

ROUNDTABLE ON FINANCE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



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Event organised in the frame of the Sustainable Energy Investment Forums funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Commission, in co-operation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, organized a round table in Prague on 5 November 2017 on financing energy efficiency with an emphasis on the use and development of financial instruments. The event was attended by 53 experts from both the Czech Republic and abroad who are engaged in financing energy efficiency in the sector of national governments, the financial sector, project developers, the renovation supply chain and local and regional partners.

"It is extremely important to find effective and innovative ways of funding measures to increase energy efficiency in a timely manner. We will have to meet ambitions in the field of energy savings that we have not only in the State Energy Concept, but will be passed on to us from the new European legislation until 2020. At the same time, a number of measures that we are using now - Structural Funds, product standards - are already exhausting their potential, or the possibilities for their use will be significantly smaller." Deputy Minister Kovačovská said at the conference.

The aim of the National Roundtable was a detailed dialogue on energy efficiency financing with key stakeholders in the Czech Republic in order to identify common goals and possible improvements in the national political framework. This interactive dialogue across the state administration, with a view to interconnecting and possibly centralizing activities focused on the financing of energy savings, is crucial for in helping the Czech Republic to fulfil its obligations. Another important area identified at the round table was more effective and targeted communication of the state administration with professionals and professional associations about all the activities and tools they can already use in their projects and business plans that contribute to increasing energy efficiency.

The specific outcomes of the round table for other Ministry of Industry and Trade activities and the Coordination Committee on Energy Efficiency were summarized by Deputy Minister Kovačovská as follows: ***"I am glad that in the discussions it was agreed that in the future, in the area of financing savings, it is necessary to focus on incentives for private financing of energy savings, the concentration of state administration activities and also the reduction of administrative burden. And I was very pleased to hear for the first time positive feedback on the possibility of concluding voluntary agreements aimed at achieving energy savings. Intensive discussions with the Confederation of Industry and Transport and all interested parties will have to be launched without delay so that we can find the right combination of incentives and performance by private companies to meet the Czech commitment to energy efficiency."***

The outputs from the four in depth topic groups were summarized as:

Financial sector

- **All stakeholders need to be involved by Government setting up financial instruments, in particular the banking sector and potential recipients**
- The importance of understanding project cashflow was emphasized, banks would scrutinize this carefully for all projects.
- Financial institutions were also keen to understand where the real market failures are.
- A managing authority at national level in charge of energy efficiency financing could be considered and they could also be given awareness raising tasks.

Home renovation

- The importance of renovation “facilitators” connecting all of the parts of the decision making process together emerged as key. Such services could be provided by energy agencies or local authorities, so as to be impartial from the renovation supply chain.
- **More work needed to be done to develop financial tools for the future. The situation is currently not optimal. Tools and schemes could be centralized more and a national development bank with new financial tools and central information would be a positive step.**
- There is low awareness, a lack of information about energy savings potential and on financing options for apartment block owners, operators and managers. It is important to spread best practice where successful improvement schemes have been implemented.
- There is more that can be done on convincing people to renovate. Local authorities can promote the concept through their structures and condominiums can be encouraged to speak with others about how they financed renovation schemes.

Public buildings

- **The role of one stop shops and regional energy centres was emphasised. Such centres would generate expertise and could work on awareness raising for public bodies, which was considered to not be sufficient currently.**
- Regional energy centres could then play a role in project aggregation, so that larger programmes of work could more readily access finance. It was recognized that regional strategy from Government could be stronger on energy and more specific on certain types of energy measures.
- The idea of revolving loan funds was raised, in particular using these to fund innovative projects that might otherwise be too costly or risky.

Industry and SMEs

- **A voluntary energy saving agreement with industry, clearly set within the Czech context would be a welcome development. Such an agreement should consider the role of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and adopt the broadest possible set of energy saving measures. Industry associations could play a bigger role too.**
- Better marketing and communication from the Ministry of Industry and Trade would be welcome
- The establishment of a national energy agency should be considered. They could help with communications and awareness raising of the potential for energy saving.

