



Platform Power House

‘Synergy into Energy Efficiency for Housing’

Mission Statement of the National Platform Power House Bulgaria

The National Platform Power House Bulgaria aims to meet the need for coordinated action to tackle the urgent issue of introduction of energy saving measures in residential sector, because of:

- ✓ The high share of the residential sector in the total energy consumption of the country and the considerable potential for energy saving and improvement of the living comfort;
- ✓ The permanent increase of the prices of energy carriers and the dynamic exhaustion of the world deposits of fossil energy sources;
- ✓ The requirement for promotion of the use of renewable energy sources;
- ✓ The requirement for restructuring of the housing estates simultaneously with the refurbishment of the panel buildings;
- ✓ The upgrading of the technical regulatory framework and building supervision in regard to the rational energy use;
- ✓ The tasks laid down in the Action Plan of the National Housing Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria, approved by the Bulgarian Government.

The National Platform Power House Bulgaria supports the feasibility of the measures under the National Housing Renovation Program as follows:

- ✓ Estimated heat savings: 35-40%;
- ✓ Enormous positive effect with respect to reduction of polluting CO₂ emissions;
- ✓ Anticipated increase of the market value of refurbished dwellings;
- ✓ Marked impetus for the construction sector and employment (building-and-repair works volumes commensurable with those of the current level of new construction).

Short-term objectives

- ✓ To disseminate project results among specialized national umbrella branch associations of all actors involved in energy efficiency for housing;
- ✓ To disseminate project results among public institutions aimed to regulate the energy efficiency aspects of housing provision, management, maintenance and renovation;
- ✓ To disseminate project results among residents of condominium multi-storey apartment buildings and their associations.

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Long-term objectives

- ✓ To stimulate innovative policy, financial and technical mechanisms for the improvement of energy efficiency in housing;
- ✓ To mobilize the private and public investments required for the implementation of development strategies – investigating the Private Public Partnership opportunities;
- ✓ To identify challenges and actions related to education and training opportunities with regard to maintaining and enhancing a high-skilled work force in the medium-to long term perspective;

The main objective of the National Platform fits the 20/20/20 objectives of the EU since the residential sector in Bulgaria consumes 26% from the energy. Therefore, the activities of the Platform aim the implementation in the residential sector of the requirements postulated by the legal norms transposing the EU documents in the national legislation – the National long-term Program for Energy Efficiency until 2015, the Bulgarian Energy Strategy, and the National Housing Renovation Program.

Key challenges for a Long-term Strategy

In the context of meeting ambitious targets for improving energy independence and for fighting against climate change, the challenges to be faced in a long term strategy for energy eco-efficient buildings are as follows:

✓ Definition of energy efficient solutions for renovation. Many innovative solutions are directed towards new buildings but only a few are optimized for the existing stock. Moreover buildings, especially residential buildings, are never considered as a whole so there are a lot of components (windows, insulation materials, boilers, etc.) which are installed, serviced and maintained, by different companies without a holistic approach to the overall building operation. The result is a lack of energy efficiency and in some cases functionality once the buildings are refurbished. R&D has to propose integrated solutions taking into account the various constraints of existing buildings. It is assumed that the developments of many innovative solutions (systems composed of insulation and thermal storage materials, renewables, etc.) are relevant for the countries all over Europe.

✓ There is also a need for acceptability by customers. The outcome of the platform activity in research, exchange of information about good practices into understanding barriers and drivers for non-technical aspects (e.g. behaviour), and technical aspects, such as the development of multifunctional solutions (e.g. eco-efficiency, comfort, aesthetic value, etc.), would speed up the transformation of the market.

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- ✓ Cost savings can also help greatly in supporting the development of the energy efficiency market. Price being one of the major drivers for the customers, R&D has to reduce drastically the cost of “emerging” technologies.
- ✓ Building industry transformation has to be achieved. The gaps are on systemic approaches for refurbishment, building design and quality of installation. Due to the complexity of the situation (different components to be assembled in order to minimize the investment, the running cost and the CO2 emission) there is a real need to develop new codes, and to provide new tools and guidelines to the building industry. There is also a need to develop solutions suitable for use by the construction industry: packaged solutions or kits easy to install.

The organization of the National Platform involves national and local policy makers, energy agencies and funds, national associations of construction companies in housing renovation and companies in production and import of construction materials for housing renovation, national branch organizations of architects and engineers, national union of homeowners’ associations. The members of the National Platform are involved at different levels and in different ways in accordance with their role in increasing the importance of energy issue for housing and in order to build efficient partnerships in disseminating the results of EU projects and to find with them adapted solutions. The National Platform works in organizing various dissemination campaigns and providing easy access to information on state of the art developments in the field of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in the residential sector from throughout the EU. All the participants in the National Platform share the aims of the project and commit to play an active role in the planned activities.

