



Financing energy efficiency in Romania, Hungary and
Bulgaria
1 February 2018, Bucharest, Romania



Regional one-stop-shop centre for the renovation of public buildings – experiences from the CITYnvest project and replication in Rhodope region (Bulgaria)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 748425





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H2020 CITYinvest Project

H2020 CITYinvest project aims at promoting innovative financing to boost investment in energy efficiency projects through:

- ❖ Summarizing the existing financial models across Europe and;
- ❖ Providing tailor made solutions for the three participating pilot regions – the Belgian Province of Liege, the Bulgarian Rhodope Region and the Spanish Region of Murcia;

Financial models inventory: 24 models all across Europe:

- ❖ Involve public authorities working closely with the private sector and/or the citizens;
- ❖ Significant variations in:
 - The nature and depth of the relationship;
 - The sources of finance;
 - The level of risk taken by the respective partners.
- ❖ Covers full range of public authorities, ranging from small municipalities to national governments, through the regions, provinces, large cities and county councils.

For more information: <http://www.cityinvest.eu/financing-models-matrix>



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RENOWATT/GRE-Liege Model for One-stop-shop

RENOWATT - exemplary model of innovative financing

A one-stop-shop for public building retrofit:

- ❖ Created by the **province of Liege** through the regional development agency (GRE-Liege);
- ❖ Acts as a **central procurement agency** on behalf of Liege municipalities in retrofitting of public buildings.
- ❖ **Main functions:** marketing and communication, facilitation and municipalities' support (incl. energy audits, investment projects development, search for funding options, launch of public tenders for construction works), project bundling to gain critical size, etc.



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CITYinvest Activities in Rhodope Region

1. Investigation of current status and perspectives of energy efficiency projects (incl. RES in buildings);
2. Elaboration of an action plan considering the inventory of models and based on RENOWATT model replication (incl. funding options);
3. Meetings and consultations with local authorities on the model of RENOWATT (also attended by GRE-Liege representative) to get them on board;
4. Decisions of municipal councils on creation of Rhodope one-stop-shop for energy efficiency projects following RENOWATT model adapted to local conditions.



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Rhodoshop

- ❖ A joint undertaking of six pioneering municipalities - Smolyan, Banite, Chepelare, Devin, Nedelino and Zlatograd.
- ❖ Other **key actors**:
 - Association of Rhodope Municipalities (ARM) – Rhodoshop host organization;
 - Sofia Energy Centre – providing management and coordination support to Rhodoshop;
 - GRE-Liege – subcontractor for capacity building of Rhodoshop staff on One-Stop-Shop operation and on-going support during Rhodoshop operation phase.



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Rhodoshop (2)

- ❖ Received funding from H2020 Call PDA, 2016;
- ❖ Main sectors of activity:
 - Public buildings;
 - Street lighting.
- ❖ 3 full time employees, 1 part time;
- ❖ Extensively trained in legal, economic and technical aspects;
- ❖ External support through subcontracting.