BACKGROUND TO THE EVENT

As part of the "Smart Finance for Smart Buildings" initiative, the European Commission is organising a series of "Sustainable Energy Investment Forums" to enhance the capacity of and co-operation between public and private stakeholders to develop large-scale investment programmes and financing schemes. The SEI Forums will consist of more than 30 events in up to 15 Member States in 2016-2019; information on past and upcoming events can be found on the SEI Forums [webpage](#).

An initial public conference on Financing Energy Efficiency in Central Europe took place in Prague on 27 April 2017. This event gathered 103 participants working on energy efficiency finance from the financial sector, national Governments, project developers, the renovation supply chain and local and regional agencies. Taking place over one day, the event had opening and closing plenaries and a series of six breakout sessions. The presentations and proceedings from that event can be found [here](#).

The objective of the National Roundtable is to initiate a dialogue on energy efficiency finance with key stakeholders in the Czech Republic, in order to identify common objectives and potential improvements to be made in the policy framework within the country.

INTRODUCTORY PLENARY

OPENING SPEECH

Lenka Kovačovská, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade

Presentation [here](#).

The Czech Republic has ratified the Paris agreement. Work is underway in support of the Energy Efficiency Directive and Article 7 on Energy Efficiency Obligations is important for the Czech Republic.

Further preparatory work is needed though, including preparing end users on the use of financial instruments. The key stakeholders in public administration needed for this work are all at the event. The Ministry would like to hear about the use of financial instruments and how to set them up to be relevant for each sector of the economy.

Work is underway to transform the Czech Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank into the Czech National Development Bank, hence the focus on financial instruments. State level coordination is a high priority and coordination of financial tools is needed. All areas of Government have to take up this challenge if the Czech Republic is to deliver on 2020 and 2030 targets.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Adrien Bullier, Senior Project Advisor, European Commission, EASME

Presentation [here](#).

Greater levels of action to address energy efficiency in buildings and industry are needed if we are to meet EU targets for 2020 and 2030. These sectors have long payback periods on investment and therefore require different investment instruments. Finance becomes increasingly important.

Mrs Kovačovská identified that public finance alone won't be sufficient to deliver the investment needed to meet energy efficiency targets. The European Commission are keen to encourage better leverage of public funds and to channel available finance to the right recipients. Such activity is often channeled through private funds and we need to engage and work with them.

There is also cultural misunderstanding to overcome between those with money to invest and project developers coming forward with projects. Most energy efficiency investment projects are of small size, are not standard, and the level of risk is poorly understood. There may be different considerations for project developers and financiers, but we need to bring them together and a common language can help.

The Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group ([EEFIG](#)) had undertaken considerable work in this area. Their recommendations had addressed regulatory certainty and enforcement, data on performance to try and demonstrate the reliability of energy savings, looking at public

procurement and accounting rules, and improving project development assistance to make sure that there are enough bankable projects.

The Clean energy for all Europeans package had been designed with this in mind, with its Smart Finance for Smart Buildings initiative structured under three pillars:

- i. *More effective use of public funds* – Work was underway on national financing platforms, on improved guidance on blending ESIF and EFSI and amended rules for accounting for Energy Performance Contracting
- ii. *Assistance and Aggregation* – The levels of funding being made available for ELENA and H2020 Project Development Assistance had been increased and proposals on local and regional one stop shops were being developed
- iii. *De-risking* – Tools had been developed to enable project developers to access real world data on energy efficiency performance of projects in buildings and industry, the [DEEP](#) database. EEFIG had also released a [toolkit](#) on value and risk appraisal in June

David Škorňa, Department Director, Ministry of Regional Development

Presentation [here](#).

The Czech Republic receives €23 billion from the EU budget each year, representing around 2% of Czech GDP. Spending on energy efficiency and energy management has increased across programming periods. The use of financial instruments under structural funds is becoming more prominent, in part as a result of Ministry of Industry and Trade programmes.

The Ministry of Regional Development is the national coordination authority for Operational Programmes and structural funds generally, as well as having responsibility for regional and housing policy. The Czech Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank (CMZRB) will become a national development bank and will provide nationwide support on financial instruments.

To date, 22 funding calls relating to energy efficiency have been announced, totalling approximately 43 billion CZK. There has though been relatively low uptake due to a range of financial and administrative factors.

In order to improve uptake and streamline the management of programmes, administration will be simplified, approaches taken in different operational programmes will be aligned, including approaches to risk management and there will be improved cooperation with end users and investors.

