The Member States of the European Union have committed themselves to save 20 percent of their primary energy consumption by 2020, and thus reduce CO₂ emissions. Accordingly, a main focus of Europe’s effort is to increase the energy efficiency of buildings. Historic buildings or districts have so far, unfortunately, received little attention. For this reason, the new EU project EFFESUS (EU Energy Efficiency for Historic Districts’ Sustainability) has been initiated with a total budget of 6.7 million Euro. Central to the project is the examination of Europe’s historical neighborhoods and monuments considering all energy aspects.

The overall objective is to develop and demonstrate, through seven case studies, a methodology and criteria for selecting and prioritizing energy efficiency interventions in historic districts. The case studies are Santiago de Compostela, Genoa, Budapest, Glasgow, Bamberg, Visby and Istanbul.

The role of Fraunhofer MOEZ is, firstly, to devise a market launch strategy for the technologies and services that will be newly (or further) developed in the project. Secondly, the institute is working out target-group-specific concepts for an ongoing dialogue between the various stakeholders involved (i.e. house owners, tenants, architects, city councils, power supply companies, etc.). The intention is to avoid conflicts as well as developments that do not meet the needs of the market.