

ROMANIA | APRIL 9TH, 2025

2nd NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

**SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY
IN SEARCH OF SUSTAINABILITY, QUALITY AND PREDICTABILITY
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICIES**

Organised by:
RoGBC - Romania Green Building Council, and
Pro-nZEB - Cluster for Promoting nearly Zero Energy Buildings



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**18
SPEAKERS
&
MODERATORS**

**34
IN PERSON
& ONLINE
DELEGATES**

5 SESSIONS

**Welcome Session | 3 Parallel Sessions |
Closing Plenary**

01

PARALLEL SESSION

Expanding the
Capacity and
Ensuring the
Sustainability of
One-Stop Shops
for Energy
Efficiency

02

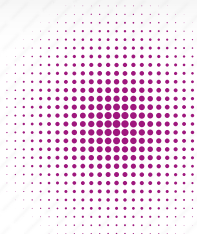
PARALLEL SESSION

Financing
Mechanisms for
Energy Renovation
and the Transition
to a Low-Carbon
Economy

03

PARALLEL SESSION

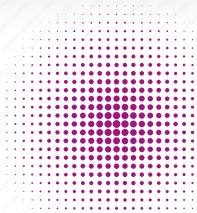
Alleviating
Energy Poverty
through Tailored
Programmes to
Increase Energy
Efficiency and
Reduce Carbon
Emissions



PARALLEL SESSION 1

EXPANDING THE CAPACITY AND ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF ONE-STOP SHOPS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

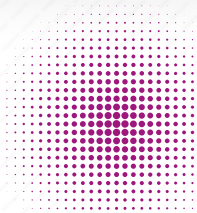
- ☐ The session reviewed Romania's network of 42 operational One-Stop Shops for Energy Efficiency, known as GUEEs. Limited staffing, typically two to three people per office, and the absence of dedicated operating funding were identified as constraints. Participants highlighted the need to secure continuity beyond the implementation period of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.
- ☐ Participants identified a gap between the integrated one-stop shop concept and its practical implementation. GUEEs primarily supported the administration of the I4 and I7 funding programmes, with limited technical expertise. The discussion called for a broader service covering the renovation process, connecting beneficiaries with information, technical assistance, service providers and financing opportunities.
- ☐ Cooperation between public authorities and private service providers was identified as important for expanding the services available through GUEEs. Participants discussed transparent provider selection, up-to-date service databases and beneficiary feedback mechanisms to support quality assurance. The independence of energy audits from construction providers was also emphasised.
- ☐ Sustainable financing arrangements were considered necessary for technical assistance services, including energy audits and specialised design. The discussion distinguished services offered free of charge to beneficiaries from the need to cover their actual delivery costs. Participants called for clarification of funding responsibilities and mechanisms to sustain these services over time.
- ☐ Institutionalising the GUEE network was identified as a means of maintaining continuity, retaining institutional knowledge and reducing dependence on individual staff members. Participants also highlighted its potential to support the collection of building energy performance data and the implementation of nearly zero-energy building standards.



PARALLEL SESSION 2

FINANCING MECHANISMS FOR ENERGY RENOVATION AND THE TRANSITION TO A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY

- ☐ The Investment and Development Bank presented its role in addressing financing gaps through support for SMEs, infrastructure investment, access to European funds and technical assistance. Its approach combined indirect financing through financial intermediaries with direct support for local communities and public companies, complementing existing financing providers.
- ☐ The European Investment Bank presented the Multiregional Investment Platform as a mechanism for pooling regional resources and implementing similar financial instruments across participating regions. The approximately €400 million platform included €235 million for energy efficiency in single-family homes, with a target of supporting at least 12,500 homes by the end of 2029. Interregional cooperation, standardisation and the exchange of implementation experience were highlighted.
- ☐ The financing model presented envisaged preferential loans combined with a grant component reducing the principal to be repaid, with incentives varying by region and achieved energy performance. Under the proposed model, a 0% interest rate would apply to the publicly financed component, while financial intermediaries would contribute additional financing on market terms. Loan maturities of up to 15 years were envisaged.
- ☐ Participants called for closer alignment between national and regional funding programmes, noting overlapping interventions and inconsistent approaches. Standardised financial products, common programme indicators and continued dialogue with banking institutions were proposed, while retaining scope to address specific regional needs. The experience of the EIB and the Investment and Development Bank was considered relevant to improving future implementation.
- ☐ Regional representatives identified borrowing constraints affecting homeowners' associations and debt limits affecting local public authorities as barriers to using financial instruments. Proposals included reviewing the relevant legal frameworks to facilitate energy renovation investment in multi-family and public buildings. These constraints remained unresolved issues raised during the discussion.
- ☐ The transition from grant-based support to repayable financing was discussed as a challenge for both beneficiaries and financial institutions. Participants highlighted the need for clearer explanations of renovation benefits, simpler procedures and products adapted to homeowners' circumstances. Financial intermediaries also required sufficient investment volumes, viable operating conditions and the capacity to serve the participating regions.



PARALLEL SESSION 3

ALLEVIATING ENERGY POVERTY THROUGH TAILORED PROGRAMMES TO INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS

- ☐ Participants identified technical and regulatory barriers affecting the energy transition of residential buildings. In dense urban areas, participants cited insufficient electrical infrastructure and limited installation space as constraints on heat pump installation. The discussion also highlighted obstacles affecting ESCO models, the installation of energy-saving equipment and public authorities' ability to intervene in privately owned homes.
- ☐ Better targeting of support was identified as necessary to address different forms of energy vulnerability. Participants called for measures adapted to household and consumer profiles, supported by reliable information on energy consumption and income. Participants proposed integrating public databases to improve beneficiary identification, while implementation experience highlighted cases where people facing difficulties did not meet programme eligibility criteria.
- ☐ Building renovation was discussed as a priority investment, with costs and technical constraints affecting the depth of interventions. Moderate thermal renovation was presented as a more financially accessible option for some local authorities. Participants also discussed collective heating solutions, including district or neighbourhood heat pumps and the use of existing thermal infrastructure, as options for densely populated urban areas.
- ☐ Limited administrative and technical capacity was identified as a barrier preventing municipalities and smaller local authorities from accessing available funding. Participants called for simplified application procedures, standardised indicators and adequate institutional support. Functional one-stop shops and trained staff were considered important for helping local authorities and vulnerable households navigate renovation and energy poverty programmes.
- ☐ Consumer behaviour was recognised as an important influence on actual energy use following technical interventions. Participants highlighted the need to combine renovation measures with practical energy education and support for changes in everyday behaviour. Examples included the appropriate use of heating controls, temperature regulation and radiator replacement, alongside information on efficient energy use.