Work is also underway on mapping the readiness of public buildings for energy efficiency and in gathering information from individual sectors of the economy on energy efficiency.

In conclusion, for the period 2014-2020 further progress is needed and there should be more cooperation with the European Commission. For the period beyond 2020, analytical tools are in development and an exercise to prioritise areas of activity will be undertaken.

Jan Kříž, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment

Presentation [here](#).

There are several key resources for energy efficiency projects:

The New Green Savings Programme, seeking to deliver low energy family housing, has been in operation since 2014 and is entering a new phase. It is outperforming other schemes and is long-term, stable, visible and is resulting in very visible effects. 2 billion CZK of energy efficiency savings have been delivered.

In 2013, 25 billion CZK were invested in over 6,000 projects from the sustainable use of energy programme. This supports renewable energy as well as energy efficiency. All of the available funding was drawn down.

Within the 2014-2020 programme period a new programme for energy savings from public buildings was launched, there was some concern about the rate of draw down of the funds initially. There have been variable support rates for these types of calls, currently there are 748 projects and the managing authority is seeking to limit the grant to loan ratios to help meet overall targets for 2020. The funds may not all be drawn down in the next 2 years – this fund may run to 2020/2021.

The use of financial instruments has been considered in the New Green Savings Programme. Not all applicants may be able to get a mortgage, so a guarantee scheme could be useful. If CZMRB, could set up a fund with low interest rates, this could improve the absorption rate of the programme. For the public building programme, there are a variety of projects with longer or shorter payback periods. Some subsidy may needed and financial instruments need to be carefully considered.

The Environment Ministry would like to see further centralisation of structural fund activity on energy efficiency and some merging of energy savings schemes. The administration of structural funds also needs to be simplified.

Pavel Kouril, Department Director, Ministry of Finance

Presentation [here](#).

The Ministry of Finance is not a direct provider of funding, but are the authority responsible for the state budget. They do deal with administration issues on structural funds, including for energy efficiency. There are a range of competing Government priorities, but they feel that the top priority is to lower energy intensity. The Ministry of Finance also need to understand how the different Operational programmes operate, so that they can evaluate the effectiveness of investments.

These points make the Ministry of Finance an important actor in the energy efficiency discussion and for the operational programmes developed.

TOPIC GROUP ON FINANCE

Invited international speaker: Katarzyna Dziemara-Rzucidlo, Regional Development Financing Institute (Poland), member of the Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group

This [presentation](#) included an overview of the process for preparing energy efficiency investment programmes for financing, including information on EU funding sources such as Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE) and the blending of EU structural fund and European fund for strategic investment (ESIF and EFSI) funding.

Purpose:

The Public Conference included presentations giving an overview of the [mobilisation of the financial sector](#) on energy efficiency, setting out support available from the [European Investment Bank](#) and reviewing existing [JESSICA and PF4EE](#) schemes in the Czech Republic. It also presented the work carried out to standardise energy efficiency projects under the [Investor Confidence Project](#), the [ongoing work of the EEFIG](#) (Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group), in particular the development of an [energy efficiency risk valuation and underwriting toolkit](#) for financial institution which is now available, and the [Romanian experience with green mortgages](#).

Alongside standardisation, a major challenge is the perceived risk profile of energy efficiency which leads to higher capital costs. A solution to this could be the development of risk sharing instruments such as guarantees, which can be provided from the EU level through the European Fund for Strategic Investments and Private Finance for Energy Efficiency guarantee scheme, alongside existing national initiatives such as the Czech-Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank.

Key Questions

- 4.1. What role could guarantee funds play in supporting the growth of energy efficiency investments? How can such support mechanisms be best structured to address the needs of the banking sector?
- 4.2. Now that the Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group [risk and underwriting toolkit](#) has been launched, how can this best be used within the Czech Republic? What support might be needed to encourage its dissemination and adoption? Which institutions and individuals could be key advocates?
- 4.3. How can a continued dialogue between banks and the energy efficiency sector be maintained? Is there a need for additional support mechanisms to enable this?

Outcomes :

In principle financing energy efficiency projects by financial institutions works. Banks are willing and able to finance most energy efficiency projects. With a few exceptions, banks do not measure risk and cash-flow based on the anticipated energy savings, but in terms of wider return on investment and overall levels of risk for the renovation project, the loan conditions, the borrower and the energy savings. Energy savings are not often the main reason for an energy renovation project.

