

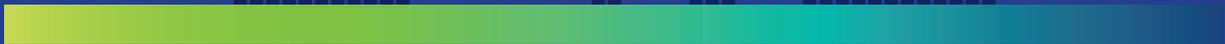


ComAct

Community
Tailored Actions
for Energy Poverty
Mitigation



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CONTEXT

The countries in the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region and in the former Soviet Union republics (CIS region) have the most energy-poor people in Europe. This is mainly due to high energy prices and poor energy efficiency of the buildings, heating systems and household appliances.

Before the 1990, the collective housing dwellings in the CEE and CIS region were state-owned and managed. A process of mass privatisation in the housing sector in the 1990s led to today's situation where multi-family apartment blocks in private ownership are predominant.

The privatisation also came with the **deconstruction of the social safety** net: without subsidies, utility and energy costs of the flats soared, burdening the family budgets. In parallel, the socialist-era collective **maintenance mechanisms** were abandoned, and the **decay of homeowners' associations** has not been addressed effectively.

Renovation of a multi-family building requires coordinated action among the apartment owners. With this background, and considering the mixed social composition of the owners, energy efficiency measures gets more complicated in the CEE and CIS countries than in Western Europe.

To address these issues, there is the need to develop a new approach in order to influence the energy costs substantially and make the energy efficiency interventions affordable, consequently reducing the high energy poverty level in this region.

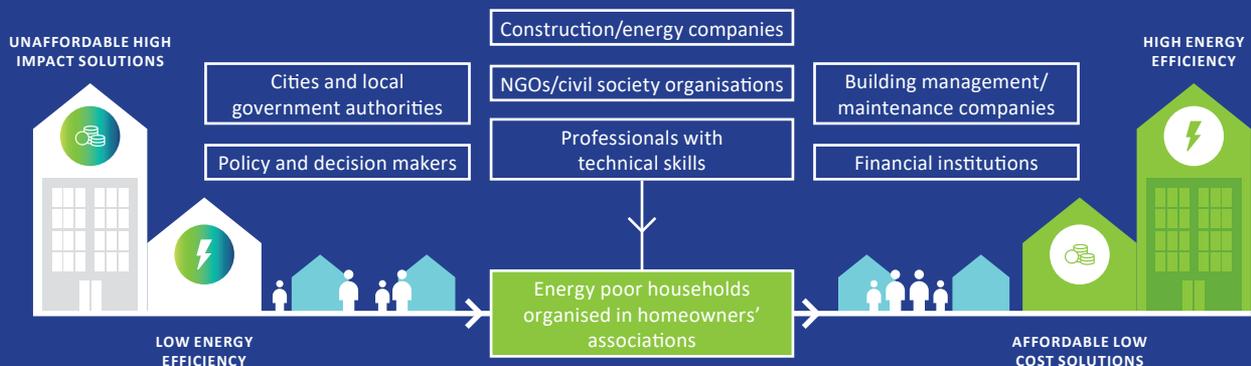


OBJECTIVES

ComAct aims to make high-impact and high-cost energy-efficient improvements in multi-family apartment buildings in the CEE and CIS regions affordable and manageable for energy-poor communities as well as to create the necessary assistance conditions for lifting them out of energy poverty.

Because, even nowadays, people with very different income live together in the same buildings, ComAct wants to create a new understanding of energy poverty in the context of multi-family buildings in the CEE and CIS environment. To do so, ComAct will empower and organise communities of energy-poor homeowners with the most relevant local actors into an 'eco-system' that enables the energy efficient renovation of multifamily apartment buildings inhabited by energy-poor households.

ComAct: Affordable low cost solutions for high energy efficiency driven by community action



METHODOLOGY

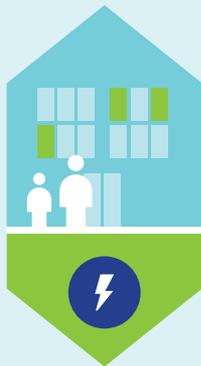
ComAct will turn high-impact and high-cost energy efficiency measures into affordable low-cost solutions for energy-poor households with a set of financial, technical and organisational actions. Each of these actions shall contribute to lower the monthly costs of investments and increase efficiency and multiple benefits of interventions.

After the identification and selection of energy-poor communities, ComAct will act on three main dimensions:

- 1** empower and activate the communities of homeowners' associations
- 2** develop and adapt financial tools for energy-poor homeowners
- 3** optimise technical solutions that provide most favourable cost-benefit ratio for the energy efficient improvements in multi-family apartment buildings

This approach will be then tested in 5 pilot countries, that will demonstrate applicability, benefits and potential for alleviating energy poverty.

The five countries represent the geographical scope of the project: Central Europe region (case in Hungary), South-east Europe region (case in Bulgaria), Western Balkan region (case in the Republic of North Macedonia), Baltic region (case in Lithuania), and the ex-soviet republic on the border with the European Union (case in Ukraine).



1

Identification of energy poor households



STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITIES

Stakeholder engagement and community involvement



FINANCIAL

Adjusting existing and/or developing new financial instruments suitable for energy poor homeowners



TECHNICAL

Creating optimal technical scenarios

2

Intervening in three dimensions

3

Testing the ComAct approach for alleviating energy poverty

Pilot cases in Hungary,
Bulgaria, Lithuania,
Ukraine and Republic
of North Macedonia.



PILOTS

The pilot countries have been carefully chosen to represent the different sub-regions of the CEE and CIS territory and provide replicable lessons. Each of the pilot locations will have a Resource Centre, providing the necessary human resource for the implementation of the project, working closely with the communities and serving as intermediaries between the communities and the wider stakeholder groups.



Assessment of energy poor households in multi-family buildings



Adaptation/development of financial schemes



Stakeholder engagement



Optimisation of technical solutions



Strengthening homeowners' associations and activating communities

IMPACT



Energy savings



Reduction of greenhouse
gases emissions



Increased investments
in sustainable energy



Inclusiveness
of homeowners



Wider replication
potential



Contribution to EU
and national targets
related to energy poverty

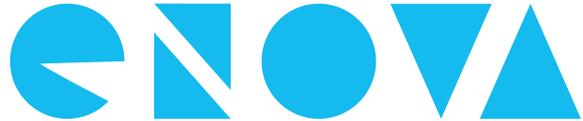


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