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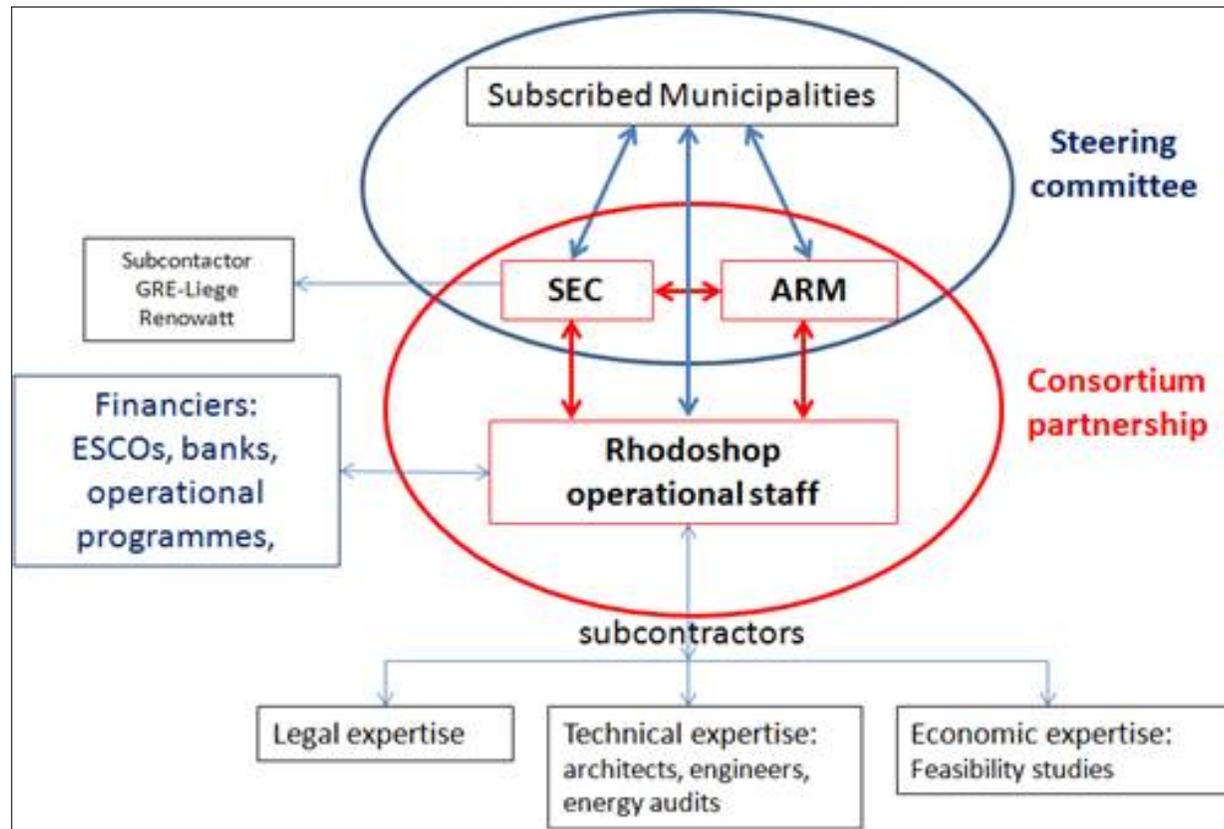




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Rhodoshop Organizational Structure



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Main Tasks of Rhodoshop

A **central procurement agency** with following operating services:

- ❖ Marketing and communication: to inform the beneficiaries of the types of offerings available to them.
- ❖ Facilitation and client support:
 - Concludes public works, supplies or services contracts or framework agreements on behalf of the contracting authorities/entities or public institutions;
 - Plays as a knowledge centre;
 - Gathers competences and resources in one place (audits, works to be realized, financial viability calculations, define tendering specifications and assess received offers against pre-defined criteria).
 - Helps identify financing solutions applicable to different municipalities/clients – as Rhodope municipalities are of different size they are eligible for financing under different schemes.



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Main Tasks of Rhodoshop (2)

- Assists in finding and negotiates the terms and conditions with ESCOs and other financiers;
- Monitors project results

❖ Project Bundling

- Bundles projects across different clients / municipalities which allows to diversify the risks, get better financing mechanisms, makes synergies across the retrofit projects and attracts professional companies;
- Increases the size of the projects and the investment size;
- Creates more attractive investment opportunities for building contractors, ESCOs, maintenance companies, financial sector.



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Expected Results

- ❖ Launch investments of over 13 MEuro;
- ❖ Realize 8,8 GWh/year energy savings by the end of its three-year pilot phase;
- ❖ Contribute to local economy development and job creation in the Rhodope Region;
- ❖ Help to achieve the local targets in CO₂ emission reductions and thus to contribute to the overall EU energy efficiency targets for 2020 and beyond;

Advantages

- ❖ Helps Rhodope municipalities in securing funding while taking into account organizational, administrative, legal and financial aspects;
- ❖ Assists the local authorities in the region in building technical, economic, legal and administrative expertise for a wider implementation of energy efficiency in small sized rural municipalities;
- ❖ Bridges the gap between project owners and financiers by providing bankable investment projects ready to be financed;
- ❖ Overcomes barriers of small project size through bundling;



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Thank you for your attention!

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