Discussing under what conditions banks are ready to fund energy efficiency projects has revealed that the main demand is to increase and improve support from the public sector to financial institutions/providers of financial instruments.

Given the long-term history of grant funding (subsidies), there is currently a very low level of trust in financial instruments. The top-down approach of public administration reflects the Managing Authority perspective of the selected priority. However it neglects motivation, possibilities and barriers of various stakeholders, including financial instrument providers, technology suppliers, or beneficiaries.

Recommendations

- Engage fully all stakeholders in the financial instrument set-up process
 - Capitalise on their experience and market knowledge
 - Find synergies of stakeholders' interests and motivate them simply by influencing the financial instrument set-up to respond to real market needs
- Support in-depth ex ante analysis by Managing Authorities and Fund Administrators for financial instruments
 - Identify the real needs of the market at the level of final recipients and intermediaries
 - Identify the specific market failures that financial instruments need to target
- Define specific and clear priorities for all Managing Authorities and subsequently allocate resources accordingly to priority areas
 - Prevent current fragmentation of available financial instruments
 - Money invested must be converted into savings/indicators
- Simple, flexible and manageable structure
 - Create a Central National Authority for coordination of financial instruments (and subsidies) with management competencies
 - Allow private investors to enter – creation of possible portfolios
 - Raise public awareness, provide education

TOPIC GROUP ON HOUSING

Invited international speaker: Marco Devetta, Sogesca, Italy. Information about the Padova FIT project can be found [here](#).

This [presentation](#) provided an overview of a programme supporting the renovation of multi-family apartment blocks in the city of Padova in North Eastern Italy. In the presentation, the role of trained local facilitators for the renovation scheme was emphasised, as well as the technical approach taken by energy service companies and the procurement and contracting arrangements put in place. The importance of communication with all stakeholders was shown as key in bringing successful projects to a conclusion.

Purpose:

The Public Conference included presentations on experience with home renovation loans in the Czech Republic through the New Green Savings programme (available [here](#)), and on similar programmes in [Slovakia](#) and [Lithuania](#). It also presented successful experiences from [Latvia](#) using energy performance contracts for home renovation.

A key challenge is to increase the share of public funding distributed through loans, while keeping an adequate level of public grants in home renovation programmes. However, it also appears that making finance available is not sufficient for home renovation programmes, and specific actions are needed to foster the willingness of householders to borrow for home renovation.

This raises the question of which services can be provided to facilitate the home renovation process for homeowners, which encompasses all steps from the identification of potential savings to the implementation of the works, including structuring the financing plan based on grants, loans and other available funding sources. The concept of 'one-stop-shop' aims to address the customer journey as a whole and thus to both foster demand for renovation and supply adequate financial solutions.

Homeowners don't usually invest in home renovation only because of financial returns, but in many cases the key factors are the associated benefits of energy renovation, in particular comfort, health and increased home value. These need to be better included in the marketing of home renovation schemes in order to foster demand from households.

Key Questions

- 1.1. What should be the key components of a one-stop-shop service that is best suited to meet the needs of the home renovation market in the Czech Republic?
- 1.2. Which organisations might be best placed to implement such facilities? What would be the role of each organisation in such a facility? How would the service be funded?
- 1.3. What policy and legislative changes are needed to make it easier for Managing Authorities and Regional Agencies to combine possible grant and loan funding from different sources?
- 1.4. How would a guarantee scheme for household renovations lead to a structural change in the market by helping financial institutions expand their activities into energy efficiency investments, and by giving householders access to affordable loans?

1.5. How such a scheme could be developed and financed, and what level of technical assistance would be required to ensure a sufficient project pipeline?

Outcomes:

Existing problems and barriers:

The renovation of residential buildings session identified the main problems and barriers in renovating family and apartment buildings. The major problems with the use of existing potential in renovating residential buildings and at the same time in the system of drawing subsidies for these purposes are in the early stages of the whole project cycle.

An important barrier to potential investments is the low awareness of the population about the benefits of energy savings in general and potential for energy-saving measures. There is also a low awareness of the grant opportunities that owners and managers of residential buildings can make use of.

