

Initial country report: GREECE

The situation in Greece with respect to requirements in regulations and subsidy schemes is briefly described and then followed by a list of actions proposed to make “European co-ordination” of these requirements.

Background/status

During the project details on the requirements in Greek regulations and subsidy schemes related to solar thermal products will be elaborated, but to have an overview, a brief description of the most important elements is given here below.

Regulations

- The general building regulations-requirements shall be fulfilled
- There are no special rules/regulations for solar thermal systems/components in the building regulation.
- According to the revised Building Regulation (expected to be implemented in the following months), a study for the installation of a solar thermal system is compulsory for the new buildings. On the other hand, the installation itself will be optional.
- The current building regulation does not include in the calculation of energy loads the saving by solar thermal
- There is no specific legal requirements for solar thermal products, except CE Marking (only for systems, especially when a heating element is included in the system)
- A standardized methodology for the calculation of actual energy gains by the use of solar thermal systems is under development by the *Solar & other Energy Systems Laboratory – NCSR “DEMOKRITOS”*

Subsidies

Within Community Support Framework 2000-2006, concerning new installations of large solar thermal systems, subsidies are set, given some requirements such as a given level of collector instantaneous efficiency (at $G=800 \text{ W/m}^2$ and $T_m-T_a = 30\text{K}$):

- 40% subsidy for collector instantaneous efficiency higher than 45%
- 50% subsidy for collector instantaneous efficiency higher than 60%

Testing

The *Solar & other Energy Systems Laboratory* of NCSR “DEMOKRITOS” is accredited to perform testing of solar thermal collectors and factory made systems according to ISO and EN standards.

Certification

- The Solar Keymark for collectors is implemented in Greece
- The Greek Certification Body ELOT is empowered to deliver certificates
- There is no national energy labelling scheme for hot water tanks

- A national certification scheme for systems has been recently established on the basis of Solar Keymark, including also a rating depending on the system annual energy output
- There is no certification scheme for installers of solar thermal systems

Insurance

- The installation of a solar thermal system usually does not affect house insurance

Actions needed

General

- Co-ordination of the Greek requirements in regulations and subsidy schemes with European standards and Solar Keymark certification

Regulation

- The calculation of energy loads and gains for new buildings has to include the option of installing a solar thermal system
- Obligation to install solar thermal systems to every new building (similar to the new Spanish Building Code)

Subsidies

- Make use of the European standards and the Solar Keymark in the national subsidy schemes
- Subsidies to be linked to the energy output of the systems :
 - Based on certified test results for factory made systems
 - Based on measurements for large custom systems

Testing

- Promote the use of EN testing to the Greek manufacturers (communication actions)

Certification

- Promote the use of the National Certification Scheme and of the Solar Keymark by assisting the Greek manufacturers and by adapting existing/futures subsidy requirements to these certification schemes
- Development of a national certification scheme for installers