Financing energy efficiency in
Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria
Bucharest, 1 February 2018

Organised by the European Commission in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds of Romania, the Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority and the UN Environment Finance Initiative.

Background: The Energy Union Framework Strategy puts energy efficiency as one of its five dimensions and states it is to be treated as an energy source in its own right. The ambitious Paris climate agreement also underlines the importance of energy efficiency. Investments in energy efficiency have proven to be one of the most cost-effective ways to support the transition to a low-carbon economy. Not only does it help the EU in turning its climate ambition into climate action, it also brings a number of significant benefits for European citizens and companies in terms of environment, health, security of supply, lower energy bills, more jobs and sustainable growth.

To realise the full potential of energy efficiency, public funds will not suffice and private financing will have to be unlocked at scale. In that context, energy policy should create more favourable investment conditions, encourage demand for energy efficiency and help consumers undertake energy efficiency investments more easily.

This event aims to share best practice from Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria as well as further on how energy efficiency investments can be financed. This includes the use of private funds and innovative financing instruments, notably in the building and industry sectors. Speakers will focus on practical experience in developing and structuring investment programmes and the event will allow time for debate. The event contributes the new cooperation on energy efficiency initiated by the CESEC.

*This event is organised by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) in the frame of the Sustainable Energy Investment Forums contract, funded under the EU Horizon 2020 programme.*
8:30  Registration and welcome coffee/tea

9:00  Welcome speeches

   Speaker tbd, Ministry of Energy, Romania,

   Speaker tbd, Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, Romania

9:30  Plenary session 1: European and national policy context

   European policy in support of energy efficiency investments
   Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Advisor to the Director General for Energy, European Commission

   European Structural and Investment Funds
   Speaker tbd, European Commission, DG REGIO

   Mobilising the financial sector on energy efficiency
   Martin Schoenberg, UN Environment Finance Initiative

   Financing the future of buildings in Central, Eastern and South-East Europe
   Oliver Rapf, Buildings Performance Institute Europe

   State of play of energy efficiency financing in Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria
   Speaker tbd, Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, Romania

   Speaker tbd, Hungarian government

   Speaker tbd, Bulgarian government

11:00  Coffee break

11:30  Plenary session 2: Improving the energy performance of residential buildings

   Home renovation loans in Hungary
   Speaker tbd, Hungarian Development Bank

   Renovating multifamily buildings through energy performance contracting in Latvia
   Nicholas Stancioff, Latvian Baltic Energy Efficiency Facility

   The Green Homes and Mortgage Initiative in Romania
   Steven Borncamp, Romanian Green Building Council, and Cristian Sporis, Raiffeisen Bank

   Reaction from a panel of Romanian stakeholders
   Mihai Mereuta, President, Liga Habitat

   Cristian Romeo Erbasu, President of the Association for Construction Companies
   Speaker tbd, Romanian Association of Banks (ARB)

   Speaker tbd, Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, Romania

13:00  Lunch
14:15  Parallel sessions

A. Making Energy Efficiency Investible

Structuring Investor Ready Energy Efficiency Projects (Investor Confidence Project)
Jorge de Almeida, RdA (Portugal)

The EEFIG Underwriting toolkit and the DEEP database
Monica Ardeleanu, Romanian Green Building Council

EBRD’s Green Economy Finance Facility "GEFF"
Mark Velody, GEFF Project Manager – Romania, Tractebel Engineering

Linking Policy Makers and Investors Through National Financing Platforms, the Austrian Experience (SEFIPA)
Clemens Plöchl, Energy Changes

14:15  B. Energy Renovation of Public Buildings and the Role of ESCOs

Legal framework for energy performance contracting in Portugal
Gorete Soares, ADENE (Portugal)

Regional one-stop-shop centre for the renovation of public buildings – experiences from the Reno Watt project in Belgium and replication in Rhodope (Bulgaria)
Speaker tbc, Sofia Energy Centre (BG)

The Bulgarian energy efficiency fund experience with ESCOs
Asen Charliyski, Deputy Executive Director, Bulgarian EE Fund (Bulgaria)

Developing the ESCO Market in Romania
Speaker tbd

14:15  C. Energy Efficiency in the industry and SME sectors

Lending to industrial energy efficiency projects
Mihai-Marius Voronca, Executive Director, Romanian Energy Efficiency Fund, tbc

Experience of a bank on industrial energy efficiency
Speaker tbd

Guarantee scheme for SMEs
Speaker tbd

Experience of ALRO on industrial energy efficiency
Speaker tbd

16:00  Coffee break

16:15  Closing plenary session

Short report from the parallel sessions by moderators

Reaction by a panel of stakeholders from the banking, building and industry sectors

Questions and answers

Closing speeches
Tudor Constantinescu, Advisor to the Director General for Energy, European Commission
Speaker tbd, Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority

16:45  Networking Cocktail