The slogan of the National Platform ‘Synergy into Energy Efficiency for Housing’ reflects the emphasis on the importance of the joint efforts and networking of all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Platform activities such as public information, awareness campaign and further improvement of the national legislation. The synergy method is the vital prerequisite to increase the efficiency of Platform actions and to guarantee the continuity and the replicability of the practical results to be achieved. The synergy and clustering of Platform actors supports the exchange good practices and know-how especially those related to innovative approaches to the energy efficient housing management and renovation.

The activities under the National Platform enable and empower the network participants to get actively involved in the process of **effective use** of EU structural funds for urban regeneration and renovation of existing condominium housing within the framework of the Operational Program ‘Regional Development’ under the priority axis ‘Sustainable and Integrative Urban Development’.

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The National Platform strongly relies on **education and training** as a major tool for capacity building of shareholders involved. In this regard, the activity agenda includes organization of specialized training events and seminars, targeted training program for management and maintenance of condominiums for the stakeholders concerned like homeowners and their emerging organizations, prospective building managers and deliverers of services.

The National Platform sets the main priorities of activity as consequence of its mission, objectives and implementation strategy. The National Platform also identifies the concrete actions to be performed within the scope of the priority set:

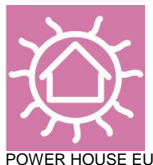
- ✓ Dissemination of knowledge on energy efficiency in residential sector among the end users – the residents and their organizations – to be achieved through issuing of specialized newsletters, training courses, seminars;
- ✓ Networking between all stakeholders concerned in energy efficient renovation of existing condominium stock – to be achieved through regular co-ordination meetings of stakeholders;
- ✓ Lobbying in front of central authorities for improvement of the legislation related to energy efficiency in residential sector – to be achieved through the organization of a National Conference ‘The Future of Mass Housing in Bulgaria’;
- ✓ Facilitating the use of EU Structural Funds for energy efficient renovation of existing housing stock – to be achieved through the organization of a National Conference ‘The Future of Mass Housing in Bulgaria’;
- ✓ Facilitating the successful implementation of the National Housing Renovation Program – to be achieved through the organization of a National Conference ‘The Future of Mass Housing in Bulgaria’.

The activity agenda of the National Platform encourages the utilization of the SAVE Project outcomes that are to be disseminated by the means of planned specialized newsletters, training events and information campaign as well as on the National Conference ‘The Future of Mass Housing in Bulgaria’.

The successful activation of the National Implementation Plan is guaranteed by the proactive role of the National Platform coordinators – the Bulgarian Housing Association and the state Energy Efficiency Agency, in providing strict and continuous coordination of efforts and activities through regular meetings and dissemination of intermediary results.

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The implementation strategy and the activity planning of the National Platform is targeted to influence **the legislative and legal developments** related to successful implementation of the National Long-term Program for Energy Efficiency until 2015, the Bulgarian Energy Strategy, the National Housing Renovation Program, and the Operative Program 'Regional Development 2007-2013'.

The presence and activities of the National Platform is already and will be continuously presented on the web-sites of several platform members like the Union of Homeowners' Associations in Bulgaria, EnEffect Foundation, etc.

The dissemination strategy of the National Platform is based on the following priorities: to disseminate project results among specialized national umbrella branch associations of all actors involved in energy efficiency of housing; to disseminate project results among public institutions aimed to regulate the energy efficiency aspects of housing provision, management, maintenance and renovation; to organize three national seminars (for 50 to 100 participants) as platform for coordination of efforts of all stakeholders involved in energy efficiency aspects for housing in Bulgaria. The package of dissemination activities of the National Platform comprehends:

- ✓ Meetings between National Platform members;
- ✓ Seminars on energy efficiency in social housing addressed to SHOs;
- ✓ Meetings on energy efficiency in social housing addressed to other target groups (decision makers, technical experts, universities and technical training colleges, construction companies);
- ✓ Newsletter in Bulgarian based on the POWER HOUSE EUROPE Newsletter with special focus on ongoing projects with updated information;
- ✓ Publication or/and CD rom/website update on best national and European projects;
- ✓ Dissemination of national and European best practices;
- ✓ Information campaign addressed to homeowners and their emerging associations;

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