The crucial problem is also at the decision-making stage of the renovation process itself. The renovation support system must include tools to motivate owners to renovate their buildings and overcome existing barriers in this area, such as helping with technology choice and identifying key moments or triggers for energy renovation.

In the area of financing, it is now clear that the fragmentation of energy efficiency grants between the various managing authorities is not entirely optimal. In this area, a centralized approach and a single framework for financial support, including the centralization of a system of financial instruments in the field of energy efficiency, would be more appropriate.

Recommendation:

1. Raise awareness of the benefits of renovating buildings
 - a. Implementation of information campaigns.
 - b. Launch awareness-raising webpages and disseminate examples of good practice.
 - c. Exploit the existing network of Energy Consultation and Information Centers (EICIS) to ensure awareness of energy savings.
 - d. In the area of awareness-raising, the private sector has a role to play, which has a direct link and influence on final customers.
2. Motivate owners to renovate
 - a. Reduce the administrative burden of the subsidy system.
 - b. Provide financial support organized in accordance with the one-stop shop concept.
 - c. Establish a facilitator role between the State and the applicant (funded by the state or municipality) and its task is to publicly promote renovation, subsidy opportunities, help with the development of specific projects, and other technical assistance.
 - d. Impact through municipalities that would promote local renovation and provide more information to authorities, official boards, through local seminars, etc. Municipalities

are often closest to applicants and therefore cooperation at municipal / applicant level is an appropriate means of increasing motivation.

- e. Dissemination of examples of good practice, successful energy-saving projects.
- f. Technical support to applicants across the project preparation process.

3. Energy efficiency financing

- a. Creating a centralized option and a single funding framework for increasing energy efficiency, with a focus on ensuring the stability of the investment environment.
- b. Using the National Development Bank platform for the administration of financial instruments in the field of energy efficiency.
- c. In the system of financial instruments it is necessary to ensure the use of private capital in the areas where the commercial financing system operates.
- d. Combination of financial instruments with ex-ante or ex-post subsidies.

TOPIC GROUP ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Invited international speaker: Erika Honnay, GRE-Liege, Belgium.

This [presentation](#) provided details on the RenoWatt energy services and energy performance contracting scheme from the city of Liege in Belgium. The programme established a one stop shop to aggregate the energy saving opportunity from eleven public bodies and one hospital in the region. Details were provided on the contracting, procurement, financing and outcomes of the programme, which overall resulted in a 33% energy saving across a portfolio of 136 buildings, with public finance being leveraged by a factor of 29 and €36.6 million of capital investment in total.

Purpose:

The focus of the session will be to identify clear pathways to increase the rate of public building renovation with possible funding routes, engagement programmes and mechanisms.

The Public Conference included presentations on energy efficiency renovation through energy performance contracting (EPC) in the [Czech Republic](#), and on similar programmes in [Austria](#) and [Slovakia](#). It also presented the successful [Bulgarian experience](#) on providing loans and guarantees to ESCOs, and identified forfeiting as a key mechanism to upscale ESCO-funding EPC. Forfeiting funds are being developed in [Latvia](#) with EBRD funding and [Lithuania](#) through European structural funds.

Potential solutions to increase renovation rates can be explored in:

- PDA (with leverage requirements) and aggregation of small municipalities to reduce transaction costs
- one stop shops for EPC / EPC market facilitation, including the use of contracting/procurement frameworks
- forfeiting energy performance contracts to allow refinancing of ESCOs

Key Questions

- 2.1. Could public funding be allocated in the form of project development assistance, which has a higher leverage factor than investment grants/public loans? How would this work in practice? What has experience been in seeking to use or applying for ELENA funding?
- 2.2. What is needed to upscale the market for energy performance contracting?
- 2.3. How to support forfeiting for EPCs?
- 2.4. How to support access to finance for ESCOs? (to be discussed, as most EPCs in CZ are funded by building owners)
- 2.5. What is needed in terms of capacity building for public building owners?

