

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 21st November 2013

2014-2020 EU Budget approval provides boost to Energy Efficiency in Buildings

The legislative package for the Multi-Annual Financial Framework, which includes the Structural Funds for 2014-2020, was officially approved in the European Parliament this week. The adoption marks the opening period for Member States in cooperation with the Regional Managing Authorities to submit their Operational Programmes that will channel the EU Structural Funding over the next 7 years. The Structural Funds can and must now be used for more projects on sustainable energy and energy efficiency, including on buildings.

Investing in the **Energy Efficient Renovation of the EU's building stock** is a real **economic opportunity** for Europe's regions: energy efficient renovations will **cut energy costs for businesses and households** and create **millions of local-based jobs, particularly in the depressed construction sector**, whilst improving people's health, quality of life and productivity. This huge potential has been clearly recognized in the new EU Budget for 2014-2020, where the investment priorities for the Structural Funds have been aligned along the **EU's 2020 Growth Agenda**.

As a result, Energy Efficiency in Buildings features prominently in the new 2014-2020 Structural Funds, with **at least 4 striking differences compared to the last funding period:**

- 1) The European Regional Development Fund imposes **obligatory minimum percentages** that must be invested in sustainable energy (Thematic Objective n°4), including energy efficiency: at least 12% for less developed regions, at least 15% for transition regions and at least 20% for more developed regions;
- 2) The **quantity of funding allocated** for Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficiency is expected to **more than double from the last funding period, to an estimated minimum of €23bn**;
- 3) The **scope of eligibility for investments in energy efficiency in buildings has been expanded** beyond the ERDF to encourage investments also from the Cohesion Fund (where the housing sector was previously excluded) and the European Social Fund (supporting the upskilling of the labour force for green jobs). This expanded scope opens up the possibility for Managing Authorities to design a **Multi-Fund Operational Programme around Building Renovations**, which can combine the funding opportunities from all 3 Funds to **maximise impact on the ground**;
- 4) A **specific "off-the-shelf" financial instrument for buildings renovations** has been developed: the **Renovation Loan**. It aims to combine public and private resources to finance building owners at preferential conditions, leading to a boost in the renovation market.

"Several great opportunities now open up for building renovations in all the EU's regions thanks to this new budgetary period", explained Adrian Joyce, Secretary General of EuroACE. "The responsibility now lies on the Managing Authorities to design Multi-Fund Operational Programmes focused on Building Renovations in order to unlock the huge economic opportunities in their Regions' building stocks, for the benefit of their Regions' businesses, households, and public finances."



Learn more about the Funding Opportunities for the energy efficient renovation of buildings in the Renovate Europe Leaflet 'Structural Funds – Can you Spot the Difference?': www.renovate-europe.eu

For further information:

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About EuroACE:

EuroACE represents Europe's leading companies involved with the manufacture, distribution and installation of energy saving goods and services for buildings. EuroACE members have a total turnover of around €140 billion per year in efficiency-related business and they employ approximately 172,000 people in these activities in Europe. The mission of EuroACE is to work together with the EU institutions to help Europe move towards a more efficient use of energy in buildings, thereby contributing to Europe's commitments on climate change, energy security and economic growth.

Website: www.euroace.org

About the Renovate Europe Campaign:

Launched in 2011, the Renovate Europe Campaign is an initiative of EuroACE. Its headline ambition is to reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050, as compared to 2005 levels.

Website: www.renovate-europe.eu

EuroACE Members (November 2013) are:

