



POWER
Low Carbon Economies



INTERREG IVC
INNOVATION & ENVIRONMENT
REGIONS OF EUROPE SHARING SOLUTIONS



European Union
European Regional Development Fund

ANNEX 2

Best practice Identified and transferred

Section	Indication of content
1 Title of the best practice	Cost-effectiveness
2 Precise theme/issue tackled by the practice	Cost-effectiveness of the energy audits performed (good balance between reliability of results and costs of the audit itself).
3 Objectives of the best practice	To ensure that the SEA methodology and tool provide a way of conducting energy audits in a more economical manner (saving time, initial costs and human resources). The quality of the results and recommendations should not be compromised, but should be balanced against costs. This approach aims to encourage public bodies to use the tool to complete energy audits of their buildings.
4 Location	This best practice applies to all partner regions – Modena (Italy), South East England (UK), Andalucía (Spain) and Malopolska (Poland).
5 Detailed description of the best practice	The tool will be formulated so that non-specialists are able to use it to carry out audits. The user must have a reasonable degree of knowledge of energy systems/energy auditing (such as an energy or estate manager). Therefore, the high costs of employing a qualified energy auditor will be eliminated.
6 Evaluation	<p>The SEA should lead to an increased uptake of energy audits in public buildings, due to its cost-effective and simplified nature. However, it is possible that public bodies may perceive a lesser degree of accuracy and credibility due to the lower cost of the SEA, which may affect uptake.</p> <p>Partners will undertake cross-border research into standard energy audit costs, and compare with costs for the GENERATION SEA. These figures will then demonstrate the value of the methodology and tool to public bodies. However, it may be difficult to obtain exact cost data from private energy auditing companies,</p>

	as this information can be seen as confidential.
7 Lessons learnt from the best practice	<p>Trade-off between cost and accuracy of audit. The UK Advisory Board asserts that public bodies do not need a high level of accuracy, and as they have many buildings to audit, the bill for a series of detailed energy audits becomes too expensive. High cost has been found to be a barrier to the take up of energy audits, particularly in large/complicated buildings owned by public bodies.</p> <p>In some cases, perhaps the GENERATION SEA could be used as a first step to assess the energy performance of a building. From the results of the SEA, the public body can then determine whether the building needs a more detailed energy audit.</p>
8 Contact information	<p>Contact: gemma.cave@environmentcentre.com</p> <p>Website: www.environmentcentre.com/GENERATION/BestPractice</p>
9 Other possible interesting information	
10. Best practice transferred	The cost-effectiveness of the SEA will be promoted at project events, to partners' local authority contacts, through the project Advisory Board and on the website.