Outcomes:

General observations:

- it is necessary to set different conditions within the regions (no region is the same)
- units (urban, regional, ...) should carry out an analysis of buildings suitable for renovation together with information on whether energy performance contracting is appropriate, analysis of which renewable energy systems can be used in buildings
- beyond this understanding of the building stock, it is also necessary to have a specific set of concrete projects to be implemented, for which a business case has been developed and where necessary, individual projects have been grouped into bundles with similar attributes
- prioritizing a comprehensive deep renovation before partial renovation (a good tool through EPC) can be a barrier to renovation. For example at the city level, the preference may be for quick wins and shorter periods of service rather than a long horizon of return for a thorough renovation. (For example, the mayor of a small town might prefer to have a new walkway, which can be made visible immediately, instead of investing in long-term renovation of offices)
- often public entities do not have a quality energy manager
- government officials must make energy efficiency a priority
- much more should be done to promote energy efficiency among the population (to increase the awareness of the population so that they too perceive it as a priority)

Discussion

The discussion was mainly about 3 themes; One Stop Shop - Technical Assistance Points, Regional Energy Centers and an Energy Savings Fund.

1) ONE STOP SHOP - technical assistance site

- Assistance to public entities should be provided from the beginning of the project to the end (eg basic advice on what could be done on the building, assistance with selecting a suitable company to carry out the renovation and being available for further consultations during and after the contract)
- Procuding or delivering high quality expert analysis for renovation projects
- participating in awareness raising (population, companies, ...)
- operate the technical consulting centers free of charge, possibly under a public status (to ensure the objectivity of the consultants)

2) Urban / Regional Energy Centers - Energy Manager

- Urban or Regional Energy Centers would be tasked to assist preparing projects and aggregate projects from different public entities in order to mutualise tendering costs and make investments more attractive to renovation companies and ESCOs
- set the focus of urban / regional units in the Territorial Energy Concept on renovating public buildings so that territorial energy concepts contain specific measures and projects to be implemented

3) Energy Savings Fund

- One new idea to be developed further could be the pooling of part of the financial return from successful energy saving renovation projects into a regional Energy Savings Fund
- funding from this fund could then be used for example to support more innovative projects that may be more expensive due to the use of new technology
- funding from this fund should also always go to projects focusing on energy savings so that a revolving facility is created (savings create new savings)
- the fund could also have the possibility to generate revenue by penalizing inactive or disinterested entities or energy-saving entities

TOPIC GROUP ON INDUSTRY / SMES

Invited international speaker: Kati Ruohomaki, Confederation of Finnish Industries

This [presentation](#) provided detail on the background and operation of the Finnish industry sector voluntary energy efficiency agreement, which has been working since 1992. In a nutshell, voluntary agreements in Finland are an instrument that, on the one hand, enables companies to access public support for investment in energy efficient solutions and, on the other hand (through regular reporting by business entities), provides state-of-the-art monitoring of the state of energy efficiency improvements report these results to meet the national target under the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU. An overview of the membership of the scheme, the financial support available for audits and for the implementation of improvement measures was given. Results from 2008-2016 showed that the scheme had supported €580 million in investment, delivering an annual CO₂ saving of 3.2 million tonnes.

Purpose:

The Public Conference included presentations on energy efficiency in [Czech industry](#) and on [guarantee instruments](#) from CMZRB and on financial support available for financing energy improvements through the [PF4EE programme administered by Komerční banka](#) . The session also heard about [EBRD's experience](#) in funding improvements in industry in Slovakia.

The lack of awareness amongst end users and the need for increased technical assistance for industry and SMEs emerged as conclusions from the public conference. This session should address these themes, hearing from industry on support needed to prepare projects for investment and from state sector actors on outreach programmes and support and the ways in which these could be improved.

The session aims to develop a routemap to increased outreach and technical assistance support with names, actors and timelines and key opportunities for change identified where possible.

Key Questions

- 3.1. What are some of the key lessons learnt from existing industry support programmes, what has worked well? What specific types of support might help to overcome initial barriers to engagement and increase interest?
- 3.2. How can the process of establishing the viability of projects for investment be streamlined? Would access to relevant benchmarking data be of use?
- 3.3. Are there key sectors or industries where a more focused programme could yield some early wins? Are there trade associations or other intermediaries that should be engaged in order to increase outreach opportunities?

Outcomes:

The debate over the financing of energy-saving measures in industry and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) was framed by contributions from two speakers documenting significantly different approaches to tackling energy savings in two EU Member States Finland and Czech Republic.

