



MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC
WORKS, BULGARIA

Energy Efficiency and Bulgarian Buildings Policy

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Balchik

Bulgarian steps and experience

- ❖ While the importance of the environmental, economic and social concerns on the impacts of climate change, energy dependence and the depletion of energy resources, and affordability of energy prices steadily increases, the implementation of measures for the reduction of the buildings' energy consumption is vital, both at national and international level.
- ❖ In this context, the buildings' energy efficiency is a long-term priority for EU and it has been recognized with a high degree of engagement by the Bulgarian Government as well during the past few years. Buildings' energy efficiency has become a key policy for the current Bulgarian Government.
- ❖ For the first time Bulgaria has demonstrated a strong political will to improve energy efficiency, especially in housing.

Bulgarian steps and experience

- ❖ Our government has taken a number of steps to improve the energy efficiency by the implementation of legislative measures, and the drawing of policies and programs.
- ❖ During the last one and a half year the Bulgarian Government has taken legislative initiatives to improve the environment/ conditions of the construction process. Further substantive amendments have been made for establishment of better order and regulation of the requirements for the energy performance of buildings.
- ❖ A new Energy Efficiency Act was approved in May 2015. The Ordinance No 7 of 2004 on the energy efficiency of buildings was also amended in 2015 for the introduction of the current European requirements on energy efficiency in buildings.

Bulgarian steps and experience

- ❖ A constant update and synchronizing of the technical standards, benchmarks and indicators for the design and implementation of energy efficient and safe buildings in line with European standards is being performed. The most significant improvements in recent years include: the introduction of numerical scale of the energy consumption per different types of buildings, evaluation and proof of energy savings in buildings, new requirements for technical installations and for the quality of the living environment, national definition for nearly zero-energy buildings.
- ❖ Moreover, necessary amendments have been introduced in the Condominium Ownership Management Act to ensure greater accuracy of condominiums' rights and obligations, as well as better monitoring of the implementation of these obligations.

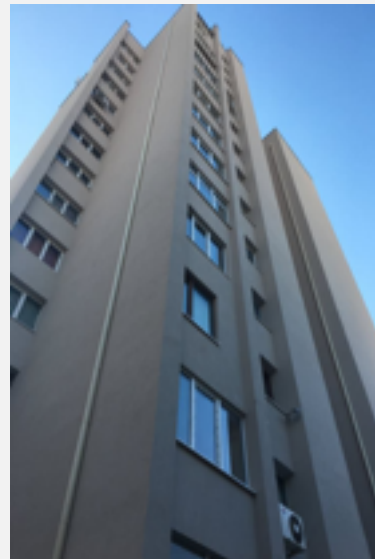
**National Programme for Energy Efficiency in Multi-Family Residential Buildings –
the Large-Scale Programme**

- ❖ The first steps for the improvement of the energy efficiency have been taken almost nine years ago.
- ❖ Initially, the Government has started two small scale pilot initiatives and today we already have a large-scale national programme for energy efficiency in multifamily residential buildings of 500 millions euros. The latter was launched in 2015 and is still being implemented.
- ❖ The rationale behind the national programme includes the crucial importance of the energy efficiency for the EU Member States and the understanding that it provides for higher living standard, lower heating costs, safer homes and modern urban area.
- ❖ The programme is implemented throughout the whole country and enjoys a great interest from the population.

National Programme for Energy Efficiency in Multi-Family Residential Buildings – the Large-Scale Programme

❖ Up to now

- Almost 3800 homeowner-associations (HOAs) have been registered.
- Almost 2500 applications have been submitted to the Bulgarian Development Bank (BDB) and 1904 contracts for financing commitments have been signed between the municipalities, district governors and BDB.
- 45 buildings are in process of renovation; 17 completely renovated buildings.



- ❖ In addition to the national funding, the Government has allocated EU funds under the Operational Programme “Regions for Growth” 2014 - 2020 for investments of energy efficiency in residential and public buildings in 67 big and small sized municipalities.
- ❖ The energy efficiency within the Operational programme is set as a horizontal priority and it refers to
 - investments in construction,
 - reconstruction and renovation of buildings of educational, health, social, sports and cultural infrastructure.

Energy Efficiency of buildings in Bulgaria until 2020

- ❖ In 2015, the Bulgarian government has designed:
- ❖ A National plan for increasing the number of nearly zero-energy buildings, which it will implement until 2020
 - The plan is a result of national efforts for continuous development of energy efficiency policies and for creating conditions for the implementation of cost-effective technological innovations in the construction and renovation of buildings.
- ❖ A National plan for achieving an equivalent improvement in the energy performance of the buildings within the central government estate
 - According to the new Energy Efficiency Act Bulgaria will make energy efficient renovations to at least 5% of the buildings owned and occupied by the public administration (central government) per year.

Energy Efficiency of buildings in Bulgaria until 2020

- ❖ A long-term programme for mobilizing investments in the renovation of the national stock of residential and commercial buildings, both public and private has been designed.
 - The main purpose of the programme is to create a sustainable model for management of the energy efficiency in Bulgaria through the implementation of effective, integrated and sustainable development policies, flexible financial mechanisms and best practices.
- ❖ Public resources are limited and it is necessary to raise the awareness of building owners about the necessity to invest in energy efficiency and in addition to attract and significantly increase the amount of private investment.
- ❖ The National Programme for Energy Efficiency in Multi-Family Residential Buildings is an example in this regard and it consists the first step from the launch of a broader housing renovation process. The programme has started with 100% state investments in 2015 and 2016. The next step of the implementation of the energy efficiency measures in the housing sector is to further develop the program as a co-financing between state funding and low interest loans.
- ❖ As the implementation of the program will unfold until 2020, the long-term goal will be for the state investments for multi-family residential buildings to gradually reduce, first to 75%, at later stage to 50% of the total investment for energy efficiency renovation, and further reducing the subsidy to 25% of the total investment for energy efficiency renovation.

- ❖ For the period 2020 – 2050 the Government will have as a long-term goal to seek and identify mechanisms for achieving the objectives of energy efficiency as they are set at European and national level until 2050.
- ❖ Our country will take actions and concrete steps for analysis, evaluation and restructuring of funding mechanisms for energy efficiency which could stimulate the private sector and the owners of residential buildings to invest their own resources rather than rely on public funding.
- ❖ Additional mechanisms for the stimulation of private investments and for the transition from state funding to other tools will be put in place and they will include series of instruments and policies for the promotion of behavior changes through fiscal incentives.
- ❖ The introduction of social policies as a support mechanism for low-income owners will also be part of the long-term initiatives that the country will implement.

MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Thank you for the attention!

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