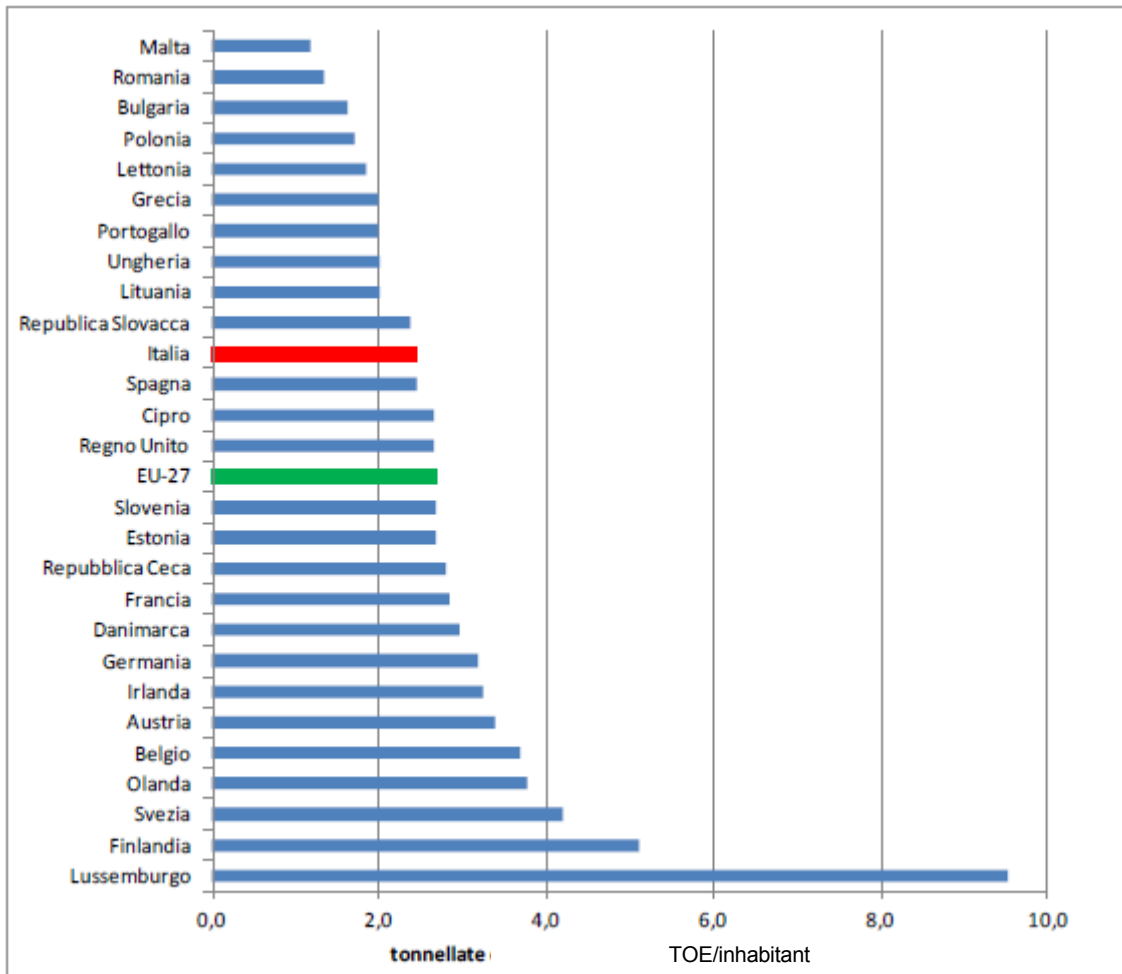
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BACKGROUND

The increase of energy needs and the lack of primary energy sources are one of the great matters of this period.

The development of energy services for different market segments is part of the answer at the Governments energy efficiency promotion initiatives to reduce energy consumption.



Picture 1: Final energy consumption (TOE/inhabitant) – year 2009 (source: ENEA elaboration on Eurostat data)

The European Union (EU) has identified in the directive 2006/32/EC the meaning of energy service as the physical benefit, utility or good derived from a combination of energy with energy efficient technology and/or with action, which may include the operations, maintenance and control necessary to deliver the service, which is delivered on the basis of a contract and in normal circumstances has proven to lead to verifiable and measurable or estimable energy efficiency improvement and/or primary energy savings.

