Single-family houses thermal insulation support

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of the Slovak Republic

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Basic information, physical and financial volume

- **5.4** million inhabitants, **1.99** million dwellings (more than 850K in family houses), more than **70%** built before **1990**
- **90.5 %** – **owner occupied**, only 3 % – public rental housing
- over 1/2 residential buildings and **1/3 family houses already refurbished**
- **Subsidy program created in 2015** governed by the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic
- Works with annual budget on **call for applications base**

  (3-4/2016, 6-7/2016, 8-10/2017, 4-8/2018*)
- Subsidy max **40 %** of eligible costs or max **8000 €** per application for insulation (depends on level of retrofit) **+** max **800 €** for project documentation, energy performance certificate and assistance

Criteria & Measures

- Applicant have to be:
  a citizen of the European Union, a permanent resident of Slovak Republic and the owner of family house
- Family house criteria:
  situated within Slovak Republic, housing as sole purpose, legally in use at least 10 years before applying for subsidy, total floor area does not exceed limit 150 m^2 (one heated floor) or 300 m^2 (more heated floors)
- **U-value, hygienic standard and heating demand needs to meet criteria of technical norm; first check in project documentation, final check in energy performance certificate**
- Main measures included by program:
  building envelope insulation, inner walls insulation between the heated and unheated areas of building, old windows replacement with more efficient ones
- Additional measures:
  heating source replacement, heating system regulation, building modifications related to energy efficiency reduction

How to get a subsidy

- **Application**: (before or after refurbishment)
  - owners decision, processing of project documentation, consultation with the construction office, (refurbishment process, processing of energy performance certificate)
  - gathering of all required documents, electronic application followed by paper form
- **Evaluation**:
  - assessment of all received applications in time order (every call is limited by time schedule and number of applications)
  - applications which meet all legal requirements are supported
- **Installation**:
  - owners choose licenced company to perform insulation of facade
  - other reconstruction works can be by performed by any company which is authorized in construction business
- **Quality assurance**:
  - energy performance certificate, in some cases construction supervision – not required by program

Summary of previous calls

- **Call no. 01/2016**, 135 received applications with required documents (230 electronic applications)
  - 29 provided subsidies – 136 208 €
  - 96 rejected applications

  21 % fulfil requirements
- **Call no. 02/2016**, 62 received applications with required documents (95 electronic applications)
  - 15 provided subsidies – 75 702 €
  - 47 rejected applications

  24 % fulfil requirements
- **Call no. 03/2017**, 164 received applications with required documents (246 electronic applications)
  - 20 provided subsidies – 141 184 €
  - 99 reserved subsidies – still in process – 871 200 €
  - 45 rejected applications

  73 % fulfil requirements (so far)
- **Call no. 04/2018** – open till 08/2018

Lessons learnt

- Owners are used to refurbish their houses on their own without project documentation and consultation with construction office or expert and many times in poor quality.
- The main aim of this program is to motivate homeowners to do refurbishment in better quality by using project documentation and licensed company.
- From our point of view the program is not administratively demanding and the minimum of documents are required, but owners see it as a barrier.
- Partial barrier is also necessity to interest into process more stakeholders what leads to more complicated communication and more difficult shortage removal.
- We realize the lack of employees capacity which is barrier in active help to owners in preparing all required documents and also in providing information directly on local level.

What we plan next

- Based on experiences from previous calls we decided to simplify the process to increase the interest of potential applicants.
- In our point of view the main barrier is necessity to insulate facade by licenced company. However this requirement is not applied in new constructions. That is the reason why we think about modification or changing this requirement.
- In order to simplify the process we think about required documents modification. We are thinking about omitting few unnecessary documents and not requiring originals of some other documents (invoices).
- Due to increasing requirements on energy efficiency we are considering another forms of housing support.

Thank you for your attention.

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