

Key learnings about Energy Renovation in the NRRPs

Opportunities for Energy Renovation in National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs)

Webinar co-organised by EURIMA / Renovate Europe • 01 October 2020

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Disclaimer: These key learnings were drawn together by the co-organisers, Renovate Europe. The views and opinions expressed in the document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the European Commission.

➤ **National Recovery and Resilience Plans must prioritise reforms and milestones**

Guidance from the Commission clearly indicates that the National Plans must not amount to a list of building projects/ investments, but rather must outline a **coherent long-term set of reforms** (for example regulatory reinforcement of minimum energy performance standards, labour market alterations, or consumer-focused incentive schemes, etc) linked with building projects/ investments making them mutually reinforcing. The Commission goes as far as explicitly stating that in some cases, **reform will be a pre-condition for investment**.

Milestones are also crucially important to include in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans. **Disbursement of funding is based on implementation and performance**, and will therefore be closely linked to the achievement of milestones and targets. MS can build on the LTRS, already a requirement under current EU buildings directives, in anticipation of enforced and upgraded buildings legislation expected in the upcoming Renovation Wave.

➤ **Commission united behind the need for large-scale renovation**

Renovation of buildings is identified by the Commission as a **'flagship' initiative** in line with the EU climate goals and growth objectives, where it is recommended that funding be channeled in the National Plans. Across the various DGs there is a deep understanding about the need for large-scale renovation, and for coherence across initiatives including policy, financing and technical assistance.

Worst performing public buildings (especially schools and hospitals) and measures to support affordable housing and for tackling **energy poverty** should be prioritized. Wide stakeholder involvement, also with small local businesses, is encouraged for a successful inclusion of renovation reforms and investments in the NRRPs.

➤ **DG REFORM available to help MS in drafting and implementing National Plans**

DG REFORM's Structural Reform Support Programme was boosted by 30% at the July 2020 Council, up to a budget of €767m for the period 2021-2027 (€110m annually), to support reforms and implementation in the MS in line with the EU Recovery Agenda. This enhanced structural support instrument retains two key features: a) being a **voluntary instrument (demand-driven)**, **MS can prioritise where they need help**; and b) all contracting is done by DG Reform, with **NO co-financing needed from MS**.

Work to align the National Recovery Plans with the **Long-term Renovation Strategies** would qualify for support from DG REFORM (this is strongly encouraged by the Commission and is already happening in some MS). DG REFORM has up till now been operating on an annual application basis (with a deadline of 31 Oct) but will take stock this year in November to ascertain the possibility of staggering more rounds of applications and making more support available in spring 2021 to help support expected implementation needs flowing from the Renovation Wave and the National Plans.

➤ **Need for more communication campaigns around energy renovation**

It is necessary to continuously face the challenge of communicating the benefits and funding opportunities for energy renovation and would **benefit the whole value chain (from SMEs to homeowners)**. Engaging further with MS and citizens around awareness raising activities remains a priority in Italy to support the eco-bonus incentive scheme. For example, the Italian government launched awareness raising activities on the TV and radio, alongside a helpline and inbox which responds to around 1,200 questions every week.

About the Renovate Europe Campaign:

Renovate Europe is a political communications campaign with the ambition to reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050 through legislation and ambitious renovation programmes. Accelerating the rate of renovation is a key tool in the fight against climate change, and will deliver major benefits for people, their quality of life, and the economy. www.renovate-europe.eu

#PrioritisePeople

#AccelerateRenovation

REC Partners (October 2020)

There are currently 45 partner companies and associations actively engaged in the work of the REC, of which 17 National Partners active in the Member States.