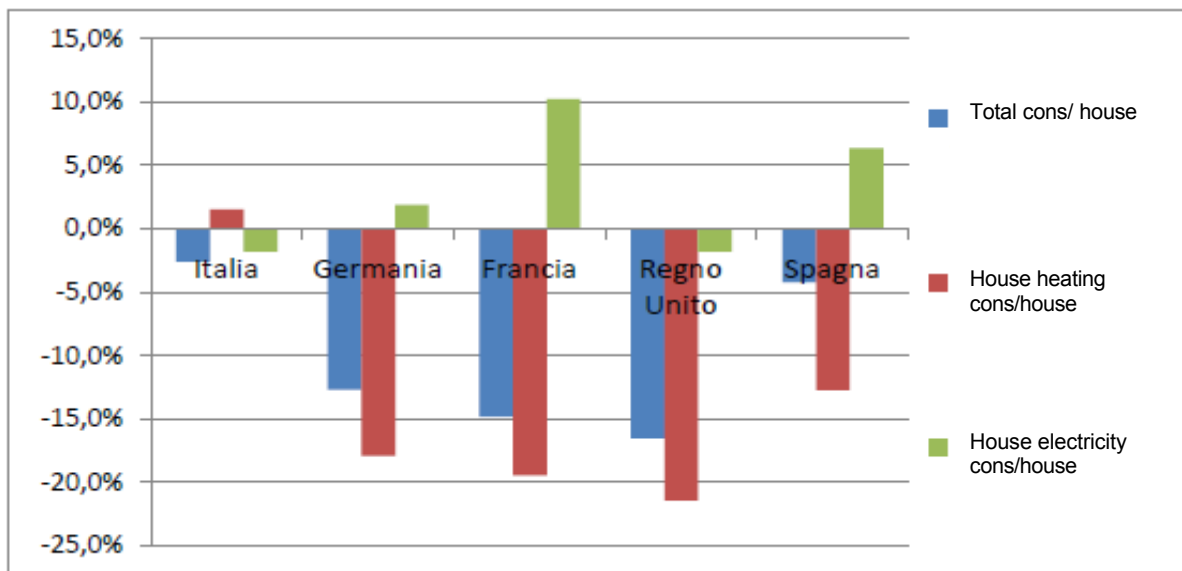
EU has strongly adopted through these years a framework for energy end-use efficiency and energy services. Among other things, this includes an indicative energy savings target for the Member States, obligations on national public authorities as regards energy savings and energy efficient procurement and measures to promote energy efficiency and energy services.

Improving the know-how and sharing information on energy services will surely help to enforce this statement and contribute to create the bases on monitoring and developing energy services matter.

METHODS

Energy efficiency is considered by the most as an alternative font, close to the consideration reached by the renewable fonts. Due to the increase of energy demand, the real challenge is to find a way to keep at least the same level of life quality but reducing the primary energy consumption.

Something has already been done, as shown in picture 2, but lots can be done using the right strategy in energy management. A great instrument in this sense is the energy services, which can help to preserve the technologies available, to monitor the consumption, to create a clever and critical user.



Picture 2: Total energy consumption, electrical and thermal: variation for single house in period 2000-2009 (source: Italian National agency for new technologies, Energy and sustainable economic development – ENEA – elaboration on Odyssee Eurostat data).

For these reasons, the use of a survey has been seen as a good way to identify the perception and role of energy services in different countries.

By a specific questionnaire, divided in three main parts, all the information needed have been collected:

- country policy on energy service - to clarify which is the role of energy services in different countries
 - energy services offered - to identify the perception on energy services
 - energy services development - to recognize if there are any specific drives to support
- This means an “as is” analysis enriched by the prospective of long term period evaluation and an identification of different countries best practise.

RESULTS

Collected information on various country members gives a comprehensive approach to energy services as a way to vehicle energy offering to customers.

These data let to identify country policy on energy service, energy services offered and energy services development, linked to technology development and energy management systems application and according to the energy forecasting to 2030 and to 2050.

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS

Countries continue to operate in a climate of financial uncertainty, but that is not the only challenge. Various countries noted lack of information about energy efficiency as a key barrier.

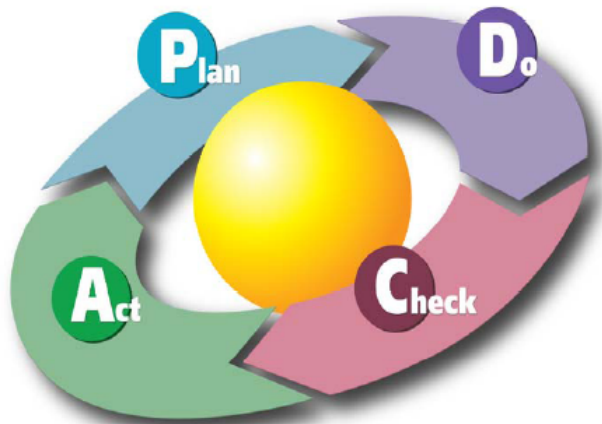
The main purpose of this paper is to identify a new approach to energy service: they should be considered a key use to reach energy efficiency in final uses.

Energy services in fact can be seen as a vector

- to support natural gas market
- to improve the existing appliances
- to develop new technologies based on energy efficiency performances

according to a customer oriented approach.

Due to the worldwide economic situation, energy services can be seen as a way to increase the energy machine performances, to reduce consumption and consequently to save money.



Picture 3: exemplification of energy management system, in which energy services are included

Moreover, they will create employment (ESCo, Facility management society, Consulting society, ecc.) and identify a new way to follow the energy business.

For these reasons energy services are more than a way to achieve energy efficiency targets: they should be considered part of a system built up to manage the energy day by day uses and to reduce at the same time costumers overall costs.