As a matter of priority and overarching topic of the discussion, it was necessary to set up better communication between the concerned entities. The Ministry of Industry and Trade, as a major promoter of these topics in the public sphere, should communicate clearly, materially and predictably. But it also needs adequate input from the private sphere to tell the Ministry what kind of information is fundamental to it and what shortcomings it sees in the current form of communication. This is also the key role of the Confederation of Industry and Transport as a means of contacting the private and national spheres also with regard to the potential introduction of the Voluntary Settlement Institute in the Czech environment. It is precisely on the question of the possibility of voluntary agreements offering firms the benefit of voluntary reporting of their energy saving activities, that a significant part of the discussion between the participants was devoted. The outcome was also the agreement of the Confederation of Industry and Transport and the Ministry of Industry and Trade that at the beginning of next year, on the basis of the inspiration by the Finnish model, the possibilities of setting up in the Czech Republic will be discussed so that the Czech Republic could more easily fulfill its savings commitments.

The positive outcome of the discussion was that its participants agreed on the shortcomings of the current situation and the mutual determination to change it. It was noted that a number of activities that private entities would require from the state are already being carried out and will continue to be carried out. Therefore, priority was given to improving the marketing communication of the Ministry rather than the establishment of a completely new institution.

The main challenges for the years to come, therefore, are to ensure that the issue of energy savings is given both a social and governmental priority to be shaped by mutual support of stakeholders and that there is more open communication between all players in the energy renovation market. There is no need for intensive search for breakthrough solutions when it is possible to make better use of those that already exist.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Adrien Bullier, Senior Project Advisor, European Commission, EASME

The output from the Topic Groups echoed what had been heard from Sustainable Energy Investment Forums events in different Member States. The Roundtable had also demonstrated that there is added value from the European Commission in bringing in the examples from different countries. These examples had set the scene, but solutions needed to be totally appropriate for the Czech Republic. From the four groups, there were some things in common – these included the role of regional and local energy agencies, who are driving action forward. Regional centres can be a solution to aggregate different municipalities in order to reach a sufficient scale. Also, governance is key, solutions may not lie only in innovative financial techniques, but that it is important to put the right people together and the national roundtable seems to have succeeded in this.

Vladimír Sochor, Director of Department of Energy Efficiency and Savings, Ministry of Industry and Trade

Over the past two years, there has been positive development, but the debate should continue. Communication between individual Ministries was appreciated. The Czech Republic should look for possibilities to use available funds either on energy efficiency, in other ways, or it will have to be forfeited. It used to be believed that only subsidy policies should be used to meet energy efficiency goals, but the platform of the Roundtable had broadened the nature of the dialogue on this topic. There should be another event next year, to promote energy efficiency financing further. It is important to rely less and less on subsidy instruments.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

First Name	Last Name	Organisation
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ROUNDTABLE ON FINANCE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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Lenka	Kovačovská	Ministry of Industry and Trade
Irena	Krausová	Ministry of Regional Development
Tomáš	Krčka	Deloitte Advisory
Miroslav	Krob	Ministry of Regional Development
Jan	Kříž	Ministry of Environment
Radoslav	Lipták	EC DG REGIO
Jiří	Lučan	Ministry of Education
Petr	Lysý	Ministry of Industry and Trade
Tereza	McLaughlin Váňová	Czech Technical University in Prague
Lukáš	Minařík	Ministry of Environment
Michal	Nix	State Fund of Environment
Hana	Nylander Kaloudová	European Investment Bank
Petr	Pavelek	Ministry of Finance
Ondřej	Ptáček	Czech-Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank
Tomáš	Renfus	Ministry of Industry and Trade
Kati	Ruohomaki	Confederation of Finnish Industries

ROUNDTABLE ON FINANCE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Vilém	Řehák	Ministry of Finance
Vladimír	Sochor	Ministry of Industry and Trade
Přemysl	Šašek	ČEZ
David	Škorňa	Ministry of Regional Development
Ivo	Škrabal	Czech-Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank
Ondřej	Šrámek	Czech Green Building Council
Tomáš	Trubačik	Chance for Buildings
Aleš	Zatloukal	Deloitte Advisory
Jakub	Zemánek	Česká spořitelna
Marie	Zežulková	National centre for energy savings