



This project is funded by the **European Union**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Inauguration of first MED-ENEC Pilot Project for sustainable buildings in Turkey**

The RMI Research and Training Centre in Gebze, Kocaeli, near Istanbul, Turkey, has been officially inaugurated on 22 November 2007. It is the first operational sustainable building showcase of a total of 10 MED-ENEC Pilot Projects. Thanks to energy efficient technologies and the use of renewable energies, the RMI Centre will save nearly 500,000 kWh, e.g. 40 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The expected pay-back time for these additional investments will be 8 years.

#### **Best practice**

The RMI, Dr. Robert-Murjahn-Institut, received the name of the founder of the private mother company Betek that produces paintings and insulation materials. The RMI offers research, certification and training services for all companies producing in the same sector. The building has a total surface area of 2,217 m<sup>2</sup> on three floors. Heating and cooling demands are significantly minimized by insulation implemented to the facades and the roof. The total remaining energy need of the building is completely met by a geothermic system, which includes 22 wells of 100 m depth and 27 units of heat pumps. Two skylights and solar tubes bring light from the roof to the darkest areas in the building, covering a significant part of the building's lighting demand. The energy performance will be monitored throughout the year by RMI and MED-ENEC experts. "The project in Turkey is a best practice for energy efficient buildings, and this experience has already been disseminated to a nearby shopping mall that will also be highly energy-efficient", says Klaus Wenzel, Team Leader of the MED-ENEC project.

#### **Energy challenges in the Mediterranean region**

The MED-ENEC project on Energy Efficiency in the Construction Sector in the Mediterranean is financed by the European Union and aims at giving a boost to energy efficiency measures and to the use of renewable energy in the Mediterranean construction sector. MED-ENEC has an integrated project approach, combining activities for the improvement of framework conditions such as laws, standards and incentive programs with demonstration projects, capacity building and the promotion of business cooperation and technology transfer.

The Turkish Pilot Project, which has won the second prize out of 31 project proposals, receives up to €100,000 as financial support from the European Union. In addition MED-ENEC provides technical assistance during the implementation.

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**Photo 1:** The Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, the Governor of Kocaeli, the Mayor of the district, and representatives of professional organizations officially opening the RMI Centre.

**Photo 2 and 3** (next page): the RMI Centre during the inauguration ceremony

**Photos:** Klaus Wenzel, gtz/MED-ENEC

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